



Frequently Asked Questions: The Regional Drought Resilience Planning program in the Great Southern



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 by 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, 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.

Photos courtesy of Great Southern Development Commission





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 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 inland Great Southern 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 Inland Great Southern 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 inland Great Southern’s agricultural sector and allied industries.

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

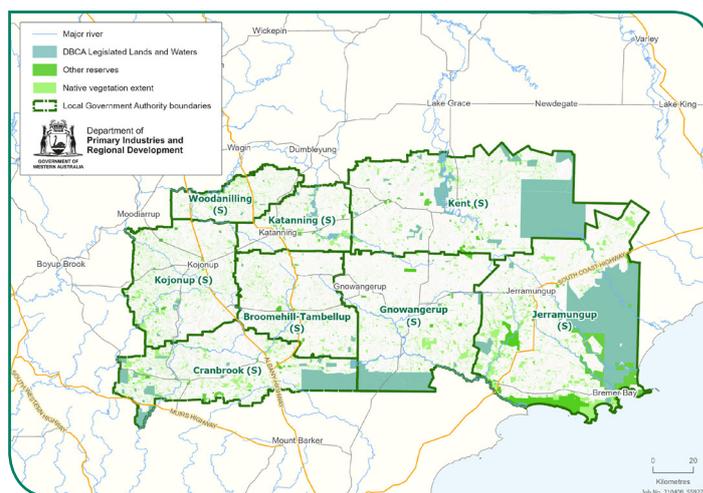
The identification of viable project and action ideas is a crucial step. These projects and actions will inform the investment framework, which will outline investment ready Drought Resilient Actions, allowing for targeting of public and private sector investment.

Who is contributing to the Drought Resilience Planning in the Great Southern Inland region?

The DPIRD, the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC), together with the Shires of Broomehill-Tambellup, Cranbrook, Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Katanning, Kent, Kojonup and Woodanilling, will work to deliver a regional drought resilience plan for the inland Great Southern.

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 GSDC 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 inland Great Southern, we are working in collaboration with local government representative along with input from technical experts, universities, CSIRO, South Coast NRM, regional businesses, State and Commonwealth Government agencies to guide development of the plan.



Map of the eight local government areas participating in the foundation year of the Regional Drought Resilience Planning program in the Great Southern.



What will be included in the regional drought resilience planning for the inland Great Southern?

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 inland Great Southern, DPIRD and the GSDC are helping to:

- ensure the inland Great Southern 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 region.

What types of projects are being considered in the inland Great Southern?

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.

More information

For more information about Regional Drought Resilience Planning program in the inland Great Southern or to be kept updated, please contact the Great Southern Development Commission at gfdc@gfdc.wa.gov.au

Additional Drought Resources

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development: agric.wa.gov.au/FutureDroughtFund

Great Southern Development Commission: gfdc.wa.gov.au

Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment: awe.gov.au