

Future Drought Fund – Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program

FEDERATION FUNDING AGREEMENT – ENVIRONMENT

Table 1: Formalities and operation of schedule																																		
Parties	Commonwealth New South Wales Victoria Queensland Western Australia South Australia Tasmania Australian Capital Territory Northern Territory																																	
Duration	This Schedule is expected to expire on 30 August 2022.																																	
Purpose	This Schedule will support the delivery of financial assistance from the Commonwealth to the State and Territory governments (States) to deliver the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program (the Program). The States will use this funding to assist partnerships of local government consortia (or equivalent) and regional stakeholders to develop Regional Drought Resilience Plans (RDR Plans) for their region.																																	
Estimated financial contributions	<p>The Commonwealth will provide an estimated total financial contribution to the States of \$9.85m in respect of this Schedule.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Table 1.1</th> </tr> <tr> <th>(\$ million)</th> <th>2020-21</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Estimated total Commonwealth financial contribution</td> <td>\$9,852,615</td> <td>\$9,852,615</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- NSW</td> <td>\$1,910,171</td> <td>\$1,910,171</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- VIC</td> <td>\$1,900,000</td> <td>\$1,900,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- QLD</td> <td>\$1,798,836</td> <td>\$1,798,836</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- WA</td> <td>\$1,335,823</td> <td>\$1,335,823</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- SA</td> <td>\$1,180,535</td> <td>\$1,180,535</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- TAS</td> <td>\$771,481</td> <td>\$771,481</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- ACT</td> <td>\$309,569</td> <td>\$309,569</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- NT</td> <td>\$646,200</td> <td>\$646,200</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Table 1.1			(\$ million)	2020-21	Total	Estimated total Commonwealth financial contribution	\$9,852,615	\$9,852,615	- NSW	\$1,910,171	\$1,910,171	- VIC	\$1,900,000	\$1,900,000	- QLD	\$1,798,836	\$1,798,836	- WA	\$1,335,823	\$1,335,823	- SA	\$1,180,535	\$1,180,535	- TAS	\$771,481	\$771,481	- ACT	\$309,569	\$309,569	- NT	\$646,200	\$646,200
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Additional terms	<p>States will be responsible for providing an agreed minimum co-contribution as specified in the agreed Program Implementation Plan and maintenance of effort to support the implementation of this Schedule</p> <p>States must deliver the program in accordance with the agreed Program Implementation Plan. Program Implementation Plans must be informed by and aligned to the Program Framework at Appendix A.</p> <p>In addition to Paragraph 21 of the Federation Funding Agreement - Environment, and Schedule E, Clause 26 of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Federal Financial Relations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Commonwealth will provide states with a program Communication Plan and Co-branding guidelines. States must undertake program communications and branding consistently with the national guidance.2. the announcement of a program or a project under this Schedule must be made jointly with the Australian Government and the relevant jurisdiction, unless otherwise agreed by the Commonwealth3. when referring to the program or a project under this Schedule, it must be described as "jointly funded by the Australian Government and (insert name of jurisdiction) under the Future Drought Fund" <p>In addition to Part 4 of the Federation Funding Agreement - Environment, the Commonwealth will provide a program Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Plan (MEL Plan). States will negotiate with the Commonwealth to agree a format for progress-reporting in the context of their Program Implementation Plan, and the MEL plan.</p> <p>States are expected to deliver the program in accordance with public sector ethical values and duties such as probity, accountability, and transparency.</p> <p>As per the provision in Subsection 22(4) of the <i>Future Drought Fund Act 2019</i>, where states do not meet the requirements of the agreed Program Implementation Plan states may be required to refund to the Commonwealth part or all of any previously distributed funding that remains unexpended.</p>
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Table 2.A: Performance requirements and reporting		
Output	Performance milestones	Report due
Program Implementation Plan	<p>Completion of a Program Implementation Plan, as evidenced in writing and signed by both the Commonwealth and the relevant state and territory government officials, that outlines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Program delivery approach and timing, including alignment with national framework (Appendix A) and any jurisdictionally tailored inclusions b) Program governance, risk management and stakeholder engagement c) Indicative program budget, including State and participant co-contributions and any industry sponsorship and expected number of funded program participants d) Communication and co-branding strategy (consistent with Commonwealth requirements) e) Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Plan (consistent with Commonwealth requirements) <p>The Program Implementation Plan must be consistent with and based upon project proposals provided to the Commonwealth ahead of execution of this Schedule.</p>	30/04/2021
Delivery of Regional Drought Resilience Planning program	Completion of deliverables and provision of a progress report, as per the agreed Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Plan, detailing performance against this Schedule and the agreed Program Implementation Plan for reporting period to 31 December 2021.	31/12/2021
	Completion of all deliverables and provision of a final report, as per the agreed Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Plan, detailing performance against this Schedule and the agreed Program Implementation Plan for the reporting period to 30 June 2022.	30/06/2022 (or earlier)
	Provision of an evaluation report, as per the agreed Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Plan, that describes the delivery, benefits and outcomes of the program as a whole and evaluates the project, including assessing the extent to which the outcomes have been achieved, or not. The evaluation report is due 24 August 2022, or within 40 business days of termination of the Schedule, whichever is earlier.	24/08/2022 (or earlier)

Table 2.B: Payment summary	
Payment amount	Date
Total financial contribution of the Commonwealth as specified in Table 1.1	By 30 June 2021

The Parties have confirmed their commitment to this schedule as follows:

Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth of Australia by



The Honourable David Littleproud MP
Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management

25 March 2021

Signed for and on behalf of the State of New South Wales by

The Honourable Adam Marshall MP
Minister for Agriculture and Western New South Wales

2021

Signed for and on behalf of the State of Queensland by

The Honourable Mark Furner MP
Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities

2021

Signed for and on behalf of the State of South Australia by

The Honourable David Basham MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development

2021

Signed for and on behalf of the Australian Capital Territory by



Ms. Rebecca Vassarotti MLA
Minister for the Environment and Heritage

29 April 2021

Signed for and on behalf of the State of Victoria by

The Honourable Mary-Anne Thomas MP
Minister for Agriculture; Regional Development

2021

Signed for and on behalf of the State of Western Australia by

The Honourable Alannah MacTiernan MLC
Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development and Hydrogen

2021

Signed for and on behalf of the State of Tasmania by

The Honourable Guy Barnett MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Water

2021

Signed for and on behalf of the Northern Territory by

The Honourable Nicole Manison MLA
Deputy Chief Minister; Minister for Agribusiness and Aquaculture

2021

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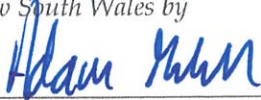
*Signed for and on behalf of the Commonwealth
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25 March 2021

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The Honourable Adam Marshall MP
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Wales

7 April 2021

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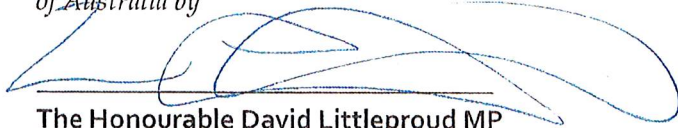
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12/5/ 2021

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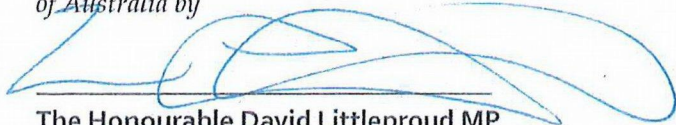
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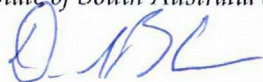
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29th April

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2021

Signed for and on behalf of the State of Tasmania by

The Honourable Guy Barnett MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Water

19 May 2021

Signed for and on behalf of the Northern Territory by

The Honourable Nicole Manison MLA
Deputy Chief Minister; Minister for Agribusiness and Aquaculture

2021

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Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management

25 March

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Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food; Minister Assisting the Minister for State Development and Hydrogen

30 June 2021

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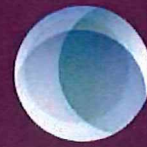
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The Honourable Nicole Manison MLA
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2021



Future Drought Fund

Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program— Program Framework

Overview

The Future Drought Fund

The Future Drought Fund (the Fund) is a long-term investment fund that provides a sustainable source of funding to help Australian farmers and communities become more prepared for, and resilient to, the impacts of drought. Established under the *Future Drought Fund Act 2019* in September 2019, the Fund began with a \$3.9 billion investment, with earnings to be reinvested by the Future Fund Board until the balance reaches \$5 billion. The Fund is part of the Government's Drought Response, Resilience and Preparedness Plan. From July 2020, \$100 million from the Fund is available each financial year to invest in drought resilience programs.

The Drought Resilience Funding Plan 2020-2024

The *Future Drought Fund (Drought Resilience Funding Plan 2020 to 2024) Determination 2020* (the Funding Plan) serves as a framework for all expenditure from the Fund, it guides the design of the program and types of projects offered.

The Funding Plan has three inter-connected strategic priorities:

- economic resilience for an innovative and profitable agricultural sector
- environmental resilience for sustainable and improved functioning of farming landscapes
- social resilience for resourceful and adaptable communities.

The Fund's three objectives to achieve the strategic priorities will enhance the public good by building drought resilience through programs that will:

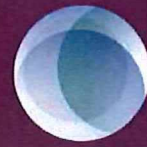
- grow the self-reliance and performance (productivity and profitability) of the agricultural sector
- improve the natural capital of agricultural landscapes for better environmental outcomes and
- strengthen the wellbeing and social capital of rural, regional and remote communities.

The Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program 2020-21

The Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program (the program) is one of eight foundational programs under the Future Drought Fund in 2020-21. The program will invest \$9.85 million of Commonwealth Future Drought Fund funding in 2020-21 with a co-contribution from state and territory governments. Activities will run under the program until 30 June 2022.

The program will provide funding for consortia of local governments or other appropriate entities (other legal entities that undertake planning at scale), to develop regional drought resilience plans (RDR Plans). The plans will focus on innovative ways to build regional drought resilience across the agricultural sector and supporting industries, through a triple bottom line, collaborative and evidence-based approach. This program contributes to each of the Fund's objectives and strategic priorities.

The program will be delivered through the states and territories (states) in their respective jurisdictions with Commonwealth funding provided via an agreement under the Federal Financial Relations framework. The program will create a national framework for regional drought resilience



planning, while providing flexibility for jurisdictions to deliver a program that builds on existing expertise and delivery mechanisms where they exist or establish new programs if needed.

In the foundational year, state and territory governments may take a staged or 'pilot' approach to implementing the full suite of core program elements (outlined below). The foundational year will also enable governments to trial and evaluate a range of delivery approaches, to ensure the learnings inform future program design and delivery.

Implementation of the program is to be informed by relevant findings of the National Royal Commission into Black Summer Bushfires (Natural Disaster Arrangements).

Program objective

Development and publication of Regional Drought Resilience Plans by regional partnerships of local councils (two or more), or other appropriate entities, and regional stakeholders to identify and guide actions to build the region's resilience to future droughts.

Program outcomes

Consistent with the actions in the Funding Plan, the program will:

- empower communities to identify the impacts of drought and develop regional drought resilience and management plans
- support communities to consider the incremental, transitional and transformational opportunities needed to strengthen drought resilience and encourage innovative initiatives at the regional level
- facilitate increased community understanding of their drought resilience including by encourage communities to share their learnings with each other
- encourage improved natural resource management capability through planning.

The long term program outcomes are:

- Communities proactively plan/prepare for drought
- Stronger social capital in rural, regional and remote communities
- Greater sharing of learnings related to drought resilience between communities
- More primary producers adopt whole of system approaches to natural resource management to improve the natural resource base, for long-term productivity and landscape health
- Natural resource management capability is improved across the region
- Regions more able to take advantage of opportunities to build economic resilience
- More primary producers adopt risk management practices to improve their sustainability and resilience.

Shorter term outcomes include:

- Regions identify and plan for the impacts of drought
- Regions adapt to changes as they arise
- Communities and businesses identify necessary, innovative and transformative ways to build drought resilience
- Partnerships and networks are built between stakeholders managing natural resources and effective partnerships provide inputs to inform drought resilience planning.
- Communities use best practice data and information to better understand their resilience to drought and make decisions
- Regions have a plan against which they can monitor status.
- Planning at different scales aligns



Regions will gain benefits from undertaking Regional Drought Resilience planning, including:

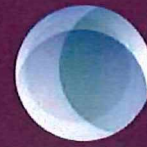
- Increased understanding of the region's current and future drought resilience, considering the region's unique economic, environmental and social characteristics
- Identification of actions, pathways and opportunities to improve regional drought resilience, mitigate risks and adapt to change
- Being in a stronger position to implement strategic actions and take advantage of opportunities as they arise.
- The opportunity to communicate regional drought resilience needs and priorities, which may inform future Commonwealth, state and territory government, local government and private sector investment
- Considering and harnessing drought resilience knowledge, data and opinions available within and outside the region
- Leveraging and building upon on existing strategic planning at the state, local, regional and issue-specific planning
- Forming stronger connections and relationships between and within regions.

Core program elements

- The program will provide funding for regional partnerships of local councils (two or more), or other appropriate entities, and regional stakeholders to develop regional drought resilience plans (RDR Plans) that will identify and guide actions to build the region's resilience to future droughts.
- RDR Plans will explore and focus on innovative and diverse pathways to build drought resilience in agricultural, primary production and agricultural supply chain industries. RDR plans will also be underpinned by triple-bottom-line considerations and the impacts that future droughts may have on the broader landscape and regional communities which depend on or contribute to agriculture and rural economies. The process will foster learning and build social capital.
- The program will provide up to \$600,000 per regional project to undertake RDR planning.
 - The funding for each project is to be determined by the respective state or territory government, considering factors such as the proposed regional planning project's scope and scale. It is not expected every project will require the maximum quantum of funding available.
 - For larger RDR planning projects, total funds spent on preparing an RDR plan could exceed \$600,000, with the additional funding being provided from other sources for example consortia, regional partners, local governments or state and territory government program co-contributions.
 - In the foundational year, Commonwealth funds can be used for planning only, not for implementation activities determined through the planning process.

Eligibility

- All local governments or other appropriate entities (see below for further explanation) are permitted to form consortia and apply for funding to undertake an RDR planning project under this program, however:
 - Consortia must consist of two or more local governments or other appropriate entities.
 - Regional consortia can be based on existing regional groups or partnerships of councils for example Joint Organisations of Council or Local Government Regional Organisations.
 - Regional consortia members should be located in the same geographical area, with common regional interests and preferably, but not necessarily, share common borders.



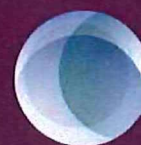
- Agricultural industries must be justifiably significant (or have the genuine potential to be significant) to the region in which the consortia is located, through its economy, landscape, and/or community/social aspects.
- A local government or equivalent entity is not permitted to be funded as part of more than one regional project.
- Consortia that straddle state and territory jurisdictional borders may apply for funding under this program. Facilitation of cross-jurisdictional applications will be undertaken on a case by case basis and will aim not to disadvantage any participating state.
- Local Government Authorities / councils should be the project lead where possible, however, in areas without a Local Government Authority, areas with indigenous governance arrangements, or where LGAs lack the capacity, or are unwilling or unable to partner together, development of an RDR plan could be led by other appropriate entities.
 - Other appropriate entities include Regional Development Australia committees, Indigenous organisations, Regional Natural Resource Management Organisations such as Catchment Management Authorities, or other entities that undertake regional-scale planning as deemed relevant by the state or territory government.
 - If a project has a non-LGA lead, LGAs must still be a partner in the planning process where possible and relevant.

Application and selection

- States and territory governments are responsible for selecting regional planning projects within their jurisdictions for funding.
- Regional planning projects should be selected using a structured, transparent, and where appropriate, contestable process. In the foundational year, state and territory governments may select target regions (see 'program elements that could be tailored' below).
- In making a selection, states and territory governments should consider:
 - the significance of agriculture to the region
 - the relevance of, and necessity and urgency for, drought resilience planning in the region
 - the consortia's proposed process for co-design, partnering and collaboration
 - the consortia's proposed approach to build on, complement and take account of existing strategic planning, to the extent it is available and relevant
 - potential qualitative and quantitative outcomes and expected public benefits—not necessarily in monetary terms
 - probability of successful completion of the plan.

Regional Drought Resilience Plans

- RDR plans must be developed:
 - using a partnership and co-design process (see 'Partnering' below) and harness the diverse region-specific knowledge and skills required for a triple-bottom-line approach.
 - using best-practice resilience planning principles including consideration of adaptation pathways and scenario testing.
 - building on, complementing and taking account of existing strategic planning, to the extent it is available and relevant.



- RDR plans must include:
 - an integrated assessment of how drought has affected the region in the past (if applicable) and how drought is likely to affect the region's economic, environmental and social characteristics in the future, based on up-to-date information, research and climate science (projections, mapping, modelling and scenarios) for the region.
 - The Commonwealth and the States will provide, including through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund Climate Services for Agriculture Program, access to reliable, evidence based information and research outputs to assist with the development of RDR Plans including available social research, climate data, and examples from other communities to encourage shared learning.
 - an evidence-based, triple-bottom-line strategy, outlining actions and pathways to mitigate and/or adapt to drought impacts, facilitate transformational change, and increase drought resilience within the region. The strategy should consider the feasibility and practical implementation of actions to provide triple-bottom-line public good benefits to the region. Actions could include, for example, economic development opportunities, environmental management approaches, or wellbeing and social capital building initiatives.
 - The strategy should focus on innovative ways to build drought resilience in agricultural, primary production and agricultural supply chain industries. Supply chain industries include those genuinely involved in getting the agricultural product to the consumer, and are therefore dependent on the agricultural industry.
 - a process to continue to engage and communicate with the community about proposed activities to be implemented under the plan and implementation progress, on a regular basis.
 - specify a monitoring, evaluation and review process to ensure transparency, adaptive management, and long-term implementation.
- Once complete, RDR Plans will be independently assessed by an assessor appointed by the Commonwealth.
 - The assessment framework will be nationally consistent and reflect the program framework.
 - Following independent feedback, regions will then incorporate feedback into their RDR Plan.
- Final RDR plans must be provided to the Commonwealth Minister for Drought for approval.
 - Approval requirements (to be determined) will reflect the program framework and independent assessment criteria.
- Approved RDR plans will be published on the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment website (or other appropriate centralised location determined by the Commonwealth), to enable communities to learn from each other and enable those with less expertise or capacity to benefit from access to examples and case studies. Plans may also be published elsewhere at the discretion of the state, territory or regions.

Partnering

- Regional consortia must partner, collaborate and consult widely with relevant regional, community and industry stakeholders, and organisations who undertake relevant planning processes to:
 - foster co-designed, community-led planning and collective ownership of the resulting plan
 - leverage existing strategic planning and avoid duplication of effort



- recognise the diversity of people, businesses and landscapes involved in agricultural production, including Indigenous groups and landholders
- harness diverse region-specific knowledge and skills for a triple-bottom-line approach.
- Partners and stakeholders to be engaged in co-design and/or consultation on RDR plans include:
 - Farming groups and businesses
 - Regional Development Australia (RDA) Committees
 - Natural Resource Management (NRM) organisations
 - Indigenous groups
 - Agricultural industry representative groups (peak bodies)
 - development commissions
 - State or territory governments
 - power, emergency, fire and medical services
 - Local government authorities / councils (where they are not the lead)
 - community organisations, community leaders, Local champions e.g. Country Women's Association, Rotary, Lions.
 - Research organisations
 - water authorities
 - banks, and/or other financial experts, organisations or institutions.
 - farm advisers, consultants, agronomists and stock and station agents.
- Regions also need to partner with their local Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs. This will ensure Hubs are embedded in the planning process to support regions to consider relevant evidence-based information and research outputs, and connects the Hubs with the drought resilience needs of their area.



Program elements that could be tailored

- In the foundational year the process for selection of regional planning projects is flexible. A competitive process is preferred, but states and territories may determine the most appropriate method to select projects to get the best program outcomes, in line with the program framework.
 - Jurisdictions may target regions they consider in most need of drought resilience planning, or best placed to successfully deliver on program objectives and outcomes in order to ensure the best chance of success or create a model or example for future regional planning.
- RDR plans may include other relevant elements tailored to the jurisdiction or region, providing they are consistent with the program outcomes and objectives and do not affect delivery of core elements.
- Utilising co-contributions, jurisdictions could include additional elements related to program delivery providing those additional elements are consistent with the program outcomes. For example, additional elements through co-contributions may:
 - extend the reach of the program to more consortia
 - provide additional funding beyond the maximum \$600,000 per plan for larger planning projects
 - support implementation of activities specified in the plans
 - cover administrative costs.
- Jurisdictions are also permitted to use other sources of funding (not considered co-contributions) to connect RDRP planning into broader strategic planning; broaden the scope of planning beyond agricultural, primary production and agricultural supply chain industries; or broaden the scope of planning more generally.
 - For example, jurisdictions could broaden the scope of planning beyond future drought resilience to other risks such as bushfire response planning, or to industries and communities that do not have an agricultural focus.