



December
2020

Future Drought Fund

Forging a path towards drought resilience



The Australian Government's \$5 billion Future Drought Fund (FDF) is about building drought resilience – helping farmers and regional communities become more prepared for, and resilient to, the impacts of drought. Launched in July 2020, FDF provides farmers and communities with the tools they need to plan, manage and sustain their livelihoods for the droughts that will come.

Programs driving drought resilience

\$86 million Drought Resilience Research and Adoption Program

- total funding of \$86 million over 4 years
- 8 Adoption and Innovation Hubs around Australia will be established by March 2021 to support farmers and communities to build drought resilience through innovated practices
- innovation grants will open in early 2021 to support research, development, adoption, extension and commercialisation of projects
- a national Drought Resilience Research and Adoption Investment Plan will be in place by June 2021 to identify national priorities and opportunities for investment.

\$20 million Farm Business Resilience Program

- program will focus on building business and risk management skills, so farm businesses are better able to plan for and manage through droughts
- state and territory governments will deliver the program, working with industry bodies and others, from early 2021.

Key points

- the FDF is part of the government's [Drought Response, Resilience and Preparedness Plan](#), 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
- 8 FDF programs were announced in July 2020
- programs reflect feedback from the farming community
- a robust monitoring and evaluation framework will underpin all FDF programs.

\$10 million Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program

- program will help develop plans that identify priorities and strategies to build drought resilience at a regional scale
- state and territory governments will deliver this program, working with local governments and relevant regional bodies, from early 2021.

\$10 million Climate Services for Agriculture Program

- program will make climate information and projections more accessible and usable through a single on-line platform
- CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology will partner with the program to deliver the platform, co-designed with intended users
- first phase of the platform will be operational by 30 June 2021.

\$3 million Drought Resilience Self-Assessment Tool

- a decision-support tool to help farmers and other users understand drought risks to their property and business
- a tender process will select a provider by early 2021
- first phase of the tool will be operational by 30 June 2021.

\$15 million Natural Resource Management Drought Resilience Program

- program will support the uptake of natural resource management (NRM) practices and technologies that improve the drought resilience of agricultural landscapes
- \$5 million will be allocated to 12 Regional NRM bodies for the first round of projects
- \$10 million in grants to be awarded by early 2021.

\$7.45 million Drought Resilience Leaders program

- program will build leadership skills, and establish mentoring networks that help improve drought resilience
- a national provider will be appointed by early 2021.

\$3.75 million Networks to Build Drought Resilience program

- program will help community organisations in agricultural regions build drought resilience
- a lead provider will be appointed by the end of 2020.

Through a monitoring and evaluation framework, the FDF will track the learning and adaptation of drought resilience approaches. From September 2021, we will produce annual reports.

Be informed

For more information, see [Future Drought Fund](#). You can also register for updates at our haveyoursay.awe.gov.au/future-drought-fund.

An Australian Government Drought Initiative

