

Drought Hub Update

Stirlings to Coast Farmers, as a 'Drought Hub Node', provides guidance to the Nationally coordinated 'Future Drought Fund' on drought & climate resilience issues for the Albany Region.

STIRLINGS TO COAST FARMERS SUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING FDF EXTENSION AND ADOPTION GRANT.

Stirlings to Coast Farmers were 1 of 18 groups nationally to be successful in obtaining funding under the recent Future Drought Fund's Extension and Adoption Grants. The funded SCF project is based on the adoption & extension of digital weather and soil moisture monitoring technologies to drive climate-resilient farming practices in the South-West Agricultural region of Western Australia. Keep an eye out for further information and opportunities as the project gets underway.

To read more about the projects across Australia, please visit <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/farm-food-drought/drought/future-drought-fund/extension-adoption-drought-resilience-farming-practices-grants>

WATER SMART DAMS – MAKING DAMS WORK AGAIN

The two-year project aims to develop knowledge and water planning tools for farmers who need their dams to work in all years and be able to make water investment decisions with confidence. The project involves a collaboration between the Grower Group Alliance (through the SW WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub), DPIRD and UWA, as well as four grower groups, including Southern DIRT and Fitzgerald Biosphere Group in our region. Demonstration sites will investigate solutions including renovating existing dams, building new dams, and implementing evaporation suppression and runoff technologies.

Kojonup based grower group, Southern DIRT, recently installed their first dam cover as part of the project. We look forward to hearing how it reduces evaporation and impacts on water quality as results come to hand. Jerramungup based Fitzgerald Biosphere Group is also hosting demonstration sites for the

project. Visit Southern DIRT's and FBG's websites to keep up to date with their Water Smart Dams projects. www.southerndirt.com.au and www.fbg.org.au - you can also read about the FBG project later in this newsletter.

SCIENCE TO PRACTICE FORUM – BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS OF DROUGHT RESILIENCE.

The Future Drought Fund's annual Science to Practice Forum, is on again, 6 – 8 June 2023. The forum brings together farmers, researchers, government, industry, and the community to explore innovative tools and practices helping our farmers and regions prepare for future drought.

Award-winning television journalist and presenter of ABC TV's Landline, Pip Courtney, is hosting this year's 3-day forum and will facilitate engaging discussions with keynote speakers, presenters, and panel members.

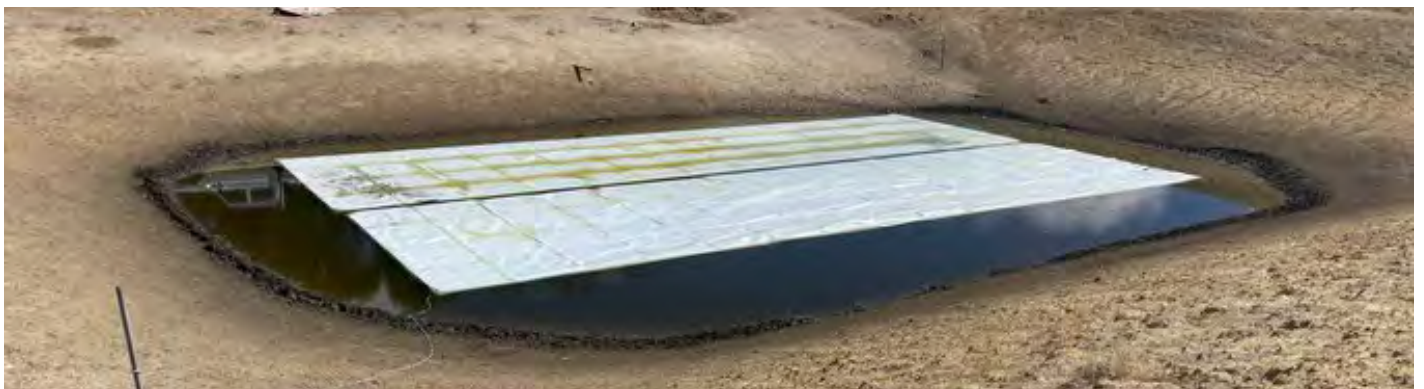
Each day focusses on a particular theme:

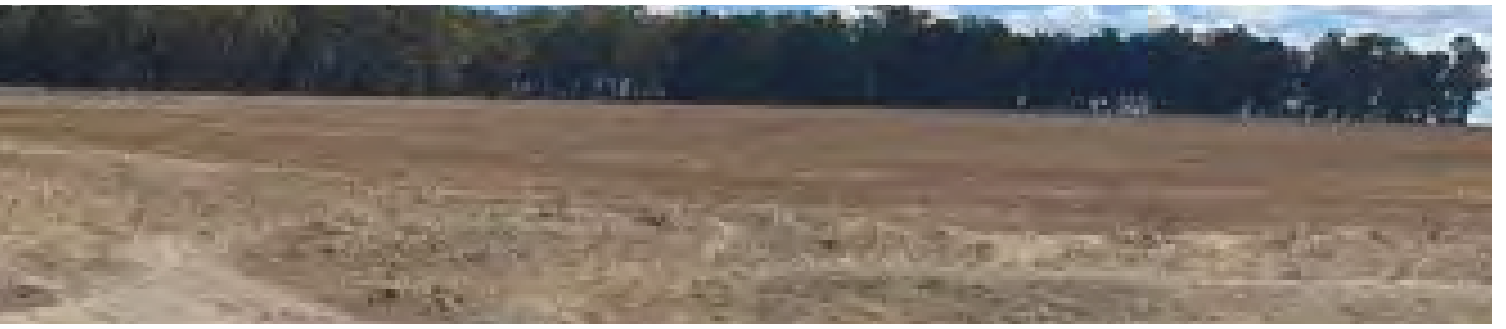
- Tuesday 6 June – Research and development
- Wednesday 7 June – Producers
- Thursday 8 June – Community and policy

The online forum is free to attend – register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-science-to-practice-forum-tickets-596424209867>

Register for Manjimup workshop – hear from SCF's own Smart Farms Coordinator, Phil Honey.

In support of this year's Science to Practice Forum, the SW WA Hub will host a face-to-face workshop at the Manjimup DPIRD Research Institute on June 8.





The event will showcase outcomes from projects supported by the FDF and how they can be put into practice on WA farms. SCF's own Phil Honey will be presenting and will also be part of an expert panel session on AgTech and applications to improve productivity.

Other topics include improving dam water retention and performance; combining CSIRO technology and weather data to improve on-farm decisions; analysing current monitoring technology to find the right fit for your farm; and digital tools to map and improve yield.

The event is supported by the SW WA Hub's Manjimup and Bunbury Regional Node Leads – the Southern Forests Food Council and the Southwest Catchments Council. It begins at 1pm, finishing at 5pm with a sundowner and beef and gravy roll to follow.

Register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/sw-wa-hub-science-to-practice-forum-workshop-tickets-620513702187>

To keep up to date with all that is happening with the South West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub and anything climate resilience related, check out their web page and subscribe to their newsletter here - <https://www.gga.org.au/activity/drought-hub/>

If you are interested in knowing more and being involved in project development for improving climate resilience in our local area, give Kathi McDonald (Albany Regional Node) a call on 0408 418 531 or email kathi.mcdonald@scfarmers.org.au and check out the Albany Node webpage for further locally relevant information - <https://www.scfarmers.org.au/swwadroughthub-albany>.



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Water and the Environment



Future
Drought
Fund



GROWER
GROUP
ALLIANCE
Together we grow



South-West WA
Drought Resilience Adoption
and Innovation Hub

This project received funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund

SW WA Hub **FREE EVENT** Science to Practice Forum Workshop - Manjimup Thurs 8 June

Manjimup DPIRD
Research Institute
28527 South West Hwy
1pm - 5pm
BBQ sundowner to finish

