

SOILS

		Below Standard Practice	Acceptable Practice	Innovative Practice
Erosion (types: sheet, tunnel, gully, rill and wind)		Do not know if there is any erosion occurring on-farm.	Understand the different types of erosion occurring and their causes.	
		Visible erosion exists on-farm and there is no management plan to address it.	A management plan is in place to minimise erosion on-farm.	There is ongoing monitoring and review of the management plans to minimise erosion.
		There appears to be increasing erosion damage.	Management practices have been implemented to minimise erosion problems.	Management practices including engineering solutions, where appropriate, are in place to minimise erosion.
		No maintenance of watercourses, drains, tracks and eaves after flooding.	Water courses, drains, tracks and eaves are maintained to prevent flood damage. Damage is repaired as soon as possible after flooding.	
Soil Structure (refers to pugging & compaction)		Do not know if there are soil structure problems across the farm.	Understand the different soil structure problems that can occur, their causes and the extent of their occurrence.	
		Pugging or compaction exists on-farm and there are no management plans.	Management practices have been implemented to minimise pugging and compaction problems, such as using sacrifice paddocks for feeding out and managing stock movement in winter.	There is ongoing monitoring and review of the management plans addressing pugging and compaction.
		There appears to be increasing compaction and surface sealing on cropping land.	Management practices have been implemented to minimise compaction and surface sealing on cropping land, such as reduced tillage.	Management practices have been implemented to minimise compaction and surface sealing on cropping land, such as reduced tillage and controlled traffic farming.

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Salinity/Sodicity		Unsure if farm soils are saline or sodic, or if farm water is saline.	Understand the causes of soil salinity and sodicity, and how to identify and manage soils and water with potential problems.	Sodic and saline areas on the farm have been identified and recorded using soil test results and visual observation. Water salinity is tested and recorded annually.
		Salinity problems exists on-farm and there is no monitoring or management plans.	A management plan with a series of actions is in place to address saline areas (e.g. drainage, salt tolerant perennial pastures or trees).	There is ongoing monitoring and review of management plans to minimise the impacts of salinity. Management plans comply with Regional NRM strategies.
		Unaware of increased risk of irrigation on salinity.	Understand how irrigation can increase soil salinity levels, what to look out for and how to manage salinity risks.	Whole-farm salinity mapping is conducted every three years and salinity levels of irrigation water are tested annually.
		Soil salinity levels and the affected areas are increasing due to irrigation.	Current irrigation practices aim to minimise salt accumulation.	Irrigation rates, timing and frequency are managed to minimise overwatering and waterlogging.
		Soil structural problems exist and there are no management plans for sodic soils.	A management plan with a series of actions is in place to address structural problems associated with sodic soils (e.g. application of gypsum or organic matter, and reduced tillage).	There is ongoing monitoring and review of management practices to minimise the impacts of sodic soils.
Acidity		Unsure if farm soils are acidic, or becoming more acidic.	Understand the causes of acidification, the effect acid soils have on production, and how to monitor and manage soil acidity before it becomes a production problem.	
		Unsure if acidity problem is surface, subsurface or both.	Soil pH levels are tested and recorded for each Farm Management Zone every two to three years, and pH trends are monitored for change.	
		Soil acidity is affecting production and there are no management plans in place.	Management practices are in place to address existing or increasing acidity problems (e.g. lime application).	Management practices are in place to prevent soil acidification and are reviewed very two to three years.