



Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture,  
Water and the Environment



Future  
Drought  
Fund



Department of  
Primary Industries and  
Regional Development

# Frequently Asked Questions:

## The Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program in the Wheatbelt

### What is the Future Drought Fund?

The Future Drought Fund is a long-term investment fund that provides a sustainable source of funding to help Australian farmers and communities become more prepared for, and resilient to, the impacts of drought. This fund is part of the Australian Government's Drought Response, Resilience and Preparedness Plan.

The WA Government is committed to ensuring our regions are equipped to manage the impacts of drought through being more prepared and resilient. The WA Government, through the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), is working with the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund to support partnerships of regional organisations, local government, communities and industry to develop Regional Drought Resilience Plans.

### What is the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program?

The Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program consists of:

- **Drought Vulnerability Assessment:**  
A combination of expert input and extensive stakeholder consultation, which will provide a science-based approach, also incorporating the economic, social and environmental resilience factors for each region.
- **Regional Drought Resilience Plan:**  
Strategic plans prepared with stakeholders, focusing on innovative ways (projects and actions) to build resilience across the regions agricultural sector and allied industries.
- **Investment Framework:**  
A framework of investment ready Drought Resilient Actions, allowing for targeting of public and private sector investment.

This project is jointly funded through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.





## How is the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program funded?

The Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program is one of the programs under the \$5 billion federal Future Drought Fund, a fund that invests in building resilience to drought for farmers, allied industries and regional communities. This project is jointly funded through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD).

## Where is Regional Drought Resilience Planning being undertaken?

The Regional Drought Resilience Planning program in Western Australia is being piloted across three regions - Mid West, Wheatbelt and Great Southern.

## How will the Wheatbelt region benefit from a Drought Resilience Plan?

It's important that our region builds its economic, environmental and social resilience to future droughts, as this will put the region in a stronger position to adapt to changes.

The Southern Wheatbelt Drought Resilience Plan will bring together diverse regional knowledge and perspectives to deliver a collaborative and evidence-based plan, capturing the region's needs and priorities to help inform future investments. The plan will focus on innovative ways to build drought resilience across the Wheatbelt region's agricultural sector and allied industries.

This plan will capture the key priorities of the Wheatbelt region in relation to drought resilience, identifying projects and actions with the potential to improve drought resilience in the Wheatbelt region.

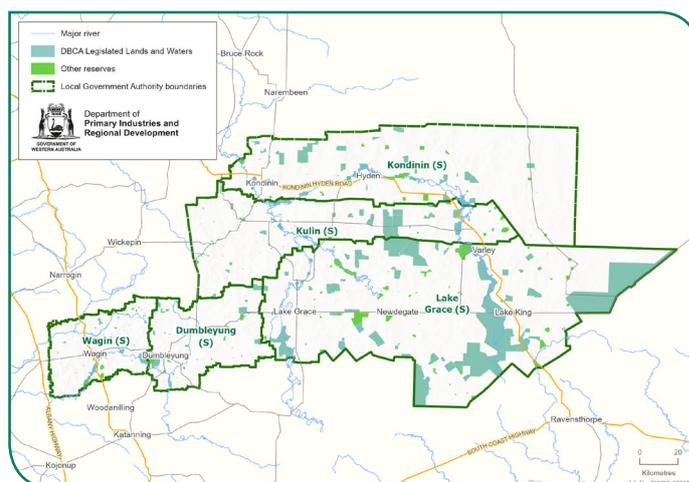
The identification of viable project and action ideas is a crucial step. These projects and actions will inform the investment framework, which will outline investment ready Drought Resilient Actions, allowing for targeting of public and private sector investment.

## Who is contributing to the Drought Resilience Planning in the Wheatbelt South region?

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), the Wheatbelt Development Commission (WDC), together with the Shires of Dumbleyung, Kondinin, Kulin, Lake Grace and Wagin, with support from Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management (WNRM) will work to deliver a regional drought resilience plan for the Southern Wheatbelt region.

The plan will capture a diverse cross-section of regional knowledge and perspectives to deliver a collaborative and evidence-based plan, which will set out the region's needs and priorities to help inform future investments.

The Wheatbelt Development Commission is leading the region's Drought Resilience Planning program to identify a roadmap of actions to prepare for and manage through future droughts. In the Southern Wheatbelt region, we have established a Project Advisory Committee, including local government representatives and elected members that cross the agriculture and business community in the region. A group of experts will also provide subject matter expertise to support the program.



Map of the 5 local government areas participating in the foundation year of the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program in the Wheatbelt.



## What will be included in the regional drought resilience planning for the Wheatbelt South region?

The regional drought resilience planning process brings together regional organisations, local government, communities and industry, to prepare for future drought risk and identify priority actions to build drought resilience. Our region will benefit by having access to best practice data and information to make more informed decisions in preparing for the impacts of drought.

By preparing the Drought Vulnerability Assessment, Regional Drought Resilience Plan and Investment Framework for the Southern Wheatbelt region, DPIRD and the Wheatbelt Development Commission are helping to:

- ensure the Southern Wheatbelt region is prepared for future droughts,
- build environmental, economic and social resilience to droughts and improve natural resource management outcomes, and
- plan and position the region to take advantage of emerging opportunities for investment in drought resilience in the Wheatbelt.

## What types of projects are being considered in the Wheatbelt South region?

Project ideas across a range of categories are being considered as part of the drought resilience planning in the region and include social and community resilience, agricultural resilience, innovation and transformation, local and indigenous drought resilience projects.

The purpose is to develop a pipeline of investable drought resilience projects that address the specific needs and priorities of agriculture and allied industries. This information will inform future investment in drought resilience in the region.

## When will the Drought Resilience Plan be finalised?

The Regional Drought Resilience Planning program activities will run until 30 June 2022. A final draft will be provided to the Federal government for review, with completion in September 2022.

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## More information

For more information or to get involved, contact Kaylene Parker at [kaylene.parker@gcdc.wa.gov.au](mailto:kaylene.parker@gcdc.wa.gov.au) or Renee Manning at [renee.manning@wheatbelt.wa.gov.au](mailto:renee.manning@wheatbelt.wa.gov.au)

## Additional Drought Resources

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development: [agric.wa.gov.au/FutureDroughtFund](http://agric.wa.gov.au/FutureDroughtFund)

Wheatbelt Development Commission: [wheatbelt.wa.gov.au/RDRP](http://wheatbelt.wa.gov.au/RDRP)

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment: [awe.gov.au](http://awe.gov.au)