

My enquiry is about:

Other agriculture, fisheries and forestry

Comments

Re: Future Drought Fund Investment Strategy 2024-2028 <https://haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/future-drought-fund>

Hi, I missed the 5pm deadline last week for feedback on the FDF Investment strategy 2024-2028.

I would like to commend the comprehensive recommendations presented in the Drought Resilience Funding Plan and draft Future Drought Fund Investment Strategy 2024 to 2028. In addition to the proposed strategies, I would like to offer the following comments for consideration:

1. Devolved Funding for Community Capacity Building:

- Build upon the success of previous devolved funding initiatives, and leverage State Landcare Coordinator funding.
- Allocate funds to community-embedded roles (e.g., Local Landcare Coordinators) to provide independent information based on community needs analysis.
- Propose an allocation of \$150,000 per year per catchment for workshops with subject matter experts based on community needs intelligence gathered by Landcare / Production systems groups

2. Funding for Vision Statements:

- Allocate funds for community groups to develop vision statements for natural assets, rivers, creeks, and catchments.
- Use these vision statements to inform future natural capital investments.
- Discuss opportunities for landholders, First Nations People, and community groups.
- This approach encourages environmental water delivery, collective actions, and diversification of income streams.

3. Regional Drought Resilience Plan Officer:

- Establish a Regional Drought Resilience Plan Officer position (housed in entities like Landcare or Production Systems Groups). Maybe the role could be titled Community Wealth Building Officer.
- Coordinate actions, monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) between councils and stakeholders to reduce the amount of siloed information.
- Serve as a conduit for information exchange between various entities and contribute to regional plan objectives.

4. Support for Catalytic Activities and Cluster Groups:

- Provide increased funding for catalytic activities, cluster group support, and project planning (to help projects / stakeholders survive the 'valley of death').
- Allocate funds for pre-feasibility studies, master plans, business cases, and collaborative business structures.
- Encourage community investment, legal support for place-based capital raising, and community wealth building outcomes.

5. Attendance at Government / CRC Stakeholder Meetings:

- Fund attendance at key government stakeholder meetings, such as Environmental Water Reference Group Meetings and relevant CRCs.
- Enable community representation and voice in research needs, especially important for isolated regional communities
- Consider providing fees for attending Hub meetings to strike a balance between outreach and cost considerations.

- Contribute \$10K per year for entities to be involved in CRC's as they already contribute considerable in-kind labour and local IP.

6. Community Groups as Information Conduits:

- Allocate funds to community groups to act as conduits of information for agencies.
- Acknowledge the importance of financial support for collaborative partners to prevent over-reliance on in-kind contributions.

I believe that these recommendations, if incorporated, will contribute to the overall effectiveness of the Future Drought Fund / Innovation Hubs objectives.

Web page

<https://haveyoursay.agriculture.gov.au/future-drought-fund>

Would you like a reply?

Yes

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