



May 2021

## Future Drought Fund: forging a path towards drought resilience

The Australian Government will continue its investments from the Future Drought Fund to provide Australian farmers and regional communities with tools for planning, managing and sustaining their livelihoods through drought.

### How we are building drought resilience

#### Harnessing innovation – driving development and adoption of drought resilient technologies and practices

**An additional \$38.5 million** for the **Drought Resilience Research and Adoption Program**, taking total investment to \$117.3 million to 2023–24. This funding supports:

- 8 Adoption and Innovation Hubs around Australia to provide research, development, extension, adoption and commercialisation support that is responsive to regional needs and opportunities
- on-ground adoption officers to facilitate uptake by farmers and agribusinesses of services and activities provided by the Hubs
- innovation grants funding to support development, adoption, extension and commercialisation of projects
- national enabling activities including an annual Science To Practice Forum to support dissemination and uptake of innovative practices.

#### Better risk management – helping farmers and regional bodies plan for future drought risks

**An additional \$60 million** to the **Farm Business Resilience Program** ensures the government continues its work with state and territory governments and industry to build the business and risk management skills of farmers. The additional funding will allow the program to reach as many as 17,000 farmers, and provides follow-up support for participants.

**\$31 million** for the **Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program** – the government will continue to work with state and territory governments, local councils, regional development authorities and others to develop plans that identify priorities and innovative strategies to build drought resilience on a regional scale. The additional funding will ensure all agricultural regions have plans, and allow for small grants to take forward priority actions identified in the regional plans.

## Better climate information – making climate information more accessible and useful

An additional **\$12 million** will be provided to the **Climate Services for Agriculture Program** and the **Drought Resilience Self-Assessment Tool**. The funding is to continue development of a Climate Services Platform that makes climate information and projections readily available and useful, and a self-assessment tool that allows farmers to get a farm-scale picture of their climate risks and resilience.

## Better land management – improved land management practices to help keep agricultural landscapes healthy and productive in times of drought

Another **\$23 million** over 3 years towards a **Drought Resilience Soils and Landscapes program**. The funding will support short and long term projects – particularly those that provide innovative and transformational change.

## More resilient communities – investing in the community leaders, mentors, networks and organisations that drive change and keep communities strong in tough times

**\$4 million** to extend the **Drought Resilience Leaders program**, which is developing a cohort of around 450 drought resilience leaders across 12 regions, and establishing a mentoring network.

The **Networks to Build Drought Resilience program** will also remain in place – **\$4 million** will allow for a second phase of the program to be rolled out. The extra funding will ensure community networks, organisations and infrastructure help communities prepare and stay strong in drought.

## Be informed

For more information, visit [awe.gov.au/fdf](http://awe.gov.au/fdf). You can also register for updates at our [haveyoursay.awe.gov.au/future-drought-fund](http://haveyoursay.awe.gov.au/future-drought-fund)

## Key points

- The FDF is part of the government's Drought Response, Resilience and Preparedness Plan ([agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/drought/drought-policy](http://agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/drought/drought-policy)), supporting Australian farmers and communities to be sustainable and productive.
- The FDF's ongoing investment in projects across Australia will help farmers and communities build drought resilience.
- Programs reflect feedback from the farming community.
- A robust monitoring and evaluation framework will underpin all FDF programs.