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**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image008.png](#)

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**GROWER  
GROUP  
ALLIANCE**  
Together we grow



South-West WA  
Drought Resilience Adoption  
and Innovation Hub

Dear Partners and stakeholders,

Welcome to the November newsletter from the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub (SW WA Hub).

The Grower Group Alliance (GGA), which leads the SW WA Hub, was this week joined by new Chief Executive Officer Rikki Foss, who brings to the role strong commercial capability, extensive agricultural networks and experience in areas including strategy and planning, financial accountability and risk management.

Ms Foss takes up the position from Niki Curtis, who has done an outstanding job guiding the GGA for more than a year in an interim role.

The SW WA Hub team welcomes Ms Foss and wishes Ms Curtis the very best for the future. For more information about the appointment, read the [GGA media release](#).

In other news, Hub Director Tom Davidson and Ms Curtis recently visited the regions to meet with numerous grower groups representatives and stakeholders.

It was a great opportunity to discuss local issues and opportunities and to talk about the Hub, which is funded by the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund.

Engagement with Partners and stakeholders is an ongoing priority for the SW WA Hub and you are welcome to make contact via [swwadroughthub@gga.org.au](mailto:swwadroughthub@gga.org.au). Information is also available on the SW WA [webpage](#) on the GGA website.

Please see below other locally-relevant news from the Future Drought Fund.

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## Future Drought Fund: the story so far

The \$5 billion Future Drought Fund supports initiatives that will help Australia's farmers prepare for the impacts of future drought.

The Fund has released its first [annual report](#) which details its beginnings, what has been achieved so far and how success is measured.

You can share your feedback on the work of the Future Drought Fund to help ensure effort is well directed and effective.

Share your thoughts through the [Have Your Say webpage](#) before December 15, 2021.

For more information about the Future Drought Fund and its programs, [visit here](#).

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## Make leadership skills your New Year's resolution

Whether it's harvesting or the upcoming festive season – everyone has a lot on their plates right now.

That's why more time has been provided by the Future Drought Fund and the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation for people to apply for the Future Drought Resilience Leadership and Mentoring programs.

So, if you've been sitting on the fence about taking a step to grow your people and leadership skills in 2022, you now have until December 5, 2021 to apply.

Applications for the [Drought Resilience Leaders Development Program](#) are open in regions across Australia, including Western Australia's Northern Wheatbelt and Gascoyne Murchison regions.

The [Drought Resilience Leaders Mentoring Program](#) connects farmers and people in the agriculture industry from across Australia.

For more information or to apply for the programs, [visit here](#).

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### Join 'lunch and learn' webinar series

Will rural communities and agriculture survive future droughts and climate change? Or can they, in fact, grow and profit from it?

As part of the Drought Resilience Leaders Program, the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation is hosting an eight-part 'lunch and learn' webinar series which will explore what it takes to make Australian rural communities drought and climate change resilient and ready to take on the future.

Participate in panel discussions with regional leaders and industry professionals and learn from real-life case studies from across the country. Free of charge, the webinar series is open to all.

To learn more, [click here](#).

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### Agribusiness session in Geraldton

An agribusiness-focused consultation session will be held in Geraldton next month to discuss building resilience to drought in the Mid West region.

The event is being organised by the Mid West Development Commission, Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC) NRM and Planfarm, and is jointly funded through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

The session will be held on Thursday, 2 December from 3pm to 5pm at the Geraldton Multipurpose Centre, 250 Marine Terrace, Geraldton, and will be followed by drinks and snacks.

RSVP by 26 November to Marnie Thurkle via [marnie@planfarm.com.au](mailto:marnie@planfarm.com.au) or 9964 1170.

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To receive regular email updates directly from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund, subscribe via the ['Have your say' webpage](#).

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