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## Distribution and properties of cracking clay soils in relation to sustainable agriculture in the Namoi Valley

A report to the COTTON RESEARCH COUNCIL on project CS 37L, February, 1990  
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### Summary

Project CS 37L will finish at the end of this financial year. The present situation is as follows.

A large part of the data base has been published in hard copy and is publicly available in Narrabri, Wee Waa and at Myall Vale. A copy of the electronic data base is held at Myall Vale.

The method of data analysis, a new program, is close to publication. A report on the soils of the Myall Vale Research Station is with the editor. Nine other manuscripts are nearly complete.

The electronic data base, a major outcome of the work, will have a continuing value especially to graduate students, agronomists and agricultural advisers. However, there is a need to maintain the data base so that it remains accessible to potential users. This is not an immediate problem but might become so when Ward's work on the data is finished.

In 1990/91 it is proposed to complete laboratory analysis of 290 soil samples. These samples, from soils near Wee Waa, had not been fully analysed when the laboratory in Brisbane was closed down.

Ward also proposes to prepare, in 1990/91, a brief guide to the soils of the district. This will take the form of a self-guided tour through the district with stopping points and descriptions of the landscape and soil at particular vantage points. The information will be directed to students and interested lay persons.

### Introduction

Project CS 37L was originally planned to finish in June, 1989, but progress was held up by the closure of the Brisbane laboratories of the Division of Soils and the consequent loss of most staff. Approval was given to extend the project into 1989/90.

This report outlines the state of project CS 37L in February, 1990. It is anticipated that all reports will be completed before the end of the financial year.

The Edgeroi soil data base is a major product of the research.

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