

Project introduction

Overview

The Regional Drought Resilience Planning (RDRP) Program is a partnership between the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund (FDF) and the Queensland Government. The program provides funding to the Rural Economies Centre of Excellence (RECoE). RECoE will work with five regional communities in this foundational year, to pilot developing regional drought resilience plans to prepare for and manage future drought risks.

Overall, the FDF is being delivered under three inter-connected strategic priorities:

- Economic resilience for an innovative and profitable agricultural sector
- Environmental resilience for sustainable and improved functioning of farming landscapes
- Social resilience for resourceful and adaptable communities.

Specifically, the Regional Drought Resilience Plans are being prepared to:

- grow the self-reliance and performance of the agricultural sector
- improve the natural capital of agricultural landscapes for better environmental outcomes
- strengthen the wellbeing and social capital of rural, regional and remote communities.

Regional Drought Resilience Planning (RDRP) Program in Queensland

The [Department of Agriculture and Fisheries \(DAF\)](#) is the lead agency responsible for administering Queensland's RDRP, with the Rural Economies Centre of Excellence (RECoE) identified as the appropriate delivery partner in the pilot year. RECoE is an alliance of four Queensland universities, focused on strengthening the economic resilience of Queensland's rural communities.

The plans will be developed in close consultation with regional local government/groups of local governments as well as community and industry stakeholders. Each plan to be developed will build upon and be supplementary to any Regional Resilience Strategy already completed or underway as part of the Queensland Government's *Strategy for Disaster Resilience*, led by the Queensland Reconstruction Authority.

The initial series of Regional Drought Resilience Plans will be submitted to the Queensland Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities, the Honourable Mark Furner MP, and the Federal Minister for Agriculture and Northern Australia, the Honourable David Littleproud MP, by 30 June 2022. These plans will be publicly available.

This program is jointly funded through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the Queensland Government.



Australian Government



Future
Drought
Fund



Queensland Government



These RDRPs will:

- be community-led and owned through partnerships of local governments regional organisations, communities and industry
- identify actions to prepare for future droughts, with a sharp focus on agricultural sector and allied industries
- bring people together to share their local knowledge and perspectives
- recognise that no two regions are the same
- be evidence-based
- use best practice approaches to resilience, adaptation and transformation
- build on existing planning
- draw out regional needs and priorities to inform future investments.

Regional communities will benefit by:

- being able to identify and plan for the impacts of drought
- being in a stronger position to adapt to changes and take advantage of opportunities as they arise
- building their economic, environmental and social resilience to future droughts
- learning from each other and sharing what's working and what's not
- forming stronger connections and relationships within and between regions
- having access to best practice data and information to make better decisions
- improving natural resource management across the region.

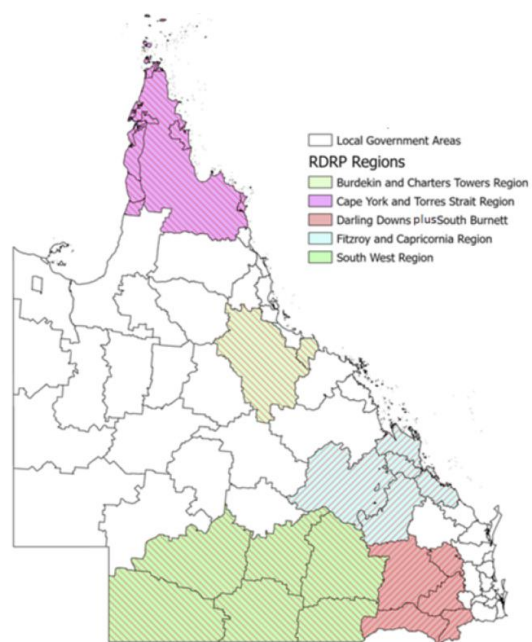
The Plan will also support applications for small grants from the Future Drought Fund for regions to take forward priority actions identified in regional plans. The targeting of this support will be developed through Australian Government consultation with state and territory governments.

Project delivery approach

This project will focus on five pilot regions in Queensland. These regions are adapted and adjusted as appropriate from those defined by QRA's Resilient Queensland project.

Five pilot regions

1. Fitzroy and Capricornia
2. Darling Downs plus South Burnett
3. Cape York and Torres Strait
4. Burdekin and Charters Towers
5. South West



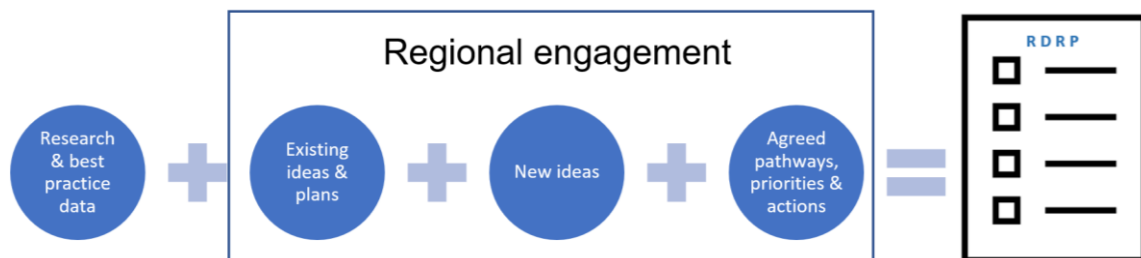
Our alliance of experts includes specialists that already live and/or work in the pilot regions and have existing connections to the community. Each RECoE university will lead activities in a region with the assistance of a Regional Facilitator.

Engagement methods will be tailored to each region, in consideration of the project timeframes. Methods may include surveys, workshops, interviews, webinars etc.

Project stages

- Review of existing data and knowledge specific to the region
- Regional Engagement Plan developed with key regional representatives
- Engagement undertaken
- Plans endorsed by regions
- Plans submitted to Queensland and Australian Government

Ongoing development of the Regional Drought Resilience Plan



Q. If I'm not in a pilot region, when and how can I be involved?

A. There are nine regions that will be contacted about development of an RDRP after the pilot year is complete in June 2022. In the meantime, learnings from the pilot year will be made available to all regions. Project updates can also be viewed on the RECoE website.

Q. I'm in a pilot region. How can I get involved?

A. Email one of the project contacts below and they will put you in touch with the relevant RECoE contact for your region.

Learn more

Project contacts:

- Ben Lyons, Director of RECoE ben.lyons@usq.edu.au
- Emma Scarborough, Communications and Engagement Coordinator emma@theyellowcompany.com.au

For project updates visit www.ruraleconomies.org.au