FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Pilot Soil Monitoring and Incentives Program
March 2022

What happens to the soil test data after the soil sample from my property has been tested? Your Service Provider should provide you with your soil test data (e.g., in a report) in accordance with the commercial arrangement you have entered into with the Service Provider to conduct the soil sampling and testing work. You should contact the Service Provider if there are any delays or issues with obtaining your soil test data.

The Service Provider will also share the soil test data with the Commonwealth's nominated database, to be uploaded to the Australian National Soil Information System (ANSIS), a national soil data repository which is being developed and managed by the CSIRO. Further information about ANSIS can be found at: https://www.csiro.au/en/research/natural-environment/land/soil/ansis. You will need to contact the CSIRO if you want to access the data in the ANSIS.

What will my soil test data be used for?

Your soil test data will contribute to furthering our national understanding of Australia's soil through being made available on ANSIS. All soil test data on ANSIS will be deidentified and aggregated before being made publicly available.

Soil data may be used to better understand soil health and trends, support soil research, and assist with soil policy development. For these purposes soil data, with georeferencing, will be made available through ANSIS to specific users. Please see the Data Sharing Deed for more information on how soil test data may be used. Your consent will be sought before your soil test data is used for other purposes not specified in the Data Sharing Deed.

Once operational, ANSIS use agreements will include data-use terms and conditions. Any violation of these terms by users is not the responsibility of the Australian Government.

Your soil test data will <u>not</u> be used for any regulatory, compliance or prosecution purposes. A list of precluded purposes is included on the Data Sharing Deed.

Will my personal information be publicly accessible?

No. Personal information collected through this Program will not be linked to the soil data on ANSIS. Your personal information is only collected for the purpose of the Department verifying your eligibility to participate in the Program. Soil test data will be aggregated when publicly displayed on ANSIS. The aggregation of data means that your individual soil data and location will not be identifiable.

However, soil data on ANSIS will retain georeferencing information. Access to any georeferenced data will be controlled through ANSIS use agreements.

What are my rights to the soil test data created from my soil sample?

You will retain ownership of any soil data obtained from the testing of your soil samples through the Pilot Program. A signed Data Sharing Deed licences perpetual permission to the Commonwealth to access, store and use your soil test data in accordance with the terms outlined within the Deed.

What happens if I want to do additional sampling and testing?

Any additional sampling or testing beyond the requirements of the Program will be undertaken at your expense. Additional soil data generated outside the remit of the Program is not required to be shared with the Australian Government and you will not receive a financial benefit for sharing this data. However, if you wish to contribute additional soil data to ANSIS, you can select the 'share additional data' option on the Data Sharing Deed.

How long will the Australian Government have access to my soil test data?

Once the Data Sharing Deed is executed you will not be able to terminate the licensing arrangement. Your soil test data will be retained indefinitely to facilitate these objectives supporting research and soil related policy development. Please see the Data Sharing Deed for further information on the licensing arrangements.