



Landcare Checks In - Monday 3 August 2.00-3.00 pm

Discussion Topic: State Soil Health Strategy

- Sharing approach and responses to the call for community input.

View the recording here - <http://www.landcarewa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Landcare-Checks-In-3-August-2020-State-Soil-Health-Strategy.mp4>



Discussion Notes - State Soil Health Strategy

- Climate change will exacerbate soil health issues. It will be harder to maintain good soil health with rising temperatures.
- Implementation support is needed – rewarding good soil stewardship and some sort of big stick for those doing the wrong thing.
- The Strategy should consider engagement of the urban and peri urban communities and develop behavioural change opportunities.
- There is a need to expand on tax offset and subsidies for implementation of soil health initiatives.
- Good case studies are needed. Farmers are seeking trials and case studies. South Coast NRM has a lot of case studies and is currently preparing an index and putting them onto their website. There is no need to reinvent the wheel.
- Videos with landowners are useful - talking about the changes they have seen.
- Twitter is a good source of soil health information. Always conversations available.
- NRM bodies could be more involved in soil health monitoring – how things are tracking over time.

- A central point for information is needed. How do farmers find information and at an appropriate level?
- Baseline natural asset monitoring including soil health is not available. This could be coordinated at a State level.
- We need consistency in information and messaging with clear responsibilities.
- Behavioural change programs for custodians of the land are needed. Messaging and promotion is key.
- In the decade of landcare many farmers had the information they needed. There seems now to be a lack of knowledge in the younger generation because extension services have not been maintained. There has also been a dismantling of the social capital within communities which assists behavioural change.
- The Strategy is lacking information on the social capital and health benefits of good soil health.
- The implications of climate change don't appear to have been adequately addressed in the Strategy.

Good Soil Health Resources

Ag Trials WA <https://www.agtrialswa.com.au/>

RegenWA website <https://www.regenwa.com/>