

National Drought Agreement annual report 2020–21



The parties to the National Drought Agreement 2018–2024

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Preface

This is the second annual report¹ of the National Drought Agreement (NDA), signed between the Commonwealth of Australia (the Commonwealth) and the Australian states and territories. In keeping with the reporting obligations set out in clauses 12–16 of the NDA, progress reports will be developed annually, or as required by the governing bodies. Progress reports will cover the previous financial year and will use the reporting framework agreed by the Agriculture Ministers on 22 February 2021.

The 2020–21 annual report provides an overview of national progress on implementing the NDA and covers the period from July 2020 to June 2021. The next annual report will be for the 2021–2022 financial year and is expected to be released in early 2023. The first annual report established a baseline for data; subsequent reports – including this one – provide data collection across years, allowing for consideration of trends and comparative analysis over time.

The NDA states that it will be reviewed approximately 2 years before it expires on 30 June 2024. The NDA review process will commence in 2022.

Background to the NDA

On 12 December 2018, the Australian Government and the Australian states and territories, being New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, the Northern Territory, and the Australian Capital Territory², signed the NDA. The NDA replaced the 2013 Intergovernmental Agreement on National Drought Program Reform and operates until 30 June 2024.

The NDA focuses on long-term preparedness, sustainability, resilience and risk management for farming businesses and farming communities in Australia. The NDA encourages Australian governments to cooperate and collaborate on drought-related programs and initiatives and outlines responsibilities when supporting farming businesses, families and communities. In doing so, the NDA provides a collaborative jurisdictional framework for a consistent policy approach to drought response across Australia. It seeks to reduce duplication in program delivery between jurisdictions and enables shared monitoring and reporting on the progress of each jurisdiction's efforts.

The NDA is governed and reported on through existing jurisdictional forums – the Agriculture Senior Officials Committee (AGSOC) and the Agriculture Ministers' Meeting (AMM).

The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) assumed secretariat responsibility for the NDA from 1 July 2021, when drought policy functions were transferred from the National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRA).

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¹ An interim report on the NDA was provided to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) in March 2020.

² Where the terms 'jurisdictions' or 'parties' are used, these refer to the Australian Government and all Australian states and territories.





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Message from the Agriculture ministers

The year just gone was a mixed one for the Australian agriculture sector. In addition to drought, COVID-19 continued to disrupt supply chains and the movement of labour. Floods, mice infestations, grasshopper outbreaks and international trade relationships also took their toll. Yet, despite this, 2020–21 ended strongly. Improved seasonal conditions and prices have driven the growth of Australian agriculture to reach a record \$66.3 billion in 2020–21, an 8% increase from the drought affected 2019–20 level. Next year's gross value of agricultural production is forecast to reach as much as \$78 billion.

For some – particularly in parts of Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia – prolonged drought continues. Our thoughts remain with farmers, farming families and farming communities who are still waiting for rain and, in the meantime, are managing through drought the best they can. For those who need it, support remains available through a number of Commonwealth, State and Territory led programs. These include the Farm Household Allowance, the Rural Financial Counselling Service, the Drought Community Outreach Program, and a range of measures to assist with matters such as pest management, emergency water infrastructure needs and mental health support.

However, for most of Australia, this year saw drought conditions ease, and the process of recovery begin. Many took the opportunity to draw breath, as their dams filled and pastures greened. Long protected savings, such as those held in the Farm Management Deposit Scheme, were drawn down to restock and replant, and businesses looked to re-establish their activities.

We know that recovery doesn't happen overnight, and that a lot of farmers and rural communities will need time to get back on their feet – financially and emotionally. However as soon as we can, we will need to start looking to the future and the inevitability of the next drought. Drought is a recurring feature of a drying Australian landscape and it will become more frequent, severe, and longer lasting in many regions.

The National Drought Agreement explicitly prioritises enhancing long term preparedness, sustainability, resilience and risk management for farming businesses and farming communities. Arming our farmers with the latest scientific information and equipping them with the tools needed to adapt their practices and manage risk will allow them to embrace this next chapter in global agricultural production. By preparing for drought, Australian farming can remain profitable and sustainable. It can continue to protect our land, water and biodiversity, help address climate change, strengthen rural communities, secure the nation's food supply, and further grow our economy. The best time for us all to do this, is when it's raining.

It is against this backdrop that the review of the NDA will commence in 2022. The review will consider what was learned during the last drought, and how those lessons could be applied to how we work together in the next drought. It will also need to take into account forecasts of a more extreme climatic future and the role all of us – government and non-government actors alike – have in working together to navigate this changing context.

Our drought policies are not ‘set and forget’ and the review of the NDA will be an important opportunity to consider if we have some of the key governance settings right. We remain committed to working with Australian farmers and rural communities to position Australian agriculture strongly for the future.



Hon David Littleproud,
Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia



The Hon. Dugald William Saunders MP,
Minister for Agriculture, and Minister for Western New South Wales



Hon Mary-Anne Thomas,
Minister for Agriculture and Minister for Regional Development



Hon Mark Furner,
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and
Minister for Rural Communities



Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC,
Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food;
Hydrogen Industry



Hon David Basham MP,
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development



Hon Guy Barnett MP,
Minister for Primary Industries and Water



Hon Nicole Manison,
Minister for Agribusiness and Aquaculture



Rebecca Vassarotti MLA,
Minister for the Environment

1. Executive Summary

The NDA annual report 2020–21 demonstrates commitment by Australian governments to provide support to farmers and communities affected by drought, while continuing to drive a broader reform agenda towards greater drought preparedness by all stakeholders across the country. Major investments from governments are strengthening rural Australia's capacity to withstand dry conditions and remain profitable and productive throughout the drought cycle.

During this year, jurisdictions have continued to deliver on their agreed roles and responsibilities as best meets the needs of their stakeholders. Importantly, as drought conditions begin to ease, some have begun to scale back the level of support aimed at providing immediate action for those in drought. The start of the recovery period has provided opportunity to look toward the future and seek to make the most of the momentum and learnings derived from recent drought efforts.

In keeping with this, this annual report has considered what shared learnings can be drawn from the wealth of evaluation work that has been undertaken across various drought programs in different jurisdictions. A summary is provided in [Section 6](#).

This report has also identified a new area for improvement – in addition to those already identified in the 2019–20 report – where collective effort can be prioritised:

The majority of jurisdictions have noted the potential for greater integration between drought, soil, water and climate policy. Improving the management of our natural resources – and the ecological systems that underpin them – is fundamental to sustainable, profitable agricultural production and strong regional economies. However, this is a complex space and there will be inevitable challenges in fully integrating policy and translating policy to practice. There is opportunity to utilise collaboration under the National Drought Agreement to build shared understandings, identify successful approaches, and collectively seek to address common challenges.

Progress towards the areas for improvement identified in the 2019–20 annual report is set out below.

Area for improvement 1

The reporting process highlighted gaps and limitations in the data available to report against the proposed measures in the NDA reporting framework. Learnings from the initial report should be used to review how information is collected and reported against the NDA for future reporting periods.

Status: Ongoing

2020–21 Progress towards this priority: The reporting tool used by parties to collate and aggregate data for the annual report has been revised and improved. The data requests are now more specific and targeted, allowing for more comprehensive quantitative reporting against the agreed framework. As a result of the improvements made to the reporting process, there are some discrepancies in the data as compared to that which was reported in the 2019–20 NDA Annual Report. Explanations for any discrepancies have been footnoted in the 2020–21 outcomes tables (Appendix 1). Any outstanding gaps and limitations with the reporting framework have been noted for consideration as part of the NDA Review in 2022. This will include consideration of options for reporting investment data.

Area for improvement 2

Providing clarity to end users about available support in any specific place or at any point in time is complicated by the fact that each jurisdiction employs different methodologies to classify or declare drought, and there is little guidance available for policy makers about when the impacts of drought 'start' and 'stop' at particular points in time. While complicated, there would be benefit in working towards greater inter-jurisdictional consistency in the criteria to define drought and inform government intervention on drought assistance.

Status: Ongoing

2020–21 Progress towards this priority: In 2020, the Commonwealth undertook a piece of work to help progress the national conversation about these matters. The then National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency commissioned the Nous Group to identify drought vulnerability and impact indicators. Nous Group reported that applying specific indicators for drought is complex and requires more work. While environmental indicators such as rainfall, soil moisture and time of rainfall and economic indicators such as crop and livestock production are relatively simple to identify and apply, socio-economic indicators such as regional profit, household wealth and wellbeing are more complex. Further work is required to correlate these types of indicators to drought conditions. Jurisdictions continue to work together to understand how indicators and existing tools could be used to inform government of changing conditions, and emerging drought impacts.

Area for improvement 3

Urgent need experienced by stakeholders during the reporting period resulted in a strong reaction from governments and the proliferation of many measures to help. This generated administrative inefficiencies and, in some cases, confusion on the ground. While many parts of the country move into recovery from drought, it provides opportunity to improve the way we work during times of drought; to rationalise, streamline and simplify support, in order to prepare for the next drought.

Status: Ongoing

2020–21 Progress towards this priority: On 9 June 2021, the NRRRA and the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) hosted the National Drought Forum, bringing together stakeholders to reflect on the progress made in drought reform, recent drought programs, and discuss what further work needs to be done. In the reporting period, 3 jurisdictions (the Commonwealth, New South Wales and Queensland) completed reviews of their drought response efforts. In June 2021 the Queensland Government also released its new Drought Policy. All jurisdictions are considering and sharing lessons learned and opportunities for improved delivery and collaboration. This will continue to be progressed by individual parties, as well as through the AMM Working Group on Drought.

Area for improvement 4

During the reporting period – and acknowledging the significant disruptions to business caused by the COVID-19 pandemic – the focus of the AMM Working Group on Drought has been dominated by developing and agreeing the reporting framework for the NDA. A more substantive forward agenda for the working group, focused on program and policy, would better serve the intent of Outcome 5 and the NDA more broadly.

Status: To be actioned

2020–21 Progress towards this priority: On 1 July 2021, drought policy and coordination functions moved from the NRRRA to DAWE. The department assumed secretariat responsibilities for the Working Group at this time. This recommendation has been noted and progress will be reported in the 2021–22 NDA Annual Report.

Area for improvement 5

It is noted that the self-assessment process has resulted in extremely positive progress ratings across the board, and the objectivity of this review may be scrutinised. However, it is also possible that the positive ratings resulted from the significant commitment made by governments in response to the worst of the most recent drought. There is potential benefit in considering alternative means of assessment and reporting, such as an independent external evaluation, as part of the review of the NDA in 2022–23.

Status: Complete

2020–21 Progress towards this priority: This has been noted for inclusion in the terms of reference for the review of the NDA, which will consider opportunities to strengthen the NDA's provisions for reporting and evaluation, to better inform continuous improvement of collective effort.

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2. The Climatic Context

This reporting period brought much needed relief for most parts of Australia, after 3 exceptionally warm and dry years. The 2020–21 financial year was the coolest and wettest year for Australia since 2016–17 (Bureau of Meteorology 2021).

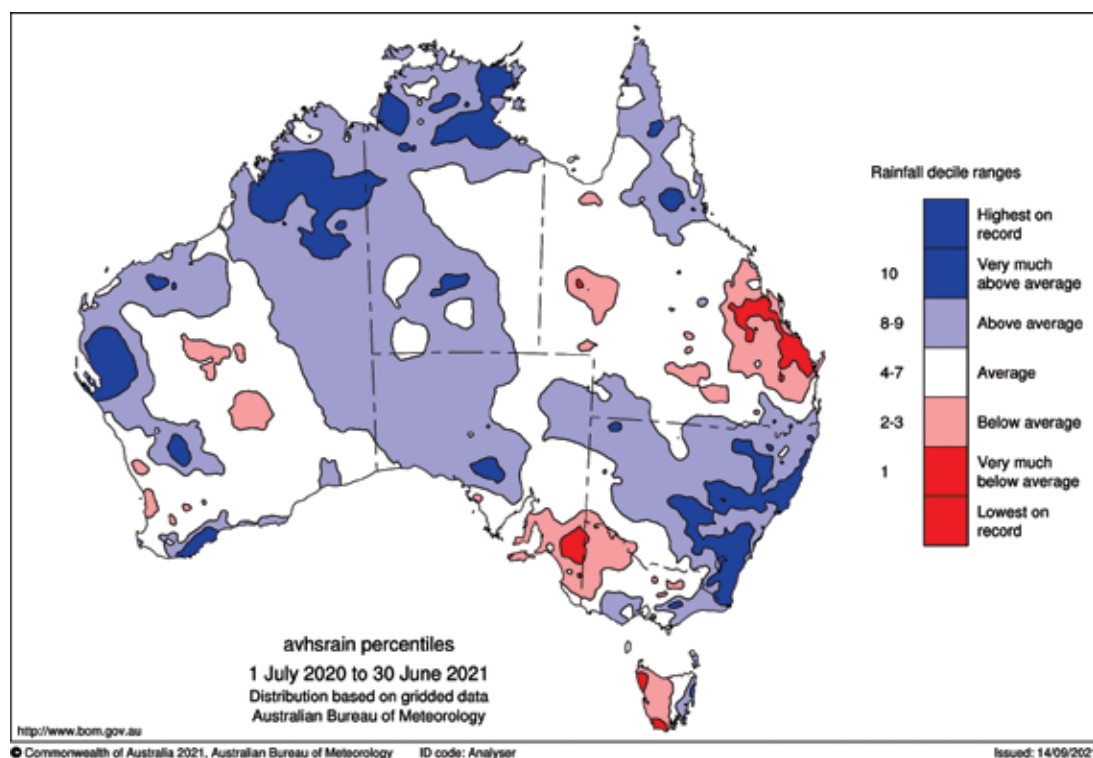
A dry 2019–20 saw the 2020–21 financial year start with below average soil moisture over much of the country and in most parts, groundwater levels were mostly below average. Prolonged drought conditions since 2017 have resulted in slow water storage recovery rates and so sustained above average rainfall is required to increased water storages to at least average levels.

Conditions didn't improve until December 2020 which, with the onset of a La Niña event, was Australia's third-wettest December on record. Rainfall for summer was 29% above average for Australia as a whole. March 2021 was also very wet, and conditions continued to improve as the financial year ended with June 2021 being wetter than average at a national level.

The Australian total rainfall for 2020–21 was 10% above average, a significant change from the preceding 3 drier-than-average financial years. Improved rainfall conditions increased the water in the soil, storages, rivers, and groundwater, particularly in northern Australia and coastal catchments in the south-east. The heavy rainfall in March 2021 resulted in some recovery of water resources in the drought affected areas of the northern Murray-Darling Basin. And so, by June 2021 soil moisture was close to average across large areas of the country.

Whilst recent rainfall has helped relieve conditions across much of Australia, more rain over an extended period is required for a full recovery, especially in parts of Queensland, coastal south-west Western Australia, parts of South Australia and far-west New South Wales.

Figure 1 Australian rainfall deficiencies, July 2020 to June 2021



Source: Bureau of Meteorology

3. Outcomes of the NDA

The NDA guides work towards 7 agreed outcomes. The report presents a national picture of how jurisdictions are collectively progressing achievement of outcomes and meeting the roles and responsibilities of the NDA, identifying shared areas for improvement. The 7 outcomes of the NDA are:

1. Farming businesses have an improved capability to manage business risks and the tools to implement sustainable and resilient risk management practices.
2. Farming businesses, industry service providers, agri-finance, community organisations and local government are partners of government and support rural communities to prepare for, and respond to, drought.
3. Farming businesses, farming families and farming communities are supported in times of hardship and have an increased understanding of, and access to, available support.
4. Roles and responsibilities of jurisdictions in responding to drought:
 - a. are clear;
 - b. promote consistency of drought policy and reform objectives;
 - c. complement drought preparedness, response and recovery programs; and
 - d. reduce gaps and unnecessary duplication.
5. Improved sharing, and quality, of common sources of data and information across jurisdictions to strengthen policy and business decision making.
6. Future programs related to the objectives of this agreement are consistent with the principles for reform at Attachment A of the NDA.
7. Future programs providing temporary in-drought support are consistent with the principles and processes at Attachment B of the NDA.

Image: Shutterstock.com



Summary of outcomes

All jurisdictions clearly reported and acted on their roles and responsibilities in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from drought. Drought continued to be on the agenda for AMM and AGSOC meetings and momentum was built particularly on drought preparedness, recovery and reform. At a national scale, the greatest proportion (59%) of drought investments were committed to enhancing drought resilience and preparedness, consistent with reform objectives of the NDA. Drought support measures continued to uphold the NDA principles, with 62% of measures aligned with all principles at Attachment A, and 82% aligned with all principles at Attachment B (an improvement on the 68% reported for this outcome in 2019–20).

The prolonged drought conditions experienced at the beginning of the reporting period saw an increased drought risk on farm profit and average farm household income than in previous years (up from 4.8% to 5.14% and 36.55% to 37.11% respectively). Support continued to be available to farming businesses, families and communities, however easing conditions in the latter half of the year saw 18.6% fewer clients requiring the Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS).

However, the most notable data in this year's reporting related to on-farm data about the uptake of preparedness actions. Small farms (less than \$250,000 annual turnover) are drawing a greater percentage of income from off-farm activities, 75% in 2020–21 as compared to 65% in 2019–20. Across all farm sizes, 59.3% of farmers reported including strategies for coping with drought in their farm plan (up from 33.7% last year) and 61.1% of farmers agreed that those farm plans are actively used in helping to make decisions about their farm businesses (up from just 32.2% last year). ABARES analysis of available data suggests that despite worsening climate conditions Australian farmers have achieved productivity growth, implying that they are generally adapting to increasingly challenging conditions.

For full reporting data, please see the Reporting Framework at Appendix A.

Image: Shutterstock.com



4. Delivering on roles and responsibilities

This section of the report considers how the roles and responsibilities of the NDA have been met. This is a collective analysis, using a graphic barometer to indicate the overall national progress against each area of responsibility. This rating was agreed by all parties, taking into consideration both quantitative and qualitative data, and the ratings are based on self-assessments provided by each jurisdiction.

To improve

1. An outstanding area for improvement from the last reporting period is yet to be actioned:
During the reporting period – and acknowledging the significant disruptions to business caused by the COVID-19 pandemic – the focus of the AMM Working Group on Drought has been dominated by developing and agreeing the reporting framework for the NDA. A more substantive forward agenda for the working group, focused on program and policy, would better serve the intent of Outcome 5 and the NDA more broadly.







On 1 July 2021, drought policy and coordination functions moved from the NRRA to DAWE. The department assumed secretariat responsibilities for the Working Group at this time. Progress against this action will be reported in the 2021–22 NDA annual report.

2. Through this year's report, the majority of jurisdictions have noted greater integration between drought, soil, water and climate policy. Improving the management of our natural resources – and the ecological systems that underpin them – is fundamental to sustainable, profitable agricultural production and strong regional economies. However, this is a complex space and there will be inevitable challenges in fully integrating policy and translating policy to practice. There is opportunity to utilise collaboration under the NDA to build shared understandings, identify successful approaches, and collectively seek to address common challenges.

For a full list of programs by jurisdiction, mapped against the NDA roles and responsibilities, please see Appendix B.

Guide to the ratings



	On track	You have fully met, and continue to meet, the role/responsibility
	Good progress	You have met the role/responsibility, but a small amount of additional work/changes is required
	Some progress	You have taken steps to meet the role/responsibility, but more steps are required
	Substantial work ahead	You have only just begun to address this role/responsibility, and substantial further work is required
	Plans but no progress	You have not yet addressed the role/responsibility, and only have basic plans in place to progress the work
	No progress or plans	You have not met the role/responsibility at all and have no immediate plans for work in this area

Role of the Australian Government

Across 2018–21, the Australian Government has committed over \$11 billion to support drought response, recovery and preparedness measures. Further detail is available in the annual [Drought Response, Resilience and Preparedness Plan: Australian Government implementation review 2020–21](#), and the [Future Drought Fund 2020–21 annual report](#).

In addition to the program delivery detailed below, 2020–21 saw 3 key highlights:

- In October 2020 the Commonwealth released the Review of Australian Government Drought Response (see Section 6 of this report for further detail).
- On 9 June 2021, the NRRRA and the NFF hosted the National Drought Forum in Toowoomba Queensland, bringing together key stakeholders to reflect on the progress made in drought reform, recent drought programs, and to discuss what further work needs to be done. The forum brought together representatives from Australian state, territory, and local governments, national, state and industry farming bodies, the finance sector, charities and other stakeholders with a role and interest in strengthening our approach to drought response, resilience and preparedness. Discussion topics included:
 - Drought indicators – how they can assist in understanding changing conditions and emerging impacts of drought.
 - Shared responsibilities – what makes a resilient farm business and shared roles and responsibilities of different parties across the drought cycle.
 - Community health and wellbeing – what makes a difference beyond the farm gate.
 - Australian, state and territory government interactions – how they can work together to share knowledge, experiences and lessons learnt in the recent drought.
- At the end of June 2021, drought policy and coordination functions moved from NRRRA to DAWE. This aligns the development of drought policy with the delivery of the \$5 billion Future Drought Fund and other drought and hardship measures. The NRRRA's network of Recovery Support Officers (RSOs) will continue to deliver on the ground drought recovery and resilience outreach and community engagement. The ongoing role of the RSOs will ensure policy development and government decisions on drought are informed by the experience of farmers and their communities.

9a Funding and delivering a time limited household support payment based on individual and farming family needs including: i. reciprocal obligations that encourage resilience; and ii. case management to support reciprocal obligation requirements.



The Farm Household Allowance (FHA) assists farming families who are experiencing financial hardship, no matter the cause of that hardship. Assistance is available for up to 4 years in every 10-year period. The FHA's dual objectives are to provide income support and assist structural change. The program helps farmers put food on the table and provides access to vital support as they make difficult decisions to improve their long-term financial situation.

Since its inception in 2014 FHA has assisted over 16,600 farmers and their partners.

In 2020–21 an amendment to the Farm Household Support Act 2014 was passed to provide a permanent waiver of repayments for historical business income reconciliation debts. New case management guidance has been developed and is anticipated to be piloted by the Services Australia Farm Household Case Officers in 2021–22.

In 2020–21 the FHA made over \$180 million in payments to over 9,800 farmers and their partners who were experiencing financial hardship. At 30 June 2021 around 6,800 farmers and their partners were receiving support through FHA, providing over \$3.5 million each week to rural communities.

9b Establishing and operating a Future Drought Fund, to enhance drought preparedness and resilience.



Commencing on 1 September 2019, the \$5 billion Future Drought Fund (FDF) provides secure, continuous funding for drought resilience initiatives. It will help Australian farms and communities prepare for the impacts of drought. \$100 million is available each year to help Australian farmers, agricultural businesses and communities be better prepared for inevitable future droughts.

In 2020–21 all of the \$100 million made available from the Fund was allocated to programs.

Eight foundational FDF programs were developed in 2020–21, structured around the FDF's five themes of harnessing innovation, better risk management, better climate information, more resilient communities and better land management. Programs are being delivered in accordance with the principles outlined in the FDF's 2020–24 Drought Resilience Funding Plan, including where practicable, a requirement of co-investment to maximise program outcomes.

Key outcomes of 2020–21 include:

- Establishment of 8 Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs across Australia to drive regionally focused effort to develop, extend, adopt and commercialise drought resilient practices and technologies.
- Establishment of tailored programs in each state and territory to build the capability of farm business, local councils, regional bodies and others to plan for and manage drought risks.
- Release of the first online tools for farmers that will make climate risk and resilience information more accessible and useful.
- Partnerships with the Australian Rural Leaders Foundation and the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal to bolster the role of community organisations, networks, leaders and mentors in improving drought preparation and supporting people through drought.
- 80 new on-ground projects focused on land management practices that both support agricultural productivity during drought and enable farms to recover quickly after drought.

More detail on the FDF's activities during 2020–21 is available in the [FDF Annual Report 2020–21](#).

9c Providing continued access to incentives that support farming businesses' risk management, including taxation concessions, the Farm Management Deposits Scheme and concessional loans.



Concessional Loans

The government established the Regional Investment Corporation (RIC) to deliver Commonwealth farm business concessional loans. Drought Loans are available to farmers to help them prepare for, manage through, and recover from drought. The loans provide farmers with cash to manage through drought by buying fodder, renting livestock agistment, transporting water and netting for horticulture. The loans also support recovery by assisting with replanting and restocking when conditions improve.

In 2020–21 the RIC approved 1,983 loans valued at \$2.140 billion. Of these, 1,814 were for farm business drought loans valued at \$2.017 million. It is estimated RIC Drought Loan customers will benefit from around \$120,000 in interest savings through the loan's 2-year interest-free terms (based on a \$1 million loan at a 6% business loan interest rate).

Changes and improvements to the RIC occurred throughout 2020–21. In recognition of the strong demand for RIC loans, the government provided an additional \$2.016 billion in loan funding for 2020–21. The RIC was also provided with a further \$50 million over 4 years for operational funding to deliver the additional loan funding and process the significant volume of applications.

The government recognises the importance of attracting a new generation of farmers to the sector. The RIC's AgriStarter Loan program, launched on 1 January 2021, offers up to \$2 million to assist first-time farmers and support farm succession arrangements. The government provided \$75 million for the loan product in 2020–21.

With drought conditions stabilising across many areas, on 30 September 2020 the 2-year interest-free period applied to loans under the Drought Loan and AgBiz Drought Loan programs ended.

The unprecedented demand for RIC loans up to 30 September 2020 put pressure on processing times for Drought Loan applications. The RIC worked to reduce service delivery time frames through the implementation of various improvement initiatives. This included recruiting more than 80 people to the organisation (such as additional assessors), implementing more efficient triage and quality assurance, and working with banks to speed up settlements. As a result of these improvement initiatives, at 30 June 2021 97% of new loan applications received in 2021 were within the RIC's 65-day loan-handling target. Service delivery time frames will remain a key focus for the RIC.

Farm Management Deposits Scheme

The Farm Management Deposits (FMD) Scheme assists primary producers to deal more effectively with fluctuations in cash flows. It is designed to increase the self-reliance of Australian primary producers by helping them manage their financial risk and meet their business costs in low-income years by building up cash reserves.

At 30 June 2021 the level of FMD holdings was more than \$6.196 billion, held in 46,946 FMD accounts. This is a decrease of around \$297 million (4.57%) from 1 July 2020. A decrease in FMD holdings was recorded nationally for the 12 months to 30 June 2021, but the picture was mixed at the state level. For example, Western Australia recorded a decline of \$216.09 million (20.6%), but Tasmania recorded an increase of \$7.5 million (6.8%) over the same period.

The FMD scheme evaluation commenced in March 2021 to assess the delivery of the scheme's stated outcomes and its administrative efficiency. In March and April 2021, the evaluators consulted with stakeholder groups, including agricultural industry bodies, national and state farming organisations, the banking and finance sectors, and Australian and state and territory government agencies.

The evaluation also fulfils the government's commitment to action recommendations from the Australian National Audit Office audit and a Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit inquiry. Both the audit and the inquiry recommended the evaluation determine the extent to which the FMD scheme is assisting primary producers become more financially self-reliant. The FMD scheme evaluation report has been provided to the Australian Government for consideration.

9d Improving and maintaining national, regional and local predictive and real-time drought indicator information, drawing on the Bureau of Meteorology's observation network and forecasting.



In the 2019–20 Budget, the Australian Government invested \$77.2 million to install and operate new Bureau of Meteorology (the Bureau) radars and rain gauges including the installation of 4 new weather radars in the Queensland regions of Darling Downs (near Oakey), Upper Burdekin (near Greenvale), Taroom and Flinders catchment (near Richmond), as well as relocating the Moree radar to Boggabilla in northern New South Wales. The new weather radars will fill significant radar coverage gaps and provide agriculture and related industries with improved access to real-time weather information.

Site selection and construction works have progressed on both the Upper Burdekin and Taroom weather radars and images from both radars are expected to be available to the community by late 2021 and February 2022, respectively. Work is progressing on installation of new rain gauges in the Upper Burdekin and Flinders catchment regions. Site selection activities have commenced for both the Darling Downs and Flinders radars, which are anticipated to be available to the community by mid-2023. COVID-19 caused global interruptions to logistics, and the Bureau is informing key stakeholders on the impacts to contingency and delivery timelines.

At a more localised scale, 2020–21 saw approximately 16,000 Regional Weather and Climate Guides downloaded from the Bureau website. The Guides are also publicly available via the National Drought Map, NFF and Climate Kelpies websites. The Guides provide information on weather and climate corresponding to Australia's 56 Natural Resource Management (NRM) regions. They were developed in collaboration with representatives from each NRM region to ensure the information was tailored to the needs of local farmers and agribusinesses.

The FDF's Climate Services for Agriculture program is delivering an interactive digital platform developed by the Bureau with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), drawing on their climate data and analytical capabilities. The program will bring together a variety of climate information and specifically designed for farmers and the agricultural sector. It will enable agricultural businesses, planners, communities and others to explore climate data and projections, understand how projected future climates may impact different regions and commodities, and identify associated risks and adaptation pathways.

A prototype of the platform was released in June 2021. This prototype brings together historical and future projected climate information at a resolution of five kilometres across Australia. This includes information about past and future rainfall, temperature, heat and frost risk and evapotranspiration. This is the first time the bite-size pieces of data and analytics relating to climate have been provided in a single location. The further development of the platform will involve co-design and engagement within pilot regions. Four pilot regions were established in March 2021 (North Queensland Dry Tropics, Condamine and Northern Tablelands, Victorian Mallee and south-east South Australia and Western Australian sheep-wheat belt). Pilot regions were selected to include a broad range of different climatic zones, commodities and production systems. This provides a basis for ultimately extrapolating from pilot regions to a national capability.

Role of the states and territories

When farming businesses plan and prepare for the future, drawing upon a risk management approach, they are in a better position to make informed and timely decisions that will maximise their sustainability and profitability. It is on this basis that all jurisdictions have reported an extensive suite of activity as it relates to the delivery of capacity building programs, and ensuring animal welfare and land management issues are managed during drought.

A key focus has been supporting the growth of business acumen, including the ability to manage agricultural businesses through dry times. Business ‘bootcamps’ for new farmers, training courses and scholarships, support for whole farm business planning and management, and developing core skills such as financial literacy and risk management have all featured strongly in jurisdictional efforts. This year has also seen support extended to better enable drought preparedness planning by local councils. Anecdotally, some jurisdictions have reported a noticeable increase in employment opportunities for skilled agribusiness professionals in management and policy development positions, potentially reflective of a growing awareness of the importance of this skill set.

Another aspect of activity has focused on extension services and financial support to improve a broad range of on-farm practices and resource use efficiency. Investment has been made in both drought response and preparedness efforts – most notably in the movement of fodder, improvements to water storage and irrigation infrastructure, and minimising the impact of established pest and weed species. Information – particularly about emerging risks and opportunities affecting profitability and sustainability – is being shared through farmer networks and extension services, field day presentations, online resources and communications activities. Jurisdictions also report a range of research partnerships with industry bodies and the university sector, including an increased focus on supporting demand driven and farmer-led agricultural research to drive stronger uptake of research outcomes.

10a Encouraging the delivery and uptake of capability-building programs to improve farming businesses’ skills and decision-making that are flexible and tailored to farming businesses’ needs.



10b Ensuring animal welfare and land management issues are managed during drought.



Shared roles and responsibilities

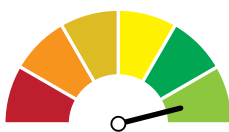
While the reporting period has seen all shared responsibilities reported as 'on track' or 'good progress', there has been a shift in the type of support provided across the year. The extreme drought conditions at the beginning of the reporting period saw a continued focus on drought relief measures, including support that extended to drought affected communities and individuals experiencing hardship. However, with the easing of conditions in the first half of 2021, attention turned to recovery as demand grew for access to finance and business planning advice. The welcome rains also coincided with an escalation of funding to preparedness activities, as parties moved to more fully enact the principles for reform agreed through the NDA.

The easing of drought conditions has also created space for key policy priorities to be actioned by governments. A significant body of evaluation work has been undertaken – both of discrete programs and, in some jurisdictions, of broader drought response efforts (further detail is available in Section 6). Jurisdictions will continue to share learnings through the AMM Working Group on Drought, as they become available.

New effort has also been invested in data, and associated tools. Data remains perhaps one of our greatest challenges, and best opportunities. Jurisdictions report significant effort in this space, reflecting the value stakeholders place in having access to the latest scientific information to inform their decisions, and adapt their production systems to remain productive and resilient. However, we still have some way to go in both filling key data gaps (especially as it relates to the attributable socio-economic impacts of drought), and making the data that is available easier to access and use. This is an area of ongoing investment and effort at all levels of government.

Also on the policy front, and of particular note this reporting period, is greater integration between drought, soil, water and climate policy, alongside programmatic activities related to climate risk management, adaptation and innovation. Improving the management of our natural resources – and the ecological systems that underpin them – is fundamental to sustainable, profitable agricultural production and strong regional economies. The value of applying a holistic approach to building drought resilience and preparedness is becoming increasingly apparent and better understood – from a national to a local scale.

11a Developing, designing, implementing and funding drought preparedness, response and recovery programs that are consistent with the NDA, encourage robust risk management and seek to avoid market distortions.



11b Developing capability-building programs, tools and technologies to inform and improve farming businesses' decision-making and promote resilience.



11c Provision of rural financial counselling services.



11d Support to mitigate the effects of drought on the health and wellbeing of farming families and farming communities.



11e Sharing, coordinating, collaborating and communicating information on drought preparedness, response and recovery policies and programs being developed and implemented.



11f Ensuring information on assistance for drought preparedness, response and recovery is accessible and readily available.



11g Ensuring consistency of drought policy and reform objectives and complementarity of drought preparedness, response and recovery programs.



11h Contributing to the development of quality, publicly available data, including but not limited to:

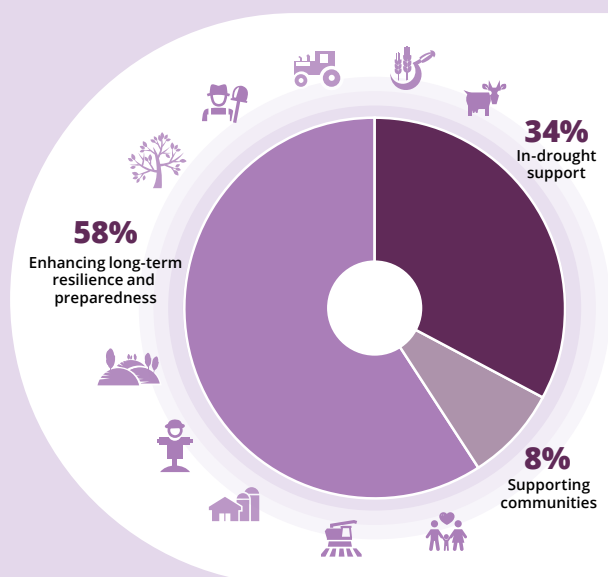
- i) weather, seasonal and climate forecasts;
- ii) regional and local predictive real-time drought indicator information;
- iii) a consistent early warning system for drought; and
- iv) an improved understanding of fodder crops and holdings across Australia.





5. Investment

Where support is being directed



Jurisdiction	% of funding committed since the NDA was signed in 2018		
	In-drought support	Supporting communities	Enhancing Long Term Resilience and Preparedness
Commonwealth	36%	5%	59%
NSW	49%	9%	42%
VIC	47%	17%	36%
QLD	66%	23%	11%
WA	8%	12%	80%
SA	49%	2%	49%
TAS	1%	2%	97%
ACT	20%	0%	80%
NT	31%	0%	69%
National	34%	8%	58%

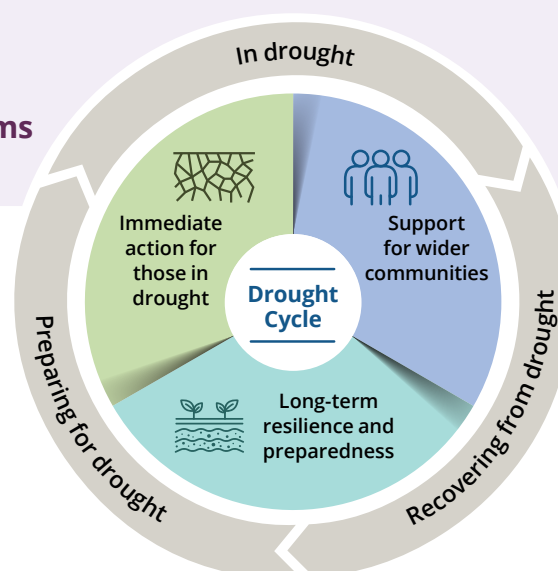


\$11 billion
Australian Government funding
committed to drought-related programs
since 2018–19 (as at 30 June 2021)



Immediate action for those in drought
(59%)

■ Accelerated depreciation for fodder storage assets	\$75m
■ Bureau of Meteorology radars	\$77.2m
■ Communities Combating Pests and Weed Impacts During Drought Program	\$25m
■ Country Women's Association (June 2019 grant)	\$5m
■ Drought Communities Small Business Support Program	\$7m
■ Drought Community Outreach Program (Rotary and CWAA)	\$10m
■ Drought Community Support Initiative	\$181.5m
■ Empowering our Communities, Trusted Advocates, Connecting Youth Awareness-raising Initiative and Telehealth Services	\$29.9m
■ Farm Household Allowance	\$629.8m
■ FarmHub (managed by National Farmers' Federation)	\$774,400
■ Improving Great Artesian Basin Drought Resilience	\$27.6m
■ National Drought Map	\$4.2m
■ On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme	\$100m
■ Regional Investment Corporation loans	\$4.1b
■ Regional weather and climate guides to help with on-farm decision-making	\$2.7m
■ Rural Financial Counselling Service – additional drought funding	\$5m
■ Water for Fodder	\$33m



Support for wider communities
affected by drought (5%)

■ Building Better Regions Fund Round 4	\$207m
■ Community Child Care Fund	\$5m
■ Drought Communities Programme Extension	\$297m
■ Drought Communities Programme Extension – Roads to Recovery	\$138.9m
■ Education Special Circumstances	\$20m
■ Tackling Tough Times Together	\$15m



Long-term resilience and preparedness
(36%)

■ Future Drought Fund	\$5b
■ National Water Grid Authority	\$100m

Complementary support for drought resilience

The Australian Government has also committed over \$3 billion to other measures to protect and enhance the productive capacity of our land, water and biodiversity in the face of climate pressures such as drought. These include phase 2 of the National Landcare Program, the Agriculture Biodiversity Stewardship Package, the Emissions Reduction Fund and Climate Solutions Fund, the National Soils Package and the National Agriculture Innovation Agenda.

6. Reviews and Evaluations

The first NDA annual report (2019–20) included a number of reviews and evaluations of drought measures by parties. These have been analysed, and some common findings are apparent, including the following recommendations:

- Increase collaboration between those delivering complementary drought support measures. These connections could provide referral opportunities between measures and minimise duplications in support offerings.
- Improve communication about measures, particularly clearer messaging regarding program eligibility and drought definitions, to resolve confusion experienced by end-users and remove consequential barriers to the uptake of support.
- Improve systems for the collection of reporting data. This would reduce the administrative burden for clients, service providers and government and help improve transparency of the outputs and outcomes of measures.
- Improve the way funding is provided. In particular, increased funding certainty across the drought cycle, greater speed of delivery during drought and a scalable provision of funding to target areas with the greatest needs.

These common findings are consistent with the findings from the Commonwealth's 2020 Review of Australian Government Drought Support (the 2020 Review), released in October 2020.

The 2020 Review identified 6 areas for improvement:

1. There is opportunity to streamline the current suite of 25 measures.
2. Eligibility for in-drought support is often complex and inconsistent.
3. Provision of in-drought support has been reactive, and there is opportunity to plan ahead about when and how government should offer support.
4. Communication about support, and how to access it, could be improved.
5. Our monitoring and evaluation efforts need to be stronger.
6. Data to inform government decision-making could be better managed and coordinated.

Governments are already working to adapt policy and responses to address these themes and will use these evaluations to inform future work.

For example, the Commonwealth is:

- developing new resources (such as targeted, accessible climate data and self-assessment tools) that farmers can use to prepare their businesses for drought.
- developing drought indicators to help understand drought conditions and inform decision making about who does what, when and how.
- addressing the gaps around communication of available support by continuing the RSO network to provide a face-to-face service for those affected by drought, and by continually strengthening the information offerings of the Recovery Connect website. In 2020–21 the RSO network expanded from around 20 officers to 40, significantly increasing its reach across Australia.
- starting to address the gap in monitoring and evaluation by agreeing on a suite of monitoring and evaluation principles for drought programs, and related guidance for application. The advice has been attached to the Drought Response, Resilience and Preparedness Plan, and is to be applied to all future drought program designs.

Table 1 Reviews of parties' drought support measures since NDA signing in 2018

Those highlighted green have been newly added this reporting period.

Name of measure	Responsible jurisdiction	Review date	Link to review and any Government response
Rural Financial Counselling Service	Australian Government	2019	Rural Financial Counselling Service Review
Farm Household Allowance	Australian Government	September 2018 to February 2019	Farm Household Allowance review report Australian Government response
Drought Communities Programme Extension	Australian Government	January 2020	Drought Communities Programme Extension review
Water for Fodder	Australian Government	April 2020	Water for Fodder review
Review of Australian Government Drought Response	Australian Government	October 2020	Review of Australian Government Drought Response
Regional Weather and Climate Guides initiative	Australian Government	July 2021	Regional Climate Guides Project Evaluation
Farm Management Deposit Scheme	Australian Government	June 2021	Farm Management Deposit Scheme review
Communities Combating Pest and Weed Impacts During Drought Program – Biosecurity Management of Pests and Weeds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R1: Since 2018–19 • R2: Since 2019–20 	Australian Government	2022	Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment pest management
NSW Strategic Drought Evaluation	NSW	2018 to 2021	Report pending
NSW Drought Relief Measures	NSW	2018 to 2020	Report pending
Farm Gate Counsellor/ Drought Peer Support Program	NSW	–	Report pending
Rural Adversity Mental Health Program	NSW	–	Report pending
National Association of Loss and Grief Our Shout Program	NSW	–	Report pending
DPIE-Water Drought Emergency Fund	NSW	–	Report pending
2018–20 Drought Response Support Package	VIC	2018–20	Report due mid 2022
Queensland Drought Program review	QLD	January 2019	Queensland Drought Program review
Drought and Climate Adaptation Program	QLD	July 2020	Drought and Climate Adaptation Program report
Water for Food Program	WA		Water for Food Program review
Evaluation of the Western Australian Drought Pilot Programs	WA	June 2019	Evaluation report of WA Drought Pilot Programs

Name of measure	Responsible jurisdiction	Review date	Link to review and any Government response
Pest Animal Control – State Barrier Fence	WA		Pest Animal Control State Barrier Fence update
Review of the Animal Welfare Act 2002 – Government response	WA	June 2021	Review of the Animal Welfare Act 2002 – Government response
Pipeline to Prosperity	TAS	2018	Final report on Tasmanian Irrigation
Financial Literacy programme	NT	–	–
Land Management Agreements	ACT	June 2022	–

Image: Shutterstock.com



7. Next steps

Future priorities for implementation

The upcoming reporting period is expected to see 3 key priorities for collective action.

1. The NDA provides for the agreement to be reviewed approximately 2 years before expiry on 30 June 2024. The Review of the NDA will commence in the first quarter of 2022. The process will include public consultation as well as detailed deliberation by all NDA parties and a range of peak bodies. The review will consider how best to optimise the structure and content of the agreement to best support its intent and objectives. This will include ensuring the NDA does not just capture 'what' governments work together on, but 'how' they work together – and with local governments and non-government actors – to realise shared goals for drought policy reform.
2. The next reporting period will also prioritise the outstanding action from the 2019–20 NDA annual report, to drive a more substantive forward agenda for the AMM Working Group on Drought. This has been noted as an important action to better serve the intent of the NDA, and Outcome 5 in particular. The forward agenda for the Working Group will deliberately seek opportunities to collaborate on areas of shared interest, including the ongoing priorities (also identified through the 2019–20 annual report) of data, and evaluation and learning.
3. Finally, through this year's report, the majority of jurisdictions have noted the potential for greater integration between drought, soil, water and climate policy. Improving the management of our natural resources – and the ecological systems that underpin them – is fundamental to sustainable, profitable agricultural production and strong regional economies. However, this is a complex space and there will be inevitable challenges in fully integrating policy and translating policy to practice. There is opportunity to utilise collaboration under the NDA to build shared understandings, identify successful approaches, and collectively seek to address common challenges. This will be included as an additional ongoing priority for collaboration and actioned, in the first instance, through the AMM Working Group on Drought.

Upcoming Activity

The next reporting period will also see the ongoing delivery and expansion of the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund (FDF) foundational programs, including through partnerships with state and territory governments and other key stakeholders. This will include \$34.1 million being made available from 2021 to 2023 for drought resilience innovation grants to fund development, extension, adoption, and commercialisation activities. The government will also look to finalise the Drought Resilience Research and Adoption Investment Plan to identify national priorities for drought resilience research and adoption and inform potential future FDF investments. Ongoing effort will be needed by all involved, to ensure continued alignment of programming and avoid duplication between jurisdictions' efforts.

Throughout 2021–2022 work will continue to identify measures of success for Future Drought Fund investments. This will involve ongoing development of the FDF's monitoring and evaluation framework, including stakeholder consultation, development of indicators and methodologies and the identification of new data sources. The framework will not only support the evaluation of FDF performance, but also support understanding of broader trends in drought resilience to inform a wide range of policies, programs and actions by governments, industry, and others.

In 2021–22, the Australian Government's Farm Household Allowance (FHA) will continue to focus on improving the efficacy of the case management framework and public communications. Management of key risks to the program centre on better data collection and evaluation, which will help ensure the program continues to promote structural change and minimises the risk of welfare dependency.

The establishment of the National Recovery and Resilience Agency in May 2021 saw the embedding of a permanent Commonwealth Recovery Support Officer (RSO) network. The network delivers on the ground drought recovery and resilience outreach and community engagement, helping to ensure policy development and government decisions on drought are informed by the experience of farmers and their communities. Further work is needed in 2021–22 to fully operationalise the RSO network, including roles and responsibilities as they relate to drought and ensuring these activities are complementary to the work of states and territories.

Under New South Wales's Future Ready Regions Strategy, 2021–22 will see effort invested in planning and implementation of a range of future drought resilience measures, including further improvements to build stronger communities and diversified regional economies. Under the Strategy, the New South Wales's Government has \$64 million committed to immediate actions to support communities and business plan ahead and adapt. One action, the Enhanced Drought Information System, is used to monitor drought across that State. New South Wales is also continuing to progress its Primary Industries Climate Change Research Strategy. A specific investment under the strategy aims to assess the vulnerability of primary industries to climate change and assess adaptation strategies. This work includes consideration of how drought risk is likely to be affected by climate change. Another action is fast tracking investigations into new groundwater supplies in western NSW to identify new and reliable water sources and more effective forms of water storage. The Strategy will be reviewed in 2022 to ensure the focus remains on rural and regional community long term resilience needs. New South Wales will also be reviewing the findings of its comprehensive evaluation of drought support programs, to look at ways to improve the Government's strategic response to drought and delivery of support programs.

Victoria is commencing an evaluation of its 2018–20 Drought Response Package during 2021–22. While it does this, attention will also be turned to scaling up preparedness activities such as implementation of Future Drought Fund initiatives and the roll out of Round 2 of the On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme in partnership with the Commonwealth. Victoria will also continue ongoing core business that improves farm business skills and risk management, resilience and planning, information and forecasting, and health and wellbeing. This includes activities such as Young Farmers, Smarter Safer Farms, and Agriculture College Modernisation Programs. The 'Central and Gippsland Region Sustainable Water Strategy' continues to be a priority for the Victorian Government in addition to the development of Adaptation Action Plans to build the state's resilience and help Victorians plan for the impacts of climate change.

Queensland is continuing to maintain its existing drought assistance programs for drought-declared primary producers while this drought lasts. It is also introducing drought program reforms from 2021–22 introducing new drought resilience and preparedness assistance. The Drought Assistance and Reform Package provides funding of up to \$71.4 million over 4 years from 2021–22 to support drought-affected producers and communities across the State. Of this, up to \$44.4 million is being provided to meet the Government's commitment to maintaining existing measures in the current drought assistance package.

In 2021–22, Queensland begins its implementation of new drought reform. Drought-declared producers can choose to continue accessing freight subsidies or Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebates (QEWIR), but if they do so, they will be unable to access the new drought reform programs. The freight subsidies and QEWIR will be phased out once current drought declarations end and will not be offered in future droughts. The new drought preparedness programs have been allocated \$27 million over 4 years (plus \$50 million in loans per annum for four years). These include the Drought Preparedness Grant Scheme; Drought Ready and Recovery Finance Loan Scheme; Emergency Drought Assistance Loans Scheme; Drought Carry-on Finance Loans Scheme. Two of the programs, the Farm Business Resilience Program and the Farm Management Grants program, will also receive co-funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and are scheduled to commence late 2021. The Drought and Climate Adaptation Program, separate to the Drought Assistance and Reform Package, is a major

drought research, development and extension program to provide producers improved tools and resources to better manage their drought risk. DCAP is funded at \$3.5 million per year but also receives substantial partner financial and in-kind contributions.

Western Australia has highlighted its investment of \$15 million into an Agriculture Climate Resilience Fund to help WA farmers and industry to respond to the challenges of climate change. The Fund will support projects that will help farmers develop resilience to changes in climate, and the consequential changes in market expectations. Western Australia is continuing its research in on-farm de-salination through its WaterSmart Farms project. The \$1.5 million, 3-year project builds on work over the past 3 years by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Water Corporation, Murdoch University and the Wheatbelt Development Commission to assess on-farm desalinisation infrastructure and the implications to businesses, regional economies and the environment. Investment in the ongoing Southern Rangelands Revitalisation project continues to improve rangeland condition and livestock profitability in WA's southern rangelands.

The South Australian government will work with partners to establish appropriate governance structures to integrate the delivery of Future Drought Fund programs in South Australia, with the aim of streamlining processes and reducing duplication. This will include the establishment of a Future Drought Fund Advisory Group to provide strategic industry, government and community intelligence and feedback and to support the programs to align with strategic objectives and priorities of government, industry and regions in South Australia. South Australia will also negotiate terms of agreements for, delivery of and reporting on the foundational year of the Farm Business Resilience Program and the Regional Drought Resilience Program. Another priority will involve assessment of regional priorities and co-design of activities with partners for the South Australian Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub (SA Drought Hub). The Family and Business Support (FaBS) Program which provides a confidential face-to-face service in homes and businesses to talk through difficult issues as a result of drought or other adverse events will also continue in 2021–22. In the 2021–22 State Budget the South Australian Government committed \$2.2m over 3 years to continue the rural financial counselling and family and business support mentors programs supporting the development of more prepared and resilient individuals and communities. The 2019/20 – 2020/21 Drought Support program is also being evaluated with the learnings to inform future program development.

Tasmania is continuing to implement Phase One of its Pipeline to Prosperity program, with 4 new irrigation schemes and one augmentation scheduled for completion by 2025–26. Tasmania will also begin implementing its Rural Water Use Strategy, which will guide the state's future water management arrangements to ensure integrated, fair and efficient regulation of water resources. During 2021–22, the Tasmanian government will deliver 2 Future Drought Fund programs, the Farm Business Resilience and Regional Drought Resilience Planning programs, and will also increase funding for the Rural Financial Counselling Service.

The Northern Territory Government is delivering programme modules developed in partnership with the Future Drought Fund. The NT is also working towards raising awareness of both on- and off-farm diversification opportunities, encouraging primary industry stakeholders to engage professional advisors, and delivering education and awareness campaigns for the development of business skills, management, resources and tools, and industry capability networks. Further work will be progressed in developing agricultural precincts, including secondary industry development to encourage the processing and packaging of NT produce in the NT to capture the upside of value-add and the additional markets such industry can bring. This work will be accompanied by an ongoing focus on water management and usage reform.

Finally in the ACT, the coming year will see a focus on natural resource management activities to help support the recovery stage of the drought cycle, including invasive species management and grazing block management. During 2021–22 the ACT will also commence work on its new agriculture policy – the Capital Food and Fibre Strategy.

Appendix A – Outcomes reporting data

Outcome 1: Farming businesses have an improved capability to manage business risks and the tools to implement sustainable and resilient risk management practices.

Indicator	Measure	2019–20 Report Data	2020–21 Report Data
Farm businesses enhance their productivity and performance during drought	Climate adjusted farm profit (farm profit under drought conditions) Climate adjusted total factor productivity (TFP under drought conditions)	Climate adjusted farm profit ³ : \$108,620 (drought year), \$171,190 (normal year) Total Factor Productivity (TFP) growth for the <u>cropping industry</u> was -9% in 2018–19, but adjusting for seasonal volatility and climate effects, TFP growth was 7.7% ⁴ . Total Factor Productivity (TFP) growth for the <u>broadacre industries</u> was -13.2% in 2018–19, but adjusting for seasonal volatility and climate effects, TFP growth was 4.8% ⁵ .	Climate adjusted farm profit ⁶ : \$103,730 (drought year), \$164,940 (normal year) Total Factor Productivity (TFP) growth for the <u>cropping industry</u> was -22.5% in 2019–20, but adjusting for seasonal volatility and climate effects, TFP growth was -4.9% ⁷ . Total Factor Productivity (TFP) growth for the <u>broadacre industries</u> was -9.6% in 2019–20, but adjusting for seasonal volatility and climate effects, TFP growth was -2.4% ⁸ .

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- 3 Based on ABARES AAGIS data and *farmpredict* model. The averages are based on data from 2015 to 2019 on broadacre farms.
 - 4 TFP 2018–19. Measures of productivity are subject to noise and are best measured over longer periods. Climate adjusted TFP growth was 1.5% per year on average from 2014–15 to present, 1.7% per year from 2009–10 to present, and 1.4% from 1999–2000 to present.
 - 5 TFP 2018–19. Measures of productivity are subject to noise and are best measured over longer periods. Climate adjusted TFP growth was -0.5% per year on average from 2014–15 to present, -0.1% per year from 2009–10 to present, and 0.4% from 1999–2000 to present.
 - 6 Based on ABARES AAGIS data and *farmpredict* model. The averages are based on data from 2016 to 2020 on broadacre farms.
 - 7 TFP 2019–20. Measures of productivity are subject to noise and are best measured over longer periods. Climate adjusted TFP growth was 1.5% per year on average from 2014–15 to present, 1.7% per year from 2009–10 to present, and 1.4% from 1999–2000 to present.
 - 8 TFP 2019–20. Measures of productivity are subject to noise and are best measured over longer periods. Climate adjusted TFP growth was -0.5% per year on average from 2014–15 to present, -0.1% per year from 2009–10 to present, and 0.4% from 1999–2000 to present.

Indicator	Measure	2019–20 Report Data	2020–21 Report Data
Farm businesses enhance their management of financial risk	% Change in farm household income during drought % Change in farm profit during drought	Average drought risk on average farm household income ⁹ : 4.8% Average drought risk on farm profit ¹⁰ : 36.55%	Average drought risk on average farm household income ¹¹ : 5.14% Average drought risk on farm profit ¹² : 37.11%
	% Income from off-farm activities	% Income of farmers from off-farm activities ¹³ : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small farms (less than \$250,000 turnover): 65% • Medium farms (\$250,000-\$750,000): 22% • Large farms (\$750,000 to \$2,000,000): 6% • Very large farms (> \$2,000,000): 1% 	% Income of farmers from off-farm activities ¹⁴ : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small farms (less than \$250,000 turnover): 75% • Medium farms (\$250,000-\$750,000): 31% • Large farms (\$750,000 to \$2,000,000): 7% • Very large farms (> \$2,000,000): 2%
	Value of Farm Management Deposit holdings and number of holders	Accumulated value ¹⁵ : \$6,493,710,000 Number of accounts ¹⁶ : 49,269	Accumulated value ¹⁷ : \$6,196,647,000 Number of accounts ¹⁸ : 46,946

9 ABARES farmpredict model. ABARES estimates of drought risk for Australian broadacre farms. Drought risk is defined as % change between normal and drought years. Data measured across 2015–19. ABARES Measuring drought risk report. November 2020.

10 ABARES farmpredict model. ABARES estimates of drought risk for Australian broadacre farms. Drought risk is defined as % change between normal and drought years. Data measured across 2015–19. ABARES Measuring drought risk report. November 2020.

11 ABARES *farmpredict* model. ABARES estimates of drought risk for Australian broadacre farms. Drought risk is defined as % change between normal and drought years. Data measured across 2016–20. ABARES Measuring drought risk report. November 2020.

12 ABARES *farmpredict* model. ABARES estimates of drought risk for Australian broadacre farms. Drought risk is defined as % change between normal and drought years. Data measured across 2016–20. ABARES Measuring drought risk report. November 2020.

13 Based on preliminary estimates and on average income per farm for 2018–19. ABARES Australian Agricultural and Grazing Industries Survey.

14 Based on preliminary estimates and on average income per farm for 2019–20. ABARES Australian Agricultural and Grazing Industries Survey.

15 As of 30 June 2020, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. The value of deposits reported may be greater than the actual level recorded here as primary producers may choose not to claim a tax deduction for all deposits held in FMD accounts.

16 As of 30 June 2020, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. The total number of accounts does not indicate the number of primary producers participating in the FMD scheme as a primary producer may hold multiple FMD accounts.

17 As of 30 June 2021, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. The value of deposits reported may be greater than the actual level recorded here as primary producers may choose not to claim a tax deduction for all deposits held in FMD accounts.

18 As of 30 June 2021, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. The total number of accounts does not indicate the number of primary producers participating in the FMD scheme as a primary producer may hold multiple FMD accounts.

Indicator	Measure	2019–20 Report Data	2020–21 Report Data
Provision of in-drought, transaction-based subsidies provided by jurisdictions is reduced	Value of transactional subsidy programs and number and value of payments to farmers	Insufficient data available ¹⁹ .	\$99,080,296 ²⁰
Farm businesses undertake better business planning for drought	% farmers who agreed that 'on our farm, we have a plan in place for the next drought'	% farmers who agreed that 'on our farm, we have a plan in place for the next drought' ²¹ : 33.7%	% farmers for whom farm plan includes strategies for coping with drought ²³ : 59.3%
	% farmers who agreed that 'on our farm, we regularly draw on our planning to make decisions about the business'	% farmers who agreed that 'on our farm, we regularly draw on our planning to make decisions about the business' ²² : 32.2%	% of farmers who agreed that 'the farm plan is used to help make decisions about the farm business' ²⁴ : 61.1%
	Number of people accessing farm business planning and management programs	FHA Activity Supplement ²⁵ : 2,100 people Rural Financial Counselling Service ²⁶ : 7,100 clients	FHA Activity Supplement ²⁷ : 2,850 people Rural Financial Counselling Service ²⁸ : 5,780 clients State and Territory Programs ²⁹ : 6,247

19 On 29 May 2020, ABARES released a research report – Analysis of Government Support for Australian Agricultural Producers. The report found Australian farmers are some of the least subsidised in the world, with benefits for productivity, overall sector growth and international market participation and competitiveness. Where direct farm support is provided, it is concentrated on risk management tools to help manage Australia's uniquely variable climate.

20 WA Water Carting, NSW Emergency Drought Transport Subsidy Scheme, QLD Drought Relief Assistance Scheme, QLD Drought Relief from Electricity Charges, QLD land rent rebate and water license waiver, NT pastoral rent waivers, ACT transport rebates, SA On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme, SA Council Rate Rebate Scheme, SA Pastoral Rent Rebate Scheme

21 2018 Regional Wellbeing Survey datasets, University of Canberra.

22 2018 Regional Wellbeing Survey datasets, University of Canberra.

23 2020 Regional Wellbeing Survey datasets, University of Canberra. 2020 Regional Wellbeing Survey questions were slightly different from the questions in the 2018 survey.

24 2020 Regional Wellbeing Survey datasets, University of Canberra. 2020 Regional Wellbeing Survey questions were slightly different from the questions in the 2018 survey.

25 2019–20, Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment. Note that Activity Supplement data includes but is not limited to farm business planning and management.

26 2019–20, RFCS Portal 15 March 2021.

27 2020–21, Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment, and Services Australia.

28 2020–21, RFCS Portal 30 June 2021.

29 Combined figure as reported by jurisdictions via annual NDA self-assessment reports.

Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics (ABARES) Analysis of Outcome 1 Data

- Farmers have experienced improvements in commodity prices in recent years particularly for livestock products. A combination of productivity growth, better prices and increases in farm size have resulted in an upward trend in farm profits over the last decade (at least until the droughts of 2018–19 and 2019–20).
- Despite these improvements Australian farm profits have become more sensitive to drought impacts overtime. That is, while average farm productivity and profits have increased, the difference between profits in normal and drought years has widened.
- Average farm profit drought risk has increased in recent years, due largely to an increase in drought sensitivity within the livestock sector. This largely reflects the impact of an extended run of poor conditions in many livestock farming areas since 2015–16, which has led to reductions in beef cattle and sheep stocking rates, and to hay and grain holdings which, at least in the short-run, increases the drought risk faced by these farms³⁰. Despite these trends, household income drought risk has remained relatively stable overtime, due largely to an increase in average farm size, which reduces the likelihood of low farm household incomes.
- ABARES data has also shown that despite generally worsening climate conditions for farmers in Australia, they have demonstrated adaptation and benefited from improvements in technology. These advancements, amongst others, have led to long term productivity growth in the Australian industry. Australian farms have achieved productivity growth despite worsening climate conditions, implying that Australian farmers are generally adapting to increasingly challenging conditions.

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³⁰ Hughes, N, Burns, K, Soh, WY & Lawson, K, 2020, Measuring drought risk: the exposure and sensitivity of Australian farms to drought, ABARES report to client, prepared for the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Canberra, November DOI: <https://doi.org/10.25814/mqrp-rp16>. CC BY 4.0.

Image: Shutterstock.com



Outcome 2: Farming businesses, industry service providers, agri-finance, community organisations and local government are partners of government and support rural communities to prepare for, and respond to, drought.

Indicator	Measure	2019–20 Report Data	2020–21 Report Data
Rural stakeholders coordinate, cooperate and collaborate in support of drought preparedness and resilience, and in response to drought.	Governments regularly share and seek advice on drought conditions, impacts, and measures through organised networks.	<p>Number of Minister’s Drought Roundtables held³¹: 3</p> <p>Number of Drought Communications & Engagement Cross-Agency Group meetings held³²: 4</p> <p>All jurisdictions participate in the Agricultural Senior Officials Committee (AGSOC) meetings and the Agricultural Ministers’ Meeting (AMM). Most of the jurisdictions also report through their own jurisdictional level coordination mechanisms.</p> <p>WA: Grower Group Alliance (GGA), WA Local Government Association (WALGA)</p> <p>VIC: Drought Interdepartmental Co-ordination Group, Regional Drought Coordinators, the Rural Assistance Commissioner (RAC), regional specific seasonal conditions committees</p> <p>SA: Dry Condition Working Group, health and charity working groups, drought community action groups, bank forums, working group with farming systems organisation, Regional Coordinators</p> <p>QLD: Drought Industry Coordination Group</p> <p>NSW: Drought Hub, Local Land Services officers network</p> <p>NT: Pastoral Industry Advisory Committees, Northern Australia Climate Program Network, Departmental Rangelands Officers, Livestock Extension Officers and Stock Inspectors</p> <p>TAS: Forum of Rural Stakeholders (FoRS) convened by Rural Business Tasmania</p> <p>ACT: Rural Landholders Association (RLA), Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator (RALF), direct support information sessions through ACT Natural Resource Management (ACT NRM) and Biosecurity and Rural Services (BRS).</p>	<p>Number of Minister’s Drought Roundtables held³³: 2</p> <p>Number of Drought Communications & Engagement Cross-Agency Group meetings held³⁴: 12</p> <p>All jurisdictions continued to participate in the AGSOC meetings and the AMM. All jurisdictions also report through their own jurisdictional level coordination mechanisms.</p> <p>WA: Agricultural Water Council, Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, Grower Group Alliance (GGA), Regional Development Commission, WA Local Government Association (WALGA), National Water Grid Authority (NSWGA) Committee</p> <p>VIC: Victorian Agriculture and Climate Change Council, Regional Drought Coordinators, the Rural Assistance Commissioner (RAC), regional specific seasonal conditions committees</p> <p>SA: Dry Conditions Working Group, SA Drought Hub</p> <p>QLD: Drought Industry Coordination Group, Drought Reform Industry Working Group</p> <p>NSW: Rural Resilience Program (RRP) supports 26 Rural Support Service Networks across NSW</p> <p>NT: Alice Springs Pastoral Industry Advisory Committee (ASPIAC), Katherine Pastoral Industry Advisory Committee (KPIAC), Barkley Research Advisory Committee (BRAC), NT/WA Drought Hub, NT Cattlemen's Association branches, NT Farmers Association, Centralian Land Management Association, Northern Australia Climate Program</p> <p>TAS: Forum of Rural Stakeholders, Resilience Program Collaboration Group</p> <p>ACT: NSW DPIE Seasonal Conditions Reporting/Soil Moisture Probe Network</p>

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³¹ From March 2019 to June 2020. National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency.

³² Number of meetings held since the National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency.

³³ Meetings were held on 20 July 2020 and 4 February 2021. Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

³⁴ Number of meetings held from July 2020 to June 2021. National Recovery and Resilience Agency.

Indicator	Measure	2019–20 Report Data	2020–21 Report Data
	Governments form partnerships with other governments and non-government bodies to build drought preparedness and resilience, and deliver in-drought support	All jurisdictions report drought support measures implemented through partnership arrangements with other government and non-government bodies.	All jurisdictions report drought support measures implemented through partnership arrangements with other government and non-government bodies.

Outcome 3: Farming businesses, farming families and farming communities are supported in times of hardship and have an increased understanding of, and access to, available support.

Indicator	Measure	2019–20 Report Data	2020–21 Report Data
Farming businesses, families and communities access support during times of hardship.	Number of farm businesses or families accessing services during times of hardship	FHA Payments ³⁵ : 10,900 farmers and their partners received a payment in 2019–20, delivering over \$134 million to recipients in the 2019–20 financial year. Rural Financial Counselling Service ³⁶ : 7,100 clients	FHA Payments ³⁷ : Over 9,800 farmers and their partners received a payment in 2020–21, delivering approximately \$180 million to recipients in the 2020–21 financial year. Rural Financial Counselling Service ³⁸ : 5,780 clients
	Communities accessing stimulus measures	Total number of LGAs accessing community in-drought support: 230 ³⁹	Total number of LGAs accessing community in-drought support ⁴⁰ : 293
Farming businesses, families and communities access available support programs.	Number of people accessing information channels that hold information on support measures	Number of registered Farmhub users ⁴¹ : 69,487 Number of Farmhub page views ⁴² : 341,396	Number of registered Farmhub users ⁴³ : 46,942 Number of Farmhub page views ⁴⁴ : 113,234 Number of Recovery Connect page views ⁴⁵ : 4,772 Number of jurisdictional centralised online platform page views ⁴⁶ : 397,936

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35 2019–20, Services Australia SAP Hana 31 March 2021.

36 2019–20, RFCS Portal 15 March 2021.

37 2020–21, FHA, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, and Services Australia.

38 2020–21, RFCS Portal.

39 This number includes the 180 DCPE eligible LGAs, plus LGAs not eligible for DCPE but received funding under BBRF, FRRR and CCCF. DESE has confirmed no schools outside DCPE eligible LGAs received ESC funding. The first NDA report only reported LGAs of Commonwealth measures due to data limitations.

40 This number includes LGAs that received Commonwealth Government funding under BBRF, DCPE and TTTT, as well as additional LGAs that received support from state government measures in NSW, QLD, WA, SA, and TAS.

41 As at 30 June 2020, National Farmers Federation.

42 As at 30 June 2020, National Farmers Federation.

43 As of 30 June 2021, National Farmers Federation.

44 As of 30 June 2021, National Farmers Federation.

45 Number of users accessing drought content on Recovery Connect from 1 October 2020 to June 2021, National Recovery and Resilience Agency.

46 As of 30 June 2021, aggregated data of centralised online platform page views from jurisdictional self-assessments.

Outcome 4: Roles and responsibilities of jurisdictions in responding to drought: i) are clear; ii) promote consistency of drought policy and reform objectives; iii) complement drought preparedness, response, and recovery programs; and iv) reduce gaps and unnecessary duplication.

Indicator	Measure	2019–20 Report Data	2020–21 Report Data
All jurisdictions are able to clearly report on their roles and responsibilities.	Annual progress reports are clear on the roles, responsibilities and progress of each jurisdiction.	2019–20 Annual Report published September, 2021	2020–21 Annual Report published February, 2022
All jurisdictions act on their respective roles and responsibilities in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from drought.	All jurisdictions report against 9, 10, 11 as appropriate. Regular meetings at different levels across government to maintain momentum on drought preparedness, response, recovery and reform.	Number of AMM meetings with drought on the agenda ⁴⁷ : 4 Number of AGSOC meetings with drought on the agenda ⁴⁸ : 3 Number of AMM Drought Working Group meetings ⁴⁹ : 2	Number of AMM meetings with drought on the agenda ⁵⁰ : 1 Number of AGSOC meetings with drought on the agenda ⁵¹ : 1 Number of AMM Drought Working Group meetings ⁵² : 0
All drought actions are consistent with the NDA sections 9, 10, 11, with new programs consistent with attachments A and B of NDA.	All jurisdictions report against 9, 10, 11 as appropriate. All new drought measures are consistent with attachments A & B of NDA.	See 'Roles and Responsibilities' section of the 2019–20 Annual Report published September, 2021, and data reported against Outcome 6 and 7.	See 'Roles and Responsibilities' section of this report, and data reported against Outcome 6 and 7.
Commonwealth and state/territory measures are complementary, avoid overlap and duplication, and minimise gaps in support.	All jurisdictions report against 9, 10, 11 as appropriate. Jurisdictions note any complementarity (or lack of), overlap, duplication, and any gaps in support as they operate in each state or territory.	See 'Roles and Responsibilities' section of the 2019–20 Annual Report published September, 2021.	See 'Roles and Responsibilities' section of this report.

47 Previously referred to as AGMIN meetings. Meetings held December 2018-June 2020, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

48 Meetings held December 2018 to June 2020, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

49 Established since February 2020, National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency.

50 Meetings held July 2020 to June 2021, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

51 Meetings held July 2020 to June 2021, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

52 AMM Drought Working Group members were engaged out of session to develop the 2019–20 NDA annual report.

Outcome 5: Improved sharing, and quality, of common sources of data and information across jurisdictions to strengthen policy and business decision making.

Indicator	Measure	2019–20 Report Data	2020–21 Report Data
Jurisdictions are aware of each other's drought measures and how they relate to each other.	Regular meetings at different levels across government to share information on drought preparedness, response, recovery and reform measures.	Number of AMM meetings with drought on the agenda ⁵³ : 4 Number of AGSOC meetings with drought on the agenda ⁵⁴ : 3 Number of AMM Drought Working Group meetings ⁵⁵ : 2	Number of AMM meetings with drought on the agenda ⁵⁶ : 1 Number of AGSOC meetings with drought on the agenda ⁵⁷ : 1 Number of AMM Drought Working Group meetings ⁵⁸ : 0
	NDA annual progress report	2019–20 NDA annual report published September, 2021	2020–21 NDA Annual report published February, 2022
	Information on drought policy and programs is easy to find and regularly updated.	All jurisdictions have central online platforms that have regularly updated drought policy and program information ⁵⁹ .	All jurisdictions have central online platforms that have regularly updated drought policy and program information. ⁶⁰
Jurisdictions have access to common information and data on climate, drought incidence and drought support measures.	Improvements to common information and data sources	Number of datasets added to National Drought Map ⁶¹ : 2 Number of climate guides published by the Bureau of Meteorology ⁶² : 57 Number of monthly Bureau of Meteorology drought statements released ⁶³ : 19	Number of datasets added to National Drought Map ⁶⁴ : 8 Number of climate guides published by the Bureau of Meteorology ⁶⁵ : 0 Number of monthly Bureau of Meteorology drought statements released ⁶⁶ : 12

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53 Previously referred to as AGMIN meetings. Meetings held December 2018 to June 2020, Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment.

54 Meetings held December 2018 to June 2020, Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment.

55 Established since February 2020, National Drought and North Queensland Flood Response and Recovery Agency.

56 Meetings held July 2020 to June 2021, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

57 Meetings held July 2020 to June 2021, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

58 AMM Drought Working Group members were engaged out of session to develop the 2019–20 NDA annual report.

59 Jurisdictional self-assessments, April 2020.

60 Jurisdictional self-assessments, June 2021.

61 2019–20 data, National Drought & North Queensland Flood Response & Recovery Agency.

62 Published in October 2019, National Drought & North Queensland Flood Response & Recovery Agency.

63 December 2018 to June 2020, Bureau of Meteorology.

64 2020–21 data, National Recovery and Resilience Agency.

65 Note the climate guides are still available for download from the Bureau's website.

66 July 2020 to June 2021, Bureau of Meteorology.

Outcome 6: Future programs related to the objectives (clause 6 of NDA) of this agreement are consistent with the principles for reform at Attachment A of the NDA.

Indicator	Measure	2019–20 Report Data	2020–21 Report Data
New programs (commenced since last reporting date) are consistent with Attachment A.	New programs (commenced since last reporting date) meet an assessment undertaken against Attachment A.	62% of programs meeting all principles at Attachment A of the NDA ⁶⁷ .	62% of programs meeting all principles at Attachment A of the NDA ⁶⁸ .

Outcome 7: Future programs providing temporary in-drought support are consistent with the principles and processes at Attachment B.

Indicator	Measure	2019–20 Report Data	2020–21 Report Data
New programs (commenced since last reporting date) are consistent with Attachment B.	New programs (commenced since last reporting date) meet an assessment undertaken against Attachment B.	68% of programs meeting all principles at Attachment B of the NDA ⁶⁹ .	82% of programs meeting all principles at Attachment B of the NDA ⁷⁰ .

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⁶⁷ Jurisdictional self-assessments, April 2020.

⁶⁸ Jurisdictional self-assessment, June 2021.

⁶⁹ Jurisdictional self-assessments, April 2020.

⁷⁰ Jurisdictional self-assessments, June 2021.

Appendix B – 2020–21 jurisdictional measures

Measures mapped against NDA Roles and Responsibilities

*Measure is not drought specific but supports agricultural resilience and productivity more broadly.

	Measures	NDA Roles and Responsibilities met													
		9a	9b	9c	9d	10a	10b	11a	11b	11c	11d	11e	11f	11g	11h
Cth	Farm Household Allowance*														
Cth	Future Drought Fund (FDF)														
Cth	Regional Investment Corporation Loans*														
Cth	Weather Radars*														
Cth	Rural Financial Counselling Service*														
Cth	Drought Communities Small Business Support Program														
Cth	Drought Community Support Initiative														
Cth	Drought Community Outreach Program														
Cth	Recovery Support Officer Network*														
Cth	FarmHub*														
Cth	Regional weather and climate guides to help with on-farm decision making*														
Cth	Improving Great Artesian Basin Drought Resilience														
Cth	Taxation measures*														
Cth	On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme														
Cth	Mental Health and Wellbeing Programs*														
Cth	Communities Combating Pest and Weed Impacts During Drought Program – Biosecurity Management of Pests and Weeds														
Cth	National Drought Map														

	Measures	NDA Roles and Responsibilities met													
		9a	9b	9c	9d	10a	10b	11a	11b	11c	11d	11e	11f	11g	11h
Cth	Fodder Mapping*														
Cth	Farm Management Deposit Scheme*														
Cth	Drought Communities Programme Extension														
Cth	Drought Communities Programme Extension – Roads to Recovery														
Cth	Building Better Regions Fund Round 4														
Cth	Tackling Tough Times Together														
Cth	National Water Grid Fund*														
Cth	National Landcare Program*														
Cth	Agriculture Stewardship Package*														
Cth	Emissions Reduction Fund and Climate Solutions Fund*														
Cth	National Soil Strategy*														
Cth	National Agriculture Innovation Agenda														
WA	Support for NRM and Landcare Groups*														
WA	Support for the Grower Group Alliance*														
WA/Cth	FDF – Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs														
WA	DPIRD Regional Intelligence and Adoption Team*														
WA	Pest Animal Control – State Barrier Fence*														
WA	Animal Welfare & Biosecurity programs*														
WA	Soil and Land Conservation Council*														
WA	Wind Erosion Strategy*														
WA	Grants for Biosecurity Groups*														
WA	InterGrain Pty Ltd Majority Shareholding*														
WA	Australian Export Grains Innovation Centre (AEGIC)*														
WA/Cth	FDF – Farm Business Resilience Program														

	Measures	NDA Roles and Responsibilities met													
		9a	9b	9c	9d	10a	10b	11a	11b	11c	11d	11e	11f	11g	11h
WA/Cth	FDF – Regional Drought Resilience Planning														
WA	Funding of WA Sheep Links Program														
WA	Funding of Southern Rangelands Restoration Project*														
WA	Funding of WaterSmart Farms Project														
WA	Operation of Web Application Portal Interface (API)*														
WA	Operation of Weather Stations & Doppler Radar*														
WA	Climate Resilience Taskforce and Fund*														
WA	Funding of Carbon Farming and Land Restoration Program and Trail Site*														
WA	Digital Farm Grants & Regional Telecommunication Project*														
WA	Soil re-engineering project*														
WA	Grains Science Partnerships*														
WA	Mosaic Agriculture*														
WA	Digital Tools, Mapping and Apps*														
WA	Community town dam project*														
QLD	Drought and Climate Adaptation Program														
QLD	Drought Relief Assistance Scheme														
QLD	Community Drought Support Package														
QLD/Cth	Queensland co-contribution to the RFCS														
QLD	Drought Assistance Reform Package														
Vic	Drought response, recovery and preparedness programs														
Vic	Farm business skills and risk management programs*														
Vic	Information and forecasting programs*														
Vic	Health and wellbeing programs*														
Vic/Cth	On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme														

	Measures	NDA Roles and Responsibilities met													
		9a	9b	9c	9d	10a	10b	11a	11b	11c	11d	11e	11f	11g	11h
Vic/Cth	Rural Financial Counselling Service														
Vic/Cth	Future Drought Fund – Regional Drought Resilience Planning program														
Vic/Cth	Future Drought Fund – Farm Business Resilience program														
Vic/Cth	Future Drought Fund – Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub														
NT/Cth	On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme														
NT/Cth	Future Drought Fund – Regional Drought Resilience Planning program														
NT/Cth	Future Drought Fund – Farm Business Resilience program														
NT	Financial Literacy Program*														
NT	Pastoral Feed Outlook*														
NT/Cth	Future Drought Fund NT/Northern WA Drought Hub														
NT/Cth	Rural Financial Counselling Service*														
NSW	Future Ready Regions														
NSW	Drought – 3 Dams														
NSW	Drought – Safe and Secure Water														
NSW	Drought Loans (Farm Innovation Fund)														
NSW/Cth	Doppler radars and Bureau of Meteorology*														
NSW	Water drought-related projects														
NSW	Fixed water charges waiver														
NSW	Drought Stimulus Package – Water Infrastructure projects														
NSW/Cth	Great Artesian Basin Drought Resilience														
NSW	DPIE groundwater resourcing														
NSW	Western Lands lease rents waiver														
NSW	DPIE Water resourcing														
NSW	Wild Dog Border Fence Extension														

	Measures	NDA Roles and Responsibilities met													
		9a	9b	9c	9d	10a	10b	11a	11b	11c	11d	11e	11f	11g	11h
NSW	Apiary fee waiver														
NSW	Drought Stimulus Package – Fast tracked infrastructure projects														
NSW	Primary Producer Rebate Heavy Vehicle Registration Savings														
NSW	Drought Staffing Entitlement Maintenance														
NSW	Part Qualifications – Support for farmers and businesses														
NSW	Rural Mental Health Programs*														
NSW	Border Fence Maintenance rates waiver (wild dog fence)														
NSW	Rural Resilience Program & Young farmer Business Program*														
NSW	Drought Hub														
NSW/Cth	Rural Financial Counselling Service*														
NSW	Drought and Supplementary Feed Calculator														
NSW	Farm Tracker app*														
NSW	DPI support for improved animal welfare outcomes*														
NSW	Loans (Drought Assistance Fund)														
NSW	Drought Transport Subsidies														
NSW	Farm Innovation Fund interest waiver														
NSW	Donated fodder transport subsidy														
NSW	Primary Producer Rebate Light Vehicle Registration														
NSW	Farm Business Skills Professional Development														
NSW	Animal Welfare Transport Subsidy														
NSW	Fish Deaths Mitigation Program														
NSW	On Farm Risk Mitigation														
NSW	Environmental Water														
NSW	Western Lands lease rents waiver														

	Measures	NDA Roles and Responsibilities met													
		9a	9b	9c	9d	10a	10b	11a	11b	11c	11d	11e	11f	11g	11h
NSW	Primary Producer Rebate Heavy Vehicle Registration Savings														
NSW	Drought Staffing Entitlement Maintenance														
NSW	Part Qualifications – Support for farmers and businesses														
NSW/Cth	On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate														
ACT	Landholder training and capacity building														
ACT	Rural Resilience Grants														
ACT	Formation of an ACT Grazing Management Group														
ACT	Consultation with peak landholder body: ACT RLA*														
ACT	Drought Assistance information dissemination														
ACT	Soil Moisture Probe Network														
ACT	Land Management Agreements*														
ACT	Drought relief grazing														
ACT	Transport subsidies														
ACT	Pest and weed control measures*														
ACT	Collaboration with NSW programs*														
ACT/Cth	Provision of RFCS*														
ACT	Provision of mental health supports services*														
SA	Farm Business Management Program														
SA/Cth	Rural Financial Counselling Service														
SA	Family and Business Support (FaBS) Program														
SA	Soil Erosion Emergency Action Fund														
SA	Animal Health Officers														
SA	Wild Dog Trapping and Baiting Program and Bounty Scheme														
SA	Fox Bounty														

	Measures	NDA Roles and Responsibilities met													
		9a	9b	9c	9d	10a	10b	11a	11b	11c	11d	11e	11f	11g	11h
SA	Animal Welfare Legislation and Policy Framework														
SA	Pastoral Lease Rent Rebate Scheme														
SA	Connecting Drought Communities Events Program														
SA	SA Council Rate Rebate Scheme														
SA/Cth	On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme														
TAS	Pipeline to Prosperity program														
TAS	Rural Water Use Strategy														
TAS	Rural Business Resilience Package														
TAS/Cth	Rural Financial Counselling Service														
TAS	Rural Alive and Well														
TAS	Drought and Weed Management Program														
TAS	Rural Relief Fund														
TAS	TIA assistance to drought-affected farmers														
TAS	TFGA fodder register and drought community support events														

How measures are meeting the roles and responsibilities of the NDA

*Measure is not drought specific but supports agricultural resilience and productivity more broadly.

Jurisdiction	Measure	How the measure is allowing jurisdictions to meet their roles and responsibilities under the NDA
Cth	Farm Household Allowance*	Provides assistance to farming families experiencing financial hardship. The program focusses on helping farmers make important decisions to improve their long-term financial situation.
Cth	Future Drought Fund (FDF)	The Future Drought Fund provides secure, continuous funding for drought resilience initiatives. It will help Australian farms and communities prepare for the impacts of drought. In 2021, the following programs were under implementation: Drought Resilience Research and Adoption Program, Farm Business Resilience Program, Regional Drought Resilience Planning, Climate Services for Agriculture, Drought Self-Assessment Tool, Networks to Build Drought Resilience, Drought Resilience Leaders, NRM Drought Resilience - Landscapes and Grants, and Drought Resilient Soils and Landscapes.
Cth	Regional Investment Corporation Loans*	Concessional loans provided through the RIC help farmers improve their long-term strength, resilience and profitability, through refinancing existing debt or accessing new debt.
Cth	Weather Radars*	Improving weather information monitoring infrastructure capabilities and installing extra rain gauges in targeted locations.
Cth	Rural Financial Counselling Service*	Rural Financial Counsellors provide tailored support to farmers, helping them to identify financial and business options, and assisting with negotiations, as well as providing referrals and helpful information on available support.
Cth	Drought Communities Small Business Support Program	Assisted small regional and rural businesses with financial planning, mentoring and coaching.
Cth	Drought Community Support Initiative	Up to \$3000 per household to support farmers, farm workers and suppliers/contractors facing hardship due to drought.
Cth	Drought Community Outreach Program	A partnership with Rotary Australia, to take services and information to farmers and communities in regional Australia through drop-in sessions, and deliver \$500 vouchers for eligible households experiencing financial hardship due to drought.
Cth	Recovery Support Officer Network*	Deliver on the ground drought recovery and resilience outreach and community engagement.
Cth	FarmHub*	Provides a centralised point of information on support from all levels of government, industry, and not-for-profit organisations.
Cth	Regional weather and climate guides *	Guides for Australia's 56 Natural Resource Management regions, to help farmers understand and manage their climate risk.
Cth	Improving Great Artesian Basin Drought Resilience	Co-funded (dollar for dollar) support for participating jurisdictions for immediate and long-term measures that improve water security and drought resilience in the Great Artesian Basin.
Cth	Taxation measures*	A range of concessions available to help farmers better manage their cash flows and invest in their farms, including income tax averaging, accelerated depreciation arrangements, and immediate deductible purchases of eligible assets up to specified caps.
Cth	On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme	The Scheme provides rebates to assist farmers with purchase and installation of on-farm infrastructure for stock and permanent plant watering.

Jurisdiction	Measure	How the measure is allowing jurisdictions to meet their roles and responsibilities under the NDA
Cth	Mental Health and Wellbeing Support*	Empowering our Communities provided funding to Primary Health Networks to plan and commission community-led initiatives to address the immediate support needs of rural communities, and foster longer-term resilience. The Trusted Advocates Network provided funding to support and train trusted community members to provide support and information on mental health services available to fellow community members in need. The provision of telehealth services – both in person via general practitioners and through access to online psychological therapies – was increased. Support was delivered through ReachOut to target awareness of digital mental health support in drought affected areas for young people, their families, and communities. In 2020-21, the Australian Government committed \$2.3 billion to the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan to lead landmark reform in mental health support and treatment for Australians in need.
Cth	Communities Combating Pest and Weed Impacts During Drought Program – Biosecurity Management of Pests and Weeds	Stimulating employment and local economies, and supporting communities and land managers to reduce the impact of pest animals and weeds on agricultural production and the local environment when they have little capacity to do so.
Cth	National Drought Map	Online tool that brings together population data and information on drought conditions.
Cth	Fodder Mapping*	A project to conduct a landscape review of paddock biomass, identify data gaps, and deliver a geospatial view of potential fodder information.
Cth	Farm Management Deposit Scheme*	Assists farmers to deal more effectively with fluctuations in cash flows, allowing eligible famers to set aside up to \$800,000 in pre-tax income to draw on in future years when needed, such as for restocking or replanting when conditions improve.
Cth	Drought Communities Programme Extension (DCPE)	Provides economic stimulus by funding local infrastructure projects and drought-relief activities that provide employment and support local businesses in regions experiencing hardship due to drought.
Cth	Roads to Recovery	Communities receive funding for road infrastructure, providing additional economic stimulus in drought-affected communities.
Cth	Building Better Regions Fund Round 4	Projects in drought-affected areas to create jobs, drive economic growth and build stronger communities into the future.
Cth	Tackling Tough Times Together	A small grants program for community groups and non-profit groups in drought-affected regions.
Cth	National Water Grid Fund*	Grants to state and territory governments to accelerate the planning and construction of water infrastructure that will deliver new and affordable water, enhance water security and underpin regional economic growth including irrigated agriculture.
Cth	National Landcare Program*	Protects and conserves Australia's water, soil, plants, animals and ecosystems, and supports the productive and sustainable use of these resources.
Cth	Agriculture Stewardship Package*	The Agriculture Stewardship Package is working to develop market arrangements and kick start private investment in farm biodiversity and other sustainability opportunities. Pilot programs will help improve the resilience of farm businesses by providing farmers with opportunities to diversify into less drought-exposed income streams.
Cth	Emissions Reduction Fund and Climate Solutions Fund*	Supports businesses, farmers and land managers to take practical actions to reduce emissions and improve the environment.

	Measure	How the measure is allowing jurisdictions to meet their roles and responsibilities under the NDA
Cth	National Soil Strategy*	The Strategy prioritises soil health, empowers soil innovation and stewards, and strengthens soil knowledge and capability. Healthy soils are central to building resilience to the impacts of climate change, including the increasing frequency and severity of drought.
Cth	National Agriculture Innovation Agenda*	National leadership to drive more coordinated and strategic agricultural innovation, including a cross-industry approach to innovation for agricultural productivity, sustainability and profitability and to fast track action on the ground.
WA	Support for NRM and Landcare Groups*	DPIRD works with NRM, Grower and LandCare Groups to improve agronomic practices and decision making skills based on the latest research knowledge. DPIRD staff develop a range of training sessions, field day presentations as and online resources. 2021 – Soils System Masterclass is a joint Northern Area Catchment Council and DPIRD series of workshops about the science underpinning sustainable, low carbon, biological farming systems.
WA	Support for the Grower Group Alliance*	Support for the GGA to develop training sessions, field visits and events for regional communities. The initiative aims to lift the investment in demand driven and farmer-led applied agricultural research and drive stronger uptake of research outcomes.
WA/Cth	FDF – Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs	SW WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub (Merredin, Geraldton, Bunbury, Albany, Katanning, Northam, Manjimup and Carnarvon), and NWA NT Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub (Kununurra and Broome).
WA	DPIRD Regional Intelligence and Adoption Team*	The team coordinates the capture, analysis, and dissemination of information. The framework is designed to translate regional and seasonal information into intelligence to inform industry, government and operational teams of current and emerging risks and opportunities impacting the profitability and sustainability of primary industries in Western Australia, including advising the impact of dry seasons to government for the appropriate response eg. water carting, animal welfare support.
WA	Pest Animal Control – State Barrier Fence*	The State Barrier Fence plays an important role in minimising the impact of invasive species that pose a significant threat to agricultural industry through loss of livestock, degradation of natural landscapes, perennial pastures etc.
WA	Animal Welfare & Biosecurity programs*	<p><i>Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Program:</i> evidence-based systems to maintain and verify animal health, food safety and animal welfare status, including surveillance programs, field vets, product Integrity, and livestock import and export.</p> <p><i>Animal Welfare Act Review:</i> State Government released its response to the Review recommendations on 2 June 2021. Changes to the Act will include being clear on standards of care expected for animals, strengthening compliance, and developing legislation and policies that are science-based and reflect community expectations. Other key areas of focus will include the training of inspectors and clearly outlining the roles and responsibilities of those responsible for animal welfare under the Act.</p> <p><i>Animal Welfare (transport, saleyards and depots) (cattle and sheep) Regulations (transport regulations):</i> provide and promote minimum standards for the welfare of sheep and cattle during transport and in saleyards and depots, shifting the regulatory focus from cruelty offences to promoting a duty of care to animals.</p>
WA	Soil and Land Conservation Council*	The Soil and Land Conservation Council advises the Minister for Agriculture and Food and the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation on policy, management and conservation of Western Australia's soil and land resources.
WA	Wind Erosion Strategy*	Estimate of ground cover levels during summer of 2020/21 and report on soil erosion. Ongoing progress for further implementation of the strategy in 2021–22.

	Measure	How the measure is allowing jurisdictions to meet their roles and responsibilities under the NDA
WA	Grants for Biosecurity Groups*	As of March 2020, there are 14 community-based Recognised Biosecurity Group (RBGs) under the State's Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007, with their combined areas covering most of the State. Uncontrolled pests and weeds threaten our native species, have the potential to invade and degrade landscapes, and undermine economic development.
WA	InterGrain Pty Ltd Majority Shareholding*	As one of the leaders in cereal breeding in Australia, InterGrain offers market leading wheat, barley and oat varieties for growers. An area of focus is the breeding of drought tolerant grain varieties.
WA	Australian Export Grains Innovation Centre (AEGIC)*	AEGIC has an ongoing role in assessing the impact of seasonal variability on grain flows around Australia. For example, lower levels of drought affected production on the east coast may result in grain from WA going to domestic markets rather than traditional export markets. AEGIC conducts economic analysis and reporting on these activities.
WA/Cth	FDF – Farm Business Resilience Program	The program will build the strategic management capacity of farmers, farm managers and employees to prepare for and manage risk, adapt to a changing climate and improve the farm businesses economic, environmental and social resilience.
WA/Cth	FDF – Regional Drought Resilience Planning (RDRP)	The program will support partnerships of regional organisations, local government, communities, and industry to develop Regional Drought Resilience Plans in key agricultural production regions (Mid-West, the Wheatbelt and the Great Southern).
WA	Funding of WA Sheep Links Program	The first two in a series of research projects to enhance the long-term sustainability and profitability of WAs sheep industry, focusing on understanding the impact of climate change on production systems and building climate resilience into businesses.
WA	Funding of Southern Rangelands Restoration Project*	This pilot project aims to improve rangeland conditions by increasing pastoralist skills and knowledge through the delivery of targeted training programs, and the development of bespoke station management plans.
WA	Funding of WaterSmart Farms Project	The Project aims to optimise water availability and increase the use of 'fit for purpose' water, by developing practical systems for on-farm desalination and improving the effectiveness of farm dams and catchments to support drying climate conditions.
WA	Operation of Web Application Portal Interface (API)*	DPIRD will continue to utilise this framework to release further data sharing capabilities in future. We also aim to open two-way communication via API so that we will have the ability to run data through some of our models to provide results back.
WA	Operation of Weather Stations & Doppler Radar*	DPIRD's network of automatic weather stations and Doppler radars throughout the State provide timely, relevant, and local weather data to assist growers and regional communities make more informed decisions.
WA	Climate Resilience Taskforce and Fund*	The Taskforce was established to enable primary industries to maximise opportunities presented by a low carbon future. A stakeholder forum in June 2021 identified priorities for use of the fund including natural capital accounting, soil improvement and understanding markets for climate friendly production methods.
WA	Funding of Carbon Farming and Landing Restoration Program and Trial Site*	The program aims to unlock the potential of carbon farming in the SW WA agricultural zone and enable rural businesses to establish carbon farming projects that deliver priority environmental, community and economic co-benefits. The 10-year trial is evaluating the long-term productivity, profitability and sustainability of lower input regenerative and intensive agtech systems against current practice. A human induced regeneration (HIR) carbon farming guide for Aboriginal and pastoral lessees and native title holders has also been released, for those interested in taking up carbon farming on pastoral lands to create a new income stream, regenerate the environment, build skills and work on country.
WA	Digital Farm Grants & Regional Telecommunication Project*	Digital Farm Grants program provide funding to deliver enterprise-grade broadband to agribusinesses, allowing widespread adoption of smart farm technologies and improved business and agricultural productivity.

	Measure	How the measure is allowing jurisdictions to meet their roles and responsibilities under the NDA
WA	Soil re-engineering project*	An innovative five-year project to determine the maximum grain yield potential on difficult soil. Five large-scale research sites were established in the northern and central Grainbelt in 2021. Concurrent glasshouse and laboratory experiments will be carried out to understand the impact of the treatments on soil properties and grain yield.
WA	Grains Science Partnerships*	The department started field trials across the Grainbelt as part of a State Government investment to deliver five new grains research projects to boost industry productivity and profitability.
WA	Mosaic Agriculture*	DPIRD is supporting WA's northern pastoral industry to establish new research sites in the West Kimberley and Pilbara to help pastoral irrigators produce better quality feed and boost productivity. The research is addressing feed gaps caused by seasonal variability, allowing pastoralists to supplement native grasses with high-quality fodder.
WA	Digital Tools, Mapping and Apps*	Including: eConnect Decision Support Tools, Rainfall to Date, Statistical Seasonal Forecast System, Interactive Groundwater and Salinity Map, WA Digital Infrastructure Atlas, Extreme Weather Event Tool, NRInfo, Clearing Permit System Map Viewer, Water Register, Rainfall and Dams, Floodplain Mapping, SLIP, Digital Elevation Models (DEMs) Services, Satellite Remote Sensing Services (SRSS), Topographic Database (TGDB), Map Viewer Plus.
WA/Cth	Community town dam project*	Upgrade to 70 town dams and catchments to improve farm and town water security.
QLD	Drought and Climate Adaptation Program	DCAP delivers research/development and extension that will provide tools and support to assist producers become better prepared for drought.
QLD	Drought Relief Assistance Scheme	DRAS provides a freight subsidy for the movement of fodder and water and a rebate on the purchase of emergency water infrastructure for livestock. Accordingly, both measures support the animal welfare of animals in drought conditions.
QLD	Community Drought Support Package	The Community Drought Support Package comprises: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible Financial Hardship (FFH) funding to alleviate hardship and cost of living pressures for individuals, households and communities impacted by the drought. • Community events and activities that strengthen resilience in drought affected communities by improving wellbeing, connectedness and supporting the community to thrive.
QLD	Queensland co-contribution to RFCS	Queensland provides a co-contribution to the Australian Government's RFCS which provides financial counselling to primary producers. In addition, Queensland also funds small business financial counsellors for drought, natural disasters and the response to COVID-19.
QLD	Release of Drought Assistance and Reform Package	In June 2021 the Queensland Government released its new drought policy, to better align Queensland programs with the principles and reform objectives of the NDA.

	Measure	How the measure is allowing jurisdictions to meet their roles and responsibilities under the NDA
Vic	Drought response, recovery and preparedness programs	Programs that enhance long-term preparedness, sustainability and resilience supports farming business to better prepare, respond and recover from drought. Examples of the programs delivered directly and in-directly by Agriculture Victoria include: supporting councils with planning decisions related to stock containment and feedlots, supporting demonstrations to improve management practices and build knowledge, and maintaining land health particularly during dry seasonal conditions. Included delivery of programs such as GrazFert.
Vic	Farm business skills and risk management programs*	When farming businesses plan and prepare for the future, underpinned by a risk management planned approach, they are in a better position to make informed and timely decisions. Examples of the programs delivered directly and in-directly by Agriculture Victoria include: young and new farmers business bootcamps, training and scholarships, farmer networks and extension activities, developing farm management practices, e.g. stimulating the use of electronic identification devices through the supply chain, whole farm planning, particularly in times with low water allocations, supporting the design and improving efficient of irrigation systems, support to improve on-farm biosecurity and animal welfare, resource management on-farm, climate risk management, adaptation, and innovation.
Vic	Information and forecasting programs*	The provision of accessible and easy to understand information and forecasting data supports farm businesses to plan and prepare for the impacts of increased climate variability and climate and change. Examples of the programs delivered directly and in-directly by Agriculture Victoria include: agriculture recovery coordinators in each region coordinating services, gathering intelligence, and engaging with stakeholders, agriculture relief and recovery activities, industry networks, coordination, and engagement, farm economic analysis and benchmarking, seasonal forecasting, soil moisture tools and monitoring.
Vic	Health and wellbeing programs*	The maintenance of good health and wellbeing of farmers, farming families and farming communities is essential in times of drought and recovery. Examples of the programs delivered directly and in-directly by Agriculture Victoria include: bush nursing centers in Gippsland targeted to farmers and their families, place-based resilience and rural community wellbeing promoting social connectedness and wellbeing for farmers, farming families and farming communities.
Vic/Cth	On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme	The Scheme provides rebates to assist farmers with purchase and installation of on-farm infrastructure for stock and permanent plant watering. During Round 1 of the Scheme 680 rebates, totalling over \$4.3 million was provided to farm businesses in 22 local government areas, and others on a case-by-case basis, affected by dry seasonal conditions.
Vic/Cth	Future Drought Fund – Farm Business Resilience Program	The pilot program, to be delivered in 2021–22, is targeted for Victorian livestock, grain and mixed farmers as well as all young farmers. Farmers will be supported by Agriculture Victoria staff and a professional Farm Management Consultant to develop their strategic plan for their farm business. Dairy Australia is delivering the dairy component.
Vic/Cth	Future Drought Fund – Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program	In the foundational year, a Regional Drought Resilience Plan will be developed in each of the Gippsland, Goulburn, and Wimmera Southern Mallee regions.
Vic/Cth	Rural Financial Counselling Service*	During 2020–21 the Victorian RFCS assisted 1,503 farm businesses who were experiencing, or at imminent risk of, financial hardship. Farm businesses were assisted to understand their financial situation, undertake business planning, negotiate with creditors, access government assistance and access other professional services to return to a profitable state or transition out of agriculture.
Vic/Cth	Future Drought Fund – Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub	Agriculture Victoria is providing in-kind support to the establishment and delivery of activities under the Victorian Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub.

	Measure	How the measure is allowing jurisdictions to meet their roles and responsibilities under the NDA
NT/Cth	On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme	Through the OFEWIRS the NT ensures animal welfare issues are managed by providing rebates for strategically placed water infrastructure, ensuring survival of permanent plants and livestock in emergency situations.
NT/Cth	Future Drought Fund – Regional Drought Resilience Planning program	Regional consultation will deliver current responses to drought and will be used to design future responses for regional groups, and individual businesses within regions, to prepare for and mitigate the effects of future droughts.
NT/Cth	Future Drought Fund – Farm Business Resilience program	Farm business plans, business and management skills, risk mitigation, resource use efficiency and related elements of agribusiness management will be taught to prepare for and mitigate the effects of future droughts.
NT	Financial Literacy Program*	Peak bodies and industry groups access funds to engage professional delivery of courses that improve the knowledge of primary producers, thereby increasing the robustness of the businesses they run.
NT	Pastoral Feed Outlook*	The quarterly report uses a combination of data to provide a snapshot of past, current, and future trends in pasture availability across the eleven pastoral districts of the NT, allowing primary industries to shape their plans for future operational activities.
NT/Cth	FDF – NT/Northern WA Drought Hub	NT and WA governments, universities, industry bodies and land management groups have entered a partnership dedicated to multi-levelled collection and dissemination of: analysis of weather, information systems and tools, knowledge brokering, extension and adoption, research and development to prepare for and mitigate against the effects of future droughts.
NT/Cth	Rural Financial Counselling Service*	Provides for Rural Financial Counselling services across the NT.
NSW	Future Ready Regions	<p>Future Ready Regions is the NSW Government's commitment to building strong communities and diversified regional economies that are not just build to survive drought but are able to thrive as an economic powerhouse. The strategy includes 14 commitments to achieve sustainable, secure and health water resources, build stronger primary industries prepared for drought, and support stronger communities and diverse regional economies. These commitments draw on lessons learnt from the worst drought on record to help future-proof regional NSW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fast track investigations into potential groundwater supplies in Western NSW • Better integrate land use planning and water management decisions • Implement a new State-wide water efficiency framework and program for regional towns and cities • Improve water use decision making for the resources sector • Establish a water in mining advisory group • Improve the framework for managing water resources during severe droughts • Upgrade the Enhanced Drought Information System (EDIS) to provide farmers with world-leading weather and climate data • Expanded Farms of the Future program to accelerate adoption of ag-tech enabled production methods • In partnership with the Commonwealth's Future Drought Fund, deliver a new Farm Business Resilience Program pilot • Support farm businesses and other landholders to diversify their Income through carbon farming and biodiversity offsets • Streamline planning requirements to make it easier for primary producers to diversify into agritourism • Undertake a comprehensive evaluation of drought support programs • Support communities and Industries to plan for future droughts, including Future Ready Community plans in pilot locations • Build on the Drought Signals Framework to develop consistent drought triggers

	Measure	How the measure is allowing jurisdictions to meet their roles and responsibilities under the NDA
NSW	Drought – 3 Dams	New or upgraded dams at Wyangala, Dungowan, and Mole River.
NSW	Drought – Safe and Secure Water	The SSWP co-funds eligible priority water and sewerage projects in regional NSW aimed at making improvements to public health, water security, environmental outcomes and/or social benefits.
NSW	Drought Loans (Farm Innovation Fund)	Long term, low interest rate loan for NSW farmers for permanent on-farm infrastructure to ensure long term productivity and sustainable land use plus aiding in meeting changes to seasonal conditions.
NSW/Cth	Doppler radars and Bureau of Meteorology*	Installation of Doppler radars.
NSW	Water drought-related projects	Funding to maintain critical water supplies to towns in regional NSW. The funding was directed to water carting for small regional communities; critical town water infrastructure, projects including bores, pipelines and new water sources.
NSW	Fixed water charges waiver	Automatic rebate applied to water bills for general commercial users across the state in recognition of the impact of drought on licensed water users.
NSW	Drought Stimulus Package – Water Infrastructure projects	Funding to maintain critical water supplies to towns in regional NSW. Water infrastructure projects managed by DPIE Water as part of the broader Drought Stimulus Package.
NSW/Cth	Great Artesian Basin Drought Resilience	The Cap and Pipe the Bores Project has given landholders financial incentives to replace failing artesian bores and bore drains with new bores and efficient reliable water supply systems, saving water and increasing artesian pressure.
NSW	DPIE groundwater resourcing	Additional staff resources to assess the significant increase in groundwater bore and trading applications that occur during a drought.
NSW	Western Lands lease rents waiver	Western Division leases rates waived for the FY2019–2021.
NSW	DPIE Water resourcing	Labour and operating expenses for a Town Water Supply Coordinator and DPIE Drought Coordination Team.
NSW	Wild Dog Border Fence Extension	The extension of the NSW Border Wild Dog Fence using local contractors.
NSW	Apiary fee waiver	Waiving of fees to keep bees on public land. To be re-introduced this financial year.
NSW	Drought Stimulus Package – Fast tracking infrastructure projects	Delivery of economic stimulus with fast-tracked local infrastructure projects.
NSW	Primary Producer Rebate Heavy Vehicle Registration Savings	Available for primary producers that are the registered operator of heavy vehicles. All registration costs were waived except for CTP insurance and if applicable Heavy Vehicle Inspection Fees, Stamp Duty and Number Plate Fees.
NSW	Drought Staffing Entitlement Maintenance	Maintenance of staff in schools affected by the drought. Provided to schools as part of budget for annual staffing entitlement.
NSW	Part Qualifications – Support for farmers and businesses	Fully subsidised training for individuals affected by the drought.
NSW	Rural Mental Health Programs*	Includes several rural mental health programs.

	Measure	How the measure is allowing jurisdictions to meet their roles and responsibilities under the NDA
NSW	Border Fence Maintenance rates waiver (wild dog fence)	Annual Border Fence Maintenance Rates for 2019, 2020 and 2021.
NSW	Rural Resilience Program & Young farmer Business Program*	Pre-existing programs included the Rural Resilience Program (RRP) (established in 2014) and the Young Farmer Business Program (YFBP) (established in 2017). These programs build business and personal resilience of primary production businesses, families, and individuals.
NSW	Drought Hub	The NSW Drought Hub is a one-stop online portal for NSW Primary Producer drought assistance and information.
NSW/Cth	Rural Financial Counselling Service*	RFCS provides business support services to primary producers and small related agriculture business owners who are experiencing financial difficulties or who have concerns about their future financial situation. The NSW Government contributed \$840,000 in 2019–20.
NSW	Drought and Supplementary Feed Calculator	An app that provides advice to sheep and cattle producers about the nutritional value of various supplementary feed options allowing them to make informed decisions, particularly during the recent drought.
NSW	Farm Tracker app*	The app helps primary producers record seasonal conditions. Primary producers can: complete a simple crop, pasture, or animal survey, keep and manage a photo diary of their farm and monitor the same paddock over many years. Reports can be completed in a few minutes, and are synchronized with both personal and state-wide databases when in mobile or wi-fi range.
NSW	DPI support for improved animal welfare outcomes*	NSW animal welfare support continues in the form of a range of livestock welfare initiatives that are expected to improve livestock welfare outcomes over time, including during drought. This includes Stock Welfare Panels which facilitate the resolution of the most severe and complex livestock welfare issues.
NSW	Loans (Drought Assistance Fund)	One-off \$100,000 interest-free loan to primary producers for long term sustainability measures.
NSW	Drought Transport Subsidies	Transporting fodder, water or stock. Recently extended to restocking.
NSW	Farm Innovation Fund interest waiver	Loan interest waivers for specified Rural Assistance Authority products.
NSW	Donated fodder transport subsidy	Funding assistance to community organisations who coordinate the transport of donated fodder.
NSW	Primary Producer Rebate Light Vehicle Registration	Rebates for primary producer vehicle registration.
NSW	Farm Business Skills Professional Development	Provides farm businesses with a subsidy to help with the costs of training.
NSW	Animal Welfare Transport Subsidy	A subsidy to help with the freight costs for stock welfare.
NSW	Fish Deaths Mitigation Program	Measures to prevent and mitigate native fish deaths in inland river systems. Related activities were part of the broader Native Fish Drought Response Program (2019-2021), which is now focusing on recovery and resilience activities.
NSW	On Farm Risk Mitigation	Development of financial risk management products and tools.

	Measure	How the measure is allowing jurisdictions to meet their roles and responsibilities under the NDA
NSW	Environmental Water	Revenue from the sale of NSW environmental water used to protect environmental assets (such as riparian works, Hudson pear control and wild dog control).
NSW	Western Lands Lease Rents waiver	Western Division leases rates waived from the FY 2019–2021.
NSW	Primary Producer Rebate Heavy Vehicle Registration Savings	Available for primary producers that are the registered operator of heavy vehicle (<4.5 tonnes).
NSW	Drought Staffing Entitlement Maintenance	Maintenance of staff in schools affected by the drought. Provided to schools as part of budget for annual staffing entitlement.
NSW	Part Qualifications – Support for farmers and businesses	Fully subsidised training for individuals affected by the drought.
NSW/Cth	Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate	Scheme designed to support NSW primary producers to invest in drought-proofing infrastructure to build resilience now and in future dry periods.
ACT	Landholder training and capacity building	Information to plan for drought, manage during drought and implement drought recovery plans by focusing on core farm business decision making, information sharing, tools and technology and promoting peer-based support networks.
ACT	Rural Resilience Grants	Three rounds of Rural Resilience Grants have been offered between 2018–2021 aimed at supporting drought preparedness and drought recovery.
ACT	Formation of an ACT Grazing Management Group	The ACT RALF has established a Grazing Management Group with the support of a farmer near Crookwell in NSW who runs a similar group in his community. The peer-based group aims to support farming families by bring farming families together to discuss and share lessons in managing drought. This measure supports improved farming family well-being.
ACT	Consultation with peak landholder body: ACT RLA*	By working closely with the peak farming body ACT NRM and BRS understand the range of different drought preparedness approaches ACT rural landholders are implementing, their effectiveness, what the gaps are and the types of information and material support landholders require to get through the severe drought conditions.
ACT	Drought assistance information dissemination	Information on drought assistance is posted on EPSDD website ACT Farmers Support package web page and distributed to ACT rural landholders.
ACT	Soil Moisture Probe Network	The soil moisture probe network allows landholders to make fine scale decisions around stocking, destocking, purchase or sowing of feed and more – making them more prepared and resilient to drought.
ACT	Land Management Agreements *	BRS facilitates Land Management Agreements for rural landholders which includes sections for "on farm" drought management strategies. The government veterinarian within BRS has assisted landholders with stock water testing, stock feed testing and Worm Tests enabling improved animal husbandry and animal health outcomes.
ACT	Drought relief grazing	BRS offered 15 grazing blocks with three month grazing licenses, free of charge to ACT farmers to allow paddocks to recover and give stock fresh pasture.
ACT	Transport subsidies	In line with the NSW guidelines, ACT Primary Producers received a total of \$123,473 in transport rebates. This included freight for fodder, stock to slaughter, to and from agistment, seed, and chemicals.

	Measure	How the measure is allowing jurisdictions to meet their roles and responsibilities under the NDA
ACT	Pest and weed control measures*	Supporting landholders with additional pest and weed control measures through joint control programs, including offering landholders the use of chemical spray trailers and rabbit smokers, free of charge to assist with pest and weed control.
ACT	Collaboration with NSW programs*	We work in partnership to promote and provide access to NSW run programs. The teams run Farmers Forums, where information on drought, drought preparedness and opportunities that are currently available are discussed.
ACT/Cth	Provision of RFCS*	The ACT does not make financial contributions to the RFCS. If ACT farmers want to access the RFCS they can utilise the NSW based service and the ACT actively facilitates information sharing and referral to these services.
ACT	Mental health supports services*	Information was provided to ACT landholders and representatives from RAMHP attended forums to talk to landholders.
SA	Farm Business Management Program	A 12-month program providing training to enable farm businesses to manage and prepare for drought, climate change and climate variability by supporting their long-term sustainability and resilience.
SA/Cth	Rural Financial Counselling Service	RFCS provides business support services to primary producers and small related agriculture business owners who are experiencing financial difficulties or who have concerns about their future financial situation.
SA	Family and Business Support (FaBS) Program	Funds mentors to provide non-clinical counselling support and business support to farmers and, where appropriate, refer them to relevant government or industry support services.
SA	Soil Erosion Emergency Action Fund	The fund is providing support to 11 Local Councils in severely drought affected regions to remove soil from public infrastructure such as roads.
SA	Animal Health Officers	Animal Health officers are available to provide advice and support related to animal health and welfare during dry conditions, livestock transport requirements, and biosecurity requirements such as requesting commodity declarations when buying in feed sources.
SA	Wild Dog Trapping and Baiting Program and Bounty Scheme	Between July 2018 and June 2020, 696 wild dogs were euthanised through these programs, helping to ensuring animal welfare, particularly within the sheep meat and wool sectors, was managed during the drought conditions experienced within this period.
SA	Fox Bounty	The South Australian fox bounty program supports drought-affected primary producers by providing \$10 per fox humanely killed on their land, helping to ensure animal welfare issues are managed during drought.
SA	Animal Welfare Legislation and Policy Framework	South Australia has a comprehensive suite of Animal welfare legislation and a policy framework that DEW and PIRSA lead and work with landholders to ensure it is upheld.
SA	Pastoral Lease Rent Rebate Scheme	Under this Scheme, all South Australian pastoralists received a 50% rebate on pastoral lease rent.
SA	Connecting Drought Communities Events Program	Sought to support community groups and local councils in eligible drought-affected areas of South Australia to hold activities, events and functions aimed at helping communities maintain their wellbeing and build resilience.
SA	SA Council Rate Rebate Scheme	The Council Rate Rebate Scheme provided funding to farming businesses approved for the Farm Household Allowance to access a rebate of up to 50% (and no more than \$7,500 per financial year) on local council rates.

	Measure	How the measure is allowing jurisdictions to meet their roles and responsibilities under the NDA
SA/Cth	On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme	This Scheme provides rebates to primary producers in drought affected areas towards meeting the costs associated with the purchase and installation of various on-farm water infrastructure that addresses animal welfare needs during drought and assists primary producers to be more resilient for future droughts.
TAS	Pipeline to Prosperity program	Irrigation development, capitalising on the State's abundant water resources, enhances the capacity of farmers to manage climate risk. It is key to building the drought preparedness and resilience of Tasmanian agriculture and rural communities.
TAS	Rural Water Use Strategy	Irrigation is key to drought resilience in Tasmania, but it could also become a source of vulnerability during drought if water resources are over-allocated or managed unsustainably.
TAS	Rural Business Reliance Package	The program will develop and begin to implement a Regional Drought Resilience Plan for each of Tasmania's three regions. Each plan will document opportunities to build drought resilience, consistent with Tasmania's responsibilities under the NDA.
TAS/Cth	Rural Financial Counselling Service	The program directly addresses Tasmania's responsibilities under NDA clause 10c.
TAS	Rural Alive and Well (RAW)	RAW is a Tasmanian not-for-profit organisation established in 2009 in response to drought. It helps individuals, families, and the community through mental health issues with a focus on reducing the prevalence of suicide in rural communities.
TAS	Drought and Weed Management Program	The Program targets five local government areas recovering from prolonged drought on Tasmania's East Coast and in the South-East. The Program sought to manage key weeds post drought. It included funding towards the cost of a weeds officer in each municipality, and on-ground weed management activities.
TAS	Rural Relief Fund	As Tasmania's RFCS service provider, RBT is well-placed to efficiently and effectively deliver support to farming families in greatest need. Applications for assistance can be turned around in as little as 24 hours.
TAS	TIA assistance to drought-affected farmers	The Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture was funded to assist drought-affected livestock producers with in-drought management strategies and recovery from drought in order to help them become more resilient to drought in a changing climate.
TAS	TFGA fodder register and drought community support events	The Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association (TFGA) received funding to upgrade its online Feed & Fodder register to include information on agistment opportunities, thereby helping to create a marketplace among producers for these goods and services, and to deliver community support events in drought-affected areas.



