Thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission. After my contribution at the Townsville public consultation, Laura Smith encouraged me to write. I hope you will enjoy the solutions proposed here within.  
  
Regenerate Earth is a small charity with a big reach in Queensland, Australia and globally. We grow soils, communities and futures through consultancy, education, advocacy and peer and network support. My fellow co-founder Walter Jehne was scientific adviser to the late General Michael Jeffery for over a decade, including during General Jeffery’s tenure as National Soils Advocate.   
  
The purpose of Part 1 of this submission is to respond to Productivity Commission Inquiry Recommendation 3.1 Opportunities for achieving greater public benefits

* Making support for transformational actions a higher priority
* Investing more in activities that builds natural capital, drawing on support from relevant organisations
* Continuing the shift to place-based planning and actions that support social resilience

If you are looking for transformational actions, Regenerative Agriculture is transformational. And it exponentially builds natural capital. In particular, regenerative grazing practices have been tried, tested and proven for over 30 years, dramatically increasing organic soil carbon and water holding capacity. Hence, the most significant opportunity to achieve greater public benefits is to invest in regenerative agriculture.   
  
Here is a comprehensive compendium of peer reviewed proof -   
  
Hope Below Our Feet: Peer-Reviewed Publications on Well-Managed Grazing as a Means of Improving Rangeland Ecology, Building Soil Carbon, and Mitigating Global Warming  
[https://tinyurl.com/mry9b4jw](about:blank)  
  
We commend to you this initiative - [Rangelands Living Skin](about:blank) - which has been built out from a pioneering Regenerative Producer - [‘Bokhara Plains’ – Reaching the real potential](about:blank)  
  
And highly recommend that Future Drought Fund staff from Extension/Adoption level through to Department level attend these courses and explore these service so as to become familiar with their transformational potential -   
  
[Savory Institute ⋆ Regenerating the World's Grasslands](about:blank) [Holistic Management Educators](about:blank)  
  
[RCS Australia](about:blank)  
  
[KLR Marketing](about:blank)  
  
PPS Beef  
  
[The Mulloon Institute](about:blank" \l "mri-section)  
  
[MaiaGrazing | Grazing Management Software to Boost Pastures & Profits](about:blank)

[Working Dogs](https://www.facebook.com/dogmanners/?show_switched_toast=0&show_invite_to_follow=0&show_switched_tooltip=0&show_podcast_settings=0&show_community_review_changes=0&show_community_rollback=0&show_follower_visibility_disclosure=0)

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The purpose of Part 2 of this submission is to describe a simple but elegant framework of tools as a solution for the knowledge management dilemma. It does describe an operational mechanism for sharing knowledge across the Fund, so some might consider it not relevant at this point in time. But we believe flagging it now in the strategy and funding discussions can breakthrough and transform this nexus. So it is written to alert FDF to the opportunity to ‘enable the enablers’, ie strengthening extension and adoption through a knowledge sharing community of practice.

It addresses the following Productivity Commission Inquiry Recommendations and Findings -  
  
*‘3.2 Actions that could improve the effectiveness of the Fund  
- map Australian, state and territory govt programs for agriculture, land management, drought resilience and climate change resilience*

* 1. *Developing a Knowledge Strategy (that)*
* *identifies measures to improve the generation, dissemination and uptake of knowledge across the FDF, tailored to the preferences of end users*
* *define the roles and responsibilities of the many parties … that create, share and/or use knowledge*
* *outlines the best model for implementing a knowledge management system*

*5.1 Strengthening the monitoring, evaluation and learning system  
- streamlining reporting obligations for delivery partners and grant recipients to improve consistency and comparability, reduce duplication and avoid unnecessary reporting  
  
7.4 Improving the Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs  
- align Hub knowledge brokers’ activities with the proposed Future Drought Fund knowledge strategy  
  
7.5 Piloting a ‘challenge-orientated’ approach to the Drought Resilience Innovation Grants program. The pilot should facilitate tailored, innovative solutions to a small number of complex and multi-dimensional challenges – in a particular region, industry or at a broader systems level – arising from …   
  
Recm 7.6 Better targeting of community programs  
- ensuring detailed reporting on the types of knowledge and practices being shared’*

And the following Core concepts of the *Consultation draft : Future Drought Fund Investment Strategy*,   
  
‘*3.4 Building resilience capacities and the 5 capitals  
Some examples of this are -  
- Increasing knowledge, skills, and capability, leading to increased flexibility and adaptability  
- Supporting people to make use of new information about viable options to adapt, reorganise or transform to changing conditions  
- Building connections (social networks and relationships) to assist with information sharing, coordination, and collaboration  
An individual or a community is likely to have more resilience when they can access larger and more diverse resources (or capitals).*

* 1. *Public good  
     3.5.1 Achieving value for money is the core a tenet of all Australian Government investment …’*

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Because the Productivity Commission reported ‘*the Fund does not have a strategy or plan for the generation, management and sharing of information and knowledge*.’ This submission proposes a tools and a framework that allows both ‘*sharing key FDF information and knowledge*’ in a central underpinning place, and ‘*a more complex, integrated platform with relevant FDF and other drought and climate change resilience information.’*

Below are the proposed steps for the development of a knowledge management and knowledge sharing system underpinning a extension/adoption officer community of practice. The same tools can be used to audit the Government programs and initiatives, and build a community of practice at those level. The tools listed below are already developed and can save the Department a lot of time and money.

|  |
| --- |
| Each Drought Hub Knowledge Manager records ‘**who**’ they are collaborating with, and ‘**who**’ their collaborators collaborate with into a [Coggle](about:blank) **map to visualise**. Coogle is a simple collaborative mind-map style resource that can hold information about hundreds of organisations, groups, businesses. It enables the communities of communities to see itself in an interconnected system. Here is an example of one loaded at scale -- [Canberra Sustainability Map curated by SEE-Change](about:blank) |
| From there, the team of Managers of Knowledge Hubs co-create a [NoteForms](about:blank) **form**. Each entity within the Drought Hubs network then fills out the ‘**what**’ activities and resources into this form. Here is an example of a form - [Regenerative Marketing Movement Map · NoteForms](about:blank) |
| The form can directly add them to a [Notion](about:blank) **spreadsheet database Library**. Here is an example of a Resource Library - [Regenerative Marketing Movement - Core Database](about:blank) |
| And also directly add them into [Kumu](about:blank) for **mapping and visualising the ‘what’ of the movement**. This System Map and The Activity/Resource Library reflect the same database. This means you only need to add your input once into the form and it will be shown in both views. All are very intuitive/easy to use. Here is an example of one - [Regenerative Marketing Movement - Map](about:blank) |
| Next do the same for the ‘**how**’. To share extension plans, MEL plans, video, audio, Outcomes, etc Knowledge Brokers can create an **appealing customised library** for each the Drought Hubs community of communities using [Home (networkit.app)](https://networkit.app/). This platform allows you to Easily classify, categorise, coordinate and manage digital assets into custom collections of albums. Folders can be created and files uploaded to classify, sort and share. Security and privacy settings define how users can interact with each folder and file. Here is an example of one - [Regenerate Earth Library in On Farm](about:blank" \l "tab_6802) |
| From there Knowledge Brokers can **create conversations** around their content in [Home (networkit.app)](https://networkit.app/) promoting a rich collaborative experience. Each type of media or post has an embedded social function to comment and share your ideas to continue on the discussion. Plus set up forums to follow on topics you create. Conversation can also happen through blog posts, created and collated in one central location. And videos, images and links can be embedded inside each post to make it an interactive experience. |
| In [Home (networkit.app)](https://networkit.app/) you can **create communities, nodes and sub groups**. People can join these separately as a silo plus also interconnect across a hub and spoke model. This makes t a flexible yet integrated approach for connecting and sharing and collaborating across a multi-stakeholder setting. It can be used as an intranet for coordinating internal processes as well as making other spaces public. Strong privacy settings help create the type of spaces you want. |
| For MEL and more, in [Home (networkit.app)](https://networkit.app/) custom **dynamic online forms and polls** can be created to collect responses and votes from members across the site or inside each group.  Entries can be exported in an excel spreadsheets to turn raw data into meaningful insights. |

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Below is more about Network IT.

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| Network IT allows you to activate your own custom powerful platform to use across your business or community network. It allows you to empower your members, community, hubs and team to connect and collaborate in one place. You have the freedom to grow it to unlimited members, admins and moderators making it super easy and flexible to manage  Network IT is a customised white-label social enterprising network of pre-built features. You can optimise your operations and enrich your team’s experiences by communicating and collaborating using a suite of advanced tools that are integrated into one seamless environment. You can share extension plans, MEL plans, stories, news, research work, hosting a meaningful discussion on a forum, delivering education content or making an announcement. It's easy to stay in touch with your people and projects in a social and relevant way using a variety of multi-media formats.  From its intuitive design to its advanced features, Network IT has everything you need to bring your business or community to life in the 21st century. It can allow you to take control of your online presence and break down the virtual walls. |

Using the Productivity Commission’s words, in determining this ‘*best model to recommend’*, we have considered: ‘*the needs of, and likely benefits to, farmers, intermediaries and other users; what and where information is shared; opportunities to leverage existing platforms; the potential to expand the platform over time; and the costs of implementation’*  
  
Our ‘*strategy (promotes) learning and (improves) the accessibility, sharing and uptake of FDF information and knowledge.* It *(will) provide greater transparency over the Fund’s activities’* as it: *• (identifies) measures to improve the generation, dissemination and uptake of information and knowledge across the Fund in an integrated way, tailored to the preferences of end users   
• (defines) the workflow opportunity so the ‘roles and responsibilities of different parties across the Fund in generating, disseminating and promoting uptake of FDF knowledge, including the Department, delivery partners, participants.. and Hub Knowledge Brokers’  
• (outlines) the best model for implementing a knowledge management system*’.

many thanks  
**Cindy Eiritz**

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