



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry**



**Future
Drought
Fund**

Science to Practice Forum

Program 6 - 8 June 2023

Drought is an enduring feature of the Australian landscape. It has significant economic, social and environmental impacts.

The Future Drought Fund's (FDF) annual Science to Practice Forum brings together farmers, researchers, government, industry and the community to explore the innovative tools and practices helping our regions prepare for future drought.

Award-winning television journalist and presenter of ABC TV's Landline, Pip Courtney, will host this year's forum and facilitate engaging conversations on drought preparedness.

The forum is a three-day, online event that is free to attend.

Register now!



Day 1: Tuesday 6 June 2023

Research and development

All times are Australian Eastern Standard Time

Time	Session
10:00 - 10:40	Welcome Host Pip Courtney
	Welcome to the 2023 Science to Practice Forum Senator the Hon Murray Watt, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
	FDF update First Assistant Secretary Mel Brown and Acting Assistant Secretary Laura Smith, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)
	FDF Consultative Committee update Caroline Welsh, FDF Consultative Committee
10:40 - 11:20	Setting the scene for sustainable agriculture
	Presentation: Climate outlook and long-range forecasts Felicity Gamble, Senior Climatologist, Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) Climate perspectives for sustainable agriculture, matters relating to seasonality, trends and the El Niño and La Niña climate patterns
	Video: Optimal management of soils and available water in NSW FDF Drought Resilient Soils and Landscapes project demonstrating 3 non-conventional farming systems strategies that improve drought resilience in the Wagga Wagga region
	 Feature speaker: Joshua Gilbert Worimi producer and First Nations farming advocate with research interests in sustainability and climate change, Aboriginal culture and native foods, and Aboriginal engagement and inclusion in agriculture


Time	Session
11:20 - 12:30	Seeds & soil health: Innovating at scale <p>Video: Wattle seed enterprise in WA Avondale First People's Traditional Produce Innovation and Manufacturing Hub supported by the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub (SW WA Hub) Innovative research into wattle seed product development and commercialisation</p> <p>Presentation: FDF Drought Resilience Commercialisation Initiative Drought Resilience Innovation, DAFF Information about the Initiative and the opportunity available for innovators of drought resilience products and services</p> <p>Presentation: Modern mulch Richard Fennessy, Research Scientist, WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and Dr Stuart Gordon, Senior Principal Research Scientist, CSIRO SW WA Hub-supported project on the adoption of biodegradable mulch technology in vegetable and perennial fruit enterprises</p> <p>Video: Soil Moisture Monitoring, WA SW WA Hub-led project in collaboration with DPIRD</p> <p>Presentation: Soil moisture monitoring to improve irrigation Neil Lantzke, Senior Research Scientist, DPIRD SW WA Hub-led project working with 15 horticultural growers to boost water use efficiency and profitability through the installation of remotely monitored soil probes</p> <p>Presentation: Data driven drought resilience in Vic Bronwyn Bant, Regional Agriculture Landcare Facilitator, Wimmera CMA FDF Natural Resource Management (NRM) Drought Resilience Program - Landscapes project unlocking potential with Wimmera producers via a soil moisture data portal</p>
12:30 - 13:15	Lunch
13:15 - 14:30	Global connections for drought resilience <p>Video: Agscent technology in action in Qld Trialling innovative breath testing pregnancy tool for cattle in Queensland conditions with the support of the Tropical North Queensland Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub (TNQ Hub)</p> <p> Panel: Nuffield Scholars on drought resilience Nuffield Australia alumni discuss international drought perspectives and opportunities for professional development</p> <p>Video: Filling feed gaps with saltbush in WA FDF Drought Resilient Soils and Landscapes grant project delivered by CSIRO</p> <p>Presentation: I'll drink to that: Drought resilient wine varieties Dr Alexander Copper, Alexander Willem Wines Trialling drought-tolerant grape varieties from Cyprus for their suitability for Australian conditions</p> <p>Video: Building drought resilience through soil health trial in Qld FDF NRM Drought Resilience Program - Grants project delivering a large-scale trial for soil and plant health, water efficiency and profitability</p>
14:30 - 14:45	Afternoon tea
14:45 - 15:15	Where to next? <p>Presentation: Next phase of the FDF FDF Executive, DAFF</p> <p>Day 1 closing remarks - Pip Courtney</p>

Day 2: Wednesday 7 June 2023

Farmers and agricultural advisors

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Time	Session
10:00 - 10:15	Welcome Pip Courtney Welcome to Day 2 of the 2023 Science to Practice Forum Secretary Andrew Metcalfe AO, DAFF
10:15 - 11:00	Putting down roots  Feature speaker: Michael Taylor 2022 Australian Farmer of the Year and sixth generation farmer with a future-focussed approach to farming and building drought resilience through tree planting, rotational grazing and encouraging a cultural shift Video: Regional Soil Coordinators Community of Practice field trip in Tas Regional Soil Coordinators embedded at the 8 Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs play a major role in improving understanding of soils and soil management through knowledge sharing Video: Rehydrating landscapes in NT FDF Drought Resilient Soils and Landscapes project supported by the Northern Western Australia and Northern Territory Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub demonstrating the restoration of natural functions in Central Australian catchments


Time	Session
11:00 - 12:15	<p>Planning for profitability and productivity in a changing climate</p> <p>Presentation: Seasonal forecasting for drought resilience Professor Roger C Stone, FRMetS, Vice President of the Commission for Weather, Climate, Water, and Related Environmental Services and Applications, Chair of the Standing Committee on Services to Agriculture Forecast for farmers from an affiliate of the Southern Queensland and Northern New South Wales Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub (SQNNSW Hub)</p> <p>Presentation: Insights from a Senior Rural Financial Counsellor Roly Chugg, Senior Rural Financial Counsellor, Rural Business Tasmania The support services available to farmers to become financially self-reliant and better prepared for risks</p> <p>Video: Farming Family Reboot SQNNSW Hub project equipping farming families with the knowledge, skills and networks to future proof their farm as well as their family</p> <p>Presentation: Improving the odds for farm profitability Kerry Battersby, Project Manager, Queensland Farmers Federation Drought Resilience Innovation Grants project identifying the barriers and opportunities to using insurance tools to stabilise farm income</p> <p>Presentation: The importance of a baseline carbon audit Glenn Briggs, National Business Development Manager, Aglytica Pty Ltd SW WA Hub-supported project on the importance of calculating your farm's carbon emissions to minimise risk and improve profitability</p> <p>Presentation: Growing success: The benefits of Natural Capital Accounting Dr Daniel Mendham, Senior Research Scientist, CSIRO How the Perennial Prosperity Project uses Natural Capital Accounting to quantify and track the multiple benefits trees provide to farming enterprises</p>
12:15 - 13:00	Lunch
13:00 - 14:00	<p>Farming through drought: Lived experiences and lessons learned</p> <p>Presentation: Sowing the Gap: Filling feed gaps to better manage stock Jaymie Dawes, Program Manager Community and Partnerships, East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority NRM Drought Resilient Landscapes Program delivery partner on the development, implementation and outcomes of the Sowing the Gap project</p> <p>Video: Sowing the Gap – Chris Nixon farm study, Vic Video: Sowing the Gap – Scott Langley farm study, Vic FDF NRM Drought Resilience Program - Landscapes recipients share how the Sowing the Gap project helped them fill winter and summer feed gaps to better manage stock during dry times</p> <p> Panel: Young Agfluencers Perspectives from the next generation of farmers using social media to grow the audience for Australian agriculture</p>
14:00 - 14:15	Afternoon tea

Time	Session
14:15 - 15:30	<p>Tools for change</p> <p>Video: Remote water monitoring in SA South Australia Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub project utilising different remote water monitoring systems to help producers maximise water use efficiency and improve time management</p> <p>Presentation: Right tool for the right job Kara-Glenn Worth, Digital Ag Innovation Consultant, TNQ Hub TNQ Hub-supported project empowering rural and regional producers to easily understand what ag tech tools are available and where they are best applied</p> <p>Presentation: Climate Services for Agriculture (CSA) Stephanie Dickson, Customer Engagement Coordinator, BoM CSA is an online platform funded by the FDF and developed by the BoM and CSIRO to connect Australian farmers and communities with climate information for their local area to use in their farm business planning</p> <p>Video: Containment feeding in Vic Victoria Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub project demonstrating different feed strategies to improve pasture and livestock management</p> <p>Presentation: Transferrable skills in resilience Kristie Lisle, Beef producer, Lisle Holdings Pty Ltd Central Queensland primary producer on using her experience in the Advancing Beef Leaders program to harness farm business skills and opportunities</p> <p>Video: Farm Business Resilience Program (FBRP) – Cypress Springs ACT Recipient of the FDF-funded FBRP in the ACT</p> <p>Video: Climate Friendly: Carbon farming for drought resilience FDF NRM Drought Resilience Program - Grants project on the opportunities to leverage carbon farming to increase drought resilience on farms</p> <p>Day 2 closing remarks - Pip Courtney</p>

Day 3: Thursday 8 June 2023

Community and policy

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Time	Session
10:00 - 10:20	Welcome Pip Courtney Welcome to Day 3 of the 2023 Science to Practice Forum Deputy Secretary Rosemary Deininger, DAFF
10:20 - 12:15	Relationships for resilience  Feature speaker: Julia Spicer OAM Resilience champion, Queensland's first regional Chief Entrepreneur and facilitator of the FDF-funded Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program which won Queensland 2022 Government Project of the Year Presentation: Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) Natalie Egleton, CEO, FRRR FDF network partner on strengthening social capital to act ahead of future droughts Video: Outback Academy FDF-funded regional meetings connecting First Nations farmers to develop locally relevant techniques and strengthen drought resilience Presentation: Australian Rural Leadership Foundation (ARLF) Catherine McGufficke, Project Lead, ARLF and Dr Chad Renando, Research Fellow, UniSQ's Rural Economies Centre of Excellence FDF network partner on the impact of a national investment in leadership for rural communities Video: Regional Drought Resilience Planning (RDRP) in the Murraylands and Riverland LGA, SA Members of the Murraylands and Riverland consortium on the development of the FDF-funded plan

	<p>Presentation: Murraylands and Riverland Plan - a Regional Drought Resilience Plan</p> <p>Ben Fee, Chief Executive and Analise Gates, Marketing and Strategic Reporting Manager, Regional Development Australia Murraylands and Riverland A deeper dive into the FDF-funded plan and its use in building resilience</p>
	<p>Presentation: Using drought resilience to inspire innovation in ag finance</p> <p>Veronica Terry, Regional Economic Development Coordinator, Regional Development Australia - Tasmania Empowering producers and communities to build their own resilience</p>
	<p>Presentation: Using the Knowledge Broker network for disruptive design</p> <p>Dale Stringer, Chief Knowledge Broker, Southern NSW Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub Building human capacity for novel farming solutions</p>
	<p>Video: Regional Drought Resilience Planning in Wimmera, Vic</p> <p>Members of the Wimmera Development Association on the development of the FDF-funded plan</p>
12:15 - 13:00	Lunch
13:00 - 13:45	Engaging First Nations farmers
	<p>Presentation: First Nations stakeholder engagement</p> <p>Dr Raelene Ward, Knowledge Broker First Nations Engagement, SQNNSW Hub Engaging with First Nations communities in the SQNNSW Hub region and agricultural sector</p>
	<p>Presentation: Sustainable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Enterprise (SATSIE) program</p> <p>Allan Dale, Professor of Tropical Regional Development, James Cook University, Program Lead SATSIE, TNQ Hub Hub project providing support for Traditional Owners to realise their rights and interests in land and water, including agriculture</p>
	<p>Presentation: Building Human Capacity</p> <p>Jane Oorschot, Program Lead Building Human Capacity, TNQ Hub Leveraging Hub networks to build human capacity and improve profitability through engagement and outreach</p>
13:45 - 14:15	Overcoming barriers to change
	<p>Presentation: Choosing resilience: surveying farmers across Australia</p> <p>Dr Hanabeth Luke, Soil CRC Survey Project Leader, Southern Cross University Data from the Soil CRC Social Benchmarking Project, with comprehensive surveys completed by 3,000 Australian farmers across 6 different farming regions in 5 states with insights on how and why farmers are (or are not) adapting and changing their practices in response to changing environmental, economic and social conditions</p>
	<p>Presentation: Improving drought resilience through behavioural science</p> <p>Sam Moore, Senior Behavioural Scientist, Evidn and Daniel Rea, Partnership Coordinator, Fitzroy Basin Association (FBA) FDF Drought Resilience Innovation Grants partnership between Evidn and FBA on the opportunity to improve drought resilience through behavioural science</p>
14:15 - 14:30	Afternoon tea

14:30 - 15:45

Mental health heroes

Presentation: Writing a new chapter with My Drought Story

Kate Arndell, Rural Adversity Mental Health Program Coordinator, NSW Health | FDF-funded ARLF grant recipient and creator of a social media campaign and digital book, 'My Drought Story'



Panel: For the love of farming – the importance of talking when times are tough

Regional mental health advocates shifting the conversation around farmer wellbeing

Presentation: Vocal Locals find their voice

Kate Gunn, Associate Professor, ifarmwell at University of South Australia | FDF Networks to Build Drought Resilience project strengthening wellbeing and deepening social support networks in a drought-affected, agricultural-dependent community

Day 3 closing remarks - Pip Courtney

Close of forum

Program accurate at time of print and subject to change.

