

From: [swwadroughthub](#)
To: [Natalie Lee](#)
Subject: Drought Hub Update – October
Date: Friday, 15 October 2021 2:40:23 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Dear Partners and stakeholders,

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

You may have already heard some recent announcements by the Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia David Littleproud that have exciting implications for Australia's eight Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs.

The Australian Government has [announced](#) it will provide the Hubs with \$20 million in additional funding, including \$2.5m for the SW WA Hub, and that they will evolve beyond targeting drought to being focused on agricultural innovation more broadly. The Grower Group Alliance and SW WA Hub have welcomed this news in a [media release](#).

A [National Agricultural Innovation Policy Statement](#) has also been released by the Government, as explained in this [media release](#) from Minister Littleproud.

This statement establishes four long-term priorities for Australia's agricultural innovation system to address by 2030. These priorities are exports, climate resilience, biosecurity and digital agriculture.

The SW WA Hub, along with other Hubs, will work closely with Government, Partners and stakeholders to see how it will contribute to the new innovation statement and its priority areas.

The expanded remit does not impact our focus on providing networks for researchers, farmers and community groups to work together to enhance drought resilient practices – that remains a core focus.

A priority for the recently-appointed Hub team is the continued engagement with as many of our 52 Hub Partners and other stakeholders as possible.

For more information, you can reach out to our team via swwadroughthub@gga.org.au or find out more about the SW WA Hub on our [webpage](#) on the Grower Group Alliance (GGA) website.

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



Online climate workshop for WA wheatbelt

Are you thinking about preparing for your future on the land in the WA Wheatbelt? Or are you interested in what is happening in the sector?

A coming Climate Information to Support Future Farming Practices online workshop is an opportunity to represent your community and have a say in designing future services that will

help Australian farms and communities prepare for what is to come.

Focused on the WA sheep-wheatbelt region, the workshop is being held from 12.30 to 2.30pm AWST on Tuesday, October 26.

The Future Drought Fund's [Climate Services for Agriculture](#) program and [Drought Resilience Self-Assessment Tool](#) aim to support the Australian agricultural sector and regional communities to build resilience to future drought and climate risks.

Prototype digital tools have been developed with input from farmers, and workshop organisers are keen to continue the conversation to make sure the tools are practical and can make a real difference.

For more information or to register for the workshop, [click on this link](#).

For more information about the workshops or to discuss one-on-one sessions, contact Lucie.Blom@awe.gov.au

Apply for drought resilience leaders program

If you live or work in WA's Northern Wheatbelt or Gascoyne Murchison, and are committed to your region's future, you are encouraged to apply for the Future Drought Fund's Drought Resilience Leaders program.

The Australian Government is investing in building drought resilient leaders through the \$5 billion Future Drought Fund.

Applications have recently opened in seven regions across Australia, including WA's Northern Wheatbelt and Gascoyne Murchison regions.

The program is a partnership between the Australian Government and the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation Limited (ARLF).

Applications are open until November 21, 2021. For more information or to apply, [visit here](#).

Second grant round now open for community drought resilience program

Community networks have a critical role in helping people prepare for, and live through, times of drought, which is why the Australian Government has invested in the [Networks to Build Drought Resilience program](#).

It has partnered with the [Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal \(FRRR\)](#) to boost community connectedness and collaboration with a focus on building drought resilience across agriculture-dependent communities in rural, regional and remote Australia.

FRRR has announced the 33 successful recipients and projects who will benefit from the first round of the program.

Round two grants are now open. To be considered, applications must be received by November 15, 2021. Learn more on the [FDF webpage](#) and [media release](#), where you can also view grant recipients from the first round.

WA grant recipients include:

- **Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management Incorporated: Talkin' Soil Health – for Drought Resilience**
 - **Shire of Ravensthorpe: Hopetoun Community Networking Support**
 - **Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance: Rehydrating the Southern Rangelands of WA**
 - **The Liebe Group: Women in Ag Networking and Diversification Program (WAND) program.**
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