

South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub

Projects underway

Information updated November 2022

The SW WA Hub has helped to attract investment into the State that directly benefits producers and the agricultural industry. This has included providing information, guidance and co-design opportunities to many stakeholders that have applied for Australian Government Future Drought Fund (FDF) grant rounds. The SW WA Hub has also successfully applied for capacity building positions that will benefit farmers and their communities.

As at October 2022, the SW WA Hub was involved with 22 projects in South-West WA worth \$19 million, including co-contributions. The Hub's involvement in these projects ranges from the Hub being the lead organisation through to investing funding into projects or maintaining contact with project representatives and communicating outcomes.

Following is information relating to relevant local projects. A table of the 22 projects is also included on the [SW WA Hub webpage](#).

Drought Resilience Innovation Grants program

Drought Resilience Innovation Grants support projects that help Australian farmers, and agricultural-dependent communities and businesses, adopt innovative approaches and technologies to improve drought resilience. One of the biggest WA projects is the \$5 million [WaterSmart Dams](#) initiative.

Details of recipients under this program are on the [Australian Government website](#)

Soil and Landscapes grants

A total of \$3.6 million was awarded in 2022 for local projects through FDF Drought Resilient Soils and Landscapes grants. The Hub will participate in the DPIRD-led project '[Revitalising the Drought Resilience of WA's Southern Rangelands Phase 2](#)', which carries a \$1 million co-contribution from the State Government's Climate Resilience Fund.

Details of all recipients under this program are on the [Australian Government website](#).

Innovation expansion

In 2022 the Australian Government provided the SW WA Hub with \$2.5 million to enable it to expand its remit beyond drought under the Agricultural Innovation Hubs Program. More information is available in this [Australian Government media release](#). The Hub ran a grant opportunity with Hub consortium Partners to allocate funding for 10 innovative projects. Project details are in this [GGA/SW WA Hub media release](#).

Combined Hub projects

In 2022, the Australian Government invested \$4 million in five projects supporting Australia's eight Hubs to work together. Read about the announcement in the [Australian Government media release](#).

'Modern soil moisture monitoring to improve irrigation management' is led by the SW WA Hub and involves the Victorian and Northern WA/NT Hubs. Project details are in this [GGA/Hub media release](#).

The SW WA Hub is also involved in two combined Hub projects led by the NWANT Hub. 'Managing Rangelands for drought resilience' will demonstrate management strategies and technology to assist Rangelands producers to improve grazing management, pasture regeneration and water use efficiency, making their businesses more drought resilient. 'Fast tracking WA and NT to align with nutritional feed base mapping technology advancements at a national level' will test and refine the Cibo Labs satellite-based biomass monitoring platform in WA and NT.

In addition to the SW WA Hub's involvement in 22 projects funded through the above Australian Government and Future Drought Fund grant rounds, the Hub has also successfully applied for capacity building funding for the following initiatives:

Innovation Broker funding

A successful SW WA Hub application was made to AgriFutures for 'Innovation Broker' funding. The funding supported the appointment of Hub Innovation Manager Jo Wisdom and team, who are delivering the Innovation Broker functions. Jo's appointment was also supported by Australian Government funding under the Agricultural Innovation Hubs Program.

Regional Soil Coordinator

In January 2022, the Australian Government announced an extra \$3 million nationally for the Hubs to host Regional Soil Coordinators.

Read about the SW WA Regional Soil Coordinator in this [GGA/Hub media release](#).

Adoption Officers

In 2022, the Australian Government invested \$9 million nationally, through the FDF, for the appointment of Adoption Officer positions in regional Australia. This equates to \$1.125 million over three years to employ Adoption Officers within the SW WA region. Read about the SW WA Hub Adoption Manager and Officers in this [GGA/Hub media release](#).