



**GROWER
GROUP
ALLIANCE**
Together we grow

Drought Adoption & Innovation Hub

Tender Briefing Document

South-West WA Primary Industries & Farming Systems - Situation Analysis

Tender No.1

Purpose

The new Western Australian South-West Drought Innovation and Adoption Hub is looking to develop a greater understanding of drought related research, innovation and extension initiatives that have been undertaken by the agricultural sector in recent years.

This is to better understand the lessons and impact on farmers and regional communities and what this may mean for future Drought Innovation and Hub activities.

It is expected that four contrasting and distinct agro-ecological regions (see Table 1) will be analysed.

Table 1. Agro-ecological regions and their primary production characteristics

Region	Dominant Ag Systems & Enterprises	Regional Development Commissions	Major Hub Facilities
Grainbelt	Rainfed cropping; Mixed crop and livestock (mainly sheep)	Wheatbelt; Great-Southern; Midwest; Esperance - Goldfields;	Geraldton, Wongan Hills, Northam, Merredin, Katanning, Esperance
South-West & Perth	Livestock (mainly dairy and beef); Horticulture (wine, fruit, vegetables, truffles etc.); Forestry.	South-West; Peel; Wheatbelt	Bunbury, Manjimup, Albany
Mid-West & Gascoyne Coastal	Irrigated Horticulture (vegetables, fruit)	Midwest; Gascoyne	Geraldton, Carnarvon
Southern Rangelands	Pastoral (cattle, goats, sheep)	Gascoyne; Esperance - Goldfields	Carnarvon, Esperance

This analyses will provide a baseline of production systems, farm business structures, market dynamics, RDE&A networks and lessons that will underpin the development of a logical framework for future farming systems thinking, research and innovation in the context of a drying, warming climate.



What the Drought Innovation Hub is looking for?

The Western Australian Drought Innovation Hub is looking to work with suitably qualified individuals or organisations to review relevant drought related research, innovation and extension activities.

This will involve the following activities:

- Desk research;
- Interviewing farmers and other relevant stakeholders;
- Analysing the results of relevant Research, Innovation and Extension efforts;
- Identifying relevant lessons that the Hub should consider in determining future drought related research, innovation and extension activities.

Desk research will also involve reviewing relevant studies and analysis to determine if further work should be undertaken given specific recommendations.

An example is the March 2020 work undertaken by Roberts, Ewing and Ryan on “Farming Systems Research and Development in Western Australia”.

It is expected that a comprehensive report will be delivered to the Western Australian Drought Innovation Hub.

Expected timelines will be finalised in consultation with the successful consultants, however current estimates are:

Activity	Date to be Completed
Applications received from interested individuals/organisations to undertake this work	12 July, 2021
Consultants finalised	23 July, 2021
Project work undertaken	August/September 2021
Interim report completed	15 October, 2021
Reports finalised	5 November, 2021

Detailed statement of Requirements

Consultant(s) will need to demonstrate suitable knowledge of agricultural and horticultural industries within at least one of the agro-ecological regions listed in the table on page 1.

This knowledge will include production systems, farm business structures, market dynamics and grower group networks; as well as the scientific and analytical skills to develop a framework for future farming systems research and innovation in the context of a drying and warming climate.

The selected consultant(s) is required to demonstrate their:

- capacity, knowledge and experience in commercial innovation and RD&E project development and analysis;
- demonstrated ability to engage with West Australian primary producers, grower groups, agribusiness, state government and R&D providers including universities and CSIRO.

- capacity, knowledge and experience to engage with and understand the priorities of the relevant Research & Development Corporations (e.g. HIA, MLA, AgriFutures and Dairy Australia) including their current and planned investments in the Region;
- knowledge and understanding of regional agricultural and horticultural production systems, supply chains, market dynamics and supporting agribusiness structures (including dairy, beef, sheep, fodder, pastures, fruit, wine, vegetables and land-based aquaculture);
- knowledge of the natural resource limitations (land, soil-type and water) in the region, including an understanding of the impact of urban and lifestyle property encroachment;
- experience and capacity to apply contemporary scientific, project logic and scenario modelling for the region's primary industries and community futures;

Scope of Services:

The successful tenderer or tenderers will be required to undertake for an agreed region:

- A Situation & Trend Analysis
 - provide the Hub with a full understanding of the current state of play of the agricultural and horticultural industries and production systems with respect to economic, environmental, demographic issues and the emerging impact of climate change.
- Undertake a desktop analysis of relevant RD&E projects that have been undertaken in recent years, including currently, both locally and nationally;
- Consult widely with agribusiness and the farming sector, including West Australian grower groups, R&D Corporations to test innovation concepts;
- Identify potential new innovation opportunities and synergies between stakeholders to sustain and enhance outcomes for the primary industries in the Region within the context of a hotter, drying climate;
- Identify relevant lessons from the identified RD &E activities and how the Hub may apply these in the future.

Responsibilities of the Hub

- Provide access to key staff, partners and stakeholders important to the progress of the contract;
- Support access to key DPIRD staff¹ important to the contract;
- Provide background data, reports and documents relevant to the project.

Responsibilities of the supplier/consultant

- Meet with the Contract Manager and maintain regular reporting on the contract progress as requested during the course of the contract delivery;
- Provide invoices detailing work completed time costed;
- Not make public statements on the contract or relationships of the organisations involved.

¹ Key DPIRD staff include: Rohan Prince, Director Horticulture & Irrigated Agriculture; Bruce Mullan, Director of Livestock Industries; Richard George, Principal Hydrologist - and staff they recommend.

Enquiries

Prior to submitting a tender we suggest you connect with one of the contacts below to ensure clarity around scope of work and submission requirements:

Graham Smith Interim Hub Director on grahamsmith606@gmail.com or 0475 060 121
or Mark Holland, GGA Program Broker on mholland@gga.org.au or 0429 202 393

Deadline

Submit your tender by 9.00am 12 July, 2021

Tender Submission

Submit your finished tender to Mark Holland at GGA as a PDF document via email at <mailto:mholland@gga.org.au>