



The Hon. David Littleproud MP
Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia
Deputy Leader of the Nationals

M E D I A R E L E A S E

Monday 31st January 2022

Innovation expansion for drought hubs

- **Additional funding will be made available to the eight Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs to expand beyond their drought remit and drive innovation.**
- **The drought hubs will create more opportunities for drought resilience and agricultural innovation.**

Agility, innovation and region-specific solutions will expand the focus of the eight Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs around Australia.

Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia David Littleproud said the agricultural industry will benefit from the \$20 million funding boost.

“These hubs are a game-changer for regional Australia, enabling farmers to work together with experts to come up with new solutions that will work for their regions,” Minister Littleproud said.

“And now with a new allocation of grant funding for the hubs, there will be even more opportunity for the hubs to support innovation across the broader agricultural sector.

“We know that conditions in Australia are incredibly diverse. That’s why a one-size-fits-all approach wouldn’t work for our farmers.

“Each hub has its own focus, and will be able to adapt to the climate, soil and conditions of each region.

“This is helping farmers and communities adopt a long-term perspective on drought by giving them the innovative tools and techniques to build drought-resilient businesses.

“The additional funding creates new opportunities to provide solutions to a broader set of challenges in our regions.

“I encourage producers, researchers, investors, technology developers to work with hubs to drive innovation and digital technology uptake supporting our agricultural industry to modernise, improve and innovate.”

For more details about the National Agricultural Innovation Agenda visit:

www.awe.gov.au/agriculture-land/farm-food-drought/innovation/national-ag-innovation-agenda

For more information about the hubs visit: www.awe.gov.au/agriculture-land/farm-food-drought/drought/future-drought-fund/research-adoption-program/adoption-innovation-hubs

Fast Facts:

- **\$20 million in additional funding for the hubs to undertake broader agricultural innovation activities will lead to uptake of innovation by producers, stimulate collaboration and increase commercialisation.**
- **The hubs were established through the forward-thinking Future Drought Fund – a long term, sustained investment of \$100 million each year to build drought preparedness and resilience.**
- **An independent Advisory Committee chaired by Mr Brent Finlay provides oversight across the hubs, supporting them to become interconnected agricultural precincts.**
- **The eight existing Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs are located in regional areas that reflect the key agricultural and climatic zones across the country, including:**
 - **Southern NSW**
 - **Southern Queensland/Northern NSW**
 - **South-West WA**
 - **Victoria**
 - **Northern WA/NT**
 - **Tropical North Queensland**
 - **South Australia**
 - **Tasmania**

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