

Catchment Knowledge Exchange

Fact Sheet 2: Introduction to the soil health knowledge brokering service

Background to the Catchment Knowledge Exchange

The National Action Plan (NAP) for Salinity and Water Quality is funding a three year Knowledge Management Business Plan and Knowledge Broker Trial Project, known as the Catchment Knowledge Exchange.

The Victorian Catchment Management Council (VCMC) is managing the project on behalf of NAP. EWR have been engaged to undertake the project.

Objectives of the Soil health knowledge broker service

The objectives of the soil health knowledge brokering service are to:

- Generate measurable improvements in the generation, dissemination, and utilisation of knowledge in the soil health field.
- To provide timely and relevant information and knowledge to support those making natural resource management decisions, relating to soil health.
- To test the application of the knowledge brokering concept to the soil health theme, so that the findings can be applied to other theme areas.

Project overview

The soil health knowledge brokering trial will run for one year finishing in July 2007. The knowledge brokering trial is based on a team and network approach, providing an access point and simple tools such as information on other soil health projects that are going on, who to talk to on a particular issue, or a forum to discuss a particular question.

Knowledge brokering is the human force behind knowledge exchange, transfer, synthesis, and the forming of collaborations, networks, and partnerships. This role provides a robust connection between policy, research, extension, and catchment management.

Soil health is a trial discipline being tested in this project, to evaluate and inform future approaches to knowledge brokering and management. A soil health reference group has been established to support this trial providing specialist input and to access to their networks. The knowledge brokering service has a focus on understanding the key knowledge needs in soil health, determining priorities and gaps, and responding to some of the key needs. The project also intends to share information through helping facilitate and strengthen the soil health knowledge network.



Catchment Knowledge Exchange

Who is involved?

The primary audience of this project are members of the Catchment Management Framework, including DSE, DPI, VCMC and the CMAs. However other groups and individuals are welcome to become involved such as universities, land managers, research organisations, and others. The project has established a soil health reference group with representation from a number of these key stakeholder groups.

Products of the soil health knowledge brokering service

- Soil health theme statement
- NCCMA/VCMC Soil Health Forum (15 June 2006)
- Identification of knowledge priorities in soil health
- Synthesis reports to key soil health questions
- Soil health web application

What are the intended outcomes of the Catchment Knowledge Exchange project?

- Knowledge brokers operating with measurable benefits to researchers, policy makers, catchment managers, and extension staff in Victorian natural resource management.
- A thorough understanding of knowledge assets in NRM in Victoria, including people, information systems and key datasets, particularly in the soil health field.
- A business case for the further development and implementation of knowledge brokers in the Victorian Catchment Framework.

How can you get involved!

1. Register your interest to become a part of the soil health network
2. Provide feedback and input into reports and discussion papers, such as the Soil Health Thematic Statement
3. Get involved in online discussions on current soil health issues
4. Have your say on knowledge needs and research priorities in soil health

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Catchment Knowledge Exchange

Register your interest in the soil health knowledge brokering service

¹Name:

Role:

Organisation:

Address (postal or email, email preferred):

What are your key soil health knowledge needs?

1.

2.

3.

What are your interests in relation to soil health? eg. cropping, catchment management, organic agriculture, ecosystem services...

How would you like to be involved in the soil health knowledge brokering service?

- Receive updates on the soil health knowledge broker service
- Provide specialist input into discussions or reports
- Become involved in the soil health network

Please return to:

1. the registration desk at the forum today, or

2. mail to Shawn Butters

shawnbutters@ewr.net.au

Level 1, 70 Dorcas St, Southbank, VIC 3006

3. Fax to (03) 9684 8625

¹ This information will only be used for the purposes of the Catchment Knowledge Exchange project and will not be passed onto other parties