

# [***FED:Digging in to improve Australia's poor soil health***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:69RH-J081-DYG0-900P-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Body**

  A national action plan to improve Australia's poor ***soil health*** will include a country wide ***soil*** monitoring program.

   Agriculture Minister Murray Watt launched the plan on Tuesday that sets out to improve Australia's poor and declining ***soil health***.

   While rich in biodiversity, Australian ***soil*** is among the oldest and most nutrient poor in the world according to the national ***soil*** strategy.

   Senator Watt said the new action plan identifies four key priorities to respond to challenges like climate change.

   ?***Soil*** is central to Australia?s agricultural industry and central to our government?s climate ambitions,? he said.

   ?The action plan is supported by $20 million announced in the 2023-24 Budget for bilateral partnership agreements with the states and territories to deliver locally appropriate activities.?

   The five-year plan is the first under the 20 year National ***Soil*** Strategy released in 2021.

   The plan will see a national framework to monitor and map Australia's ***soil health***, and a holistic policy where ***soil*** is protected for the environment and food production.

   But it does not include the re-establishment of the ***soils*** advocate role, a position that was was discontinued in August.

   "We were disappointed that the role of the national sword advocate was not continued," Eli Court from the advocacy group ***Soils*** for Life told AAP.

   While welcoming the plan the ***soil*** advocacy group said Australia's ***soils*** need urgent attention.

   "I think it's a good step, and we look forward to more being done and I certainly do feel a sense of urgency," Mr Court said.

   The group works supporting farmers to improve their ***soil health***.

   "The government has put a stake in the ground and said 'we have a plan,' and now is the point where we look at how that plan is rolling out and whether it's being effective."

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