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Future Drought Fund

Monitoring, evaluation and learning



Drought is an enduring feature of the Australian landscape. It has economic, environmental and social impacts on farmers, communities and the landscape.

The Future Drought Fund (FDF) aims to build drought resilience – helping farmers and regional communities become more prepared for, and resilient to, the impacts of drought. It is part of the Australian Government’s commitment to deliver the support that Australian farmers and communities need to be sustainable and productive.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework

The FDF and its programs are supported by the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework (MEL Framework). This framework will help to ensure FDF programs meet the needs of Australia’s farmers and regional communities to build and strengthen their resilience to future drought.

The MEL Framework applies to the period of the [Drought Resilience Funding Plan 2020 to 2024](#). It is a framework to measure progress and achievements, and to help identify improvements for future programs.

The objectives of the MEL Framework are to:

- demonstrate progress towards drought resilience
- be accountable for the appropriate, efficient and effective use of funds
- support knowledge transfer about how to effectively build drought resilience.

Key points

- The MEL Framework provides a consistent structure for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness, efficiency, appropriateness and impact of the FDF and its programs.
- The MEL Framework ensures FDF programs are evaluated for their efficiency and effectiveness in delivering the Drought Resilience Funding Plan 2020 to 2024.
- The MEL Framework will measure the success of FDF programs in building and strengthening drought resilience for Australian farmers and their communities.
- Annual reports will be prepared on the FDF that are consistent with the MEL Framework.



Regular monitoring and reporting will come under the MEL Framework. Indicators to support this are being established. High-level indicators will track drought resilience trends and program-level indicators will measure impact against the Drought Resilience Funding Plan 2020 to 2024.

Annual FDF reports will report on progress, starting from September 2021.

Using the framework

The MEL Framework, together with the high-level indicators, will contribute to assessing the effectiveness of the FDF to drive transformation and build drought resilience at a program level.

The framework includes questions focused on the appropriateness, efficiency, effectiveness, and impact of the FDF and its programs. It also includes intermediate (2 to 4 year) and long-term outcomes (beyond 4 years) expected under the FDF.

Each FDF program will undergo an interim evaluation to inform future program design and delivery parameters.

There will also be a mid-term evaluation of the Drought Resilience Funding Plan 2020 to 2024. This will inform program design, delivery and development of the plan in future years. It will also assist the Productivity Commission review in 2023.

For more information on FDF programs and to view the MEL Framework, see agriculture.gov.au/fdf.

An Australian Government Drought Initiative

