



May  
2021

# Future Drought Fund

Driving development  
and adoption of drought  
resilience technologies  
and practices



- The Australian Government is investing in innovation as a central strategy to help Australian agriculture become more resilient to future droughts.
- A further \$38.5m in the 2021–22 Budget takes total investment in innovation for drought resilience to \$117.3 million to 2023–24.
- The additional funding builds on the Government’s investment in 8 Adoption and Innovation Hubs around the country, by supporting practical innovation projects and ensuring efforts are well targeted.

The Research and Adoption program focuses on collaborative research, development, extension, adoption and commercialisation (RDEA&C) activities. These activities help farmers and rural and regional communities to become more prepared for, and resilient to, future droughts through the adoption of new technologies and practices.

The program is made up of a series of connected elements.

## Adoption and Innovation Hubs

The Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs support the development of extension and adoption activities, and opportunities to commercialise new knowledge. The 2021–22 Budget builds on the Government’s existing \$66 million investment in the Hubs by providing:

- support for Adoption and Innovation Hubs to engage adoption officers to ensure a strong focus on farmers as the customer
- funding for Hub projects, with guidelines to be developed following the development of Hub activity plans (currently underway)
- support for national coordinating activities, such as a platform to capture and make accessible the knowledge generated through the Adoption and Innovation Hubs.

## Innovation Grants

- Grants will be available for research organisations, the private sector, industry, not-for-profit organisations and community groups to develop collaborative drought resilience projects to assist farmers and communities to adapt and transform.
- Grants will support development, extension, adoption and commercialisation projects that address drought resilience priorities.
- The process will open in late June 2021.

## Research and Adoption Investment Plan

- Updated annually, the Plan identifies national priorities and opportunities for investment, complementing the regionally focused Adoption and Innovation Hubs.
- The first Plan is expected to be published in July 2021.

## Science to Practice Forum

- An annual Science to Practice Forum will bring together program participants, synthesise RDEA&C outcomes and inform practice and policy.
- The forum will also facilitate key stakeholders' discussion on RDEA&C gaps and priorities.
- The first forum will be held in late June 2021.

## Be informed

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

## An Australian Government Drought Initiative

