



Mission Area: Food Security & Quality

We have been working with collaborators from across industry, research and government to co-design this mission. This summary reflects the mission in development and will continue to evolve.

Regional resilience against droughts

Reduce the negative impacts of extreme events such as drought by helping to protect Australia's regional communities, industries and environment.

Opportunity

Climate extremes, such as droughts, floods, heatwaves and frosts, are a perennial but variable feature of the Australian land sector. However, these events are predicted to increase in frequency and severity, putting additional strain on Australia's regional communities and industries.

While farmers have successfully adapted to climate variability, ABARES data show the significant reduction in profitability of Australian Farms associated with low rainfall years. In 2019-20 broadacre farms in NSW were predicted to have a 74% loss in farm cash incomes compared to the previous year due to drought.

We will work with regional communities to identify alternative development pathways that protect their livelihoods. Additionally, while many regional and rural communities have, or approached, running out of town water (Day Zero) there are opportunities to protect their water supplies.

Proposed mission focus

- On-farm innovation to boost productivity in times of drought
- Regional resilience and development
- Information and tools to support policy and on-farm risk management.

Impacts

- An Australia that can endure deeper, longer droughts and recover sooner.
- Boost national farm income and protect regional jobs.
- Increase the resilience of rural and regional communities.
- Improve environmental outcomes through reduced soil loss.

Current mission partners

Success depends on strong collaboration across industry, research and governments. By collaborating with leading agencies and industry partners we can leverage existing knowledge and capabilities and develop new solutions for a more resilient regional Australia. We are seeking further collaborators and investors to join us.

Existing mission partners include:

- FarmLink
- Meat and Livestock Australia
- ABARES

For further information

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