

# SES AUSTRALIA Pty Ltd Soil Cert



YOUR SOIL SPECIFICATION AND  
CONTAMINATION COMPLIANCE  
SOLUTION

**INFORMATION  
GUIDE**

**2025**  
[www.sesl.com.au](http://www.sesl.com.au)

# INTRODUCTION

## SESL Australia SoilCert – Ensuring Soil Compliance and Quality Across Australia

With over 40 years of experience working alongside soil suppliers, SESL Australia Pty Ltd (SESL) has established itself as a trusted provider of expert Soil Science and Contamination Compliance advice.

This deep industry knowledge ensures that soil delivered to sites is fit for purpose and meets both project and regulatory requirements.

SESL collaborates closely with Landscape Architects, Principal Contractors and Government Agencies to guarantee that only compliant soils are used on site.

Through these partnerships, SESL has identified a consistent industry need for high-quality, specification-compliant soils—a need driven by the costly consequences of poor soil quality and miscommunication around design expectations.

To address this, SESL developed **SoilCert**—a streamlined platform designed to demonstrate pre-compliance with the most widely adopted soil specifications in Australia.



This unique program creates a critical link between Soil Scientists, Soil Suppliers and Approving Authorities, enabling smoother project approvals and reducing risks associated with soil failure or rework.

SESL Australia **SoilCert** delivers a single, integrated service that includes:

- Independent Assessment
- NATA Accredited Laboratory Analysis
- Professional Soil Scientist Review
- Environmental Scientist Review
- Streamlined Compliance Statements

The result is consistent, verified and high-quality soil supply for major and minor projects alike—helping to build stronger landscapes from the ground up.

# INDUSTRY PRESENCE AND RECOGNITION

## **The Importance of the SESL Australia SoilCert Program**

One essential element of the SESL Australia **SoilCert** program is its recognition within the industry. Various sectors involved in the approval and certification of materials for onsite import have long sought a more streamlined process that presents compliance in a straightforward yet reliable way. Typically, compliance and approval processes can be lengthy, leading to onsite delays and, at times, shortcuts that compromise the quality of soil materials delivered.

## **Fast-Tracking Compliance with SESL Australia SoilCert**

The SESL Australia **SoilCert** acts as a tool to expedite compliance and approval for materials imported to the site. Through consistent quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) inspections and testing, the **SoilCert** program will be acknowledged as a pre-approved mixture for any specific project or specification.

## **Industry Engagement**

SESL is working closely with soil suppliers to join the **SoilCert** initiative. SESL is consulting with suppliers on the design of soil mixes, implementation of extensive, independent QA/QC programmes, correct testing regimes and **SoilCert** certification.

The **SoilCert** program also educates soil suppliers about the importance of the program, emphasising the significance of specifications and the QA/QC process. This education is an important pillar of the **SoilCert** program as a transformative, quality-enhancing system that optimises project outcomes without incurring delays or necessitating additional testing.

## **Benefits for Suppliers and Importers**

The advantages of SESL's commitment will extend to suppliers participating in the **SoilCert** program. Holding the **SoilCert** seals and being listed in the 'Find a Soil' database will immediately identify a Soil Supplier as trusted and thoroughly evaluated by SESL.

# SOILCERT OVERVIEW

## 1. Mix Design / Formulation

SESL collaborates closely with soil suppliers to understand the composition and intended use of the soil mixes being provided to the industry. SESL also works with suppliers to enhance these mixes, optimising performance using the available materials.

## 2. Supplier Consultation

SESL consults with the soil supplier to understand the intended purpose of the soil mixes and provides expert advice on the most suitable testing regime to determine if the soils are fit for purpose. Project-specific specifications are also discussed and incorporated into the testing regime.

## 3. Quality Assurance Programme

SESL provides a comprehensive QA/QC programme in collaboration with the soil supplier, ensuring that soil media intended for certification is independently tested for every 4,500 m<sup>3</sup> produced or on a monthly basis—whichever comes first. Incoming and outgoing volumes at the yard are closely monitored as part of this process.

## 4. QA/QC Sampling

As an independent third party, SESL attends the site to inspect the stockpile of soil designated for certification. Sampling is carried out in strict accordance with the QA/QC program, ensuring impartiality and compliance. Photographs and site notes are taken and securely recorded for full traceability and transparency.





# OVERVIEW CONTINUED

## 5. Laboratory Analysis

Samples are delivered to SESL's NATA-accredited laboratory for independent QA/QC testing to assess whether the materials are fit for purpose and comply with the required specifications.

## 6. Certification Assessment

SESL's team of soil scientists assesses the laboratory results to determine whether the soil material is fit for purpose and meets the required specifications. Based on this assessment, the soil may be classified as fully compliant, conditionally compliant, or non-compliant.

In cases of non-compliance, the supplier will be invited to address the identified issues and repeat the QA/QC sampling and testing process.

## 7. Quarterly Certification Reporting

SESL monitors regular certification analyses for each supplier throughout the quarter and provides a comprehensive quarterly compliance report. This report, which includes SESL's compliance Seal, is supplied to the supplier for their records. Certifications are continuously monitored, and in the event of major non-compliances, certifications may be revoked immediately.



# COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION REPORT

Compliance certification is the most important product of the SESL Australia **SoilCert** program and serves as the guiding document that provides an immediate statement of compliance and provides assurance to the approving body that the supplier has participated successfully in **SoilCert** and is able to deliver fit for purpose soils, immediately.

Statement will include:

- When samples were collected
- Statement of independent sampling
- Analysis carried out and summary of QA/QC analysis conducted within the quarter
- Comparison to the relevant specification
- Presentation of common species lists and identification on compatible species
- Assessment of non-compliances/limitations/Fit-for-Purpose
- Compliance, Conditional Compliance or Rectification Statement
- Concluding statement and provision of quarterly approval Seal
- Signatory by CPSS accredited Soil Scientist or AQF Level 7 Soil Scientist

When soil is deemed compliant, SESL Australia Quality Seals and reports will be emailed to the supplier for that quarter for approved use under each annual subscription level.

Additional specifications/project specific requirements may be added to existing letters and Seals to maintain consistent compliance documents on a per mix basis.



# CONTAMINATION COMPLIANCE (OPTIONAL ADD-ON)

Contamination assessment may be added on to existing compliance statements as part of the SESL Australia **SoilCert** program. In the event that the supplier has had contamination assessments and testing conducted by a third party, SESL can provide an assessment of existing reports and data to provide a compliance statement (if the third party assessments and testing satisfy SESL's standards).

The following will be added to the statement:

- When samples were collected
- Statement of independent sampling
- Analysis carried out
- Assessment against relevant legislation
- AND/OR Assessment of existing Data and Reports
- Compliance, Conditional Compliance or Rectification Statement
- Concluding statement and provision of quarterly approval seal
- Signatory by a Senior Environmental Scientist

When soil is deemed compliant, SESL Australia Quality Seals and reports will be emailed to the supplier for that quarter for approved use under each annual subscription level.

Additional specifications/project specific requirements may be added to existing letters and Seals to maintain consistent compliance documents on a per mix basis.



# TRUSTED CERTIFICATION

## Regular QA/QC Testing

Regular testing is essential to verify that all products delivered to site meet the required quality standards and are certified accordingly. Under the certification program, the volumes of soil produced onsite are carefully tracked and monitored. This ensures that testing schedules remain current and that quality control measures are consistently applied. Maintaining this rigorous monitoring process helps to promptly identify any deviations, allowing for timely corrective actions to uphold compliance and performance standards.

## Independent sampling, testing and interpretation

SESL independently manages all aspects of the QA/QC process, including sampling, laboratory testing, and result interpretation. This independence from the soil supplier ensures impartiality, objectivity, and unbiased verification of soil quality and compliance. By operating independently, SESL helps build trust with clients and stakeholders, reduces the risk of conflicts of interest, and ensures that certification decisions are based solely on accurate and reliable data.

## Compliance Report Control

Quarterly updates of compliance certificates, combined with regular QA/QC testing, ensure that all reports remain current and accurate.

To safeguard against document fraud, manipulation, and duplication, compliance reports include unique codes and watermarks.

All certified soil mixes and suppliers are listed in the 'SESL Find a Soil' database, enabling instant cross-checking to verify that certifications are valid and up to date.





# Get In Touch

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