Australian Government
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Future Drought Fund

SA DROUGHT HUB

THE UNIVERSITY of ADELAIDE

This program received funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund

SA Drought Hub Site Visit

8 SEPTEMBER 2025

The University of Adelaide's Roseworthy campus, Roseworthy, South Australia

Thank you for registering for the site visit as a part of the 2025 National Drought Forum.

This visit to the SA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub at Roseworthy, provides an opportunity for forum attendees to visit two Future Drought Fund drought resilience research, development and adoption sites spanning broadacre cropping and livestock production, and to hear presentations from experts in key drought-related issues.

For more information on the SA Drought Hub visit: SA Drought Hub - Supporting SA farmers and regional communities

SITE VISIT DETAILS

MONDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2025

TIME: 10am-12:00pm

LOCATION: SA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub, Roseworthy Campus, University of Adelaide, Mudla Wirra Rd, Roseworthy SA 5371.

About the SA Drought Hub

The South Australian Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub (The SA Drought Hub) is one of eight Hubs established across the nation through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.

The SA Drought Hub brings together a dynamic network of primary producers, industry groups, researchers, government agencies, universities, agribusinesses, farming systems groups, traditional owners, and others to strengthen the drought resilience and preparedness of farms and regional communities in SA.

Led by the University of Adelaide in partnership with the Department of Primary Industries and Regions, South Australia (PIRSA), the hub is responsible for driving extension of existing knowledge and practices to build drought resilience and preparedness in primary production systems.

By fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing among diverse but aligned organisations and individuals, the hub is building the capacity of the SA agriculture sector to adapt to and fortify itself against the challenges of drought and other climate extremes.

The SA Drought Hub supports all farming sectors including grain, livestock, dairy, pastoral/grazing, wine, horticulture and emerging industries in the low, pastoral, medium and high rainfall zones. The SA Drought Hub headquarters are located at Roseworthy with our team, and our regional engagement approach, covering all areas of South Australia (see figure 1 for hub regions and zones).

SA HUB REGIONS & RAINFALL ZONES

1. Mid-North & Yorke - Medium rainfall
2. Murraylands, Riverland & Mallee - Low rainfall
3. Upper North & Flinders - Low rainfall
4. Far North & Pastoral - Low rainfall
5. Eyre Peninsula - Low rainfall
6. Lower South-East, Kangaroo Island, Fleurieu - High rainfall

To find out more about the SA Drought Hub's projects, partnership and impact view our new case studies and fact sheet page

SA Drought Hub – Site Visit Program

Monday 8 September 2025

TIME	DESCRIPTION
10:00am	**Welcome and housekeeping**
10:05am	**Site visits and presentations** **Site visit 1:** Led by Elders in collaboration with the University of Adelaide, is a SA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub cropping demonstration site that addresses cereal establishment in challenging environments with a particular focus on advancing knowledge of pre- and early post-emergent herbicide safety after extremely low rainfall 2024. **Site visit 2:** Roseworthy site of Long-term trial of Drought Resilient Farming Practices "Drought and climate resilient sheep farms and landscapes tailor-made for low rainfall farming regions" project led by University of Adelaide. This project seeks to enhance resilience of sheep production systems by combining climate resilient sheep with novel, drought tolerant pastures, shrubs and trees which enhance consistency of feed supply, stabilise and improve landscape health, and create microclimates that increase sheep welfare and productivity. The project is a collaboration with 22 consortium members, including Murdoch University and nine farming systems groups across southern Australia. **Presentations:** • **John Gladigau**, Creative Director and Farmer Advocate of ifarmwell on growing farmers' wellbeing • **Peter Hayman**, Deputy Director SA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub on supporting South Australian primary industries to prepare for future climates at a local scale.
12:00pm	**Tour end, return to Gawler Civic Centre**

Acknowledgement of Country

The SA Drought Hub would like to acknowledge that the 2025 National Drought Forum is being held on Kaurna Country. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of this land, their culture, their language and Elders both past and present. We recognise their knowledge and contribution to the productivity, innovation and sustainability of Australia's agriculture, fisheries, and forestry industries.

About the SA Drought Hub Feature Projects

Herbicide & Sowing Depth Demonstration

Elders and the University of Adelaide's Professor Chris Preston are expanding on previous trials exploring farming without glyphosate and the use of pre-emergent and early post-emergent herbicides, focusing on wheat crop safety, efficacy, and residual herbicide impacts in varying soil moisture at a Roseworthy trial site. The project compares different sowing depths using a knife point and press wheel system and investigates a soil deposition aid, with findings shared through field days, local agricultural bureau engagement, and social media updates. Farmers from the Lower North, Eyre Peninsula, and Jamestown, along with local agronomists and consultants, participate in the site visits, supported by funded bus trips.

LEARN MORE: Optimising cereal establishment in challenging environments: advancing knowledge of pre and early post-emergent herbicide safety after low rainfall 2024 - SA Drought Hub

iFarmwell – Farmer Wellbeing Toolkit

iFarmwell is a free, evidence-based digital program developed by the University of South Australia in partnership with mental health and agricultural organisations across the country. Designed specifically for farmers, it provides practical, research-informed wellbeing modules that combine text, videos, interactive activities, and reminders to help manage stress and build resilience during challenging times. Supported by the SA Drought Hub, the program also offers crisis support information and connects farmers with relevant community resources to encourage timely access to assistance when needed.

LEARN MORE: SADH-Ifarmwell-Case-Study_online_v10.pdf

Climate-Resilient Sheep Feedbase Systems

The University of Adelaide is working with farmers, regional groups, and landscape boards to trial mixed pastures, multi-storey feed systems, and shelter belts to boost sheep welfare, productivity, and climate resilience in South Australia's low-rainfall zones. Sites in the Mallee, Mid North, and Upper North are being set up with farmers to provide steady feed, create cooler microclimates, and support healthier, more biodiverse landscapes, with data gathered on plants, soil, and sheep performance. The project also runs hands-on workshops and adviser training to share practical ways to manage livestock, use native vegetation, and build drought resilience into everyday farming.

LEARN MORE: Mitigation strategies to improve climate resilience of the South Australian sheep flock - SA Drought Hub

Climate Adaptation Planning for SA Agriculture

This project focuses on identifying how ongoing drought and climate change will impact South Australian primary industries and informing strategic actions to build resilience. It collates information on the physical impacts of climate change on sectors such as livestock, cropping, dairy, viticulture, and horticulture, using MyClimateView data, SARDI Climate Applications expertise, and input from all SA Drought Hub nodes to capture regional, place-based needs. The work ranks adaptation challenges, produces regular reports and conceptual maps of research and adaptation options, and engages with partners including the University of Adelaide, Flinders University, CSIRO, RDCs, and private researchers.

LEARN MORE: Supporting South Australian Primary Industries to prepare for future climates at a local scale - SA Drought Hub