

# [***Keeping an eye on soil health***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6BR3-S201-F0YC-N1VV-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Body**

Nelson: Tasman District Council has issued the following press release:

For the land, for plants, or the ***health*** of people and animals, our ***soil*** team are kept busy throughout the year as they carry out many hours of fieldwork in an ongoing quest to find out valuable information about one of Tasman ’ s key resources.

***Soils*** are important natural assets, contributing to our environmental, economic, and social wellbeing.

Like ***soils*** themselves, there are many layers to the work. Staff say monitoring the ***health of the soil*** across all parts of the District or protecting our productive land is the most rewarding part of the job.

One example of this is the testing for heavy metal levels in orchards or market gardens – we want to make sure these results are low, so people, plants and animals won ’ t be adversely affected.

Aligned with Regional/Unitary Councils ’ responsibility for monitoring and reporting the State of the Environment in their regions, ***soil*** quality monitoring was done last year at 37 sites in Tasman. These cover a range of ***soil*** types under different land uses.

Tasman ’ s ***soil*** monitoring programme started in 2000 and has been carried out almost every five years since.

***Soil*** samples are tested for biological, chemical, and physical attributes related to ***soil*** functions, which can change in response to the type/intensity of land management practice.

The ***soil health*** status of each monitoring site is compared with its previous status to detect any possible improvement/degradation trends over time. This early detection and potential mitigation are crucial as ***soil*** degradation is not easily reversible, and rehabilitation can take many decades.

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