

SUBMISSION FOR FDF 2024 -2028

We firmly believe now is the time to go forward with this funding and learn from the previous years what work and what didn't.

Firstly the Mental Health has well and truly been catered for. Now is the time to utilize what is already in local communities and not throw anymore money towards it on consultants and other health care professionals who have already spoke at workshops and seminars.

In various local communities there is available Fat Farmer's, Men's Shed, CWA, Walking Groups, Church groups, and sporting clubs to name but a few that are of no cost to the FDF so that people can access and would definitely improve their mental health.

If you were able to have a one stop shop website these places could be advertised on there.

Not to forget if people are struggling to see their local GP, contact Lifeline or other services that are available for more immediate help.

The implementation of having a one stop shop website where all information can be sought for people to see what is going on and what is available as well.

Closer contact with peak farming groups to access what is available to them in the way of grants and what they can be used for.

This has happened to a certain degree before but there is still room for improvement. Here in South Australia we have started up a new group called Goyder's Line Agricultural Network which has the Northern & Yorke Landscape Board helping us out. We have also reached out to the SA Drought Hub who put us in touch with a Node Team Leader at Roseworthy and who also is at Loxton Node Coordinator who has been very helpful as well.

The Carbon Farming has really taken off and the FDF is covering that quite well in that area but will still need some additional funds available for research on it by appropriate trained people.

There does probably not really need more funding for Drought Resilience Leaders in the community. There is more than enough qualified leaders to help out if needed.

We also have a silo not being used in our area and could well be utilized as a storage facility for seed when the next drought hits. It could open an opportunity for a leasing arrangement and an opportunity for employment for when it is needed to be open up for the grain to be taken out. There could be more unused silos across Australia that could do the same thing.

We still need to continue with ongoing trials for drought proof grain varieties. More exploration on Frost tolerant varieties as well.

Some more consideration for pastoral areas that in particular struggle with lack of water not only when the drought is on but in a year where rainfall is average to very little.

The information that is on the website with what the other states are doing is valuable to get an overall picture of what is happening with funding and projects.

I also went to Roseworthy to the public forums which were well worth going to gain further knowledge of what are interested parties had to say.

This type of forum definitely needs to continue into the future for people to have an input for the Future Drought Fund.

