

Future Drought Fund Goulburn Regional Drought Resilience Plan

Small Project Expression of Interest Guidelines January 2025



Photo Credit: Rene Martens Photography

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1.About

The Goulburn Regional Drought Resilience Plan (the Plan) was jointly funded by the Victorian and Commonwealth Government under the Future Drought Fund Regional Drought Resilience Program and aims to empower communities to identify and address their needs to be better prepared for and able to manage dry seasonal conditions and drought. The Plan further aims to draw out regional needs and priorities to inform future investments in drought resilience.

Delivery of the Plan is overseen by an Implementation Governance Group, with representatives from government and non-government organisations across the Goulburn region. Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority coordinates this group and is administering this small grant.

This Expression of Interest is seeking projects from not-for-profit agricultural industry and related organisations, and community groups/networks to deliver drought and climate change capacity-building activities in the Goulburn region. Activities should increase awareness, understanding and adoption of management practices that improve farmer and community resilience to drought and climate change.

Through the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments under the Future Drought Fund, funding is available to encourage and support on-farm drought resilience and preparedness activities.

Specific focus areas for this EOI are taken from the [Goulburn Drought Resilience Plan](#):

Focus area	Description
2.4.7	Support the capability, adaptation, and adoption of farm management practices to better cope with drought and climate change through extension and access to knowledge.
3.6.1	Promote, encourage and coordinate programs and learning activities to enhance storage of livestock feed for drought preparedness.
3.6.2	Promote, encourage and coordinate programs and learning activities for water budgeting on dryland farms for drought preparedness.
3.6.3	Promote, encourage and coordinate programs and learning activities for water management on irrigated farms and orchards for drought preparedness.
3.6.4	Support farmers to increase productivity and reduce water use in irrigated agriculture through adoption of technologies and practices to improve water use efficiency and manage changes in water availability.
3.6.5	Support to adopt land management practices that focus on cooling the soil to maintain or increase soil moisture content and improve resilience to drought.

Please note:

- Activities need to be completed (funds expended, reported on) by 15 November 2025.
- Total funding sought can be up to \$50,000 per project (GST exclusive), however funding will be subject to availability.
- Successful applicants will need to enter into a delivery contract with Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority. These contracts are expected to be in place by 7 March 2025.
- Successful applicants will need to submit supplier qualification documents with the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority, which includes current insurance and WorkCover certificates, and OHS policies.
- Please contact Karen Brisbane-Bullock 0409 955 396 if you would like to know more about applying.
- Funding will be provided in milestone payments, with 50% upfront. This may alter depending on amount each successful project receives.

Expressions of Interest applications close 5.00 pm Tuesday 11 February 2025. Late submissions will not be accepted.

2. Who can apply?

Applicants must:

- Be a 'not-for-profit' group/organisation with a focus on agriculture or agricultural communities in the Goulburn region (or operate at a broader State level) and deliver this project in the Goulburn region (refer to the map on Page 6).
- Have an Australian Business Number (ABN) or provide a completed Australian Tax Office Statement By A Supplier form.
- Be incorporated or operate under the auspices of an incorporated organisation (if you are auspiced under another organisation, this is who the contract for your project must be with, please provide their details when filling out the Expression of Interest form).
- Have current public liability insurance policy for \$20 million and have personal accident insurance (or operate under the auspices of an organisation that carries such insurance).
- Have no outstanding project reports to the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority for other funded projects.

3. What types of projects might be funded?

Projects that contribute to the Goulburn Regional Drought Resilience Plan purpose:

- build social, environmental and economic resilience to dry seasons, drought and climate change.
- support and increase landholder capability and improve adaptation and adoption of farm management practices to better cope with drought and climate change.

Projects could include (but are not limited to):

- Training and extension activities, e.g., farm tours, bus trips, workshops and field days.
- Application and demonstration of new technologies.
- Communication materials (e.g., field guides, YouTube videos, case studies).

Please note for projects relying on the expertise of other organisations, you must ensure project development and planning involves these organisations and their support is confirmed in your Expression of Interest.

Criteria:

- Support the capability, adaptation and adoption of farm management practices to better cope with drought and climate change through extension and access to knowledge.
- Priority will be given to projects that demonstrate wide community/industry involvement, which may include Traditional Owners.
- Projects that are primarily about increasing private gain (on-farm productivity) will not be funded.
- Proposals must be in line with the priorities in the [Goulburn Drought Resilience Plan](#).
- Projects must demonstrate value for money, feasibility of activities, and how activities will deliver outcomes.
- Total funding sought should not exceed \$50,000 (GST exclusive).
- All successful project outputs must be spatially recorded on the designated Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority mapping tool. Staff can assist with this using ArcGIS.
- Funding is not to be used for purchase of capital items.
- Projects must be completed, funds expended, and reporting completed by 15 November 2025.

4. What will not be funded

- Capital purchases.
- Projects that do not meet the above criteria.
- Projects outside the Goulburn region as defined on page 6.
- Projects where funding is oversubscribed.

If you are not sure if your project will be eligible under this program, please contact Karen Brisbane-Bullock to discuss further.

5. How to apply

Expression of Interest form can be found on the Goulburn Broken CMA website [Grants - GB CMA - Goulburn Broken CMA](#)

Completed forms should be emailed to karenb@gbcma.vic.gov.au

6. How will applications be assessed?

Your project will be assessed for the level of achievement against the below criteria:

- **Is the project eligible, feasible, and achievable with measurable targets?** Priority will be given to activities that are part of a well-planned and cost-effective project that can be completed within the timeframe for delivery.
- **Public value:** Amount of public benefit, contribution to Plan outcomes, and value for money.
- **Strategy, planning and methodology:** Level at which the project addresses the cause of the problem, rather than the symptom. Does it have well-developed planning? Is the methodology appropriate and effective?
- **Alignment and priority:** How well the project addresses and aligns with the Goulburn Drought Resilience Plan.
- **Capacity building and community engagement:** How well the project engages and builds the capacity of 5

farmers and land managers

- **Group track record:** Track record of your group or network in the delivery of projects including accurate and timely reporting of projects, mapping of outputs, and communication.

7. EOI is submitted - What's next?

- On submitting your EOI, you will receive notification that it has been received.
- Assessments will take place in February 2025.
- We expect to provide notification of successful/unsuccessful projects in early March 2025.

This is strictly an Expression of Interest process and further discussion/approval, and contract is required prior to any funding approval or commencement of works. There is no guarantee of any EOI being approved.

8. Further information

For more information, questions and assistance on completing an Expression of Interest please contact Karen Brisbane Bullock, 0409 955 396, karenb@gbcma.vic.gov.au

Figure: The Goulburn Regional Drought Resilience Plan region, and eligible municipalities.

