

Southern NSW Drought Resilience Innovation and Adoption Hub

20 July 2023



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment



Future
Drought
Fund



SOUTHERN NSW
Innovation Hub



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SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, LANDSCAPES AND COMMUNITIES

This program/project received funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.

Why is a Future Drought Fund needed to build drought resilience?

Farmers may underinvest in drought resilience

Economic, environmental and social resilience

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Soils Projects

CSU/Southern NSW Innovation Hub -**Saving Our Soils During Drought**

Lead organisation –Local Land Services

Collaborating partners –Holbrook Landcare Network, FarmLinkResearch, Central West Farming Systems, Riverine Plains, Peter Walker -Soils Knowledge Network, Irrigated Cropping Council **\$1,000,000**

CSU/Southern NSW Innovation Hub -**Creating landscape-scale change through the promotion of resilient pasture systems**

Lead partner organisation -Holbrook Landcare Network

Collaborating Partners -FarmLinkResearch, Central West Farming Systems, Monaro Farming Systems, NSW DPI, Riverine Plains, Local Land Services **\$983,950**

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CSU/Southern NSW Innovation Hub -**Improved drought resilience through optimal management of soils and available water**

Lead partner organisation -Riverine Plains

Collaborating partners -Central West Farming Systems, FarmLinkResearch, NSW DPI and Southern Growers, along with CSIRO and GRDC. **\$997,600**

Sub-total \$2,981,550

Additional projects supported by Southern NSW Innovation Hub –
Western Local Land Services -**Perennial pastures, resilient rangelands**
\$920,933

Riverina Local Land Services -**Paddock, Farm, Landscape -building our communities natural capital from the soil up****\$821,800**

Holbrook Landcare Network Landcare -**Landscape Resilience –tools and data for restoration decisions****\$875,680**

Sub-total \$2,618,413 TOTAL \$5,599,963

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Sharing Early insights for more resilient communities

This project will support rapid intervention through disaster cycles through analysis of existing and novel data sets to extract insights that could help government, NGOs and community organisations identify where resilience support is needed through the rapid identification of risk before, during and after extreme climatic events.

The system test the existence of early indicators that resilience loss and disengagement is occurring, allowing for early intervention before catastrophic loss or longer hardship and mental health damage occurs that impacts regional resilience. Rather than involve the rebuilding of resilience after loss, this will enable the focus of interventions to be on innovative approaches to maintaining resilience before significant loss occurs.

Led by University of Canberra

\$790000 cash
\$635857 in kind

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Harnessing the value of Agtech on Farm

The project looks at the value proposition of commercially available technology solutions in livestock industries and makes the information available via a publicly accessible online platform.

The project will:

- ❑ Work with farmers and advisors to capture the true operating costs and opportunity costs of different livestock farm operations
- ❑ Develop algorithms to calculate the costs saved or the value created of commercially available technology solutions
- ❑ Create an easy-to-use online portal for farmers to input their own information to assess the value of different technologies in their own context

Led by CSU
\$600000 cash
\$762500 in kind

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Drought Management for Health and Longevity of Perennial Horticulture Plants

Lead Hub –South Australia

Participating Hubs –Southern NSW, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia

This project will demonstrate recent AgTech advances from R&D investments in commercial production settings to provide real-time information on canopy development and soil moisture, enabling optimised irrigation for plant health and longevity in water constrained settings, enhancing drought resilience.

Capture participating growers' insights on current knowledge, skills, attitudes, aspirations, motivations, constraints, and enablers for production and innovation to enhance likelihood of successful implementation by growers for all regions and target crops.

\$1,000,000

Total \$2,100,000

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Managing Rangelands for drought resilience

Lead Hub –Northern WA/NT Hub

Participating hubs -Southern NSW, South-West WA, South Australia, Southern Queensland/Northern New South Wales, Tropical North Queensland

Demonstrate and build confidence in rangelands regeneration tools and techniques to monitor and manage key production species susceptible to being lost from the landscape during drought. Includes groundcover monitoring and Total Grazing Pressure (TGP) assessment tools, rangeland rehydration and other potential regeneration methods.

\$1,100,000

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Managing farmer community biosecurity risk

This activity will build community, farmer and supply chain awareness of, and involvement in biosecurity management and create information and tools that can inform future activities to support community, farmer and supply chain involvement in and ownership of biosecurity management.

Develop regional biosecurity profiles, leveraging existing program logic for biosecurity surveillance.

Simulation Exercise involving producers, community, supply chains as well as the responsible agencies.

Develop plan to support biosecurity EA&C systems across sectors and nationally

Deliver track and trace application, connecting NSW Wine (vineyard) biosecurity. Please see activity P4 below for approach.

Role of the simulation exercises in demonstrating the value of biosecurity management strategies

Led by NSW DPI

Partners –NSW Wine, NSW DPI, PHA

Cash \$375000

In Kind \$646782

On the Ground Projects

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DR Sat & CSA

Natural Resource Management – Grants and Landscapes

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Productivity Commission Interim report Key findings

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The intent of the Future Drought Fund is sound, but it is too early to assess its impact

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Future Drought Fund design and delivery problems will continue to constrain progress unless addressed

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The Funding Plan does not provide clear guidance on planning, strategic sequencing and prioritisation of programs

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Monitoring, evaluation and learning activities have not adequately tracked performance

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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have had limited participation in the Future Drought Fund

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Investing in climate information services is appropriate, but funding two overlapping tools may be unnecessary

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The Farm Business Resilience program has untapped potential for delivering public benefits

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Regional Drought Resilience Plans could be improved

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So What does “Hub 2.0” look like ?

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The FDF should recognise resilience to climate change as a priority

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GROWERS



Irrigation Research &
Extension Committee



Irrigated Cropping Council
Promoting irrigated agriculture



Local Land
Services



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