

Drought Resilience + 10 Conference

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The Australian Future Drought Fund. Core aspects and achievements of the 'Drought Resilience Hubs'

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Introduction

The Future Drought Fund (FDF) was established by the Australian Federal Government in 2019. It provides secure, continuous funding for drought resilience initiatives. It is helping Australian farmers and communities prepare for the impacts of drought with \$100m AUD per annum funding.

Through 8 FDF Hubs and their Nodes, the program works with farmers/producers and their rural and regional communities to prepare for drought. It connects farmers/producers with agricultural experts in their region to harness innovation and adopt new practices.

The FDF program includes:

- Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs and Nodes
- Drought Resilience Innovation Grants
- The Drought Resilience Research and Adoption Investment Plan
- The Science to Practice Forum
- A Knowledge Platform

Through the hubs and their Nodes, farmers access the latest tools and link to practical extension and adoption activities.

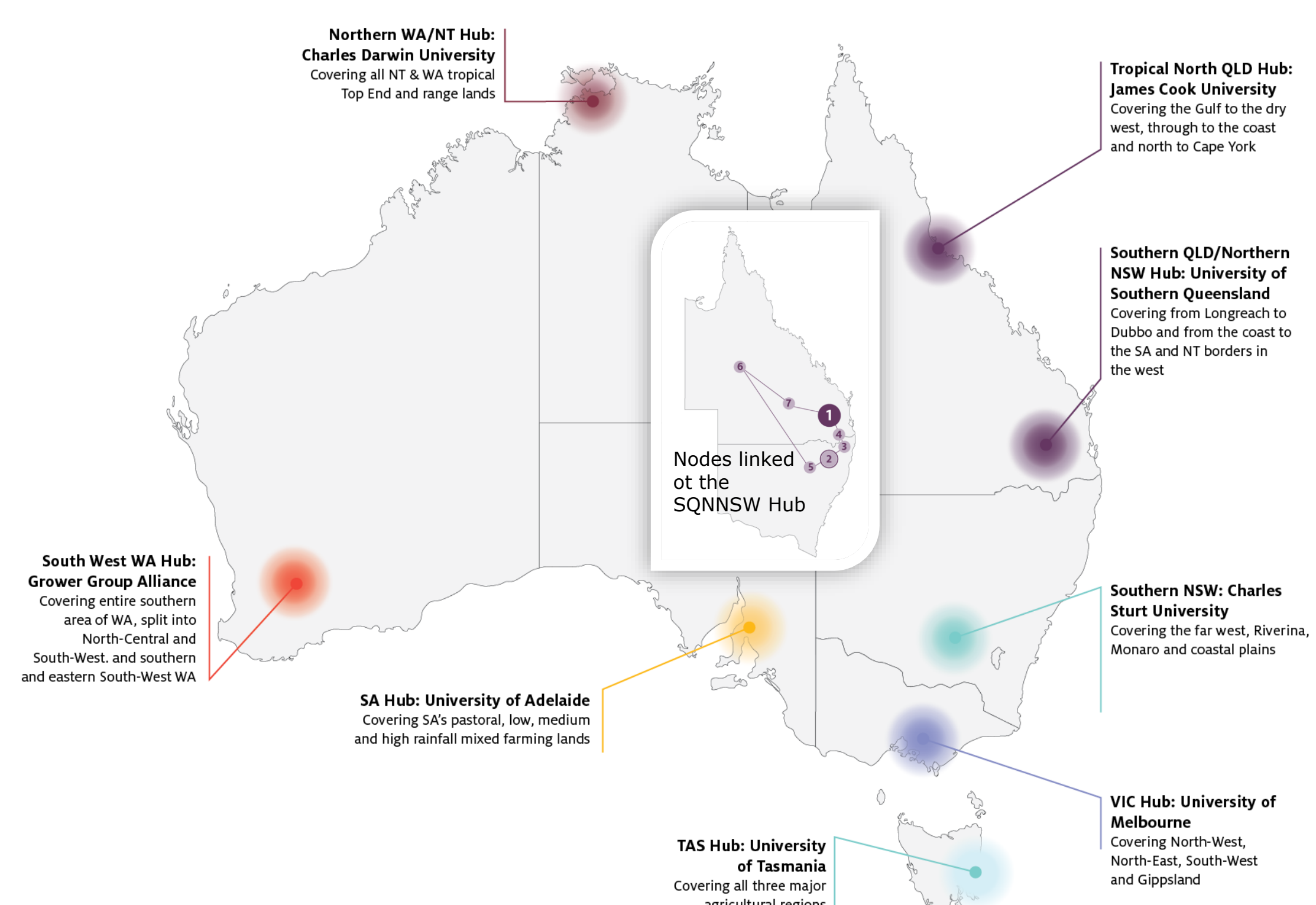
Hub activities were designed *in collaboration with farmers and producers* to meet local needs.

Regional Hub-Node activities include:

- adopting innovative tools and technologies
- improving productivity and profitability
- preserving natural capital
- reducing financial exposure to future droughts
- extensive extension activities
- *user-driven innovation*

FDF has led to:

- establishment of the Drought Resilient Leaders Program - 'create a new generation of young and emerging leaders'.
- Development of Climate Services for Agriculture (mainly Bureau of Meteorology and CSIRO) – an improved digital platform-for farming locations called 'My Climate View' based on seasonal climate forecasting!
- The NRM Drought Resilience Program – to provide up to \$10 million to support organisations, *farmer groups* and individuals undertake projects that contribute to improved drought resilience of agricultural landscapes!

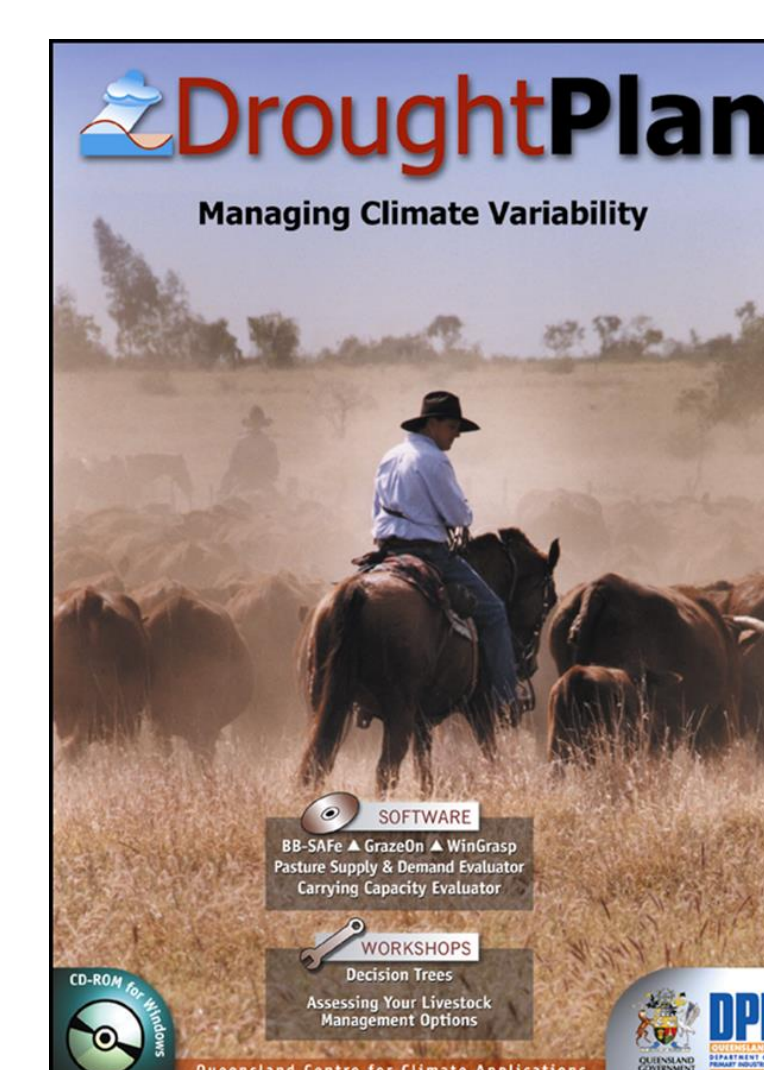


Future Drought Fund Hub sites and Queensland 'nodes'



Longreach Node
Hub Member: Remote Area Planning & Development Board (RAPAD).
The Longreach Node focuses on the semi-arid grazing regions of Western Queensland.

Example of a Regional Node in Longreach, Qld. Regional Nodes are located to cater for differing rural industries across Australia



Well established extension tools are provided to enhance user interaction and decision making.

