

# Drought Resilient Soils and Landscapes Grants 2022–2024

The SA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub and partners are involved in the following projects:

Lead proponent	Project title	Project description
South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board	From the Ground Up. Supporting Regenerative Grazing Practices in South Australia's Rangelands to build drought resilience.	The project will demonstrate grazing management practices based on resting paddocks to allow the recovery of perennial species. This will build drought resilience by enabling more consistent livestock production during and following extended droughts in the pastoral zones of South Australia's rangelands. The project involves 5 demonstration sites. The sites, and project activities, have the potential to support adoption of drought resilient grazing practices across the 4.3 million ha Southern Rangelands of Australia. The project will engage with grazing managers to develop knowledge and skills in drought resilient grazing management practices. This includes peer-to-peer learning and 11 on-farm courses provided by 25 industry leaders and innovators across the southern Rangelands. This is a collaborative project involving multiple agencies and research institutions that include the SA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub, University of Adelaide, Meat and Livestock Australia and South Australian Research and Development Institute.
Agricultural Innovation & Research Eyre Peninsula Incorporated	Building drought resilience by scaling out farming practices that will enhance the productive capacity of sandy soil landscapes.	This project will work with 16 farmers to demonstrate practices that enhance the drought resilience and productive capacity of around 3 million hectares of sandy soils in the low-medium rainfall landscapes of southeast Australia. Improving sandy soils has been identified as a key drought resilience strategy by the SA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub. The project includes 16 demonstration sites and 16 case studies to trial various soil management options and build farmers' confidence in those practices across the Eyre Peninsula, Upper Yorke Peninsula, Mallee & Southeast regions. This will contribute to the approach towards building drought resilience by. Knowledge generated will be directly shared with 400 farmers through 17 workshops and other communication channels. The project will also use existing networks to disseminate information from the project to a further 3000 farmers, to help drive adoption of the trialed practices. The project is a collaboration including Mallee Sustainable Farming Inc., Northern Sustainable Soils Inc., and MacKillop Farm Management Group Inc.

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Mallee Sustainable Farming Inc.	Building resilience to drought with landscape scale remediation of saline land	This project will demonstrate practices that prevent and remediate saline land degradation. Drought exacerbates saline land degradation. The practices to be demonstrated counter this, by reduce rates of evaporation and resulting salinity in dry lands and Mallee seeps. The project includes 48 demonstration sites in low-rainfall broadacre mixed farming landscapes. It will work with at least 48 farmers across 10 million hectares of the low rainfall Eyre Peninsula, Upper Yorke Peninsula, Murray Plains, and the SA, VIC and NSW Mallee. A minimum of 2400 hectares of unproductive saline land will be improved. 20 case studies and a decision tree for managing dry saline land and seeps will be available for public access. Outcomes from the project will be shared through 20 field days and research updates. The project is a collaboration that includes the University of Adelaide, Ag Innovation and Research Eyre Peninsula, Northern Sustainable Soils Inc., Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board. It is also supported by the SA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub.
The University of Adelaide	Promoting best-practice feedbase management to deliver improved drought resilience in low to medium rainfall regions through on-farm demonstrations and case studies.	The project will demonstrate drought-resilient groundcover management practices that aim to extend pasture growing season to protect soils in drought. This involves the use of better-adapted species and innovative technologies in pasture establishment and management. The project will establish 18 core demonstration sites in the Mallee, upper and mid Eyre Peninsula, and the mid-north of SA. The project spans 1.61 million ha of low to medium rainfall grazing systems in these areas, supporting the production of around 4.9 million sheep. Trialled practices will be monitored to quantify the environmental and economic drought resilience benefits at farm and landscape scales. The project involves a partnership, through the SA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub, between farming systems groups, NRM bodies and experts.
CSIRO	Improving sowing opportunities for increased farm resilience in a changing climate.	The project demonstrates the impacts on drought resilience of practices involving early sowing and optimal soil water storage. The program spans regions in WA, VIC, SA and NSW. The project involves working with 6 grower groups to trial the practices on multiple soil types. The project will also demonstrate how to optimally make harvest choices and account for weather conditions to maximise chances of success. The 5 trials will be run concurrently across 4 states. Knowledge generated from the project will be communicated to growers across southern Australian cropping environments. This will be done through field days, crop walks, an interactive web app and other channels. The project will also use established grower networks to further share the results more broadly. The project is a partnership between CSIRO and Central West Farming Systems (NSW), Birchip Cropping Group (VIC), Northern Sustainable Soils (SA), Mallee Sustainable Farming (VIC/SA), the Mingenew Irwin Group (WA) and the Facey Group (WA). Collectively, this group will cover an area of around 17.3 million ha and 1000 members. The South-West WA, SA and VIC Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs also support this project.