



Office Use Only

Project Code	NSS217G
Project Type	Grower

GROWER GROUP FINAL REPORT 2017

Applicants must read the *SAGIT Group Allocation Guidelines 2017* prior to completing this form. These guidelines can be downloaded from www.sagit.com.au

Final reports must be emailed to admin@sagit.com.au as a Microsoft Word document in the format shown **within 2 months** after the completion of the Project Term.

PROJECT CODE	:	NSS217G
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EVENT TITLE	(10 words maximum)
Deep Soil Amelioration Speaker at field day event	

EVENT DURATION

*These dates **must** be the same as those stated in the Funding Agreement*

Event Start date	5 th April		
Event End date	5 th April		
SAGIT Funding Request	20017/18		

EVENT SUPERVISOR DETAILS

The project supervisor is the person responsible for the overall project

Title:	First Name:	Surname:
Mr	Leighton	Wilksch

ADMINISTRATION CONTACT DETAILS

The Administration Contact is the person responsible for all administrative matters relating to the project

Title:	First Name:	Surname:	
Mr	Leighton	Wilksch	
Organisation:			
Northern Sustainable Soils			
Mailing address:			
Telephone:	Facsimile:	Mobile:	Email:

EVENT REPORT

Provide clear description of the following:

Executive Summary (200 words maximum)

A few paragraphs covering what was achieved, written in a manner that is easily understood and relevant to SA growers. Report on the attendance at the event, relevant photos could also be attached. A number of key dot points should be included which can be used in SAGIT communication programs

The NSS deep soil amelioration & AGM was an overall success with 55 attending the event. In the field, we had demonstrations from a large chicken manure spreader, spader & Agro Plow deep ripping machine. We had our guest speaker, Wayne Parker (DAFWA) talk in the field followed by our AGM and further presentation from the guest speaker at our AGM at the Mundoora sporting club.

Attendees were able to see the machinery in action in the field and we conducted a replicated trial that will be assessed throughout the season as well as yield mapped at harvest.

The presentation by Wayne at the sporting club has information from the WA experience with deep soil amelioration that was relevant to our work in SA. There was particular interest in slot openers to allow top soil (or other ameliorants) to fall down the deep rip tine.

- Deep soil amelioration used by ~20% of NSS members currently.
- All attendees intend to do some form of soil amelioration in the near future (not necessarily deep soil ripping/spading) in order to improve productivity.
- Compaction in sands is the primary problem with non-wetting soils & sodicity also causing poor plant growth in some seasons.
- Improving structure & nutrient content through the application of gypsum, lime & chicken litter is on the radar for many NSS members

See photos below.

Overall Performance

A concise statement indicating the extent to which the objectives were achieved, a list of personnel who participated in the Event including co-operators, and any difficulties encountered and the reasons for these difficulties.

The event was considered a success by the NSS committee. The numbers of attendees was excellent (in line with expectations) and the questions to the guest speaker were many. It highlighted the benefits of getting a 'out of local patch' guest speaker that can communicate information well. DAFWA is to be commended for the quality of the information generated by their organization.

Leighton Wilksch organised the event with Stefan Schmidtt (property owner, NSS committee member, Ag Consulting Co agronomist) coordinated the trial demonstration.

Spading done by Simon March, Earth Serv. Ripping done by local landholder, Ed Dolling.

Sam Trengove, Trengove consulting, also spoke at the event in the field.

There were no difficulties encountered.

Application / Communication of Results

A concise statement describing activities undertaken to communicate the results of the event to the grains industry. This should include:

- *Main findings of the event in a dot point form suitable for use in communications to farmers;*
- *Publications and extension articles delivered as part of the project*

Note that SAGIT may directly extend information from Final reports to growers. If applicable, attach a list of published material.

The event was written up in the local YP Country Times as well as promoted on Twitter.

Trial results of ripping, spading, chicken litter spreading treatments will be publicised in NSS newsletters in 2017.

POSSIBLE FUTURE EVENTS

Provide possible future plans of your Group arising from the project including potential for further work and partnerships.

AUTHORISATION

Name: Leighton Wilksch

Position: Executive Officer & lead researcher, NSS

Signature:

Date: 26/6/17

Submit report via email to admin@sagit.com.au as a Microsoft Word document in the format shown ***within 2 months*** after the completion of the Project Term.



