

**From:** [Natalie Lee](#)  
**To:** [Natalie Lee](#)  
**Subject:** Drought Hub Update – September  
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**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

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Dear Partners and stakeholders,

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

The majority of the SW WA team has been on board for just over a month, and they have been focusing on some important areas in recent weeks.

A high priority is to engage early on with as many of the 52 Hub Partners and other stakeholders as possible. The team has really enjoyed meeting with the many people and organisations that it has engaged with so far, and looks forward to continuing to catching up with more of you over the coming weeks.

The SW WA Hub is also looking at opportunities to bring together as many of the Partners and key stakeholders as possible in a few months' time. We will keep you informed.

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

### **Drought Resilience Innovation Grants**

The SW WA Hub and the GGA recently helped to facilitate the submission of expressions of interest (EOI) by a number of different organisations for Drought Resilience Innovation Grants. These [grants](#) are available through the Future Drought Fund's Research and Adoption program, providing more than \$34 million to fund ideas and projects that help farmers and their communities adopt innovative approaches to improve drought resilience.

The deadline was September 8. Many organisations submitted EOIs, and the SW WA Hub and GGA actively contributed to a number of locally-relevant submissions, with the aim of ensuring a collaborative approach and to maximise opportunities for success.

### **Drought resilience and innovation situation review**

To guide SW WA Hub activities, it is important to have baseline knowledge of the locally-relevant, drought-related agricultural initiatives that have occurred in recent years – to understand the lessons and impacts on farmers and regional communities.

In order to achieve this, a review is being undertaken in the region's different agro-ecological zones (for agricultural industries, including horticulture). Economic, environmental and demographic issues will be factored in.

This process will help the SW WA Hub to identify 'gaps' where new opportunities could enhance outcomes in a hotter, drier climate.

The review is focused on the following agro-ecological regions:

- Grainbelt
- South-West and Perth
- Mid-West and Gascoyne Coastal
- Southern Rangelands

Outcomes are expected to be available early next year.

Please see below other news from the Future Drought Fund.

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### **Drought resilience mentoring program**

Applications for the Future Drought Fund's Drought Resilience Leaders Mentoring Program have been extended to September 30, 2021. This national mentoring program links people within the agriculture industry with independent mentors to provide an impartial sounding board for business ideas and career advice. Apply now to be part of this national network of mentors and mentees – sharing knowledge and learning from others to create stronger agriculture communities. To apply or for more information, click on the [Australian Rural Leadership Foundation webpage](#). Interested applicants can also view a recording of a [Q&A webinar here](#).

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### **Science to Practice Forum recordings**

The first annual nationwide flagship event for the Drought Adoption and Innovation Hubs, 'Science to Practice Forum – Building the Foundations of Drought Resilience', ran over three days in June. The GGA hosted a SWWA Hub component from the DPIRD Merredin Dryland Research Institute. Recordings from the event are available on the [Science to Practice forum page of the DAWE website](#).

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Regards,

Natalie

**NATALIE LEE** | DROUGHT HUB STAKEHOLDER & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER



**GROWER  
GROUP  
ALLIANCE**  
Together we grow

Shaping the future with  
a producer-led system of  
innovation, adoption and  
collaboration.

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