



Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Forestry



National  
Farmers  
Federation

# 2025 National Drought Forum

8-9 September 2025 | Gawler, South Australia



## Forum program

The 2025 National Drought Forum will build on the insights of previous forums and play a crucial role in ensuring that our approach to drought preparedness, response and recovery remains effective and meets the needs of our farmers and rural and regional communities. With parts of southern Australia experiencing drought, it's important to discuss our approach to managing drought at a national level.

This year's program has been shaped to reflect current and future drought priorities, including an opportunity to examine existing policies and programs, and issues such as mental health and wellbeing, climate change and food security.

## Monday, 8 September 2025

### Optional site visit

Time	Description
9:00 am to 12:15 pm	<b>South Australian Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub Site visit</b> The tour to Roseworthy provides an opportunity for forum attendees to visit 2 Future Drought Fund drought-resilience research, development and adoption sites devoted to broadacre cropping and livestock production. 9:00 am – Depart Adelaide (or Adelaide Airport) 10:00 am – Arrive Roseworthy College Hall – morning tea and overview 10:30 am – Travel to Site 1 10:40 am – Arrive Site 1 (30-minute visit) 11:10 am – Travel to Site 2 11:25 am – Arrive Site 2 (30-minute visit) 11:55 am – Return to Gawler for 12:10 pm arrival

## Day 1: Drought in context

Gawler Civic Centre, 1:00 to 5:00 pm

Session	Time	Description
Opening plenary	12:15 to 12:55 pm	Registration and light refreshments
	1:00 to 2:30 pm	Open and housekeeping Welcome to Country: Clifly Wilson Opening address National Farmers' Federation welcome <b>Panel: Our current drought context</b>
	2:30 to 3:00 pm	Afternoon tea
	3:00 to 4:45 pm	<b>Workshop: Reflecting on our drought framework</b> Facilitator: Tanya Lehmann

Session	Time	Description
Workshop and closing plenary		Explore, reflect and provide insights on how we approach drought in Australia through our policies, programs and settings.
	4:45 to 5:00 pm	Wrap-up and close

## Tuesday, 9 September 2025

### Day 2: Drought engagement

Gawler Civic Centre, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Session	Time	Description
Opening plenary	9:00 to 9:30 am	Day 2 opening remarks
Morning breakout activities	9:30 to 11:00 am	<p><b>Workshop: Strengthening mental wellbeing and preventing suicides through drought</b></p> <p>Facilitator: Tanya Lehmann</p> <p>Confirming the short and long-term objectives, appropriate support types and roles and responsibilities for mental health, wellbeing and suicide prevention across the drought cycle.</p>
		<p><b>Panel: Farming futures and the challenge of transition</b></p> <p>Examine key farm business transition and family succession challenges faced by Australian farmers impacted by drought and consider options to overcome these challenges.</p>
		<p><b>Panel: Drought as a catalyst for change</b></p> <p>Explore the opportunities drought provides for reflection on ‘What worked, what didn’t and what could be done differently next time?’ and how these learnings can inform risk management and decision-making at all levels, now and over the medium and long term.</p>
	11:00 to 11:30 am	Morning tea
Midday breakout activities	11:30 am to 1:00 pm	<p><b>Workshop: The pathway out of drought</b></p> <p>Room: TBC</p> <p>Explore and share insights on how we can all best support recovery.</p>
		<p><b>Panel: Foundations of community resilience</b></p> <p>Room: TBC</p> <p>Hear insights on the key elements that make a community resilient to drought and other challenges, the pathways to increasing community resilience, the importance of people and networks, and how government can best support community resilience.</p>
		<p><b>Workshop: Drought and the future of food security</b></p> <p>Room: TBC</p> <p>Explore the implications for food security in a future of climate extremes and drought. Discover direct and indirect consequences to help uncover innovative ideas and potential policy solutions that seek to ensure resilient food and agricultural systems.</p>
	1:00 to 2:00 pm	Lunch
Plenary and closing	2:00 to 3:15 pm	<p><b>Panel: Drought in a changing climate</b></p> <p>Discuss the efficacy of current drought policies across government and industry in the context of current drought conditions and future climate scenarios.</p>
	3:15 to 4:00 pm	<p><b>Wrap-up and closing remarks</b></p> <p>What we’ve heard and what’s next.</p>

**Acknowledgement of Country**

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the National Farmers' Federation would like to acknowledge that the 2025 National Drought Forum is being held on Kurna Country. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of this land, their culture, their language and Elders both past and present. We recognise their knowledge and contribution to the productivity, innovation and sustainability of Australia's agriculture, fisheries, and forestry industries.

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