



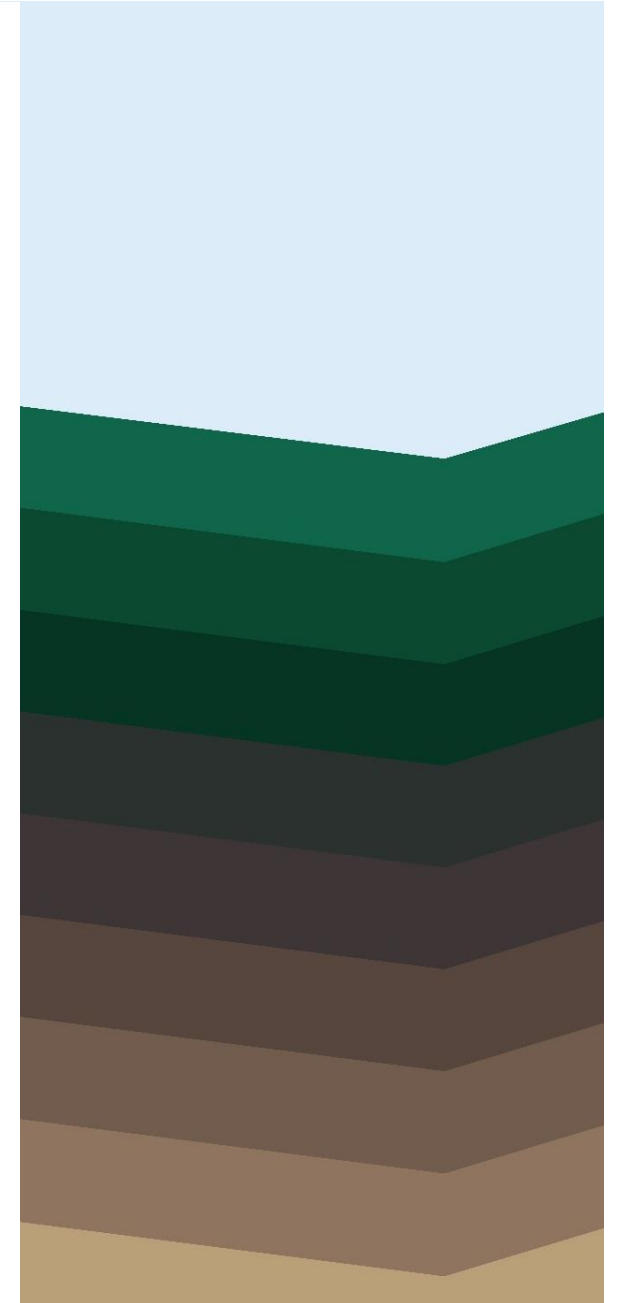
Australian Government

Office of the National Soils Advocate

The Honourable Penelope Wensley AC

National Soils Advocate - Australia

Global Symposium on Salt-Affected Soils - Soil Salinity in Australia



What does the Australian National Soils Advocate do?

Role

The position of Advocate was established to raise awareness of the vital role soils play and to provide strong leadership and advocacy on the importance of conserving and improving the health of Australia's soils.

The position contributes to the national objective of protecting, restoring and maintaining the health of the Australian agricultural landscape, to enhance productivity, guarantee a food secure nation and sustainable farming communities.

The role of the Advocate also has a global advocacy function to bring together and share knowledge on the critical role soils play in addressing global challenges, including food security and adapting to a changing climate.



Dryland Salinity and Sodic Soils in Australia

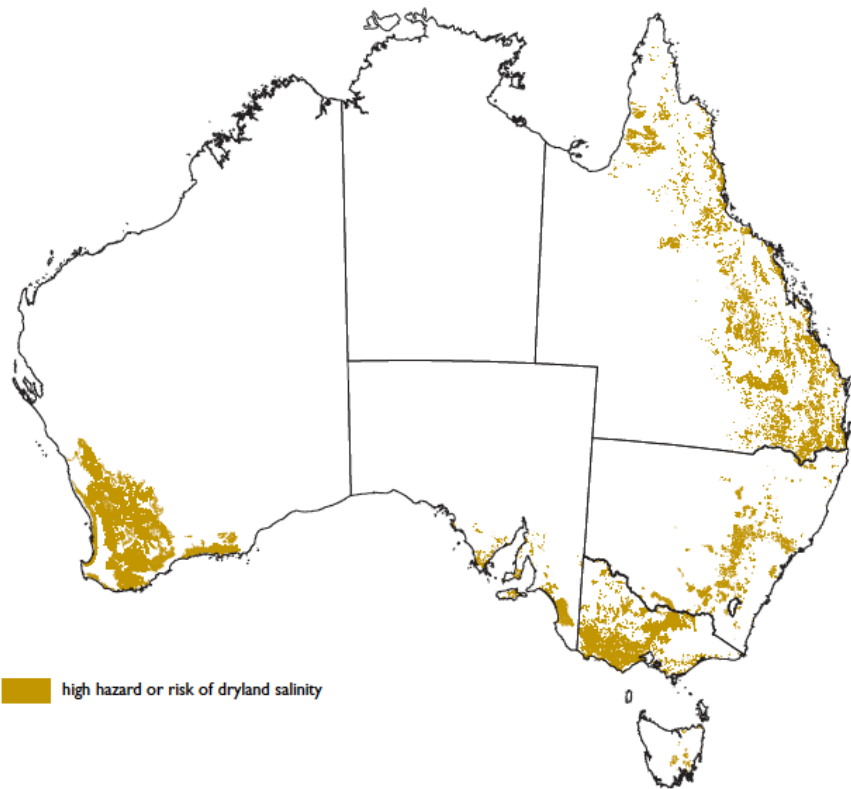


Figure 1. Forecasted areas containing land of high hazard or risk of dryland salinity in 2050 (Australian Dryland Salinity Assessment 2000. National Land and Water Resources Audit, Canberra 2001).

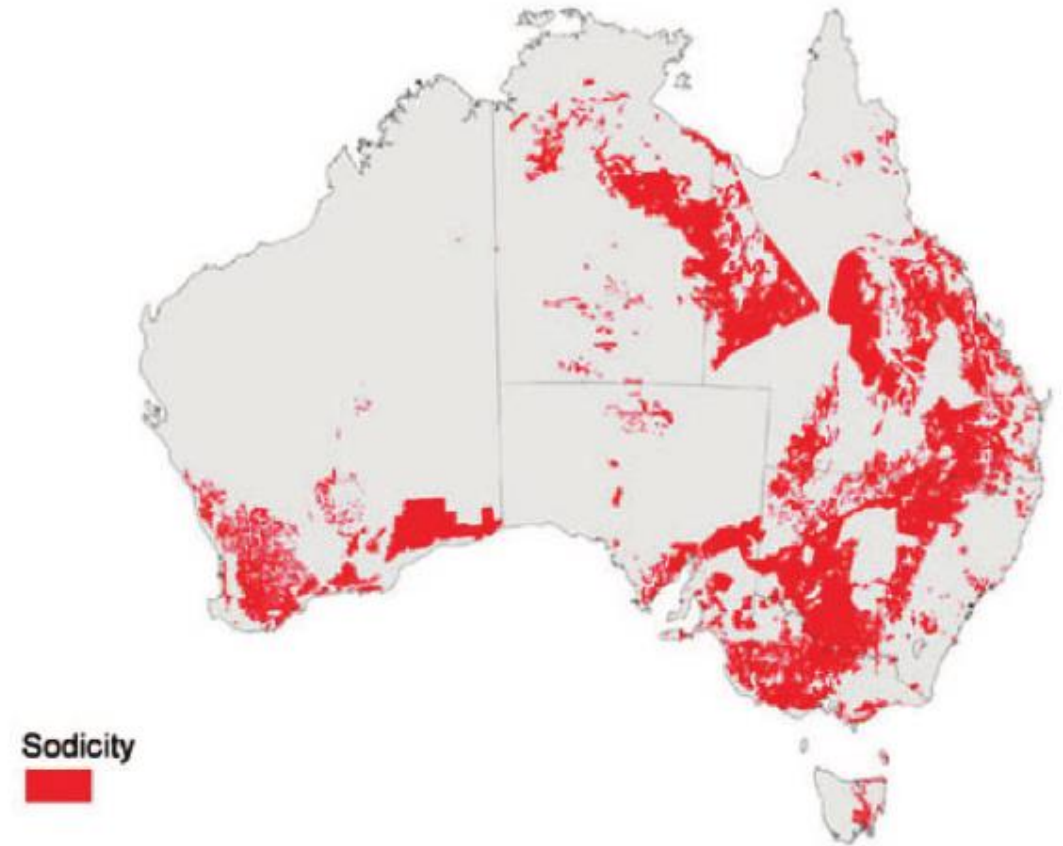


Figure 2. Distribution of sodic soils across Australia (I. Yunusa et al., 2012. Application of Coal Fly Ash in Agriculture: A Strategic Perspective. Critical Reviews in Environmental Science and Technology, 42 (6), 559-600).

Global extent of salt affected soils

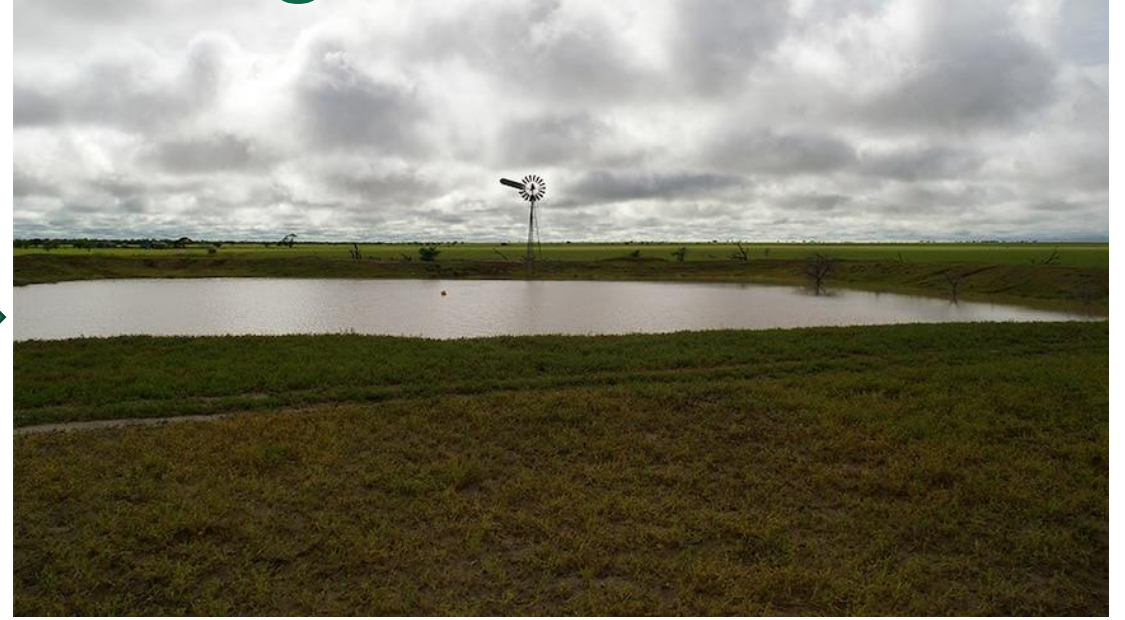
TABLE Area extent of salt-affected soils in different regions of the world

Region	Land area (millions of hectares)			Sodic/saline ratio
	Saline	Sodic	Total	
Australia	65.8	340.0	405.8	5.17
North America	6.2	9.6	15.8	1.55
Central America	2.0	-	2.0	-
South America	69.4	59.6	129.0	0.86
Africa	53.5	27.0	80.5	0.51
South Asia	83.3	1.8	85.1	0.02
North and Central Asia	91.6	120.1	211.7	1.31
South-East Asia	20.0	-	20.0	-
Europe	7.8	22.9	30.7	-

2013

Droughts and flooding rains

2016


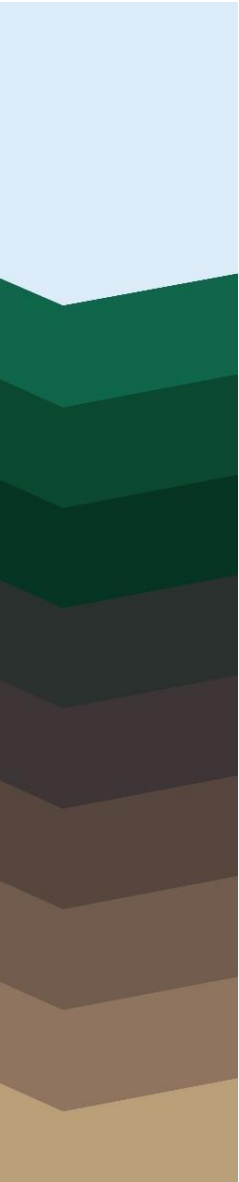


Action Agenda

- Maintain and strengthen community-based approaches
- Increase involvement of corporations and financiers in land restoration
- Apply an ecosystem approach to addressing soil challenges
- Recognise the need for groundwater monitoring
- Apply a multidisciplinary approach



Thank You



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