SA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub

MEL Report: July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

Submitted: 31 August 2026



Table of contents

Executive summary **3**
SA Drought Hub overview **4**
SA Drought Hub snapshot **6**
SA Drought Hub monitoring and evaluation framework **8**
National program-level outcomes **9**
MT1: Increased availability and accessibility of, and capacity to use and adopt, knowledge that can be applied to improve drought resilience 9
MT2: Increased adoption and commercialisation of drought resilience technologies and practices . 14
MT3: Technologies and practices adopted are effective in improving drought resilience 19
MT4: Design and delivery of Hub activities is responsive to end-user needs 24
SA Drought Hub-specific outcomes **30**
HS1: Increased capacity, preparedness, and transition towards a future climate with less rainfall ... 30
HS2: Industry sectors in SA are engaged in, supported by, and collaborate with the SA Drought Hub to increase drought and climate resilience 34
Case studies **40**
Strategic alignment and collaboration with other initiatives **41**
FDF-aligned 41
Non-FDF-aligned 44
Key learnings, reflections and opportunities **47**
Appendices **52**

Executive summary

Across 2025/26, the SA Drought Hub demonstrated continued progress towards strengthening drought and climate resilience across South Australia. The reporting period spanned changing conditions across the drought cycle, with severe drought conditions experienced during 2025 easing across many areas from late 2025, with much of the state moving into recovery in 2026. The Hub adapted its focus as conditions changed, supporting decision-making through drought and recovery and into preparation for the 2026 growing season.

Work undertaken and evidence collected throughout the year shows progress from increased knowledge and capacity through to practice change, adoption, and improved drought preparedness. This was underpinned by 57 projects delivered with 35 project partners, 323 learning activities reaching 11,700 attendees, and 57 on-farm trials and demonstrations across 77 farms. The Hub also supported 36 sponsorships across 29 organisations, and the development of 94 drought resilience resources, tools and products to help end users with drought and climate related decision-making, with more than 5,400 recorded users.

Collectively, this work contributed to the uptake of drought resilience practices and technologies, evidence of their effectiveness under dry and variable conditions, stronger producer and adviser capacity, and improved decision-making and resource use. These outcomes were supported by strong regional and industry partnerships and co-design, demonstrating the Hub's role in supporting resilience before, during and after drought while building longer-term capacity to adapt to increasing climate variability and a future climate with less rainfall.

SA Drought Hub overview

The South Australian Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub (SA Drought Hub) is one of eight Hubs established through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund. The Hub operates across South Australia's key agricultural production areas, with activities spanning the six regions outlined below.



The Hub works across key agricultural industries, including grains, mixed farming, livestock, pastoral/grazing, viticulture and horticulture. Across these industries, the Hub addresses drought resilience priorities including soil and land management, crop and pasture management, livestock and fodder management, water security and management, farm planning and decision-making, farm business management, and community resilience and wellbeing.

This broad focus across the drought cycle was particularly important over the past 12 months, as the extreme drought conditions experienced across much of South Australia in 2025 began to ease in many areas from late 2025, with much of the state moving into recovery by 2026. The Hub adapted its support as conditions changed, helping producers navigate drought and recovery decisions through initiatives such as the Drought Resilience Information and Knowledge Sharing program (DRINKS), before shifting attention towards decisions for the 2026 season, including how available soil moisture could inform sowing and crop establishment. This demonstrates the value of supporting resilience across the full drought cycle including before, during and after drought, as producer priorities and decisions continue to change.

Across 2025/26, the SA Drought Hub operated with a team of 12 staff with expertise spanning farming systems, livestock, climate, innovation, adoption and extension, stakeholder engagement, communications, and monitoring and evaluation. Staff are drawn from Adelaide University, Ag Excellence Alliance, the Department of Primary Industries and Regions South

Australia (PIRSA), and Ag Communicators, and are based across regional South Australia, with Adelaide University's Roseworthy campus providing a central location for team coordination. Maintaining this expertise within the Hub provides capacity to respond to emerging priorities and support activities from development through to delivery. The team's regional presence also supports regular engagement with growers and industry and a strong understanding of emerging issues and priorities across the state.

The Hub works with an extensive network of Hub Members, Network Partners and other stakeholders including Grower Groups, Landscape Boards, universities, government agencies, First Nations organisations, agribusinesses, industry organisations and peak bodies, and RDCs. These relationships support co-investment, project development and delivery, knowledge sharing, and the identification of regional and industry priorities.

Across 2025/26, project delivery continued through a collaborative, partner-led approach with Hub Members and Network Partners. Co-design remains a priority of the Hub, with staff working alongside growers, Grower Groups, regional partners, industry, technical specialists, and co-investors to identify local priorities and develop activities in response to emerging needs and seasonal conditions. Further detail on the Hub's collaborations, partnerships and co-design is reported in HS2, MT4, and strategic alignment and collaboration with other initiatives.

Social network analysis undertaken by Southern Cross University for the SA Drought Hub during 2025/26 indicates that the Hub continues to play an important role in connecting people and organisations across South Australia's industry. The findings show strong connections between key stakeholders, with the Hub helping to bring together participants who may otherwise operate within separate regional, industry, or professional networks. This connectivity supports the exchange of knowledge and experience across the network and provides a strong foundation for collaboration, co-design and the broader adoption of drought resilience practices and technologies.

Furthermore, the SA Drought Hub operates through a collaborative governance model, with the Institutional Management Committee (IMC) providing strategic oversight. The IMC includes representation from Adelaide University and PIRSA, with observers representing Grower Groups, Primary Producers SA and Landscapes SA, bringing regional and industry perspectives into Hub governance. There were no changes to the Hub's governance arrangements in 2025/26, following significant changes to the governance and regional engagement model in 2024/25. These changes have proven effective over the past 12 months, strengthening regional engagement and collaboration and broadening representation within Hub governance. With the Hub originally scheduled to conclude in June 2026 and subsequently extended to June 2027, the focus has been on maintaining these arrangements rather than introducing further change.

From January 1 2026, the University of Adelaide and University of South Australia merged to form Adelaide University. This resulted in associated administrative changes for the Hub but did not alter its governance structure or delivery approach.

SA Drought Hub snapshot



323 learning activities and events delivered

31	38	78	8	23
CROP WALKS	FARM VISITS	WORKSHOPS	BUS TOURS	FIELD DAYS

Total attendance: 11,700

ATTENDANCE PROFILE: Farmers/producers: 3,598 • Consultants/advisors: 978 • Govt officers: 721, Non-gov group/network: 233, Other (researchers, academics, students, First Nations, policymakers, industry): 3,003 + 3,167 undefined.

Outputs

The SA Drought Hub delivered and/or supported

20 First Nations activities or tools promoting and/or facilitating the exchange of ideas with First Nations

94 drought resilience resources, tools and products were developed, with 5,422 recorded users

293 communications products were delivered to support the delivery of SA Drought Hub projects and programs

15 scholarship initiatives (regional interns, postgraduate and tertiary support, professional development, training and leadership)

57 on-farm demonstration and trials (across 77 participating farms with 1,353 visitors - including 696 producers, 234 consultants/agribusiness reps, 145 govt officers, 14 non-gov reps, 20 Hub staff and 140 categorised as 'other' including researchers, students, industry suppliers + 104 undefined)

The program of work delivered by the SA Drought Hub to date has contributed to both short and medium-term outcomes, and aligns strongly with the three strategic imperatives of the Future Drought Fund, including economic resilience for an innovative and profitable agricultural sector, environmental resilience for sustainable and improved functioning of farming landscapes, and social resilience for resourceful and adaptable communities.

Sponsorships

The SA Drought Hub sponsors activities that support building the resilience and preparedness of farmers and regional communities in South Australia.

36 sponsorships for drought resilience workshops, field trips, crop walks or events

29 organisations and groups received funding

The Hub also supported

59 SEMINARS, CONFERENCES & FORUMS

53 other extension activities, such as webinars, community events, presentations and training sessions

Social media followers

726
LINKEDIN

1,374
FACEBOOK

363
INSTAGRAM

535
X

Website

PAGE VIEWS
34,677

Projects

The SA Drought Hub supported a broad portfolio of projects focused on strengthening drought preparedness and resilience across South Australian farming systems. Projects addressed dry and early sowing and crop establishment, soil health and management, climate adaptation, decision-making and risk management, livestock and pasture resilience, water and irrigation management, and crop inputs and nutrition. Further projects focused on farmer and industry capacity building through targeted extension and training, alongside the adoption of agtech and precision agriculture to support more informed and efficient farm management.

57

led by 29 organisations and groups, in collaboration with 35 project partners

Collaborations

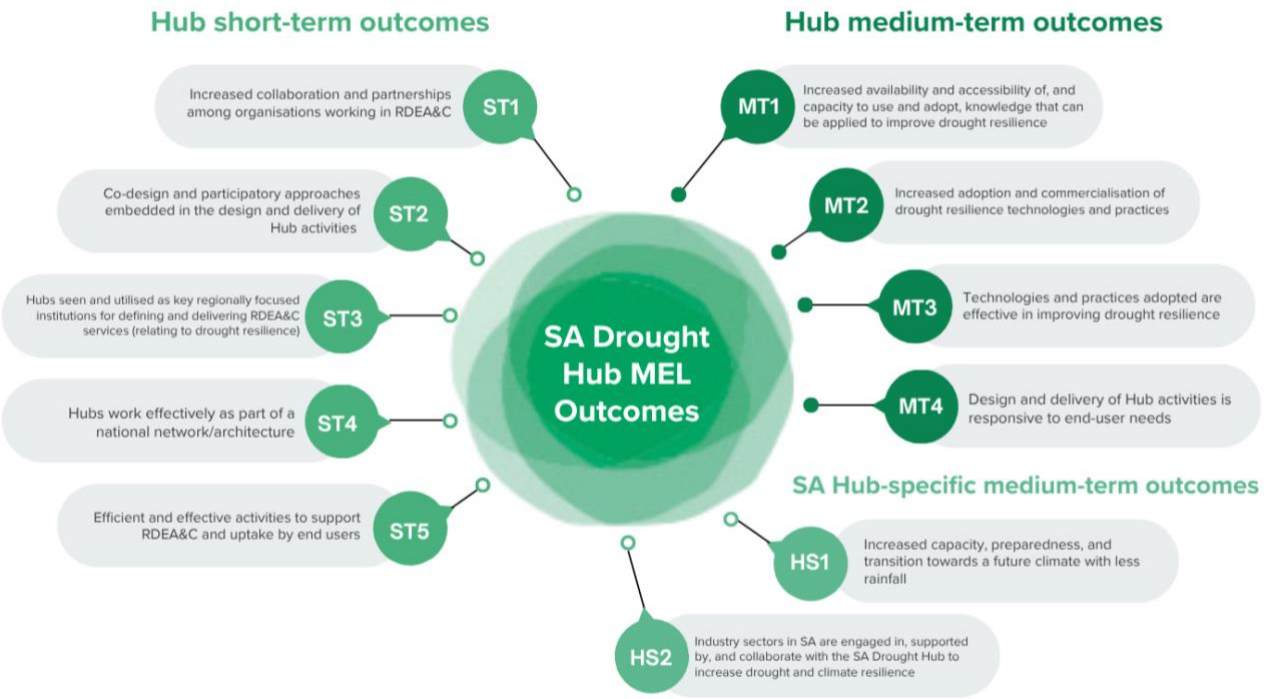
The Hub is currently engaged in **104 collaborations and partnerships** with Hub Members, Network Partners, RDCs, other FDF programs and Drought Hubs. These have expanded significantly over the years from 20 in 2022, to 58 in 2023, 83 in 2024, and 94 in 2025.

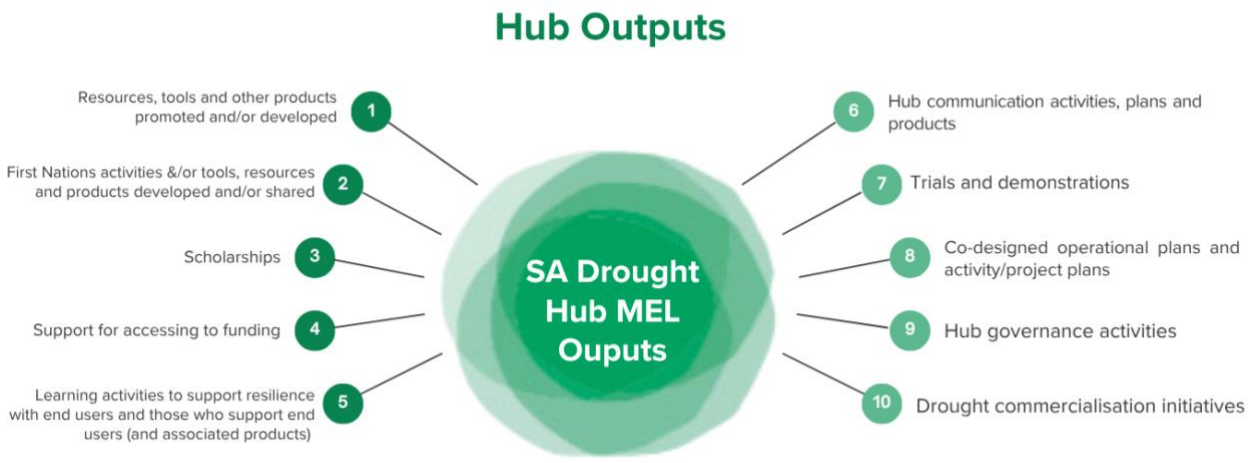
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DROUGHT RESILIENCE ADOPTION AND INNOVATION HUB
sadroughthub.com.au | sadroughthub@adelaide.edu.au

SA Drought Hub monitoring and evaluation framework

The SA Drought Hub's monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) framework tracks what the Hub delivers and the outcomes these activities contribute towards. The framework includes ten Hub outputs, five national Hub short-term outcomes, four national Hub medium-term outcomes and two SA Drought Hub-specific medium-term outcomes.

These outputs and outcomes provide the framework for reporting the Hub's progress and impact throughout this report. The diagrams below provide an overview of the framework, with further detail and evidence against each outcome provided in the relevant sections. Detailed reporting against the ten Hub outputs is provided in the corresponding MEL Data Capture.





National program-level outcomes

MT1: Increased availability and accessibility of, and capacity to use and adopt, knowledge that can be applied to improve drought resilience

Drought resilience knowledge is only valuable if people can access, understand, and effectively use it. To support this, the SA Drought Hub focused on increasing information accessibility through different formats and delivery methods, while tailoring knowledge and support to the needs of growers, advisers, industry, and communities to better support informed decision-making and practice change.

Making drought resilience knowledge available and accessible

Across the past 12 months, the SA Drought Hub supported the development of 94 drought resilience resources, tools, and products, with 5,422 recorded users. Actual use is expected to be higher, as user numbers could not be captured for many resources. Products included decision-support tools, technical and economic analyses, guides, fact sheets, case studies, podcasts and videos. A further 293 project-specific communication products and materials extended information through Hub and partner channels and established networks.

The Hub's Knowledge Base also provides a central, ongoing source of drought resilience information and resources, while project webpages provide access to project-specific information, findings, and outputs. Hub news articles, newsletters (including the Soils Scoop newsletter), social media, and Member and partner communications further extend the reach of this information. By June 2026, the Hub had 689 newsletter subscribers, and a combined social media following of 2,998.

The Hub-supported Nature Informed Decision-Making project, delivered by the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board, translated project knowledge into practical resources for pastoral landholders, including the Plants Under Pressure guide, a vegetation assessment checklist, and a goat management booklet. The resources support landholders to assess vegetation condition and total grazing pressure and use this information to inform grazing management approaches during dry conditions. To improve accessibility and use, the resources were made available online and distributed through local workshops with landholders, with 500 printed copies of the guide and checklist produced. By June 2026, 17 producers, 20 extension officers, and three conservation staff had used the resources and received associated training, with extension officers providing an additional pathway to share the knowledge and resources with producers.

The Barossa Improved Grazing Group's (BIGG) Determining Return on Investment of Drought Resilience Measures to Advance On-farm Adoption project addressed an information gap identified by producers; a BIGG survey found that 59% of producers identified perceived cost as a barrier to adoption. As a result, the project worked with Agrista to assess the financial viability of three drought resilience practices previously explored through Hub projects including on-farm water technologies, containment feeding, and mixed species pastures.

Access to this economic data helps producers weigh the upfront cost of a practice against its potential financial benefits, reducing uncertainty around investment and supporting more informed decision-making. For example, five case studies assessed investments in water monitoring, remote cameras, and water quality technologies. Analysis of the five investments in technologies saw returns exceed 100% in four case studies and exceed 50% in one case study. The findings were then made available in detailed return on investment reports, shorter overviews, and videos, thus improving information accessibility by providing different ways for people to access and engage with information based on their communication preferences, learning styles, and level of technical knowledge.



Figure 1: The economic analysis overview for the mixed species pastures analysis for the BIGG Determining Return on Investment of Drought Resilience Measures to Advance On-farm Adoption project.

Furthermore, the Upper North Farming Systems (UNFS) Break Crop Suitability Across Landscapes project increased access to locally relevant agronomic and economic information about the suitability and performance of different break crop options. Alongside paddock-scale demonstrations and technical findings, an economic analysis for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 seasons assessed grain and hay gross margins, the value of remaining or additional nitrogen required for the following season after grain harvest, and the cost of additional nutrient removal when crops were cut for hay rather than harvested for grain. A grower case study demonstrated how soil type, seasonal conditions, crop performance, profitability, and machinery requirements influence break crop decisions. While canola had historically been their primary break crop because of its reliability, legumes were explored to diversify options and reduce nitrogen inputs. Faba beans offered potential nitrogen benefits but presented seed-size and machinery challenges, while Kabuli chickpeas had similar machinery constraints and risks of grain cracking. Lentils were becoming an important part of the break crop mix alongside canola and hay, balancing profitability, weed control, and soil improvement. By sharing a grower perspective on both the benefits and practical limitations experienced on-farm, the case study gives growers more relevant information to support decision-making and assess whether adopting different break crops could strengthen drought resilience within their own farming system.

Together, the UNFS, BIGG, and Nature Informed Decision-Making projects strengthen the agronomic, environmental, and economic information available to producers to support informed decision-making and adoption. Projects and programs of work like these contribute towards FDF Economic Outcome 1 (EC1), more primary producers adopt transformative strategies and technologies to reduce financial exposure to drought; Economic Outcome 2 (EC2), more primary producers adopt risk management practices to improve their sustainability and resilience; and Environmental Outcome 1 (EN1), more primary producers preserve natural capital while also improving productivity and profitability.

Crop establishment: connecting research, extension and accessible resources

In March 2026, the SA Drought Hub's Farming Systems Adoption Officer delivered the Tools and Tactics for Improving Crop Establishment: Managing Risk in Early Sowing and Variable Rainfall Forum, in partnership with Ag Excellence Alliance and Hart Field-Site Group. The Forum was strategically planned following consecutive dry seasons and an unexpected wet start to 2026, when subsoil moisture across parts of the Mid North and surrounding regions prompted questions from growers about crop establishment and sowing decisions. The event brought together growers, advisers, researchers, and industry to address these questions and ensure growers had access to timely information ahead of the 2026 sowing period. This included research from the Hub and SAGIT-supported Adelaide University led project, Risk assessment and mitigation associated with dry sowing.

Access to this information was extended beyond those who attended the Forum, with presentations and other relevant crop establishment resources compiled on the SA Drought Hub Crop and Pasture Management Knowledge Base, providing growers and advisers with ongoing access to support future decisions.

First Nations knowledge sharing

The SA Drought Hub continued to support two-way knowledge sharing with First Nations communities, recognising that accessibility also means providing culturally appropriate ways for First Nations knowledge to inform drought resilience activities. Through the Kangaroo Partnerships Project, Kangaroo Yarning Circles were held with four First Nations organisations and networks and 43 participants. The Yarning Circles provided a culturally appropriate forum for participants to share lived experience, intergenerational knowledge and perspectives on kangaroo management, while identifying opportunities for greater First Nations involvement in future management approaches. Knowledge from these discussions was then shared more broadly through the Yarning Circles: Listening on Country to capture Aboriginal insights into kangaroos article and Across the Outback magazine, increasing the availability of First Nations knowledge to regional communities and other stakeholders.

In addition, the River Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Corporation (RMMAC) Yarning Circles project, supported by the SA Drought Hub Deputy Director, brought together RMMAC Rangers, community members, and the RMMAC Board through three Yarning Circles, alongside project planning meetings and post-event debriefs. A Climate Change Yarning Circles Report was developed, capturing First Nations perspectives on climate change impacts, cultural knowledge, and community-identified priorities for adaptation and land management. These priorities are now being implemented through the RMMAC Ranger Program, demonstrating the capacity to use knowledge generated through the Yarning Circles in broader on-Country program activities. The Hub's Knowledge Broker also shared the Yarning Circle approach and learnings with other Drought Hubs, extending access to knowledge about culturally appropriate First Nations engagement beyond South Australia.

Learning through activities, trials, and demonstrations

Across the past 12 months, the SA Drought Hub delivered and supported 323 learning activities, reaching 11,700 attendees. This included 3,598 producers and 978 consultants and advisers participating in crop walks, workshops, field days, and other extension activities. A further 57 on-farm trials and demonstrations were delivered across 77 participating farms, attracting 1,353 visitors, 696 of which were producers. Together, these activities gave growers, advisers, and industry opportunities to see and compare drought resilience practices, technologies, and treatments under local farming conditions. Seeing how they perform locally helps build confidence in the practices and supports growers to assess and apply them within their own farming systems.

Learning Activity Survey results provided further evidence that the knowledge shared was accessible and useful beyond the Hub-supported activity itself. Of 323 respondents, 97.8% agreed or strongly agreed that the content was easy to understand, 97.8% were likely to consult or use the materials again, and 94.7% felt confident sharing their new skills and knowledge with peers. Collectively, respondents reported managing approximately 1.74 million hectares, indicating the potential reach of this knowledge across South Australian farming systems. This figure is indicative, as surveys were anonymous and may include overlapping

properties or land where respondents are not responsible for all decision-making and associated practice change.

Building the capacity of advisers, industry, and the next generation

The SA Drought Hub also strengthened the extension capacity of people working directly with growers. A key example of this was the extension and facilitation training delivered by Ag Consulting Co. Across four workshops, 57 participants from 17 Hub partner organisations strengthened their skills in designing engaging extension, facilitating adult learning, and better supporting practice change. Nine participants also undertook one-on-one consultations post-workshop, providing targeted support to apply the strategies within their own work. Participants reported plans to improve their activity planning, adapt their presentation styles, better incorporate extension into project development, and use the facilitation tools across future activities. This is a significant piece of work, as strengthening the extension skills of the people working directly with growers builds their capacity to effectively communicate drought resilience knowledge and support growers to understand, use, and adopt it in their decision-making and practice.

The Hub also supported broader RDEA&C capacity building through projects and sponsorships including 15 scholarship-based initiatives encompassing regional internships, postgraduate research on sheep heat stress and climate adaptation in marginal farming systems, and scholarships, awards, and targeted professional development for students, early-career professionals, and advisers. One-on-one and more targeted support was also provided to growers and consultants through projects including DRINKS, Kangaroo Island Integrated Farm Planning, and VRT, helping participants apply knowledge specifically to their own farming businesses and organisations.

The Hub also continued to support the Executive Officer Network, enabling regional Grower Groups to share knowledge and strengthen how drought resilience information is communicated to growers across their regions.

Overall, these activities demonstrate increased access to drought resilience knowledge and strengthened capacity to use and adopt it, providing an important foundation for longer-term practice change and drought resilience. Progress against MT1 was supported by strong partnerships and coordinated delivery (ST1), a focus on the needs of growers, advisers, students, and First Nations communities (ST2), strengthened regional capacity and connections (ST3), and collaboration and knowledge sharing across the national Drought Hub network (ST4).

MT2: Increased adoption and commercialisation of drought resilience technologies and practices

Across the past 12 months, Hub-supported projects, sponsorships and activities have contributed to increased adoption of drought resilience technologies and practices across South Australia. Adoption occurred in different ways, from growers implementing or refining practices on farm, to advisers incorporating Hub-supported research into their work with clients, and producers engaging with new technologies. The Hub also supported the uptake and commercialisation of drought resilience technologies.

Increasing the adoption of targeted phosphorus management

The SA Drought Hub has supported increased adoption of targeted phosphorus management through the Making the most of phosphorus (P) fertiliser inputs: Managing spatial variability and long-term strategies project, led by Trengove Consulting. A key focus of the work is pHnNDVI, a mapping method used to identify where crops are likely to benefit from phosphorus fertiliser and where additional phosphorus is unlikely to provide a return, helping growers make more targeted phosphorus management decisions.

Building on earlier research, the project involves the SA Drought Hub working alongside SAGIT, GRDC and the FDF Long-Term Trials program to address a topic that has received limited support and investment. This collaboration has also allowed the work to expand beyond its initial focus area of the Upper Yorke Peninsula and Mid North, into other South Australian farming regions. Across 2025/26, this included four GRDC Regional Updates and five local crop walks/field days across the Eyre Peninsula, Mallee, and South East regions, engaging more than 200 growers and advisers. The project was further extended through research papers, articles, and communications across partner networks.

For growers adopting the pHnNDVI method, the benefit is being able to make more targeted phosphorus fertiliser decisions across their paddocks. Rather than applying a uniform rate, growers can reduce phosphorus in areas where crops are unlikely to respond, or maintain/increase application where a yield response is more likely. This enables growers to reduce unnecessary fertiliser costs while maintaining productivity and longer-term soil fertility relevant to drought resilience. It also provides greater flexibility to manage financial risk when seasonal conditions are unfavourable and crop yield potential is uncertain.

Importantly, there is clear evidence that this research is progressing into on-farm adoption. Trengove Consulting reported working with agronomists and precision agriculture specialists to support adoption of the pHnNDVI method with grower clients. An agronomist from Platinum Ag in the South East reported that five clients had committed to incorporating the pHnNDVI method, covering approximately 12,900 hectares. The method had already been completed across 4,900 hectares, with a further 8,000 hectares to be assessed in future, as outlined in the project technical report. This provides a clear example of project findings progressing beyond research and extension into adoption within commercial farming businesses.

Furthermore, the project is also supporting a pathway from adoption to commercialisation. Trengove Consulting further reported interest from regional agronomists in adopting the

pHnNDVI method to guide variable-rate phosphorus applications for grower clients. Under this model, agronomists and growers can engage third-party precision agriculture specialists to provide data management and mapping services required to apply the method on farm. This provides a pathway for the method to be offered as a commercial service, supporting its continued availability and adoption beyond the life of the project.



Figure 2: A crop walk led by Trengove Consulting through the Making the most of phosphorus (P) fertiliser inputs: Managing spatial variability and long-term strategies project.

Supporting increased adoption of mixed species pastures

The SA Drought Hub has also supported the adoption and improved management of mixed species pastures through local research and extension in the Mid North region from 2022 to 2026. Mixed species pastures can strengthen drought resilience by giving growers more options to maintain feed supply and quality across varying seasonal conditions. They can reduce reliance on supplementary feeding during dry conditions and support livestock production. In addition, incorporating legumes can further increase soil nitrogen for subsequent crops, reducing the reliance on nitrogen fertiliser and providing an additional economic and environmental benefit.

Through this ongoing work, growers and advisers have been able to see how different mixed species pastures perform under local conditions, from the more favourable seasons experienced in earlier projects, to the extreme drought conditions of 2025. This has provided locally relevant information to increase confidence in decision-making around the selection and management of pasture mixes under varying seasonal conditions.

Alongside this ongoing research and extension, there is evidence of increased adoption of mixed species pastures. In 2023, participants attending a Trigger Point Workshop and Pasture

Walk reported intentions to change their pasture management, with intended changes including greater use of multi-species pastures and consideration of plantain and chicory. By April 2025, adoption was evident across those surveyed at the Mid North High Rainfall Zone Autumn Update, with 80% of local growers, advisers and agribusiness representatives reporting that they, or their clients, were already using mixed species pastures, while a further 10% were planning to do so. Together, these results demonstrate a shift from early intent to increase or change the use of mixed species pastures to widespread use among those surveyed in 2025.

The most recent project, which concluded in May 2026, Mixed Species Pastures in the Mid North, built on earlier research and provided growers and advisers with information to further support pasture selection and management decisions. The project continued the Farrell Flat demonstration site and expanded the work to Hart, increasing opportunities for growers and advisers to see the pasture options demonstrated under local conditions and consider their application on farm.

Notably, in their final report, Trengove stated that "many advisers have requested/commented on data from this and previous projects as being a key part of their decision making with clients". This is an important pathway for increased adoption, as building the capacity of advisers and other agricultural professionals is a core component of the Hub's work. It enables independent and local drought resilience and preparedness information to be incorporated into the advice they provide directly to growers. This is particularly important as these advisers already have established relationships and rapport with their grower clients, helping Hub-supported research and extension reach growers who are not directly engaged in Hub activities or connected to the Hub through Grower Groups or Ag Bureaus.

As outlined in MT1, the Hub also supported the Barossa Improved Grazing Group to build on the earlier mixed species pasture research by assessing the return on investment for growers during 2025/26. Using data from the Marananga grower demonstration, a cost-benefit analysis compared a multi-species pasture with a conventional ryegrass and vetch pasture. The analysis found little financial advantage when both were treated as annual pasture systems, with the multi-species pasture returning a net benefit of $6/ha, or 2% return on investment. However, when assessed as a longer-term pasture system, the multi-species pasture delivered substantially greater returns, largely due to improved feed quality supporting greater lamb production and returns. This gives growers clearer evidence of when mixed species pastures are likely to be financially worthwhile, reducing uncertainty and giving growers greater confidence to adopt the practice where it suits their farming system.

Turning knowledge into practice change

Beyond individual project examples, Hub-level evaluation data provides broader evidence that research and extension activities are influencing participants' intentions to move towards more drought resilient practices. Across field days, workshops, crop walks and other learning activities, 323 Learning Activity Survey responses were collected in 2025/26, with 92.6% of respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing that, as a result of the Hub-supported

activity, they were likely to make or consider making a practice change (with a further 4% selecting 'not applicable'). Responses were collected across a broad range of Hub-supported activities covering nutrient and fertiliser management, pasture and livestock management, farm business decision-making, soil health, water security, and other areas relevant to drought resilience and preparedness.

Importantly, respondents also identified specific changes they intended to make or consider as a result of these activities. These included changes to fertiliser and nutrient management, pasture and grazing decisions, soil management, livestock management, water planning, and the use of new technologies. This demonstrates that participants were not only reporting increased knowledge or awareness, but were also considering what practice changes could be applied within their own farming systems to contribute to increased drought resilience and preparedness.

Examples of intended practice changes identified by participants include:

- Water security and monitoring: "I will be more diligent in detecting water leaks with gauges and bots, and have better sealed fittings... I will check the quality of the new bore water so as it is suitable for sheep to drink".
- Soil testing and targeted nutrient management: "Further soil sampling, soil nutrient budgeting", "Soil sampling, zone method for sampling, variable rate in zones".
- Reducing soil moisture loss: "Mulching under trees to decrease moisture losses".
- Increasing on-farm diversity: "Changing some of my crop/ pasture rotations", "Multi species cropping".
- Pasture and feed management: "Perennial pasture base", "Nitrogen use. Variety barley look at doing silage", "Move stock more often to maintain pasture".

While these responses reflect intent rather than confirmed adoption, the number of participants considering practice change, together with the specific changes they identified, provides an important early indication of potential future adoption following Hub-supported learning activities.

There are also examples of participants putting Hub-supported learning into practice. For example, following participation in the Hub's Drought Resilience Information and Knowledge Sharing (DRINKS) process, one farm business took the approach back to its farm team and began using it as an agenda for monthly meetings. The business uses the process to consider where they are in the season and discuss the decisions that need to be made. This provides a practical example of Hub-supported learning being incorporated into ongoing farm business decision-making, helping producers plan for changing seasonal conditions, rather than only responding once conditions deteriorate.

Practice change has also been reported through the Hub's farming systems and livestock-focused work. The Hub Farming Systems Adoption Officer reported that through continued extension of the De-risking the Seeding Program and the aligned Hub-supported projects, growers were increasingly using soil moisture conditions rather than calendar timing to guide

early and dry sowing decisions. This allows growers to respond to actual soil moisture conditions and establish crops when moisture is available, rather than relying on traditional sowing dates when seasonal breaks are late or unreliable. In addition, the Hub's Livestock Technical Specialist reported practice change amongst producers participating in the Maternal Productivity workshops, delivered through the More Beef from Pastures 2.0 project. This included greater use of body condition scoring, growth targets, and structured joining management to monitor breeder performance and reduce reproductive losses.

Supporting commercialisation and technology uptake

Throughout 2025/26, the Hub also supported technology uptake and access to commercialisation opportunities. The Hub does not directly commercialise technologies due to several factors, including short project timeframes, IP requirements, and the need to deliver public rather than private benefit. Instead, its role focuses on supporting technology uptake and connecting innovators with dedicated commercialisation programs.

The Hub-supported Kangaroo Partnerships Project, led by the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board, provides an example of the Hub supporting the uptake of technologies relevant to drought resilience. The project supported trials and demonstrations of AI-powered smart gates and automated monitoring cameras, alongside workshops demonstrating the use of drone technology to monitor kangaroo populations and vegetation. The drone workshops showed landholders how to monitor kangaroo numbers and vegetation condition using drones, supporting more informed kangaroo management decisions. This is particularly relevant to drought resilience, as overabundant kangaroo populations increase grazing pressure and reduce groundcover and available feed, particularly during dry conditions. This can significantly delay post-drought recovery from environmental and economic perspectives.



Figure 3: A drone workshop held in Murray Bridge through the SAAL Kangaroo Partnerships Project.

The Hub also supported commercialisation opportunities by promoting the FDF Drought Venture Studio to South Australian technology developers and providers through its networks, newsletters, social media and direct communications. Several South Australian applicants applied to the program, with some successful in receiving Drought Venture Studio support. This enabled South Australian innovators to access dedicated support to further develop and

commercialise drought resilience technologies, allowing the Hub to contribute to commercialisation without having a direct role.

As outlined further in MT3, the Hub also supported technology uptake through TEKFARM, connecting growers with agtech solutions to on-farm challenges. TEKFARM provided opportunities for growers to trial and assess emerging technologies under commercial farming conditions, while providing technology developers with direct feedback from end users. This helped reduce barriers to adoption and supported the uptake of technologies with potential to improve productivity, resource-use efficiency, monitoring and decision-making under drought and variable seasonal conditions.

Other activities supported throughout 2025/26 included a robotic agtech field day in the Adelaide Hills and an eID, agtech and productivity session with MLA and PIRSA, providing further opportunities for producers to engage with emerging technologies, as outlined in Output 10 of the MEL Data Capture.

The work outlined above highlights key areas of Hub investment contributing to MT2 during 2025/26. Collectively, this work strengthened industry collaboration (ST1) and supported the uptake of drought resilience practices and technologies by end users (ST5), contributing to increased adoption and commercialisation opportunities.

MT3: Technologies and practices adopted are effective in improving drought resilience

Demonstrating progress against MT3 requires evidence that drought resilience technologies and practices are being adopted and are effective once applied/implemented. As producers typically move through stages of awareness, knowledge, trial and implementation before the effectiveness of an adopted practice can be assessed, MT3 is challenging to measure within shorter project and reporting cycles. Importantly, several Hub projects and programs of work provided evidence of effectiveness during 2025/26, including improvements in on-farm water security, variable rate technology and practices that reduce the risks associated with dry/early seeding and crop establishment under increasingly variable seasonal conditions.

Improving on-farm water security

The Lined Catchment Demonstration for the Barossa Ranges project led by the Barossa Improved Grazing Group provides a clear example of a drought resilience technology delivering measurable benefits under low-rainfall conditions. The one-hectare poly-lined catchment was installed at Flaxman Valley to improve runoff into an existing dam, addressing declining reliability of surface water supplies as rainfall becomes lower and more variable. It is important to note that the SA Drought Hub did not fund construction of the lined catchment, which was supported by the landholder and the Northern and Yorke Landscape Board, and instead funded extension and promotion activities around the demonstration to support grower awareness, understanding, and adoption of the technology.

Early results demonstrate a substantial improvement in water capture. The site has an average annual rainfall of around 700 mm, with the one-hectare lined catchment estimated to generate

approximately one megalitre of runoff for every 100 mm of rainfall. During the 2024 drought year, when approximately 400 mm was received and conventional catchments generated virtually no runoff, the lined catchment would have generated an estimated four megalitres. Following installation, a 26 mm rainfall event generated approximately 250,000 litres of runoff into the dam, where the landholder reported the same event would not normally have generated runoff. These results and the operation of the lined catchment were captured in a Hub-supported video, providing producers with an accessible example of how the technology can improve water capture under dry conditions and supporting broader awareness and adoption.

This provides early evidence that lined catchments can improve on-farm water security by capturing water from smaller rainfall events that would otherwise produce little or no runoff. Hub-supported extension is now using these demonstrated results to support consideration of the technology by other producers, with 24 of 25 respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing that the event improved their understanding of lined catchments and other water saving measures. Participants reported considering actions including installing their own lined catchment, lining existing dams, assessing suitable sites and calculating costs and payback.



Figure 4: The lined catchment being constructed in early 2026 as part of BIGG's lined catchment project.

Optimising inputs and mitigating financial risk

The Hub's multi-year investment in variable rate technology (VRT) projects has provided strong evidence of both adoption and effectiveness under dry seasonal conditions. VRT can help growers manage input costs by matching fertiliser rates to the needs and yield potential of different soil zones within a paddock, reducing unnecessary costs when seasonal conditions limit production. Building on previous Hub-supported work with Mallee Sustainable Farming (MSF), the 2025/26 Precision Made Practical - Expanding Variable Rate Tech for More Growers project supported growers to use soil zone mapping, soil testing, fertiliser strip trials and VRT to match inputs to differences across paddocks. During the project, 63 growers participated, with

32 progressing to fertiliser strip trials or whole-paddock VRT. Soil sampling was undertaken across 19 paddocks and 72 zones, while harvest data from 11 growers across 32 paddocks were analysed to compare crop performance across soil zones and fertiliser treatments.

The dry conditions experienced throughout the 2025 season provided an opportunity to assess the effectiveness of VRT under the conditions it is intended to help growers manage. Dry conditions and low plant-available water limited crop yield, with additional fertiliser providing little to no yield benefit and resulting in negative gross margins in most cases. Results also showed why managing soil zones separately can be important. In the Murray Plains trial, available soil nitrogen varied by up to 60 kg N/ha between production zones, meaning some zones already had the equivalent of around $150-160/ha more nitrogen available in the soil than others, as outlined in the project technical report. Ultimately, these project outcomes and results demonstrate how VRT can help growers respond to dry seasonal conditions by matching fertiliser inputs to available soil water, soil nitrogen, and yield potential, avoiding unnecessary costs where additional fertiliser is unlikely to provide a positive economic return.



Figure 5: An aerial drone image of a paddock showing strong spatial variability in crop growth across the field, through MSF's VRT project.

Evidence from the project also shows growers progressing beyond initial trials towards broader and more independent use of VRT. Existing participants continued to expand and refine VRT across their farms, while two growers independently processed and interpreted their own spatial harvest data. Hub-supported case studies also provide evidence of the benefits of VRT once adopted. Economically, a grower case study from the Murray Plains region found that varying their fertiliser rates according to soil zones increased returns by an average of $31/ha, compared with applying the same standard fertiliser rate across the paddock. Agronomically, more recent grower experiences demonstrate growers using fertiliser strips and harvest data to better match fertiliser rates across their paddocks, helping avoid unnecessary inputs and costs, and use fertiliser more efficiently under variable seasonal conditions. In addition, a further seven growers commenced their VRT journey in the 2026 season. This supports MT3 by demonstrating growers moving from trials and demonstrations to adopting and refining the practice within their own farming systems.

Continuing this work over multiple seasons has also allowed evidence and grower experiences to be captured at different stages of adoption. Grower experiences and results have been documented through Hub-developed VRT case studies, as well as MSF extension materials including grower case studies, practical resources, videos and podcasts, providing examples of how growers have trialled, adopted and refined VRT over time. Ongoing investment across this program of work has supported adoption over multiple seasons, allowing growers to expand their use of VRT while building evidence of its effectiveness under different seasonal conditions.

De-risking the seeding program

A core area of the Hub's investment across the past 12 months has been improving crop establishment in a changing climate, with a particular focus on reducing the risks associated with dry and early sowing. This has included a series of on-farm demonstration sites across multiple Hub regions that build on existing research and trial practices across different crop types and varieties, soil types and seeding systems under local farming conditions. While this work extends across a range of Hub-supported projects, a significant example is the Hub's involvement in the broader De-risking the Seeding Program. Led by SA Drought Hub Farming Systems Adoption Officer with Ag Excellence Alliance and funded through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund Extension and Adoption of Drought Resilience Farming Practices grant, the De-risking the Seeding Program brings together 14 grower groups and four Drought Hubs across southern Australia. The work aims to accelerate the adoption of dry and early sowing practices, helping growers to make more informed seeding decisions as seasonal variability increases and seasonal breaks become less reliable.

The SA Drought Hub has further strengthened this program of work through aligned projects across South Australia. During 2025/26, six Hub co-designed projects continued across the Adelaide Plains, Mid-North and Yorke, Murraylands, Riverland and Mallee, Upper North and Flinders and Eyre Peninsula Hub regions. These were led by Mallee Sustainable Farming (MSF), Hart Field-Site Group (Hart), Upper North Farming Systems (UNFS), Northern Sustainable Soils (NSS), Murray Plains Farmers (MPF) and Agricultural Innovation & Research Eyre Peninsula (AIR EP). Together, these projects implemented on-farm trials and demonstrations that allowed growers to see how different sowing depths and timings, seeding systems, fertiliser and herbicide placement and weed management practices performed under local farming conditions.

The extreme drought conditions experienced across many of the demonstration sites in 2025 provided an opportunity to assess how these practices performed under limited soil moisture and challenging establishment conditions. Results showed that there was no single approach to successfully de-risking dry and early sowing, with the effectiveness of different practices varying according to the soil and crop type, moisture availability and seeding conditions. This is particularly relevant as dry and early sowing is already widely adopted across southern Australia, shifting the focus from whether growers adopt the practice, to how it can be implemented effectively while managing establishment risks.

The demonstrations also identified where particular practices improved crop establishment and performance, and where they were less effective. Sowing depth was one example where effectiveness varied considerably between environments. At the Mallee Sustainable Farming trial site in Bowhill, deeper sowing improved crop performance in non-wetting sands, with the 40mm and 80mm sowing depth treatments yielding around 4 t/ha, compared with the 2.3 t/ha at 20 mm. However, a site at Waikerie with very low soil moisture and severe wind erosion, showed a yield decline from 1.02 t/ha at 20mm to 0.36 t/ha at 80mm. These contrasting results outlined in the project technical report demonstrate that deeper sowing can provide benefits where moisture is available at depth, but can increase risk where soil moisture is insufficient, highlighting the need for farmers to understand and identify the conditions under which the practice is most effective.

In addition, fertiliser placement also had a measurable impact on the effectiveness of dry sowing practices. At the Northern Sustainable Soils demonstration site, increasing DAP (Diammonium Phosphate) fertiliser rates from 100 to 200 kg/ha increased yield by an average of 240 kg/ha, or 8%. In contrast, placing 50 kg/ha or more of urea with the seed reduced establishment and yield by an average of around 300 kg/ha, or 9%. Separating fertiliser from the seed by 11-25 mm prevented this yield loss. These results from the project technical report demonstrate how appropriate fertiliser placement can support crop establishment and minimise the risks associated with dry sowing.

Understanding the effectiveness of these practices is particularly important given their level of existing adoption. A baseline survey of 200 growers undertaken through the Ag Excellence Alliance led project found that 86% already sowed into dry soils, although only just over half felt confident doing so. More than a quarter of respondents reported dry sowing 81-100% of their seeding program. This reinforces the role of the Hub-supported projects in moving beyond the initial trial stage to then demonstrating the effectiveness of dry and early sowing under local conditions.

This work will continue in 2026/27 with a further eight projects across South Australia demonstrating dry and early sowing practices under local farming conditions, while also partnering in the newly announced $2.709 million Future Drought Fund Scaling Success project, led by Ag Excellence Alliance. Together, these investments will continue to build evidence that adopted dry and early sowing practices are effective in improving drought resilience and preparedness, while identifying how they can be refined across different farming systems and local conditions.

Effective adoption of agtech

The Hub also supported the Farmers2Founders TEKFARM program through the Hub's Innovation Broker role. TEKFARM uses a farmer-led, adviser-supported approach to connect producers with proven, fit-for-purpose technologies suited to their individual farm needs, while building the knowledge and confidence needed to select and adopt appropriate agtech solutions. Funded through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund, the completed program facilitated 168 technology deployments from 45 technology companies across 100

farms, while also building evidence on the performance and impact of adopted technologies. Through the SA Drought Hub's involvement, 25 local producers deployed 38 technologies across the state, significantly exceeding initial targets.

Follow-up with participating producers provided evidence of the effectiveness of technologies once adopted. For example, one producer using an Optiweigh in-paddock weighing system found cattle were gaining an average of 800 g/day, allowing supplementary hay feeding to stop earlier than expected when visual pasture assessment suggested it was still required. This reduced unnecessary feed inputs and associated business costs, while allowing livestock performance to be monitored more accurately during dry conditions. In the Adelaide Hills, TEKFARM also supported Schuberts Vineyard to better understand variation in soil constraints and plant-available water across the vineyard, which ranged from 40mm in one soil zone to 19mm in another. This allowed management/investment to be better targeted towards differences in water availability, helping to make more efficient use of limited water and maintain production levels during dry conditions. These examples show how adopted agtech can improve drought resilience by helping producers make better decisions and manage limited resources more effectively. Further producer experiences were captured through case studies and contributed to final Future Drought Fund project reporting, while findings from the Hub's involvement were also presented at the 2025 Australasia-Pacific Extension Network Conference.

Progress against MT3 has been supported by partnerships with Grower Groups, industry and other Drought Hubs (ST1), participatory approaches that respond to producer needs (ST2), and extension activities that support growers to trial, adopt and refine practices (ST5). Together, these activities have supported adoption while building evidence of the effectiveness of drought resilience technologies and practices once implemented.

MT4: Design and delivery of Hub activities is responsive to end-user needs

Drought resilience priorities vary greatly across South Australia. Differences in climate, landscapes, farming systems, industries, and seasonal conditions mean that the needs of a grain grower on the Eyre Peninsula can differ significantly from those of a livestock producer in the South East, or a viticulture business in the Barossa Valley. Designing activities that are responsive to these differing end user needs requires ongoing engagement with the people and organisations working across these regions and industries.

Throughout 2025/26, the SA Drought Hub identified local priorities through direct engagement and consultation with Hub Members, project participants, growers, advisers, industry, alongside project reporting, participant feedback, and through formal MEL. Hub staff also provide an important link between organisations and emerging research and extension needs, identifying opportunities for collaboration, project development, and funding.

Once a priority or opportunity is identified, the Hub works with the relevant organisations and end users to determine what an appropriate activity may look like. Project ideas are considered against the Hub's drought resilience priorities and existing research and extension activities before being developed with the people needed to make them work, which may include

growers, delivery partners, industry, technical specialists, and co-investors. This helps ensure projects address an identified need, draw on the right expertise, avoid duplicating existing work, and can be delivered through organisations and networks already connected to the intended end users.

Importantly, the co-design process does not stop once an activity is developed, with delivery, resources, and activities continuing to be refined in response to end user feedback, changing seasonal conditions, and emerging priorities. The Hub's role therefore extends beyond simply providing funding. It works alongside growers, Hub Member organisations, industry, RDCs, and project and sponsorship partners to support, facilitate, partner in, and lead the delivery of relevant activities and initiatives. The strength of this collaborative model is also reflected in the Hub's Social Network Analysis undertaken by Southern Cross University across 2025/26, which found that Hub projects have strengthened partnerships and connectivity across its broader network, supporting more coordinated drought resilience efforts.

Across these activities, the Hub responded to end user needs and priorities spanning soil and land management, crop and pasture management, livestock and fodder management, water security and management, farm planning and decision-making, and community resilience and wellbeing. Feedback from Hub Members reflects this, with 95% of the 39 respondents to the SA Drought Hub Annual Members Survey satisfied or very satisfied with opportunities to ask questions about Hub priorities and planned activities, 92% with opportunities to provide input, and 90% with the extent to which their input was valued and influenced priorities and activities.

At the activity level, 98.5% of 323 Learning Activity Survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that content was relevant to their needs. Importantly, these surveys are also part of the Hub's ongoing co-design process. Participant feedback on what was or was not useful, what could be improved, and what they would like to learn more about is used to inform future Hub activities and is shared with project partners to help refine their own delivery across a range of projects and programs, not just those supported by the Hub.

Responding to the needs of early to mid-career farmers

The Early to Mid-Career Farmer program was developed specifically for producers taking on greater responsibility for farm business decisions, but with fewer years of experience managing drought and difficult seasons. Delivered through nine regional Grower Groups, the program was designed to respond to local priorities rather than applying the same prescriptive content across the state. Each group worked with regional facilitators to identify drought resilience priorities most relevant to their farming systems and businesses.

The DRINKS process was embedded within the program to support this co-design, building on earlier pilots and feedback from participating farmers. While the earlier DRINKS process successfully captured farmer knowledge and decision-making, participants wanted greater direct value from the process and a clearer pathway from the information collected to subsequent activities. In response, the DRINKS process was refined so farmers were able to map the decisions they make through good, uncertain, drought, and recovery periods and identify where they required more knowledge, skills, or support, with these priorities then used

to shape the regionally specific training and support that followed. Priorities varied between regions and included financial and cashflow management, grain marketing, variable rate technology, crop agronomy in variable seasons, livestock and containment feeding, soil and pasture management, machinery investment, and benchmarking.

This was further supported in the Upper North Farming Systems impact report, where the group facilitator noted that "*the flexible, farmer-led design of the program has consistently been identified through informal feedback as a major strength of the project. Participants valued the ability to shape topics and activities according to seasonal conditions and local priorities, which helped ensure the program remained practical, relevant and strongly supported by the farming community throughout delivery*". Three regional facilitators further discuss how the co-design process worked in practice, and how farmer priorities shaped the delivery of their programs in this SA Drought Hub podcast.

Tailoring support to individual farm businesses

Responsiveness to end user needs also means recognising that growers within the same region may require different levels of support. The Kangaroo Island Integrated Farm Planning project combined group learning activities with targeted one-on-one and small-group specialist support across 19 participating properties. Following the broader group learning activities, specialists then worked directly with participants on issues identified within their own businesses, providing an opportunity to work through specific challenges and management decisions. This included practices to strengthen drought resilience and preparedness such as property and landscape rehydration planning, soil and sap testing and interpretation, identification of property-specific soil fertility and nutrition priorities, and whole-farm and enterprise performance analysis. Ongoing farm visits and follow-up advice allowed recommendations to be refined for individual businesses, recognising that technical knowledge often needs to be supported by tailored advice and ongoing support to translate into practice change.

A similar approach was implemented through the Precision made practical - expanding variable rate tech for more growers (VRT) project, where support was matched to growers' stage of adoption. Growers new to VRT could begin with paddock zoning, soil testing, and simple fertiliser strip trials, while the experienced growers progressed to whole-paddock VRT and more detailed analysis. One-on-one technical support used growers' own yield, protein, soil, and financial data to inform decisions about how VRT could be best applied and used within their farming system.

Community-led approaches to resilience and wellbeing

Drought resilience extends beyond the farm business, with personal wellbeing and strong regional communities also important to how people prepare for and manage difficult periods. Community resilience and wellbeing emerged as a clear priority through the Hub's earlier regional engagement consultation and has continued to shape activities designed to support farming communities through drought and other challenging periods.

The Hub has responded to this priority through different approaches to engaging and supporting farming communities. This involved previous work with ifarmwell to extend farmer-developed wellbeing resources, including the printing of Conversation Cards, designed to encourage conversations about wellbeing in farming communities. Building on this work across 2025/26, the University of Adelaide project Leveraging 'Kick off ya Boots' screenings to create greater resilience amongst the wider Ag communities around regional South Australia, in partnership with ifarmwell, used familiar language, humour, storytelling, and community events to engage regional farming communities in conversations about drought, farm pressures, family communication, succession planning, and wellbeing.

The screenings were planned alongside local communities, with local organisers tailoring the promotion, event format, and delivery to suit their specific region and audience. Conversation Cards were also distributed at screenings, providing a way for these conversations to continue post-event. More on this community-led approach is available in the SA Drought Hub ifarmwell case study.

The farmer-developed production provided a relatable and engaging way to share wellbeing messages, with 12 screenings attracting 1,705 people, including nine sold-out events. Demand extended beyond the original locations, with additional communities requesting screenings. The SA Drought Hub is now partnering with ifarmwell and the University of Adelaide through their successful Scaling Success application to extend the show's reach further. This demonstrates the value of sharing drought resilience and wellbeing messages in ways that reflect the people and communities they are intended to reach.

First Nations engagement

Responding to end user needs requires recognising that engagement looks different across communities. First Nations engagement was tailored to the communities involved, with Yarning Circles used to ensure local knowledge, experiences, and priorities shaped project delivery. Through the RMMAC Climate Yarning Circles, priorities identified by participants informed ongoing planning and were embedded into RMMAC's Ranger Program, providing a pathway from consultation into locally led action. The Kangaroo Partnerships project similarly used Yarning Circles to incorporate First Nations knowledge and perspectives into kangaroo management and future involvement.

Building regional capacity to respond to grower needs

The SA Drought Hub recognises that often the best way to reach growers and support informed decision-making is by supporting the people and organisations already working with them. Grower Groups play an important role in connecting growers with research, extension, and drought resilience activities, with their Executive Officers central to effective regional delivery.

The Grower Group Executive Officer Network focused on strengthening the skills, knowledge, and networks of Executive Officers working across South Australia's Grower Groups. Importantly, the Executive Officers identified their own priorities and skill gaps, which directly

shaped the program content and delivery. This included leadership and team development, organisational planning and succession, monitoring and evaluation, extension and facilitation, project delivery, and opportunities to share resources and approaches between groups. Activities included an in-person forum with targeted online sessions and ongoing peer-to-peer support, giving Executive Officers opportunities to build critical skills, share experiences, and learn from how other Grower Groups respond to similar challenges. The feedback was positive, with the in-person forum rated 8.8/10 and subsequent sessions on MEL and resource sharing rated 9.1/10 and 9.4/10 for content, respectively. Participants also identified the relationships and connections developed through the network as particularly valuable.

The Hub also supported early-career professionals to build experience within regional Grower Groups through its regional internship program. Across 2025/26, regional internships were delivered through Hart Field-Site Group, Mallee Sustainable Farming, MacKillop Farm Management Group, and Agricultural Research and Innovation Eyre Peninsula, alongside additional project specific internship opportunities through Barossa Improved Grazing Group (BIGG) and Australian Institute of Agriculture SA Division (AIA SA) in partnership with the Adelaide University Agricultural Students Association (AUASA). Interns gained direct experience in research, extension, communications, and grower engagement, while increasing the capacity of host organisations to respond to local grower priorities, and importantly built regional networks and gained invaluable industry experience.

This approach was extended beyond Grower Groups, with the Hub also supporting targeted capacity building for advisers, researchers, facilitators, students, and other industry professionals. This involved extension and facilitation training delivered by Ag Consulting Co, alongside sponsored initiatives such as the Southern Beef adviser workshop, livestock consultant professional development, undergraduate livestock advisory training, and the WoTL Stepping Into Leadership program, strengthening the skills of people who work directly with producers and regional communities.

Flexible support under changing conditions

Not every regional or industry need can be anticipated through larger co-designed projects, particularly in agriculture where seasonal conditions can change quickly and create new or urgent priorities. To provide this flexibility, the SA Drought Hub offers a unique Sponsorship Program, allowing Member organisations and Network Partners to bring forward locally identified challenges, ideas, and opportunities as they emerge. While organisations retain ownership over the activity and how it responds to their local audiences, Hub staff play an active role throughout the process, working with applicants to develop ideas, strengthen their alignment with drought resilience priorities, connect relevant expertise and stakeholders, and support delivery and reporting. This provides organisations with the flexibility to respond to their region's needs, while drawing on the Hub's networks, expertise, and support to further strengthen delivery. It also reflects the Hub's broader approach of directly supporting and working alongside organisations, rather than simply providing funding.

Across the past 12 months, 36 sponsorships were delivered with 29 organisations, responding to a wide range of locally identified priorities. The flexibility of the model is reflected in the diversity of activities supported. For example, AgKI delivered farm walks in response to local interest in improving hay quality, MSF reprinted and distributed its "101 Questions about SA Cropping Soils You Were Never Game to Ask" resource to improve local soil management, Barossa Australia addressed managing overwhelm during challenging times for grape growers and the viticultural industry, and the Buckleboo Farm Improvement Group delivered a field day focused on practical challenges associated with dry sowing and wind erosion.

Progress against MT4 has been supported by collaboration with growers, industry, and regional partners (ST1), co-design and participatory approaches (ST2), and locally led, flexible delivery through trusted networks (ST3, ST5). Together, these approaches have ensured end user needs shape the design and delivery of Hub activities. By supporting communities to identify their own priorities and shape activities around local needs, this approach also contributes to FDF Social Outcome 2 (S2): Communities implement transformative activities that improve their resilience to drought.



Figure 6: ifarmwell/Kick Off ya Boots project team at the KOYB screening.

SA Drought Hub-specific outcomes

HS1: Increased capacity, preparedness, and transition towards a future climate with less rainfall

Throughout 2025/26, the SA Drought Hub continued to build the capacity of South Australian producers, advisers and industry to prepare for drought, manage increasing climate variability and adapt farming systems to a future climate with less rainfall.

Hub projects and activities addressed this outcome through a multi-faceted approach across the state, improving access to locally relevant climate information and supporting timely, informed decision-making. In addition, the Hub developed sector-specific climate adaptation pressure matrices, highlighting key topics and areas of focus by industry. The Hub also facilitated extensive trialling of on-farm drought resilience practices and built the capacity of industry advisers and professionals to better support producers across short, medium- and long-term timeframes. This work has also focused on helping industries and regions consider how production systems may need to change under future climate conditions, including targeted work in low-rainfall farming systems and the South Australian wine sector.

Increased capacity towards a future climate with less rainfall

Building the knowledge, skills and confidence of producers, advisers and regional delivery partners remained central to strengthening drought and climate resilience across South Australia. Capacity building throughout 2025/26 included targeted support for early to mid-career farmers as they take on greater farm business decision-making responsibilities, regionally based internships providing early-career professionals with experience in applied research and extension and on-ground exposure to challenging seasonal conditions, and adviser training built into projects to strengthen the skills of those who work directly with producers and already have established trust and rapport.

An example is the extension and facilitation training delivered by Ag Consulting Co for Hub Members and regional delivery partners. The training focused on strengthening how learning activities are designed and delivered, including facilitation techniques, tailoring activities to audience needs and supporting producers to apply new information. Building the extension skills of advisers and professionals who already have technical expertise and established rapport with producers strengthens how drought resilience information is communicated, supporting greater uptake and adoption on farm.

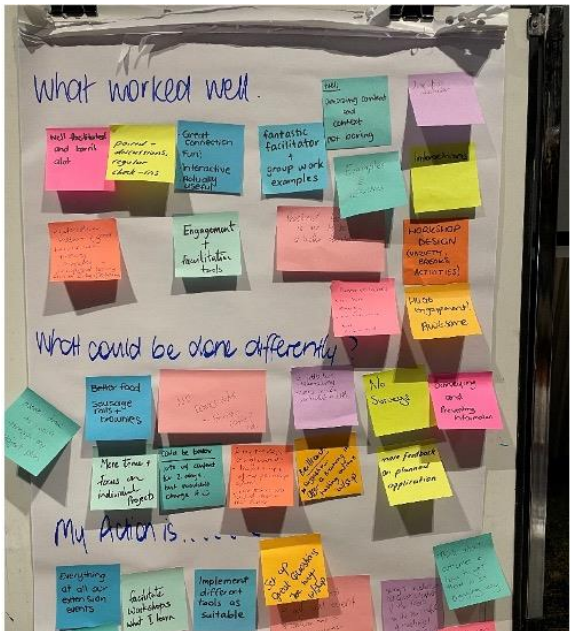


Figure 7: Monitoring and evaluation incorporated into the Ag Consulting Co facilitation training to understand what participants thought worked well, what could have been done differently and their actions following the training.

Preparedness towards a future climate with less rainfall

Preparing for drought requires producers to make decisions before conditions become critical, supported by the information, skills and tools to assess risk and respond as seasonal conditions change. Across Hub-supported learning activities in 2025/26, 92% of the Learning Activity Survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the content was relevant in helping them prepare for, or respond to, future drought. This provides evidence that Hub-supported learning activities delivered this financial year contributed to increased drought preparedness.

Furthermore, the Hub's Drought Resilience Information and Knowledge Sharing (DRINKS) work provided a more detailed understanding of how producers make decisions across the drought cycle. Six workshops were delivered during 2025/26, including through the Early to Mid-Career Farmer Program, supporting participants to map key farm decisions across good, uncertain, drought and recovery phases, identify decision trigger points and consider where additional information or skills were needed. The workshops found that decision-making became more frequent, complex and constrained as conditions deteriorated, with the underlying gap often not access to information, but the ability to interpret it and make timely, confident decisions within the context of an individual farm business. This was particularly evident during the severe drought conditions experienced across South Australia in 2025.

The work also identified an opportunity to strengthen the use of defined decision trigger points before and during drought. While rainfall, feed availability, livestock condition and markets commonly guided decisions, many participants relied on experience, gut feel, or rules of thumb, with strong interest in understanding the trigger points used by other producers and advisers. Earlier decision-making was consistently associated with better outcomes,

particularly for livestock decisions around feed, stock sales and containment. Importantly, participants reported that planning and strategic thinking were more prominent during good and recovery phases, while drought shifted attention to immediate operational decisions. This reinforces the importance of using recovery periods to review decisions, establish clearer triggers and strengthen preparedness before the next drought. The final DRINKS report with consolidated findings and recommendations will be released in the coming months.

Transition towards a future climate with less rainfall

Alongside building preparedness for individual drought events, the Hub continued to support longer-term understanding of how local farming systems may adapt to a future climate with less rainfall, such as identifying where climate change is placing the greatest adaptation pressure on various industry sectors, exploring future farming and business options in marginal environments, and supporting industry-specific responses to a hotter, drier climate.

Two complementary projects led by the SA Drought Hub Deputy Director and Principal Climate Scientist at SARDI continued to translate future climate projections into information relevant to South Australian industries and regions. While meaningful agricultural climate science already exists, this Hub-supported work was unique in that it compiled existing information to assess what the projected changes actually mean for the individual sectors, and the level of adaptation required.

The Supporting South Australian Primary Industries to Prepare for Future Climates at a Local Scale project assessed six key climate risks across the field crops, viticulture, horticulture and pasture/livestock industries, developing sector-specific climate adaptation pressure matrices that incorporated likely production impacts, current management options and the level of adaptation required. This helps identify where current farming practices can adapt and where more significant changes to production systems may be needed. Importantly, this work was extended beyond development of the matrices. An impact report was developed, while the complementary Climate Resilience Workshops project was used to extend relevant information to more than 400 producers, advisers, researchers, policymakers, First Nations representatives and industry, with positive feedback on the concise approach to communicating adaptation pressures and future options.

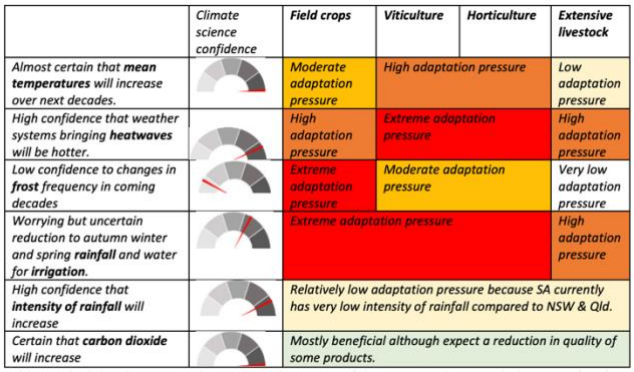


Figure 8: A high-level summary ranking the impact of the six main climate risks between four key primary industries, developed through the Supporting South Australian Primary Industries to prepare for future climates at a local scale project.

The Hub's Innovation Broker also continued to explore how farming systems and businesses in marginal environments may need to adapt as rainfall declines and climate variability increases. The Adapting to the Challenges of the Future Climate to Farming Systems in Marginal Environments project investigates how low-rainfall farming systems may perform under future climate conditions and what changes to farming and business models may be needed to remain viable. In 2026, analysis of 20 years of farm financial data was completed to understand the relative performance of cropping, livestock and mixed farming enterprises and the impact of seasonal variability on farm performance. This provides a baseline for modelling how farm performance may change under future climate scenarios and the farming and business changes that may be required. The work will also consider alternative income opportunities, including carbon sequestration, biodiversity payments and revegetation. Eight local producers continue to guide the project, ensuring the modelling and options considered reflect the risks and decisions facing farmers in the region.

The Hub also collaborated with Wine Australia and three regional wine industry project leads, as well as additional project partners, to address climate adaptation priorities specific to South Australian viticulture. Three complementary projects across the Barossa Valley, Clare Valley, McLaren Vale, Langhorne Creek, and Limestone Coast regions are addressing different aspects of drought and climate resilience, including soil health and water retention, irrigation technology, in-field monitoring, environmental data and decision-making under a drying climate. For example, the McLaren Vale project is using spatial data on vine vigour and plant stress alongside soil moisture and irrigation information to support more timely irrigation decisions and improve water-use efficiency. Together, this work is helping each wine region identify how vineyard management may need to adapt to a hotter, drier future climate.

The work outlined above highlights key areas of Hub investment contributing to HS1 during 2025/26, alongside broader projects, sponsorships and industry collaborations, as well as staff contributions to aligned initiatives through their broader roles across South Australia. Collectively, this work strengthened collaboration and partnerships across industry (ST1), embedded producer input and co-design into activity delivery (ST2), and supported the uptake of drought resilience knowledge and practices by end users (ST5). Together, these efforts strengthened drought preparedness in the short and medium term, while supporting longer-term adaptation to a future climate with less rainfall.

HS2: Industry sectors in SA are engaged in, supported by, and collaborate with the SA Drought Hub to increase drought and climate resilience

The SA Drought Hub has continued to actively engage with South Australian agricultural peak industry bodies, industry funding organisations and Research and Development Corporations (RDCs) to identify priorities and co-design, co-invest in and deliver activities that strengthen drought and climate resilience and respond directly to industry and producer needs.

Collaboration with industry peak bodies has included Primary Producers SA (PPSA), Livestock SA (LSA), Grain Producers SA (GPSA), and Dairy SA, with these organisations contributing to the identification of priorities and the development and delivery of relevant Hub activities. The Hub provides regular updates through PPSA-PIRSA quarterly meetings, which bring together South Australia's agricultural commodity peak bodies and provide an important mechanism for sharing information, identifying emerging issues and opportunities, and maintaining alignment between Hub activities and industry priorities.

Engagement with industry has also occurred through direct collaboration with RDCs and other industry investment partners, including through co-investment in projects and activities where Hub priorities align with existing or emerging industry needs. These partnerships have helped leverage expertise, networks and investment, reduce duplication and strengthen pathways for research, information, knowledge and practical tools to reach producers through trusted industry and regional delivery networks.

Collectively, these activities demonstrate that South Australian agricultural industries are not simply recipients of Hub activities, but are actively involved in identifying priorities, co-designing and co-delivering projects, contributing expertise and resources, and co-investing in activities that address drought and climate resilience. Engagement across peak bodies, industry funds, RDCs and regional industry associations has enabled the Hub to connect industry priorities with research, extension and investment opportunities and to deliver activities relevant to the needs of South Australian producers. The breadth and continuity of these partnerships provide strong evidence that industry sectors are engaged in, supported by, and collaborating with the SA Drought Hub to increase drought and climate resilience.

This ongoing engagement has ensured that Hub activities remain informed by industry priorities and changing seasonal conditions, while providing opportunities for industry organisations, RDCs, grower groups and other partners to work collectively on drought resilience challenges relevant to South Australian farming systems.

Collaborations with industry peak bodies have included:

- PPSA has provided strategic guidance on program delivery and integration with other major initiatives across the state.
- Livestock SA has co-delivered drought, innovation, and decision-making projects and events, supported Hub activities with resources and communications, and helped align projects with the state's sheep and beef industry blueprints.

- GPSA has contributed resources, promoted Hub and FDF activities, and guided project alignment with the South Australian grains industry blueprint. The Hub also supported the South Australian Grains Industry Awards run by GPSA by sponsoring the Grains Sustainability Award for South Australia.
- Dairy SA has promoted Hub and FDF activities and opportunities for Dairy Producer involvement. The Hub sponsored and presented at the SA Dairy Innovation Day 2026.



Figure 9: The SA Drought Hub Innovation Broker at the Hub-sponsored Dairy SA Innovation Day 2026, demonstrating the Hub not only provides sponsorship, but actively engages in on-ground activities.

Collaborations with agricultural industry funds in South Australia include the SA Grains Industry Trust (SAGIT), the Sheep Industry Fund (SIF), and the Landscape Priority Fund (LPF).

The Hub has also co-funded four regionally based, 12-month internships hosted by Grower Groups in partnership with SAGIT. The internships provide practical training in grains applied research and extension, while building regional connections and networks that support opportunities for ongoing employment in the industry. They also help extend knowledge generated through Grower Group research and trials to farming communities. SAGIT and the Hub have also co-invested in two field-based trial and demonstration projects, with additional extension activities incorporated to increase the reach of project findings. These include the Adelaide University-led Risk assessment and mitigation associated with dry sowing project, involving key Grower Groups across the Mid North, and Making the most of phosphorus (P) fertiliser inputs: Managing spatial variability and long-term strategies, led by Trengove Consulting and delivered across Yorke Peninsula and Eyre Peninsula.

The Hub partnered with regional Landscape Boards on several Landscape Priority Fund (LPF) projects that integrate local environmental and industry priorities with drought resilience outcomes. These are the Kangaroo Partnerships Project, which refines and coordinates strategies to manage overabundant kangaroo populations which threaten natural landscapes

and primary production, and increase soil erosion risk through over grazing, and the Improving landscape health of sandy soils prone to erosion and declining fertility project, which engages landholders in activities to improve pasture cover on constrained sandy soils and increase soil health and nutrition to increase productivity, pasture utilisation, and drought resilience.

The Hub is also co-investing in five LPF drought recovery projects, directly involving six Landscape Boards as project leads involved in the design and delivery. Topics vary between Landscape Board Regions in order to address local priorities however key themes include soil management, soil erosion mitigation through groundcover management, on-farm water management. The projects are Climate ready landscapes; building resilience into drought decision making (HFLB), Nature Informed Decision Making: Plants succession and coverage informing property total grazing management (SAAL), Kangaroo Island integrated farm planning (KILB), Optimising Soil Health and Productivity in the Murraylands and Riverland region (MRLB, includes LCLB) and Waterwise Farming (NYLB).



Figure 10: Photograph from a field day run through the Climate ready landscapes; building resilience into drought decision making project with the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board

The SA Sheep Industry Fund (SIF) has partnered in several Hub-adjacent initiatives, including the Best Practice Feedbase Management project, and the Precision Sheep Management project, in which the Hub's Livestock Technical Specialist Adoption Officer is second in charge.

The priorities identified through the SA Hub co-design process and the projects being delivered ensure alignment to either the SA Sheep industry Blueprint, SA Beef industry Blueprint, or SA Grains Industry Blueprint.

Hub staff have also contributed to industry groups through serving on Research, Development and Extension Committees, Blueprint Working Groups, and other industry-led committees. This enables Hub staff to understand the priorities of the industry organisations within the state, and identify the synergies with the Hub priorities and programs.

Collaboration with regional wine industry associations

The SA Drought Hub has collaborated and co-invested in the delivery of three regional Wine Industry Association projects across the Barossa Valley, Clare Valley, Adelaide Hills, McLaren Vale, Limestone Coast and Langhorne Creek. The projects have addressed locally identified priorities for improving drought and climate resilience within South Australia's wine regions, with a strong focus on translating technical knowledge into practical, regionally relevant information and decision-making support for growers. Collectively, the projects have addressed issues including managing climate variability, improving soil assessment and management for drought resilience, and supporting better informed vineyard management decisions under increasingly dry and variable seasonal conditions. Delivery through the regional wine industry associations has also enabled activities to be tailored to the specific production systems, climatic conditions and priorities of participating regions. These projects include The Deployment of Regional Technical Expertise to Manage Climate Variability in the Limestone Coast (LCGWC), In-Vineyard Soil Assessment, Monitoring and Amelioration for Drought Resilience (MVGWTA) and A dry argument: Decisions for a drying climate in the Barossa and Clare Valley (Barossa Aus).

Additionally, the Hub has supported an agrivoltaics project in McLaren Vale that is investigating the potential for integrating solar energy generation with vineyard production. The project is examining how agrivoltaic systems may contribute to vineyard resilience through benefits such as moderating vine exposure to heat and extreme weather, potentially reducing water demand, while also providing opportunities to diversify farm income through renewable energy generation. This work provides an opportunity to demonstrate and assess the practical application of agrivoltaics within South Australian viticultural systems and share the findings with growers and the broader wine industry.

Involvement with research and development corporations

The SA Drought Hub has maintained strong engagement with Research and Development Corporations (RDCs), collaborating and co-investing in projects and extension activities where there is alignment between industry priorities and the Hub's drought resilience objectives. These relationships have helped connect national research and development investment with South Australian farming systems, regional delivery partners and producers.

Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC)

The Hub has worked closely with several GRDC initiatives across South Australia and these have included: AIR EP - Risky Decisions and Addressing Soil Constraints on Eyre Peninsula, supporting growers to better understand and manage production risks and soil constraints under variable seasonal conditions, engagement with RiskWi$e, including delivery of two webinars and involvement through the Hub's Farming Systems Adoption Officer, who supports the Hart Field-Site Group Action Research Group (ARG), and the Crop Establishment Forum, which has linked closely with RiskWi$e and related GRDC research and extension activities, helping connect research findings with advisers, Grower Groups and producers.

There is also evidence that Hub investment has created opportunities for further collaboration and research investment and support beyond individual projects. In its progress report for the Hub-supported Refining crop nutrition strategies for building drought resilience in highly calcareous soils in southern YP project, Trengove Consulting noted:

"*The establishment of this body of work has helped create opportunities for collaboration with other organisations across the Southern region, supporting further research, development, and extension. For example, Trengove Consulting will be able to continue work on phosphorus management through a new investment led by Agriculture Victoria focused on high phosphorus-fixing soils. There is also complementary research investigating herbicide residues and iron deficiency in calcareous soils with SARDI. It is important to recognise that the initial investment through SADH has played a key role in this subsequent activity, attracting additional research investment and capability into the region. It is also recognised that these soils have many co-occurring constraints and that there is more work to be done in understanding the best management of these constraint complexes*".

This provides a strong example of initial Hub investment supporting broader collaboration and attracting further research investment and capability into South Australia.

Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA)

The Hub has collaborated with MLA on livestock projects aimed at improving productivity and resilience under variable seasonal conditions, including the Profitable and Resilient Southern Beef Herds project, supporting improved decision-making and management of southern beef production systems, and the Precision Sheep Management project supporting the application and adoption of precision livestock technologies and management approaches within sheep enterprises.

Australian Wool Innovation (AWI)

Engagement with AWI has included collaboration on the Precision Sheep Management Project, jointly supported by MLA and AWI. The SA Drought Hub Knowledge Broker sits on the AWI Extension SA Producer Advisory Panel, providing an ongoing connection between the Hub, wool industry priorities and extension activities in South Australia.

AgriFutures Australia

The Hub has also engaged with AgriFutures Australia, including through the TEKFARM Project. This provided connections between the Hub, emerging agricultural technologies and opportunities to demonstrate and support adoption of relevant technologies within South Australian farming systems. With these activities concluding during the reporting period, the Hub will continue to engage with AgriFutures where future priorities and investments align with drought resilience and the needs of South Australian producers.

Hub support for access to funding

The Hub has continued to support industry organisations, grower groups, universities, Landscape Boards and other partners to access external funding opportunities. Support

provided has included providing letters of support, connecting applicants with potential partners, facilitating project co-design and multi-partner applications, providing guidance on funding objectives and regional priorities, and participating as a project or grant partner and steering committee member.

This financial year there have been 20 funding initiatives/applications supported by the Hub including six regional FDF Innovation Challenges initiatives involving the RDAs/Landscape Board, with the Hub involved as a steering committee member or supporter, eight FDF Scaling Success applications, and six additional FDF Innovation Challenges applications. The total value sought across those 20 initiatives is approximately $37.7 million (primarily through the FDF Scaling Success Program and Innovation Challenges Pilot Program). All support for access to funding is further demonstrated in Output 4 of the MEL Data Capture, with Hub collaborations and partnerships outlined in ST1.

Collectively, progress towards HS2 has been supported by strong industry and regional partnerships (ST1), delivery through established regional networks (ST3), and collaboration with RDCs and other Drought Hubs on national initiatives (ST4).

Case studies

Throughout 2025/26, the SA Drought Hub continued to capture and communicate outcomes and learnings from Hub activities through a mix of written, audio, and visual content.

A major output was the 2024/25 SA Drought Hub Annual Report, which brought together project and sponsorship profiles, grower experiences and case studies of drought resilience activities from across South Australia. This was complemented by the 2024/25 Achievements summary, providing a concise and accessible snapshot of the Hub's key activities, reach and achievements.

The Hub also produced two podcast episodes, Optimising Harvester Setup and Supporting South Australia's Early to Mid-Career Farmers, alongside six video resources. Two videos were produced by DAFF with support from the SA Drought Hub and partners: South Australian early to mid-career farmer program and Containment feeding to boost business performance and resilience. The Hub also produced four Quarterly Regional Engagement Update webinar recordings in August 2025, November 2025, March 2026 and June 2026.

Beyond Hub-developed content, 11 case studies and fact sheets, 16 guidance materials and tools, and 38 reports were developed through Hub-supported projects and sponsorships. Given the volume of resources being produced by project partners and Hub Member organisations, the Hub prioritised promoting and extending these outputs rather than duplicating existing work through additional standalone case studies.

Development of further standalone Hub outcome and impact case studies was therefore intentionally deferred. For technical projects, this allowed an additional season of harvest data to be captured, strengthening the evidence and learnings available for extension. Given the Hub's 12-month variation and with 24 projects concluding in early to mid-2026, the 2026/27 financial year provides a more appropriate opportunity to follow up project outcomes and capture evidence of practice change, adoption and longer-term impact that cannot be meaningfully assessed while projects are still being delivered, or immediately upon completion.



Figure 11: The 2024/25 Annual Report, with key resources shared to support the continued use and promotion of decision-making resources and tools beyond the life of a project.

Strategic alignment and collaboration with other initiatives

FDF-aligned

The SA Drought Hub has provided significant support, collaboration, co-investment and co-delivery across a range of Future Drought Fund (FDF) programs delivered across South Australia. A core objective of the Hub is to maximise the impact of the Future Drought Fund by aligning complementary initiatives, fostering collaboration between delivery partners, and ensuring producers and regional communities have seamless access to the full range of FDF opportunities available. Through its extensive regional networks and communications platforms, the Hub promotes FDF initiatives, facilitates stakeholder participation, and coordinates activities to improve efficiency, reduce duplication and enhance outcomes for producers and other stakeholders.

Working with Grower Groups, universities, peak industry bodies, First Nations organisations, Landscape Boards, state and local government agencies, Regional Development Australia organisations and Hub governance committees, the Hub has strengthened collaboration, information sharing and coordination across the FDF program portfolio in South Australia, increasing awareness of and participation in these programs and initiatives.

Examples of the Hub's support for, and engagement with, other Future Drought Fund programs include:

The SA Drought Hub has actively promoted and applied the MyClimateView tool, developed through the Future Drought Fund Climate Services for Agriculture Program, to support informed decision-making under a changing climate. The tool has been used with producers, advisors and First Nations communities to explore current seasonal conditions, future climate projections and potential impacts on South Australian agricultural systems. It has been integrated into several Hub initiatives, including the Climate Resilience Workshop Series, Climate Yarning Circles, Adapting to the Challenges of the Future Climate to Farming Systems in Marginal Environments, and Supporting South Australian Primary Industries to Prepare for Future Climates at a Local Scale. This has expanded awareness and use of the MyClimateView tool across grower groups, universities, SARDI and other key stakeholders.

The SA Drought Hub Deputy Director and Knowledge Broker have also provided feedback to the Bureau of Meteorology on functional and usability aspects as part of targeted consultation by the Bureau to further improve the tool and increase its use.

The SA Drought Hub Knowledge Broker continued to serve on the steering committees for five South Australian Regional Drought Resilience Plans (RDRPs) covering the Northern and Yorke, Eyre Peninsula, Outback SA, Limestone Coast, and Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu and Kangaroo Island regions, while also supporting the Murraylands and Riverland RDRP planning process. This role has strengthened alignment between Hub activities and regional drought resilience priorities, ensuring Hub investments complement regional planning while connecting steering committees with broader opportunities available through the Future Drought Fund. Collaborative partners in the development and delivery of the RDRPs have included PIRSA,

Regional Development Australia Boards, Landscape Boards, Local Government Authorities, the Outback Communities Authority, and numerous grower groups and farmer networks, providing a strong foundation for community-based drought resilience planning and delivery across South Australia.

The SA Drought Hub has worked closely with the Future Drought Fund Farm Business Resilience Program (AgRi-Silience Program), supporting the delivery of drought resilience initiatives across South Australia. This has included promoting training courses and learning events through the Hub's communication channels, engaging producers and regional partners to increase participation, and providing advice on regional priorities and opportunities identified through the Hub's co-design and stakeholder engagement processes.

The Hub engaged with the Future Drought Fund First Nations Secretariat to explore opportunities and strengthen connections between the Secretariat, South Australian First Nations organisations and regional delivery partners. Initial planning was undertaken for a South Australian on-Country visit as part of a First Nations Secretariat meeting, providing opportunities for the Secretariat to engage directly with First Nations communities, regional partners and the SA Drought Hub. While the visit did not proceed, the engagement established valuable relationships and identified opportunities for future collaboration.

The Hub promoted the Future Drought Fund Strengthening Drought Resilience on-Country Program to First Nations communities, organisations and service providers across South Australia through the Hub's regional and First Nations networks, helping raise awareness of the program and its opportunities.

The Hub supported the FDF Communities Program by promoting opportunities to members and partner organisations and engaging with the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal to explore stronger links between Hub and the Communities Program. Support included promoting the program through Hub media, encouraging member and partner participation, and promoting local events and activities funded through the program across regional South Australia. In doing so, the Hub worked with several grower groups, Landscape Boards, local government bodies and associations, RDRP Committees, FRRR, and the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation (ARLF).

The Hub has directly supported the planning, implementation and delivery of two Future Drought Fund Long Term Trials Round 2 projects in South Australia. The Drought and Climate Resilient Sheep Farming Systems project is led by Adelaide University, and involves a broad consortium of Hub members and partners. The Hub has played an active role in helping the project to establish regional connections and collaborations, has made co-investments towards extension initiatives, advised on MEL development and monitoring aspects of the project, and staff have assisted in the delivery of field days and other field-based extension events. The Stress Testing Regenerative Agricultural Practices (STRAP) project is led by CSIRO with Hub staff taking part in project planning workshops and providing assistance and advice with the MEL aspects of the project and ongoing promotion of the program and associated activities to Hub member and partner organisations.

The Hub supported Members and Network Partners to develop applications for the Future Drought Fund Scaling Success and Drought Resilience Innovation Challenges Pilot Program. This support contributed to the success of five Scaling Success projects and one Innovation Challenges Pilot Program project involving South Australian organisations. The five successful Scaling Success projects secured a combined $14.32 million in Future Drought Fund investment and are led by Ag Excellence Alliance, Adelaide University, Farmers2Founders and Grower Group Alliance. The projects span dry and early sowing, farmer and community resilience, drought-resilient pastures, agtech adoption and on-farm water security. These projects commence during the 2026/27 financial year, and the SA Drought Hub will continue to provide implementation support tailored to each project as required. This includes project management, coordinating and delivering extension events, connecting interstate project teams with South Australian Hub members and regional delivery partners, identifying suitable demonstration and trial sites, facilitating stakeholder engagement, and promoting project activities through the Hub's established communication and extension networks to maximise reach, collaboration and project outcomes.

The Hub also supported delivery of the Future Drought Fund TEKFARM project through its Innovation Broker role, working with producers, industry and technology providers to support the adoption of agtech addressing on-farm drought resilience challenges. The project concluded in March 2026, with the Hub contributing to final reporting and producer case studies. Building on the project's outcomes, the Hub subsequently supported Farmers2Founders to secure further investment to expand TEKFARM through Meat & Livestock Australia and the Future Drought Fund Scaling Success Program.



Figure 12: A project team member from the Drought and Climate Resilient Sheep Farming Systems project led by Adelaide University, with the SA Drought Hub Knowledge Broker taking soil samples at the trial site.

Non-FDF-aligned

In addition to its Future Drought Fund activities, the SA Drought Hub has actively engaged in a wide range of complementary initiatives that have strengthened partnerships, leveraged additional investment, and created further opportunities to enhance drought and climate resilience across South Australia. These activities have expanded the Hub's reach, connected stakeholders with new knowledge and resources, and reinforced the Hub's role as a trusted facilitator of collaboration, innovation and adoption across the agricultural sector.

The SA Drought Hub is leading the delivery of the Smart Grazing, Stronger Lands project funded by DCCEEW through the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program under the Natural Heritage Trust. The Hub is providing overall project management, coordination and governance while supporting project partner implementation across South Australia, Western Australia and New South Wales. The Hub works closely with other Drought Hubs to coordinate project delivery in their regions (WA and NSW), leverage regional networks and ensure activities are tailored to local conditions while contributing to consistent outcomes across the Southern Rangelands. This includes engaging producers, grower groups, NRM Regional Bodies and Landscape Boards, and service providers to participate in and deliver the project.

The SA Drought Hub has worked collaboratively with the AgriFutures-funded Agrivoltaics project, promoting its extension and engagement activities across South Australia, in particular, demonstrations in South Australian vineyards. The Hub has promoted project activities and field events through our communication channels and regional networks, and this support has complemented the project's extension activities by increasing awareness of the project and encouraging greater participation in demonstration events and learning opportunities.

Through the Hub's Innovation Broker role, the SA Drought Hub is engaged with the Southern Australian Livestock Research Council (SALRC). This provides a direct link into livestock research, development, extension and adoption priorities across South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania; including those focused on climate resilience. This supports alignment between Hub activities and broader industry priorities.

The Hub has supported a range of Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) Carbon Farming initiatives that complement the Hub's drought resilience objectives by encouraging the adoption of carbon farming practices and diversifying on-farm income streams. While these initiatives can improve business resilience through additional revenue opportunities, they also deliver broader drought resilience benefits, including improved soil health, increased groundcover, enhanced biodiversity, greater shade and shelter for livestock, and more resilient agricultural landscapes. The Hub has supported these initiatives by connecting researchers, delivery organisations and producers through its regional networks, promoting events and funding opportunities, and facilitating stakeholder engagement to maximise participation and knowledge exchange.

The Hub hosts the Regional Soils Coordinator (RSC) position, funded through the Climate-Smart Agriculture Program. The role connects Grower Groups, government agencies,

universities, researchers, consultants, agronomists and soil advisers to identify soil priorities and strengthen soil knowledge and networks across South Australia. During the reporting period, this included supporting delivery of the PIRSA Soil Collaboration Centre Regional Soil School and Soil Science Australia Registered Soil Practitioner Training. The RSC also supported Hub work to identify drought resilience soil priorities across South Australia and develop a statewide extension initiative focused on water use efficiency and building soil knowledge across the agronomic workforce. In addition, the Hub is also supporting delivery of the Climate-Smart Agriculture project, Innovative Soil Technologies to Foster Resilience and Climate Smart Crop Production in Australia. Through the Hub's Farming Systems Adoption Officer, support focuses on extension and engagement to increase awareness and adoption of innovative soil management practices that improve soil health, productivity and climate resilience, while strengthening connections between growers, Grower Groups, researchers and industry.

The SA Drought Hub has partnered extensively with the South Australian Government's Landscape Priority Fund (LPF), a significant statewide investment available exclusively to South Australia's Regional Landscape Boards. The partnership has brought together all eight regional Landscape Boards, producers, Grower Groups, researchers and industry partners to align investment with regional drought resilience priorities and locally identified needs. Throughout 2025/26, the Hub supported seven Landscape Priority Fund projects across South Australia. These projects span climate-ready landscapes and drought decision-making, grazing and vegetation management, integrated farm planning, soil health and productivity, farm water management, erosion and declining soil fertility, and kangaroo management. Together, they support locally relevant approaches to improving drought preparedness, landscape condition and the management of soil, water and grazing resources.

The Hub also continued to work with a range of industry and research partners on complementary initiatives that support drought and climate resilience across South Australia, including:

- Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA): collaboration on the Profitable and Resilient Southern Beef Herds and Precision Sheep Management projects, supporting improved livestock management, decision-making and drought resilience.
- Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC): collaboration through RiskWi$e, including webinars, support for the Hart ARG, and alignment with the SA Drought Hub Crop Establishment Forum, as well as the AIR EP Risky Decisions and Addressing Soil Constraints on EP project.
- Wine Australia: collaboration across three regional wine projects with various industry partners across the Barossa and Clare Valley, McLaren Vale and Limestone Coast regions, focusing on climate variability, vineyard soil management and decision-making under a drying climate, alongside the Hub's involvement in the Agrivoltaics project.
- Sheep Industry Fund (SIF): collaboration through the Precision Sheep Management project.

- South Australian Grain Industry Trust (SAGIT): co-investment across six Hub projects during 2025/26, including four regional internships and projects addressing dry sowing risk and phosphorus fertiliser management.
- Australian Wool Innovation (AWI): collaboration through the Precision Sheep Management project, with the Hub Knowledge Broker also contributing to the AWI Extension SA Producer Advisory Panel.

Through the SA Drought Hub Sponsorship Program, the Hub also supported a broad range of industry and other initiatives across the past 12 months, extending drought resilience knowledge and activities through established organisations and networks across South Australia. Sponsorships supported grower and industry events, technical workshops and field days, training and professional development, producer resources, student and early-career development, industry awards and community resilience activities. Examples included:

- Industry and producer events: BIGG Annual Conference, Dairy SA Dairy Innovation Day, Australian Women in Agriculture Conference and the Australasian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society Annual Conference.
- Technical extension and learning activities: Buckleboo Farm Improvement Group field day, Kangaroo Island hay quality farm walks, MFMG Focus on Phosphorus Forum, containment feeding and eID workshops, and the South East Durum Crop Walk.
- Industry capacity building and professional development: WoTL Stepping Into Leadership, Rural Women's Day, the AIA/AUASA Student Compendium and internship, GPSA Sustainability Award and AUASA Growing the Future, SA Livestock Consultants Business Masterclass, SA Livestock Advisor Update and undergraduate livestock advisory capacity building.
- Extension resources and knowledge sharing: reprinting and distribution of MSF's "101 Questions about SA Cropping Soils You Were Never Game to Ask", Hart's pre-emergent herbicide decision guide and UNFS sheep producer resources.



Figure 13: The Barossa Australia "Managing Overwhelm in Challenging Times" sponsored by the SA Drought Hub to support the viticultural industry and wine makers through adverse times.

Key learnings, reflections and opportunities

Activities have greater impact when farmers shape the delivery

The SA Drought Hub Early to Mid-Career Farmer Program reinforced the value of small-group, peer-to-peer and farmer-led learning, particularly across the past 12 months as many producers began moving into drought recovery. Across the nine early to mid-career farmer groups, farmers have worked alongside group facilitators to tailor their group activities and discussions based on the topics, themes, challenges and opportunities most relevant to their farm businesses and regions.

Smaller group settings supported honest discussion, with participants surrounded by peers at a similar career stage who were facing similar challenges and decisions. This created a judgement-free environment for sharing experiences, asking questions, and learning from one another. Targeting early to mid-career farmers was particularly important given their growing role in farm business decision-making and the future resilience of the industry. Many had less experience managing drought and difficult seasonal conditions, yet were taking on greater responsibility within their businesses while navigating the recent challenging seasons. The approach of combining a defined peer cohort and farmer-led delivery proved particularly effective in strengthening drought preparedness and decision-making among the next generation of farmers, while embedding consideration of future climate conditions into farm business planning at an important stage in their career development.

Greater alignment with other FDF programs reduces duplication and creates clearer pathways for end users

Fostering collaboration across FDF programs is important to maximise effectiveness and avoid duplication or gaps.

Throughout 2025/26, the Hub increasingly worked as a connector between existing programs and regional networks, rather than creating new activities where relevant programs or expertise already existed. This transition is supported by the Social Network Analysis undertaken by Southern Cross University, which found that the SA Drought Hub network has become less centralised over time, with Member and Partner organisations increasingly taking on connecting and brokerage roles. As the network has matured, the Hub has been able to shift towards a more strategic role in connecting existing capability, programs and investment across the drought resilience landscape.

There is an opportunity to build on this approach through stronger and more deliberate connections with FDF programs. Where Hub activities identify needs that sit within the remit or expertise of another FDF program, stronger collaboration pathways could help ensure project and activity design and implementation take into account the overall suite of effort for building drought resilience.

The Early to Mid-Career Farmer Program provides a clear example of this. A consistent message across the nine groups was that knowledge and skill gaps extend beyond agronomic

and technical areas, with participants identifying financial management and broader farm business skills as important areas for development. Rather than developing separate Hub activities to address these needs, stronger links with the Farm Business Resilience Program could connect participants with existing FDF-funded business capability support. This provides a practical opportunity to build on the Hub's connector role while reducing duplication across FDF investments.

Working alongside Research and Development Corporations (RDC) extends the reach and value of existing research and development

Collaboration with RDCs has demonstrated the role the Hub can play in extending the reach and adoption of existing RDC research and investment. The Hub can value-add by working with regional partners to extend existing research outcomes and support adoption across South Australia.

The More Beef from Pastures project led by the SA Drought Hub Livestock Technical Specialist provides an example of this, with the Hub working alongside existing MLA investment to strengthen regional delivery and adoption. This has involved adviser capacity building and facilitated producer groups, supporting producers to interpret and apply existing research and resources within their own farming systems.

This approach was also supported through the 2025/26 Hub Member Survey, with Members recognising the value of the Hub building on existing investment and filling gaps not addressed by other funders. One respondent noted that while there was potential for duplication with organisations such as GRDC, Hub projects tended to "build on or complement this work", including through further demonstration and extension. Another described the Hub as filling a "critical gap" in supporting the application and adoption of drought resilient practices and tools and connecting researchers with on-ground practitioners.

The Hub will continue to build on this approach with RDCs, using its regional networks and extension capability to increase the reach and adoption of existing research and investment across South Australia.

Co-designing programs of work with industry delivers greater value than standalone projects

Working with industry and regional partners helps identify shared priorities that can be addressed through a coordinated program of work, rather than through individual projects in isolation. The Hub's collaboration with Wine Australia and regional wine industry partners provides a strong example of this. During 2025/26, three complementary projects were contracted and delivered across the Barossa Valley, Clare Valley, McLaren Vale, Langhorne Creek and Limestone Coast wine regions, addressing regional viticultural priorities including soil health, irrigation agtech, in-field monitoring, environmental data and decision-making for a drying climate. While responding to different regional needs, the projects collectively contribute to a broader body of work focused on drought and climate resilience across the South Australian wine sector.

A similar approach is reflected in the Landscape Priority Fund work, encompassing five projects involving six Landscape Boards across the state. The Hub will continue to prioritise opportunities to co-design and coordinate programs of work around shared industry and regional priorities, allowing individual projects to contribute to broader outcomes and strengthening the collective value of Hub investment.

A mature network requires continued connection and facilitation

The Hub's network has matured from a Hub-centric model towards a more distributed network, with organisations increasingly taking on brokerage and leadership roles beyond the Hub itself. The Social Network Analysis undertaken by Southern Cross University showed this decentralisation has reduced reliance on the Hub as the primary connector and reflects the development of stronger relationships and capability across the network.

This indicates that connections developed through the Hub are supporting stronger collaboration between organisations. As the Hub moves into its final 12 months, there is an opportunity to further build on this maturity by continuing to facilitate connections between organisations, regions and sectors, while enabling established partners to lead and strengthen relationships across the network.

Building the capacity of trusted regional delivery partners strengthens adoption

Effective adoption relies not only on what information is delivered, but who delivers it and how farmers are supported to apply it. Across the past year, the Hub continued to invest in the capacity of project deliverers, advisers and regional subject matter experts who work directly with growers and have established relationships within their communities. This included the Grower Group Executive Network, regional Internships, Hub Members involved in the Ag Consulting Co facilitation and extension training, and adviser training embedded within numerous individual projects.

Building the skills of these trusted regional stakeholders strengthens the quality of on-ground extension, while drawing on the local knowledge and rapport that influence whether growers engage with and act on information. In many projects and programs of work delivered by the Hub, this extends beyond workshops and group activities to provide tailored support as growers consider changes within their own businesses.

The Kangaroo Island Integrated Farm Planning project provides an example of this, with participating growers connected with the consultants for one-on-one support based on their individual needs and priorities. Similarly, the Ag Consulting Co extension training incorporated one-on-one follow-up support, allowing participants to apply the skills developed through training to their own extension activities to better support adoption outcomes. Tailored follow-up support helps turn initial learning into action, giving growers the individual guidance needed to confidently apply and adopt changes within their own farming businesses.

This reinforces the value of continuing to invest in capacity building of people and organisations already working directly with producers, while designing opportunities for individual follow-up and support into Hub activities where appropriate.

Medium to longer term funding models are required to better understand and evaluate adoption and drought resilience outcomes

Measuring the effectiveness of adopted drought resilience technologies and practices remains one of the more challenging areas of Hub MEL. Adoption and practice change take time and often occur over multiple years/seasons, with producers moving from awareness and knowledge through to trial, implementation and ongoing use before the longer-term effect on drought resilience can be assessed. The Hub's current and previous 12-month funding cycles do not always provide sufficient time to follow this pathway through to adoption and assess whether changes are sustained or effective over time.

The Hub has strengthened the pathway from knowledge to adoption by building the capacity of advisers and regional delivery partners, co-designing activities around end-user needs, providing tailored follow-up support and incorporating effective MEL within projects. These approaches help producers increase the adoption of drought resilience research and practices within their own farming systems. However, there remains a gap in returning to participants post-project to assess longer-term practice change, adoption and the corresponding drought resilience outcomes.

Future investment provides an opportunity to strengthen longer-term MEL across multi-year programs of work, including follow-up with participants after project delivery to understand what was adopted, whether changes were maintained, and what difference they made during subsequent dry seasons or drought. This would provide stronger evidence against MT2, and particularly MT3, while improving understanding of which approaches are most effective in supporting longer-term drought resilience.

Flexible delivery is critical as regions move through different stages of drought and recovery

A key learning has been the importance of maintaining flexibility in program delivery across the drought cycle. This was particularly evident as drought conditions eased across areas of South Australia in spring 2025. It is difficult to define exactly when producers are moving into the drought recovery phase, as the timing and impacts of drought differ between regions, agricultural sectors, industries, farming systems and individual farm businesses, and as such, recovery initiation and duration also differ greatly. Seasonal conditions in spring 2025 were also quite variable between regions across South Australia, meaning that whilst drought conditions eased in many regions, others remained in drought.

The Hub's Early to Mid-Career Farmer Program provided an example of how this flexibility can be built into program delivery. Rather than delivering a prescriptive course with predetermined content and timing, the program was able to adapt as seasonal conditions and producer priorities changed across regions. This was particularly important during 2025/26, when some regions were beginning to recover from drought, while others continued to experience dry conditions. The flexible program structure allowed activities to remain relevant to the conditions and drought resilience priorities producers were facing at the time.

This reinforced the value of flexible extension programs that can respond to changing conditions across the drought cycle, rather than assuming regions and producers will experience drought and recovery at the same time. Providing an overarching framework and objectives, while allowing delivery to adapt to local seasonal conditions, can help ensure drought resilience activities remain relevant as producer needs and priorities change.

Meaningful First Nations engagement requires time, trust and organisational readiness

It has proven challenging to progress Activity 1.2.b "Support Indigenous Agribusiness Development", from the SA Drought Hub Activity Work Plan. While several potential opportunities have been explored and, in some cases, progressed through initial co-design with First Nations organisations and associated project partners, a number of factors have made it difficult to develop these opportunities into projects within the available Hub timeframes.

These have included changes in key program personnel within First Nations organisations, as well as changes in organisational direction and priorities following changes in management and Board membership. In some instances, this has meant promising project concepts have needed to be reconsidered, paused or not progressed as organisational priorities and capacity have shifted. This highlights that effective co-design requires sufficient time to establish relationships, build trust, identify shared priorities and allow projects to develop at a pace that is appropriate for the participating organisations, and this can sometimes be difficult to reconcile with fixed program funding and delivery timeframes.

Despite these challenges, the Hub has continued to invest in relationships and engagement with First Nations organisations and communities, including collaboration through Landscape Boards with activities such as Climate Yarning Circles and Kangaroo Yarning Circles. There are also ongoing discussions to identify areas of shared interest and potential future collaboration.

A key learning has been that engagement and relationship building are important outcomes in their own right and provide the foundation for meaningful future collaboration. The Hub has therefore sought not to pursue projects simply to meet an activity target where there is insufficient alignment, organisational capacity, or time for genuine co-design. Instead, it has prioritised maintaining constructive relationships and allowing opportunities to develop in response to the priorities and readiness of First Nations organisations and communities.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the 2025/26 MEL findings demonstrate continued progress across the program level and SA Drought Hub-specific outcomes, from increasing access to drought resilience knowledge and strengthening capacity, through to practice change, adoption and improved decision-making. Strong partnerships, co-design, and regional delivery enabled the Hub to respond as conditions shifted from severe drought towards recovery, while maintaining a longer-term focus on preparedness and adaptation to increasing climate variability. The findings reinforce the value of flexible delivery across the drought cycle and longer-term follow-up to understand sustained adoption and impact.

Appendices

SA Drought Hub alignment of medium-term outcomes with short-term outcomes and outputs

Outcome	Related Short-Term Outcomes	Related Outputs
MT1	ST1, ST2, ST3, ST4	Outputs 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7
MT2	ST1, ST5	Outputs 1, 5, 6, 7, 10
MT3	ST1, ST2, ST5	Outputs 1, 4, 7
MT4	ST1, ST2, ST3, ST4, ST5	Outputs 2, 3, 4, 5, 8
HS1	ST1, ST2, ST5	Outputs 1, 5
HS2	ST1, ST3, ST4	Outputs 4, 8, 9

SA Drought Hub Member list from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026

SA Drought Hub Members
Organisations that have been formally involved with the SA Drought Hub since its establishment
Ag Communicators
Ag Excellence Alliance
Agricultural Innovation & Research Eyre Peninsula
Agriculture Kangaroo Island
Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board
Barossa Improved Grazing Group
Buckleboo Farm Improvement Group
Coorong District Council / Coorong Tatiara Local Action Plan
Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board
Flinders University
Grain Producers SA
Hart Field-Site Group
Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board
Kangaroo Island Landscape Board
Landcare Association of South Australia
Limestone Coast Landscape Board
Livestock SA
Lowbank and Districts Agriculture Bureau
MacKillop Farm Management Group
Mallee Sustainable Farming
Mid North High Rainfall Zone Group
Murray Plains Farmers Group
Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board
Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation
Northern and Yorke Landscape Board
Northern Sustainable Sand Hills
RDA Far North Incorporated
Rural Business Support Services Incorporated
SA Arid Lands Landscape Board
SA Dept. of Primary Industries & Regions
South Australian Grain Industry Trust
The Agricultural Bureau of South Australia Incorporated
University of Adelaide (formerly UoA and UniSA)
Upper North Farming Systems

SA Drought Hub Network Partner list from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026

SA Drought Hub Network Partners
Organisations that have joined the Hub network over time through project delivery, sponsorships and other activities.
Ag Consulting Co
Agricultural Consulting & Research
Agrilink Agricultural Consultants
Agrista
Agronomy Solutions
AgXtra
AirborneLogic
Alpha Group
Australian Grain Technologies (AGT)
Australian Society of Soil Science
Barossa Australia
Barossa Veterinary Services
Barry Mudge Consulting
Bentleys SA and NT
Breezy Hill Precision Ag Services
Brivon
Bureau of Meteorology
Central Ag Solutions
Chaser Agriservices (Soil Function Consulting)
Cibo Labs
Clare Valley Wine and Grape Association
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
Conservation Science and Environmental Consulting
Contour Environmental and Agricultural Consulting
Coopers of Mt Pleasant Farm Supplies
Cousins Merino Services
Crop Science Society of South Australia
Dairy Australia
Elders Rural Services Australia
Ellenex
EPAG Agricultural Services
Eurofins Kalyx
Farm Bot
Fleurieu Farming Systems
Frontier Farming Systems
Gladigau Enterprises
Grassland Society of Southern Australia
Green Brain
Gregory Richard Guerin
Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC)
Insight Extension for Agriculture
JA & JM Ridsdale
Kokatha Aboriginal Corporation
L.M Lee & P.A Lee trading as Fleurieu Pumps
Landcare Australia

Langhorne Creek Grape and Wine
Legatus Group
Limestone Coast Grape & Wine Council
Local Government Association of South Australia
Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA)
Murray Darling Association
Naracoorte Seeds
Natures Equity
Next Level Agronomy
Nicon Rural Services
Nutrien Ag Solutions
Outback Communities Authority
PC Treloar
Peninsula Precision Ag
Pinion Advisory
Primary Producers SA (PPSA)
Radmedia Trust trading as PodTalk
RegenCo Consulting
Regional Development Australia (RDA WEP)
River Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Corporation
SA Livestock Consultants
Society Precision Agriculture Australia (SPAA)
South Australian Department for Environment and Water (DEW)
South Australian No-Till Farmers Association (SANTFA)
Southern Australia Durum Growers Association
Southern Australia Livestock Research Council (SALRC)
Spatial Hub Analytics Pty Ltd (Farm Map Analytics)
Talking Livestock
Tatiara District Council (CTLAP)
The Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology
The Trustee for Brougham Ag Consulting Trust
The Trustee for JACLZ Family Trust (The Agronomist)
The Trustee for Pedler Family Trust (George Pedler Ag)
The Trustee for Vitmark Enterprises Trust (Southern Precision)
The UniHub Spencer Gulf
Think Agri
Trengove Consulting
Wine Australia

SA Drought Hub Learning Activity Survey

SA DROUGHT HUB

Learning Event Activity Survey

The feedback you provide in this survey will assist in guiding improvements of SA Drought Hub supported projects to continue to best meet local producer and adviser needs. The information will be collated with other projects from across the state to inform SA Drought Hub activity design for the continuing monitoring, evaluation and learning process of the Hub.
Information will also be collated at a national level to guide improvements and future delivery of National Future Drought Fund Programs. Only data which has been de- identified will be shared with the Department.
We would like to thank you for providing this feedback as it is important to ensure the projects we are running are of benefit to you and your community.

What was the name of the event or the name of the presenter? *

When was the event held? *

Day Month Year

What is your age? *

How do you describe your gender?

Are you of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander origin?

Which of the following categories best reflects the capacity you attending this event in? *

- Agribusiness
- Extension or training provider
- Farmer / Primary producer / Pastoralist
- Farming Systems Group or Grower Group

- ◯ First Nations or Indigenous Group
- ◯ Funding body/RDC
- ◯ Government (Federal)
- ◯ Government (Local)
- ◯ Government (State)
- ◯ Landscape Board
- ◯ Not for profit organisation
- ◯ Other private business
- ◯ Researcher/academia
- ◯ Other

What Local Government Area (LGA) is your farm / property located in?

If it is located across multiple LGAs, which LGA is most of your farm/property located in? For properties in the Pastoral Unincorporated Area please use Outback Communities Authority (OCA)

Which of the following categories best describes the main agricultural sector of your farm business/primary production enterprise? If you operate across multiple industries, please indicate the main industry/sector: *

- ◯ Not applicable
- ◯ Apple and Pear Growing
- ◯ Beef Cattle Farming
- ◯ Beef Cattle Feedlots
- ◯ Beekeeping
- ◯ Berry Fruit Growing
- ◯ Citrus Fruit Growing
- ◯ Dairy Cattle Farming
- ◯ Grain fed-Sheep or Grain fed -Beef Cattle farming
- ◯ Grains / legumes / field crops
- ◯ Grape Growing
- ◯ Olive Growing
- ◯ Other Fruit and Tree Nut Growing
- ◯ Pig Farming
- ◯ Poultry farming (eggs)
- ◯ Poultry Farming (meat)
- ◯ Sheep Farming
- ◯ Sheep-Beef Cattle Farming
- ◯ Stone Fruit Growing
- ◯ Vegetable Growing (indoor)
- ◯ Vegetable Growing (outdoor)

What is the size of the property or properties that you manage? *

Activity Specific Questions

The content of this activity was easy to understand *

- ◯ Not applicable
- ◯ Strongly disagree
- ◯ Disagree
- ◯ Agree
- ◯ Strongly agree

I would be likely to consult / use the material provided again. *

- ◯ Not applicable
- ◯ Strongly disagree
- ◯ Disagree
- ◯ Agree
- ◯ Strongly agree

I would be confident in sharing new skills and knowledge with peers. *

- ◯ Not applicable
- ◯ Strongly disagree
- ◯ Disagree
- ◯ Agree
- ◯ Strongly agree

The content of this activity was relevant in helping me to prepare for, or respond to, future drought. *

- ◯ Not applicable
- ◯ Strongly disagree
- ◯ Disagree
- ◯ Agree
- ◯ Strongly agree

The content of this activity was relevant to my needs. *

- ◯ Not applicable
- ◯ Strongly disagree
- ◯ Disagree
- ◯ Agree
- ◯ Strongly agree

As a result of what I've learned here, I am likely to change my practices and / or adopt a new technology. *

- ◯ Not applicable
- ◯ Strongly disagree
- ◯ Disagree
- ◯ Agree
- ◯ Strongly agree

8. What are some of the practice changes you are considering making as a result of this activity, / event?

9. What made the content either relevant or not relevant to your needs?

10. What can be done to improve the relevance/delivery/content of this activity?

11. Do you have any additional comments that you would like to make?

What is your level of awareness of the SA Drought Hub and its intent/objectives?

- ◯ Not at all aware
- ◯ Slightly aware
- ◯ Somewhat aware
- ◯ Moderately aware
- ◯ Extremely aware

Is the information being provided to you by the SA Drought Hub helping to inform your decision-making around increased drought preparedness and resilience?

- ◯ Never
- ◯ Rarely
- ◯ Occasionally
- ◯ A moderate amount
- ◯ A great deal

Is the SA Drought Hub helping you with adoption of best practice drought management and mitigation activities?

- ◯ Never
- ◯ Rarely
- ◯ Occasionally
- ◯ A moderate amount
- ◯ A great deal

Is there any feedback you would like to give to the SA Drought Hub to improve our administration or any needs your region has for future projects or events that you would like us to know more about?

Submit

SA Drought Hub Annual Member Survey

SA DROUGHT HUB

Member and Partner Survey

This survey is intended for the South Australian Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub consortia members and partners – all parties receiving FDF funding and/or making co-contributions to the Hub.
The purpose of this survey is to gain insight into the collaborative effort and efficiency of the Hub.
Survey responses will be de-identified, and that de-identified data will be reported to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) as part of our regular reporting process.
This survey has 13 questions and should take no more than a ten minutes to complete. The information will be used to identify where improvements can be made to the Hub's governance and management structures, and program and project delivery mechanisms. The information will also assist in understanding the areas and activities you feel the Hub should focus on.
Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. It will provide us with important information to guide improvements to the delivery of the SA Drought Hub and the outcomes achieved.

1. The Hub you are associated with is:

South Australia

2. Briefly describe your role in the SA Drought Hub. If you have multiple roles in the hub choose either your one main role or all roles. *

- ◯ Hub Member
- ◯ Hub Network Partner
- ◯ Project Lead Organisation
- ◯ SA FDF Advisory Board Member or IMC
- ◯ Stakeholder Advisory Group Member (SAG)
- ◯ Government (State)
- ◯ Collaborator / Investor
- ◯ Hub team / staff
- ◯ Other

3. Briefly describe your level of involvement in delivering Hub activities (e.g.,full-time or part-time on Hub activities). If part time, what is the amount of time you spend on hub activities? *

4. How satisfied are you with the opportunities to ask questions about the Hub priorities and planned activities? *

- ◯ Very dissastisfied
- ◯ Dissatisfied
- ◯ Satisfied
- ◯ Very satisfied

5. How satisfied are you with the opportunities to provide your thoughts and inputs on the Hub priorities and planned activities? *

- ◯ Very dissastisfied
- ◯ Dissatisfied
- ◯ Satisfied
- ◯ Very satisfied

6. How satisfied are you with the extent to which your input is valued and ultimately influences Hub priorities and planned activities? *

- ◯ Very dissastisfied
- ◯ Dissatisfied
- ◯ Satisfied
- ◯ Very satisfied

7. How satisfied are you with the day-to-day functioning of theHub? *

- ◯ Very dissastisfied
- ◯ Dissatisfied
- ◯ Satisfied
- ◯ Very satisfied
- ◯ I'm not involved in the day-to-day functioning of the Hub

8. Please provide any additional comments on the how the current collaboration and partnerships are functioning: *

9. Please provide any additional comments on what you think could be improved in the Hub's governance processes: *

10. Is there anything the SA Drought Hub should change to improve program development, delivery, and overall management?

11. Are there areas or activities you feel the SA Drought Hub should be focusing on or investing in to build future climate and drought resilience?

12. Is the SA Drought Hub duplicating work of any other organisation or focusing on any areas or activities that that you believe are outside its remit ? If so why?

13. Do you have any other comments or suggestions you would like to make?

SA Drought Hub Projects for the period July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026

Project	Lead organisation	Project ID
Water use efficiency and biomass production	SARDI	DN6_25_19
Demonstration of key management practices for the success of dry and early sown crops	MSF	DN4_25_08
Understanding impacts of seeding conditions and sowing speed on pre-emergent herbicides for resilient farms	Hart	DN6_25_09
Derisking the seeding program in the Upper North	UNFS	DN3_25_05
Building resilience - Break Crop Suitability Across Landscapes (Stage 2)	UNFS	DN3_25_10
Improving the Management of Dry or Early Sown Crops	NSS	DN6_25_11
Adoption of key management practices for the success of dry and early sown lentil crops	MPF	DN4_25_12
Presentation of Climate Resilience Workshops – February 2025 to June 2026	SARDI	DN6_24_19
Supporting South Australian Primary Industries to prepare for future climates at a local scale	SARDI	DN6_24_17
Mixed Species Pastures in the Mid North	Trengove	DN6_25_13
Drought and Climate Resilient Sheep Farming Systems	AU	DN6_25_14
Extension Training for Hub Members – 2025	AU	DN6_25_18
Advancing Easy VRT: Expanding Boundaries and Capabilities	MSF	DN4_25_16
MSF regional intern	MSF	SAGIT_24_02 - MSF
Leveraging 'Kick off ya Boots' screenings to create greater resilience amongst the wider Ag communities around regional South Australia	AU	DN6_25_20
Regional internship in applied grains research (HART)	Hart	SAGIT_25_01
Eyre Peninsula internship in applied grains research 2026	AIR EP	SAGIT_25_02
Risk assessment and mitigation associated with dry sowing	AU	SAGIT_25_03
Making the most of phosphorus (P) fertiliser inputs: Managing spatial variability and long-term strategies	Trengove	SAGIT_25_04
Mixed farming intern – Limestone Coast	MFMG	SAGIT_25_05
UNFS - Early to Mid-Career Farmer Drought Resilience Workshop series	UNFS	DN3_25_30
Owen Agricultural Bureau Early to Mid-Career Farmer Drought Resilience Workshop series	ABSA	DN6_25_32
Refining crop nutrition strategies for building drought resilience in highly calcareous soils in southern YP	Trengove	DN6_25_27

Tools and Tactics - cropping research extension	AU	DN6_26_03
Climate ready landscapes; building resilience into drought decision making	HFLB	LPF - DN5_25_22 - HF
Nature Informed Decision Making: Plants succession and coverage informing property total grazing management	SAAL	LPF - DN2_25_24 - SAAL
KI Integrated farm planning	KILB	LPF - DN5_25_25 - KI
Optimising Soil Health and Productivity in the Murraylands and Riverland region	MRLB	LPF - DN4_25_26 - MR
Waterwise Farming	NYLB	LPF - DN6_25_23 - NY
A dry argument: Decisions for a drying climate in the Barossa and Clare Valley	Barossa Aus	DN6_25_35
Adapting to the challenges of the future climate to farming systems in marginal environments	AU	DN3_24_02
Improving landscape health of sandy soils prone to erosion and declining fertility	LCLB	DN5_25_01
Kangaroo partnerships - SAAL & Midnorth regions	SAAL	DN2_24_16 - SAAL
Enhanced Livestock Management: Feed, Fodder and Decision Making	AU	DN6_25_03
Extension and Promotion activities for a Lined Catchment Demonstration for the Barossa Ranges	BIGG	DN6_25_15
Young Farmer Peer to Peer Learning Lower EP 2025	AIR EP	DN1_25_28
MFMG - Early to Mid-Career Farmer Drought Resilience Workshop series	MFMG	DN5_25_29
FFS - Early to Mid-Career Farmer Drought Resilience Workshop series	FFS	DN5_25_31
CTLAP Early to Mid-Career Farmer Drought Resilience Workshop series	CTLAP	DN5_25_33
In-Vineyard Soil Assessment, Monitoring and Amelioration for Drought Resilience	MVGWTA	DN4_25_36
The Deployment of Regional Technical Expertise to Manage Climate Variability in the Limestone Coast	Limestone Coast Wine	DN5_25_34
Advancing knowledge of pre and early post-emergent herbicide safety when dry and early seeding in the lower north	Elders	DN6_26_01
Supporting the Grower Group Executive Group Network to increase their capability to deliver drought resilient initiatives across SA – 2026	Ag Ex	DN6_26_02
Dry seeding lentils in the mid north high rainfall zone	MNHRZ	DRS - DN6_26_06 - MNHRZ
Derisking the seeding program in the Upper North	UNFS	DRS - DN3_26_04 - UNFS

Drought resilient soils - Optimising water capture and use in the landscape	Turner Agri	DN6_25_17
De-risking the sowing program on EP in 2025	AIR EP	DN1_25_02
Derisking the sowing program on EP – a comparison of different seeding systems and crops in 2026	AIR EP	DRS - DN1_26_11 - AIR EP
Kangaroo Island Early to Mid-Career Farmers Program	AgKI	DN5_26_15
Northern & Yorke Young Farmers	NYLB	DN3_24_11
Murray Mallee and Riverland Irrigation Analytics and Optimisation	MRLB	DN4_24_12
Determining return on investment of drought resilience measures to advance on-farm adoption	BIGG	DN6_24_13
Decision making for drought: Making better decisions to prepare for drought in Limestone Coast farming businesses	MFMG	DN5_24_10
Risky decisions and addressing soil constraints on EP	AIR EP	GRDC_24_01 - AIREP
Supporting the Grower Group Executive Group Network to increase their capability to deliver drought resilient initiatives across SA	Ag Ex	DN6_24_18
River Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Corporation (RMMAC) Yarning Circles	RMMAC	DN4_25_06
Optimising cereal establishment in challenging environments	Elders	DN6_25_07

SA Drought Hub Sponsorships for the period July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026

Organisation	Sponsorship
BIGG	BIGG Communications Intern
AIA	AIA / AUASA 2026 Student Compendium Back Cover and Project Officer Internship
DairySA	Dairy Innovation Day 2026
MSF	Reprint and distribution of MSF's "101 Questions about SA Cropping Soils You Were Never Game to Ask"
Barossa Australia	Barossa Australia Next Crop Event "Managing overwhelm in challenging times"
SA Livestock Consultants	SA Livestock Consultants - May 2026 consulting business masterclass
Ag Ex / BFIG - Buckleboo Farm Improvement Group	"Pocket Buster" Furrow Fracture Field Day - Sand Blow, Dry Sow, Inter Row Throw and Wind Flow
MPF	ON-FARM RISK & REWARD - UNDERSTANDING THE BASICS
Coorong District Council	Coomandook Ag Bureau Sticky Beak Tour 2026
BIGG	BIGG Annual Conference
GPSA	GPSA Sustainability Award 2026
Australasian Agricultural & Resource Economics Society	2026 Australasian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society Annual Conference
AgKI	Kangaroo Island - improving hay quality farm walks
5431 Collective	Rural Womens Day Long Lunch
FFS	Where to now on the Fleurieu? Livestock & Pasture management
AU	Roseworthy Livestock Showcase
Hart	Supporting Mid North farmers, in and out of the paddock
Hart	Pre-emergent herbicide decision guide
NULB	Dr. Jill Clapperton workshop
AU	Agrivoltaics site visit for industry collaborators - Dookie, University of Melbourne
SAAL	Osborne Reserve Centenary Celebration
NYLB	Carbon Ready Ag Conference
AU	Robertstown community screening ‘Kick off ya Boots’ to create greater resilience amongst the wider Ag community
AIA	Lunch and Learn - pilot
UNFS	Sheep Producer video
UNFS	Header Set Up
AU	Advisor workshop support - Southern Beef Project
SA Livestock Advisors	SA Livestock Advisor Update
Aust Women in Ag	Australian Women in Agriculture Conference - Bursaries for SA producers
MFMG	MFMG's Focus on Phosphorus forum
AU	Central 13 - Roseworthy
CTLAP	Simple Stock Containment and eID Workshops x 3
SA Durum Growers Assoc	SADGA South East Durum Crop Walk
AUASA	AUASA's 'Growing the Future' Event - Workshop Facilitation
AU	Capacity building of undergraduate students in livestock advisory services
WoTL	Stepping Into Leadership 2025 program