

## Submission to the Draft Drought Resilience Funding Plan 2024 -2028

### Aim

To build drought resilience, and by extensions climate resilience, for the public good of the Australian agriculture sector, landscapes and communities.

### Objectives

1. Growing the productivity and self reliance of the agricultural sector (to build economic resilience).
2. Improving the natural capital on, and function of agricultural landscapes (to build environmental resilience).
3. Strengthening the social capital, well being and connectedness of rural, regional and remote agricultural communities (and build social reliance).

### Strategy or Actions.

To build out a program having a group of 50-100 individuals across the nation whom can support farmers transition to being better land managers, risk managers and custodians of the land.

The program will reflect to the recent Growth Program under the AusIndustry Department.

### How it will work.

- Farmers will elect to join the program and they will be provided a facilitator.
- The facilitator will meet with the farmer ideally on a dial in platform.
- The facilitator will write up a document detailing a brief overview of the business and challenges.
- There will be clearly set goals for the farmer to achieve over the coming 3-4 years.
- Each facilitator will build a network of farmers. The facilitator will book in 4 calls per day (an hour long) and write up the report. The facilitator will be in the office 3 days a week and the balance on farm or at community or industry gatherings.
- The facilitator will note down on farm financial performance and targets actions in the report. Actions include
  - Current carbon emissions (based off a simple model detailing diesel, fertiliser and livestock emissions).
  - Current drought strategy, forage conservation and storage.
  - Current stock numbers and or DSE.
  - Regeneration and custodian strategies.
  - Support and or specialist services required. Specialist services would be similar to those in the Growth Program but industry specialists
- Once the report is written and approved.
  - tax incentives such as the instant asset write off for hay sheds, forage equipment, silos and seed for pasture production such as subtropical grasses.
  - The farmer will receive a \$25K grant to be put towards the above assets.
  - The farmer is required to report in on a quarterly basis. Points discussed are against the goals in the report and actions taken to be more resilient and carbon mitigation.
- The farmer will have noted his / her DSE natural carrying capacity. It is essential that the farmer stay within the natural productive stock numbers unless pasture improvement has been completed. If natural stocking rates increase it will be reflected as a productivity increase and NLIS data will reflect the natural productive capacity and stop over stocking.
- Support or specialist services will be in agriculture pasture specialist, enterprise productivity, carbon reduction strategies, succession, and finance.
- A focus will be also to provide well being advice or strategies and if the farmer seems to be struggling. Support services are engaged.

### Indicators of success

- On farm productivity through income stability and profit.
- Drought preparedness through building and utilisation of storage of grains and fodder for droughts.
- Better pastures (measured through kg / HA) and stocking strategies.
- Agronomic and productivity strategies implemented.
- Specialist services that are engaged
- Carbon neutrality.

#### About the author.

Luke Kenniff has over 25 years experience in agriculture working through the supply chain from running his own farming operation to being an executive at some of Australia's largest agribusiness and global food manufacturers. Luke has also had experience as an advisor in agriculture and as a Growth Facilitator working under AusIndustry and the Federal Government. Luke worked with numerous businesses supporting management to build stronger businesses across numerous functions.