



Future Drought Fund Consultative Committee

Terms of reference

September 2023

Purpose

The Future Drought Fund Consultative Committee (the Committee) is established under the *Future Drought Fund Act 2019* (FDF Act) to advise the Minister for Drought about:

- the Drought Resilience Funding Plan (the Funding Plan), a high-level framework for making grants or arrangements in relation to drought resilience, in place for rolling four year periods
- whether the proposed design of FDF programs is consistent with the Funding Plan.

Scope

The advisory role of the Committee relates specifically to the Funding Plan and FDF programs. The Committee does not have any decision-making capacity and is not responsible for making the Funding Plan or designing FDF programs.

Roles and responsibilities

The Committee will:

- consider the Productivity Commission's report on the effectiveness of Part 3 of the FDF Act
- undertake consultation with key stakeholders on the draft Funding Plan
- provide advice to the Minister for Drought on the draft Funding Plan provide advice to the Minister for Drought on whether the proposed design of FDF programs is consistent with the Funding Plan
- monitor progress on the implementation of the Funding Plan and FDF programs
- reconsider the Funding Plan if replaced outside of the four-year cycle.

The Committee's advice to the Drought Minister will consider:

- issues, challenges and barriers relevant to enhancing the drought preparedness and resilience of farm businesses and communities, including economic, environmental and social factors
- farmer and community views and perceptions of drought and drought resilience
- the optimal mix of investment options for the Commonwealth to enhance the drought preparedness and resilience of farm businesses and communities.

Membership

The Committee consists of a Chair and four other Members appointed by the Minister for Drought under the *Future Drought Fund Act 2019* for a period of up to four years. Members may not be appointed to the Committee unless the person has expertise or experience in two or more of the following areas: drought resilience measures; climate risk; the agriculture industry; rural and regional community leadership and resilience; rural and regional development; applied research; agricultural extension; economics.

Meeting arrangements

The Committee will meet as required, but not less than 4 times per year. Generally, the Committee works more intensively and may meet more frequently in the years where the Funding Plan is due to be replaced and public consultation takes place (at least one in every four years). This may also include a period of travel for public consultation.

Administrative Support

Administrative and Secretariat support is provided by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. The [Secretariat](#) is the central point of contact for all Committee related issues and queries.