



## **Future Drought Fund Investment Strategy 2024 to 2028**

### **NLE Response**

The Inquiry Report recommendations included the need for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Working Group and funding specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations.

Page 7 of the Strategy states the following "Government has taken early action, by appointing First Nations representation on the new Future Drought Fund Consultative Committee." This is NOT a working party this is an individual. In addition our input into the review specifically stated that appointing one First Nations person is not culturally appropriate and not suitable as it will result in First Nations people continuing to not have a real or effective voice. I also note that the person was appointed which means that First Nations people had no input into who this representative which is not appropriate and colonistic in approach.

Page 8 states "Government has also allocated new funding to better understand the connections between agriculture, drought and First Nations interests so that FDF investment can be better targeted." NLE has already produced a report in relation to this funded as I am aware out of FDF funds, which I note has not been adopted and I suggest not even read. Secondly there has been one consultation session which is tokenistic at best and I suggest is a another deliberate approach to shut First Nations groups out the agriculture sector and out of the Future Drought Funds funding.

NLE was not able to participate on the one day of consultation and has such been excluded from providing input. The FDF has clearly demonstrated that it has no real desire to better understand First Nations perspectives.

Page 8 also states "See proposed investment streams (section 6), for public comment." Having read section 6 on multiple occasions I cannot find any specific reference to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander or First Nations investment. If so can you please advise where it is and if not then what is written on page 8 is not correct and should be corrected.

NLE requests that it be contacted for proper input in the Future Drought Fund Investment Strategy 2024 to 2028 as we are the only First Nations grower group in Australia.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Beattie', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Alan Beattie  
CEO

1 December 2023

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6.1	<p><b>An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander working group</b></p> <p>The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry should establish an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander working group to partner with the Department to improve the design and implementation of the Future Drought Fund for the benefit of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.</p>	<p>Government has taken early action, by appointing First Nations representation on the new Future Drought Fund Consultative Committee.</p>
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Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Consultation draft: Future Drought Fund Investment Strategy 2024 to 2028

Number	Recommendation	Implementation options
		<p>Government has also allocated new funding to better understand the connections between agriculture, drought and First Nations interests so that FDF investment can be better targeted.</p> <p>See proposed investment streams (section 6), for public comment.</p>