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# Future Drought Fund: Improving resilience with better climate information nationally

The Future Drought Fund is making climate and drought resilience information more useful for farmers, agribusinesses and communities through the Climate Services for Agriculture (CSA) platform and the Drought Resilience Self-Assessment Tool (DR.SAT). These tools are being developed with farmers and others in the agricultural sector and currently piloted in 8 regions across Australia.

Budget 22–23 provides a further $7 million to complete the development of the CSA platform and achieve national coverage with total spending on this measure amounting to $29 million over four years to 2023–24.

## The CSA prototype to national platform

Developed by the CSIRO and Bureau of Meteorology, the CSA platform makes historical, current and future climate information at a 5km2 resolution available across the country. This includes information on climate variables such as past and future rainfall, temperature, heat and frost risk and evapotranspiration.

The CSA platform will provide a ready way of understanding how potential future climates might impact the production of key commodities including wheat, sheep, beef, apples, almonds, barley, canola and lupins. Once complete, the platform will cover over 20 of Australia’s top agricultural commodities.

## Co-design in pilot regions

Pilot regions are currently in the following areas:

* Queensland Dry Tropics
* Condamine and the Northern Tablelands
* Victorian Mallee and south-east South Australia
* Western Australian Wheatbelt
* Tropical North
* Central West New South Wales
* Riverina and Goulburn-Murray
* Gippsland and Northern Tasmania.

The extended program, funded through the 2022–23 Budget, will enable scaling out of the platform from a focus on the pilot regions, to a platform that is fully relevant to someone anywhere in Australia.

## Participating in pilots

We’re working with farmers in 8 pilot regions to look at how future climate patterns could impact additional agricultural commodities. For example, how changes to the timing and quantity of season rainfall could impact dairy production in Gippsland and northern Tasmania.

We are also expanding beyond the pilot regions to achieve national coverage, so participation from outside the pilot regions is welcome. User engagement to help co-design and deliver the platform will be conducted across Australia until June 2024.

## DR.SAT

Developed by Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, DR.SAT can be used by farmers anywhere in Australia to complete personalised assessment of their financial, personal, and social resilience.

The tool is based on the best available agricultural, social and economic information. It also offers high level climate information provided through the CSA platform to look at the impacts on future drought resilience, and remote-sensed data to review how the land has changed over time and compare data points to regional average.

The tool has recently been updated to include new features that our users – Australian farmers – said they most wanted. Features such as the ability to have more than one farm on one account; to have more than one commodity on the farm; to view surface moisture data and the ability to get a more detailed paddock by paddock view of your farm.

We’ve added more commodities and expanded the reach of some others. That means farmers can now get environmental resilience assessment for sheep (both meat and wool) in the Mallee Victoria and north-east of South Australia, the WA wheatbelt, as well as dairy in Gippsland and northern Tasmania, and for beef cattle grazing in northern Australia.

## Be informed

For more information about the pilots and how to participate, access to the CSA prototype and DR.SAT or other FDF programs, visit Future Drought Fund at [awe.gov.au/fdf](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CDavisz%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CHARR6PWK%5Cwww.awe.go.au%5Cfdf).

Register to receive updates direct to your inbox at [haveyoursay.awe.gov.au/future-drought-fund](https://haveyoursay.awe.gov.au/future-drought-fund).

**Acknowledgement of Country**

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

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