



Landcare Checks In - Monday 15 March 2021 at 2.00 – 3.00 pm

Discussion Topic: Draft WA Soil Health Strategy Consultation

The [Western Australian Soil Health Strategy Draft 2020](#) is available for public comment until 19 March 2021. Landcare Checks In discussed the Draft Strategy and how landcare groups could help provide comment on this important strategy.

A special thank you to Tim Overheu, Principal Research Scientist with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development for providing the background, key components and process for the Strategy as well as answering a number of key questions from participants.

View the recording here -

http://www.landcarewa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/GMT20210315-060043_Landcare-C_1920x1040.mp4



Key Points

- The Soil and Land Conservation Council are coming to end of a 6mth consultation process to set strategic directions for soil health activity in Western Australia. The WA Soil Health Strategy is the culmination of many years of work including a review of the Soil and Land Conservation Act 1945 and reestablishment of the Soil and Land Conservation Council in 2019.
- The Strategy was timed to be completed in time for Federal budget announcements in May and that there was an indication that there may be announcements about another \$100 million landcare type program with much stronger emphasis on soils, soil monitoring and soil carbon as well as Carbon

Farming and Natural Capital Accounting.

- 400 submissions were received on the initial discussion paper distributed prior to the development of the Strategy and further feedback by 40 groups.
- The current high level Draft WA Soil Health Strategy provides 5 key goals including - Adoption of best practice, R&D, Monitoring of Soil Condition, Soil Governance and Policy, Soil Security.
- An Implementation plan will capture past success, monitoring programs and identify stakeholders and it is hoped that there will be good industry involvement.
- Once the public consultation period closes the Final Strategy will be prepared and available for distribution by the end of the financial year.
- Opportunities exist for good support for implementation through the current WA Minister for Agriculture and the National Soils Advocate.