

Drought Resilience Innovation Grants for SA-based projects

The following projects are being led by partners of the SA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub:

Ideas Grants (up to \$50,000 for 12 months)

Lead proponent	Project title	Project description
South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board	Assessment of Metering and Monitoring Options for Pastoral Water Points	This project will identify water smart technology suitable for the arid South Australian pastoral zone and assessing the economic and environmental benefits of this technology for this pastoral zone.
The University of Adelaide	Crop Insurance Participation and Moral Hazard	This project will develop a report on the Australian agricultural insurance framework and how it can be used to improve and support climate change objectives.
Flinders University	Building Drought Resilience in Coastal Groundwater Systems	This project will evaluate a proposed system for capturing fresh groundwater from near-shore regions (that otherwise is lost to the sea) and its reinjection to inland aquifers or direct reuse for irrigation.
The University of Adelaide	Resilient and Sustainable Australian Winegrowing Businesses and Communities	This project will carry out further co-design and idea development leading to a mechanism to support the creation of a national network of common garden vineyards (CGVs). The national network of CGVs will contain the latest sensing technology, and the application of machine learning will generate models to guide the selection, design and implementation of the most resilient production systems and associated landscapes of the future while demonstrating and enhancing latest best practice management and decision support technology.

Proof-of-Concept Grants (up to \$120,000 for 12 months)

Lead proponent	Project title	Project description
Flinders University	Drought proofing farming communities through mapping societal and economic resilience	As a community-led process, resilience mapping and contingency planning will be undertaken to identify, evaluate and map existing family, community and business networks and their interdependence and impact on drought resilience.
University of South Australia	Bringing together farmers, psychological science, technology and humour	Bringing together farmers, psychological science, technology and humour to equip agricultural-dependent communities with practical, evidence-based and entertaining strategies that strengthen wellbeing and deepen social support.
The University of Adelaide	Optimal Herd Inventory Management Strategies	Equipping cattle producers and their advisors with critical material to inform optimal herd inventory management strategies to assist with enterprise drought preparedness and resilience in southern Australia.

Innovation Grants (\$300,000 to \$1,100,000 per year for up to 3 years)

Lead proponent	Project title	Project description
Kangaroo Island Landscape Board	Building Drought Resilience through Comprehensive Property Management Planning	This project aims to support landholders transition from planning to implementation using novel technological and innovative approaches as a test case for institutional and landholder innovation. Providing landholders with the tools and capacity to adapt, reorganise, transition and transform their properties in preparation for drought. The project will leverage and complement the outcomes of the FDF/Primary Industries & Regions Farm Business Resilience Program Kangaroo Island Farm Business Management project and the FDF NRM Drought Resilience Program Grants Partnering with Kangaroo Island landholders to develop property-scale water security plans to prepare for future droughts project.
Mallee Sustainable Farming Inc.	Develop robust ground cover to enable resilience in low rainfall mixed farms	This project aims to provide the tools for farmers to maintain resilient groundcover through all seasons and sequences to quickly regain production potential when drought breaks. Deploying extension and communication program with a mix of traditional activities and new methods through a digital extension hub. New practices include using zero till disc and modified tine seeders, rotational grazing aided by electronic “virtual fencing” technologies, inclusion ripping or skip row spading and seed priming.