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Future Drought Fund

Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program



Drought does not pay attention to lines on a map, and is best planned for on a regional-scale based on landscape, community, economy and climate, rather than borders.

The Regional Drought Resilience Planning program brings regional organisations, local government, communities and industry together to prepare for future drought risks by developing regional drought resilience plans.

Funding

The Australian Government has committed \$9.85 million towards the roll out of the foundational year. The government is working with state and territory governments to deliver the program. An additional \$31 million was announced in the 2021–22 Federal Budget for the next three years.

This program received funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund, and contributions from state and territory governments.

Regional drought resilience plans

The plans will:

- identify actions to prepare for future droughts, focusing on the agricultural sector and allied industries
- be led by communities and developed through partnerships of local governments, regional organisations, community organisations and industry
- recognise that no two regions are the same and planning must be customised
- access the wide range of drought resilience knowledge and evidence available
- draw out regional needs and priorities to inform future investments

Key points

- The Future Drought Fund's Regional Drought Resilience program will support regional organisations, local government, communities and industry to partner together to develop regional drought resilience plans.
- The plans will identify and guide actions to build the region's resilience to future droughts, with a focus on agriculture and allied industries. Plans will be developed through a triple bottom line, collaborative and evidence-based approach.
- Australian Government has committed \$9.85 million towards the foundational year of the program and an additional \$31 million was announced in the 2021–22 Federal Budget for the next three years.
- The government is delivering the program in partnership with states and territories.
- The expanded program will support small grants for regions to take forward tangible actions identified in their plans

- use best practice approaches to resilience, adaptation and transformation
- build on and complement any existing planning
- be independently assessed and published to ensure their effectiveness and allow communities to learn from each other.

Benefits

Regional communities will benefit by:

- having a better understanding of the region's ability to manage droughts
- being able to identify and plan for the impacts of future droughts
- building their economic, environmental and social resilience to future droughts
- forming stronger connections and relationships within and between regions, drawing on the diverse range of available knowledge and existing planning while learning and sharing what's working and what's not
- having plans that provide a clear, systematic evaluation of drought risks and priorities, better positioning regions when applying for funding and support to improve drought resilience
- having access to best practice data and information to make better decisions
- improving natural resource management across the region

The program will also support small grants for regions to take forward priority actions identified in regional plans. The targeting of this support will be developed through consultation with state and territory governments and others.

Program roll out

The program is being run in selected regions across Australia – delivered through each state and territory.

The program will roll out until June 2024

Further information

Find out how to access the Program in your area by visiting the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment's website, www.awe.gov.au/dfd.

You can also register for updates at haveyoursay.awe.gov.au/future-drought-fund.

An Australian Government Drought Initiative

