

Mary Regional Drought Resilience Implementation Plan (RDRIP) Workshop Table

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The Regional Drought Resilience Planning program is jointly funded through the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund and the Queensland Government. Development of the plan has been supported by the Australian Government (Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry) and the Queensland Government (Department of Primary Industries).

Mary Regional Drought Resilience Implementation Plan (RDRIP)

Workshop Table

KEY: The RDRIP is based on the Action Plan in the RDRP

People, Culture
& Communities



Economy



Landscapes &
Natural Environment



Infrastructure & Built
Environment



Built environment
and infrastructure



Landscape
and natural
environment



Drought
resilience

People, culture
and community



Economy



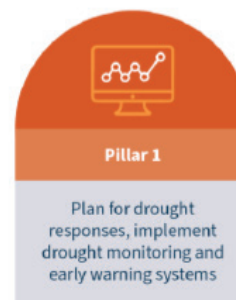
4 Dimensions of drought impact and actions

Three Pillars of Action

PLAN

RESPOND

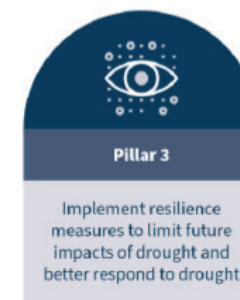
BUILD FUTURE
RESILIENCE



BEFORE



DURING



AFTER

Intended Outcomes	Priority Action (s)	Importance? <i>Critical = C High = H Low = L (Please indicate)</i>	Project Implementation Activities <i>(step by step)</i>	Drought Phase <i>(please tick applicable)</i>			Key Regional Partners
				Before	During	After	
Use and availability of appropriate drought resilience indicators for: <i>People, Culture & Community; Economy; Landscape and Natural Environment; Infrastructure and Built Environment</i>	PROJECT (1): Undertake an analysis of what is needed, what already exists, and what are the gaps in monitoring and early warning systems – as well as planning and managing for drought resilience. Develop and pilot education programs that build an understanding of, and capacity to use drought monitoring and indicators to better plan and manage activities in the region    						RDAWBB Regional Uni's Red Cross RFCS Drought hubs
			Hold forum(s) to discuss key categories of indicators – for drought impacts, vulnerabilities, and resilience				
			Desk review of existing sources of indicators – issues and lessons learned				
			Workshop to examine findings and discuss gaps- and next steps/priorities to develop better indicators and vulnerability/risk profiles				
			Prepare project proposals/applications to undertake projects and develop indicators and vulnerability/risk profiles. Develop draft indicators/profiles and hold local forums to validate draft framework				
			Establish working groups and pilot the use of the indicators/profiles – for early warning and other purposes – throughout the region for two years				
			Publish discussion paper and share findings from the pilot				
			Fund an awareness and education program to encourage widespread use (and ongoing development) of the indicator/ risk profile framework.				

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Improved drought impact monitoring and early warning <u>hardware</u> systems.	PROJECT (2): Establish new A-pan evaporation measurement stations in the Burnett region.  		Carry out an analysis of future needs for stations taking into consideration climate projections and land use changes.				UniSQ (CACs) QDPI SQL DESI Industry Grps Drought hubs
			Identify appropriate station placements for and installation of additional stations.				
			Run field days at several new stations to promote their importance in contributing to early warning and preparedness for flash droughts whilst increasing producers' knowledge of flash droughts and how to prepare for them.				

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Adequate <u>technology/ infrastructure</u> <u>is</u> available for drought impact monitoring and early warning systems .    	PROJECT (3): Undertake an analysis of existing drought monitoring and early warning systems - technology and infrastructure. Review what new technologies and opportunities exist to monitor climate, water and soil...and what are the current barriers /challenges to adoption and uptake prepare a discussion paper and discussion materials					RDAWBB Regional Uni's Red Cross RFCS Drought hubs	
			Desk and field review of current technology/infrastructure in use				
			Desk and field review to explore new technology/infrastructure available				
			Discussion forum to share findings and explore gaps and opportunities				
			Prepare discussion paper.				
			Hold information seminars to share findings. Publsish discussion paper				
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There is adequate <u>local capacity to effectively capture data for indicators and then use them</u>	PROJECT (4): Support more networks of climate information personnel – such as Climate Mates by 2026. Work with this network to develop a model Regional Drought Response Plan. Trial in 3 locations in the region    		Seek resources/support to build a network of regional climate information personnel				RDAWBB UniSQ (CACs and CRE) Regional unis DESI DPI QRA Regional Disater Groups NFPs NEMA SES
			Provide leadership and backbone support to the network				
			Work with network to develop a draft framework for a model Drought Response Plan				
			Share the draft plan in the agreed locations within the region to gather feedback on applicability. Develop Competency (capacity-building) Framework to describe the competencies required to implement and manage the Drought Response Plan				
			Finalise and publish draft model Drought Response Plan and Capacity-Building framework				

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Effective Data management, dissemination and protection	PROJECT (5): Review the current systems of (drought) data collection/management and make suggestions for improvement   		Carry out a regional review of current (drought and climate risk) data collection, management and opportunities for access. Key informant interviews for further information				DPI DESI RDA WBB BOM Disaster groups SES RFCs PHNs Local Gov Dept health
			Focus groups and Key informant interviews for further information about ease of access, usage, reliability and data				
			Design pilot framework to trial in regional locations for 1 year				
			Evaluate and report on trials				
			Develop and share discussion paper on findings and recommendations				

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Local Wisdom and Traditional Knowledge is used most effectively to build drought (and climate risk) resilience	PROJECT (6): The availability and potential use of local/historical knowledge & skills and Traditional/First Nations Knowledge and skills is better understood . Local/historical knowledge & skills and Traditional/First Nations Knowledge and skills are incorporated into a variety of learning programs. .  		A steering group of regional 'local elders' (indigenous and non-indigenous) is formed and supported				RDAWBB Regional Uni's NFPs Community groups TOs First Nations groups and individuals TAFE Schools Dept Ed Stae agencies
			An audit of currently or recently offered /projects/ programs/courses (eg BMRG) that include local/historical wisdom and First Nations skills and knowledge is conducted. Key informant interviews and small focus groups supply additional information				
			Discussion materials are produced and shared back with key stakeholders and steering group. Key issues and gaps are identified and discussed.				
			A selection of key target groups (primary/ high school/tertiary/ landholders, government) are identified and key pilot project ideas are identified and developed				
			A plain English discussion paper is produced and shared				
			Funding is sought to trial new education initiatives that include traditional wisdom and First Nations skills and knowledge in the in the Burnett region. Develop and trial specific programs that address the cultural effects of drought impacts on landscapes and country for Indigenous/First Nations people				
			The projects are reviewed and a report produced.				
			Recommendations are developed for ongoing work and broader application				

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Building Business skills and capacity to better manage drought and climate risk	PROJECT (7): Further strengthen Business and financial literacy in regional communities and primary producers   		Carry out a review of current adult education programs available to business owners and primary producers in the region. Use key informant interviews and small focus groups for additional information				RDA WBB RFCs
			Analyse gaps and potential topics/opportunities for pilot programs				
			Seek funding for a pilot program on Business Planning and Drought and Climate Risk management for business owners and primary producers				
			Trial the pilot program in the region. Review, gain feedback and revise				
			Recommend final draft program for uptake by key stakeholders. Support applications for funding				

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Building land management skills for drought and climate risk resilience	PROJECT (8): Continue to support projects that build skills and knowledge in better land management for drought and climate risk resilience Build better understanding of the financial benefits of better land/ farm management – e.g. carbon farming, natural capital assets, primary production/renewables, biodiversity, mixed agriculture, value-adding etc Facilitate better understanding of environmental markets and opportunities for farmers    		Carry out a review of current programs available to agricultural business owners and primary producers in the region. Use key informant interviews and small focus groups for additional information				RDAWBB Regional Uni's Peak bodies Govt agencies Private sector
			Develop a model program of: seminars/workshops; website self-learning materials, on-site visits, mentoring and learning groups etc.				
			Gain funding for a regional trial for 2 years. Identify and support regional delivery hosts. Conduct trial				
			Review trial and share findings. Prepare business case for ongoing support and rollout				

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Better regional input into design and delivery of drought support programs	PROJECT (9): Seek out and understand opportunities for regional input to be better incorporated into government support programs   		Carry out an analysis of current government support programs for drought and climate risk that are (or could be) operating in the region. Key informant interviews to supply additional information				RDA WBB UniSQ (CACs) QDPI SQL DESI Industry Grps Drought hubs
			Identify current opportunities and also challenges/barriers for regional input into the design and delivery of those programs, including: - Local barriers/incentives to engaging with government decision makers - Engagement challenges and local decision making - Community desire to influence change - Government policy/program design practices - Politics or policy? - Opportunities for change				
			Produce findings and share with regional/local stakeholders as well as government program ‘owners’ through a discussion paper and a regional seminar				
			Identify ongoing regional ‘champions’ and continue to advocate for change				

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Facilitate better understanding of environmental markets and opportunities for better outcomes for landholders and regional communities	PROJECT (10): ‘Unbiased’/independent and practical information is made available through an awareness raising program.   		Carry out a review of current programs available to agricultural business owners, communities and primary producers in the region. Use key informant interviews and small focus groups for additional information				RDAWBB NRMs Government agencies Private sector
			Produce an easy to read discussion paper and materials and make them widely available				
			Hold regional workshops to broadcast the materials				
			Seek resources to fund pilot projects for the region				
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Facilitate better understanding of renewables and opportunities for better outcomes for landholders and regional communities	PROJECT (11): Better understand the potential challenges/benefits of 'renewable energy' in drought - affected communities. Develop model community benefit agreements (CBAs) for mixed land-use and large-scale renewables projects.   		Undertake robust study (Australian and world best practice) on: the potential challenges and benefits of renewable energy in agricultural and drought-affected areas; the viability of implementing Community Benefit Agreements (e.g. as used in the mining industry) to encourage better outcomes for local communities from mixed land-use and large-scale renewables projects.				RDA WBB UniSQ QDPI SQL DESI Industry Grps Drought hubs
			Produce discussion paper to advocate for necessary changes and recommend model CBA tools to pilot.				
			Seek funding and projects/partners to pilot in the region.				
			Pilot, evaluate and report results				

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Locally based support workers are available during critical drought periods	PROJECT (13): Analyse challenges to ensuring sustainable support workforce and work with key stakeholders to develop and promote ideas to overcome shortages 		Develop a stakeholder group and hold discussion seminars on topic of retaining critical staff...highlight gaps and failures				RDA WBB UniSQ QDPI Industry Grps Govt funders NFPs
			Identify key challenges and opportunities. Develop 3-4 ideas to trial over 2 years – focus on exploring collective solutions				
			Support stakeholder group to negotiate with funding bodies to fund the trial				
			Independently review the trial and prepare plain English report				
			Public report and share widely				

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Adequate access to and support for community mental health services to support drought affected communities	PROJECT (14): Build on existing programs and/or develop more community-based programs to support mental health across the region. Work to encourage local service profiles/priorities that meet local 'demographics' and priority needs.  						RDAWBB PHN Red Cross RFDS Government agencies Community groups NFPs
			Conduct a review to identify current services in place				
			Facilitate a mental health roundtable with key stakeholders and service providers to explore gaps and also ways of collaborating – focus on known impacts during times of drought				
			Develop a reliable demand profile, gap analysis and business case for new programs and “doing it differently”.				
			Work with TRACC and PHN and other mental health programs to develop a more comprehensive Regional Drought Mental Health Plan for the region -with consideration of building personal and community (drought) resilience. Acknowledge and further build the capacity of and support existing groups.				
			Select 3-4 projects to trial for 2 years and support applications for funding. Conduct trials, evaluate and share findings				
			Seek funding for a smalls-grant program for a series of community (social) events focussed on drought preparedness and mental health. Run events, evaluate and share findings				
			Utilise under-used venues for services and community self-help events. Review and prepare business case for future self-funding/support required				

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Reduce the impacts of market price fluctuation during drought	PROJECT (15): Review best practice and prepare a discussion paper Hold awareness seminars  		Carry out an analysis – Australia and worldwide- of best practice initiatives to ‘smooth’ out the impacts of market fluctuation... with any particular reference to the effects of drought or climate variability.				RDA WBB UniSQ QDPI Peak bodies DESI Industry Groups Drought hubs Austrade Govt agencies
			Prepare a Plain English discussion paper and seminar materials				
			Run regional seminars with producers				
			Support applications to fund identified projects				

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Farm and agricultural enterprises are aware of business diversification opportunities and have the capacity to take them up	PROJECT (16): Build on existing work and review and analyse gaps, opportunities, risks, blockers to uptake and establishment costs associated with diversification opportunities. Fund three business forums across the region focusing on identifying business diversification options.    		Carry out a desk top analysis of current and recent work. Review gaps, opportunities, risks, blockers to uptake and establishment costs associated with diversification opportunities.				RDAWBB Regional Uni's Red Cross RFCS Drought hubs
			Test findings with regional focus group. Develop priority options in consultation with focus group.				
			Hold meetings and identify content and presenters for 4 business forums				
			Advocate/apply funding for 3 regional forums. Conduct forums and evaluate . Prepare evaluation paper				

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Water efficiency in public places, homes and businesses is improved in the region.	PROJECT (19): Promote the inclusion of water efficiency into planning and regulatory systems in Qld Continue water infrastructure related subsidy schemes. Promote water efficiency subsidy program (similar to solar subsidy)		Carry out an analysis of current water efficiency policies and programs that apply to QLD and the region Identify gaps and areas for future improvement. Develop a plain English discussion paper and materials				RDA WBB UniSQ QDPI NRM's Govt agencies DOP Water Mgrs First nations groups
			Conduct regional focus groups to share findings and identify pilot projects				
			Prepare position paper to promote inclusion of water efficiency in planning schemes, policies and regulations.				
			Identify potential for extension/improvement of current water subsidy scheme and proposals for extensions and improvements for subsidy programs in drought affected areas.				



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Effective Drought Resilience education programs are developed and available.	PROJECT (21): Carry out a review of existing available 'drought-related' education. Identify gaps and key lessons learned. Develop draft framework and pilot various education programs and resources in the region.		Establish or adopt an existing expert/practitioner working group – education providers and peak bodies				RDA WBB UniSQ QDPI DESI Industry Groups Drought hubs Govt Local govt TAFE Schools NFPs
			Develop overall framework for program				
			Hold forum to discuss framework and explore gaps Identify key pilot projects: high school program, TAFE subject; University subject; training course for peak bodies.				
			Identify sources of funding (govt and private sector) for development and trial				
			Conduct pilot projects (building on previous and current programs). - Agricultural business planning – risk, markets, natural capital, renewables, diversification, value-adding etc - Land and Livestock management – soil improvement, water efficiency, understanding weather data, regen agriculture, sediment control, drought resilient landscapes, drought resistant cropping, pasture management; drought resilience and livestock etc - Water efficiency; reducing water usage; infrastructure investment; recycling and water harvesting; water retention on land etc				
			Trial program for a minimum of two years and evaluate Prepare evaluation report. Publish reports and or papers				
			Advocate/ apply for funding of ongoing projects				



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Effective Drought Resilience education programs are developed and available for small-block and new landholders	PROJECT (22): Carry out a review of existing available ‘drought-related’ education. Identify gaps and key lessons learned in relation to new landholders and small block landholders and so-called ‘hobby farmers’. Develop draft framework and pilot various education programs and resources in the region.    						RDAWBB Regional Uni's NRMs RFCs Drought hubs
			Establish or adopt an existing small/new landholder group – formal and/or informal (eg Facebook groups, landcare, etc) . create an expert/practitioner working group – including education providers and peak bodies				
			Hold landholder forums forum to discuss critical issues, current education programs available and critical gaps				
			Identify sources of funding (govt and private sector) for development and trial				
			Develop model program and trial – 2 x face2face an 1 online/hybrid				
			Conduct pilot program and evaluate Prepare evaluation report. Publish reports and or papers				
			Advocate/ apply for funding of ongoing projects				

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Improve regional and local road infrastructure to meet critical transport needs during drought periods	PROJECT (25): Undertake an analysis of current issues/strategies; what are gaps and what opportunities there are for improvement. Develop a discussion paper Formulate a Drought Resilience Roads Strategy for the region .    		Establish a regional working group of stakeholders and interested persons				RDAWBB Regional Uni's Drought hubs Local govt IPWEA IEAUST Contractors. Government agencies Railways Feedlots
			Desk review of : current programs and strategies; gaps and critical issues; ideas and new technologies; drought impacts; recommendations. Key informant interviews and focus groups for additional information				
			Draft a Plain English discussion paper				
			Hold a regional 'Roads forum' - discussion forum to share findings and develop ideas for a regional strategy				
			Formulate a Drought Resilience Roads Strategy for the region. Share with relevant govt agencies, roads mgrs.; and local govt.				

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Critical ‘community support’ infrastructure is adequate and maintained for use during drought periods	PROJECT (26): Undertake a review of ‘critical’ community infrastructure – used by the community during times of drought Develop a strategy to build and/or maintain adequate ‘critical’ community support infrastructure throughout the region    					RDAWBB Regional Uni's Community groups NFPs IPWEA IEAUST Private sector Local govt Churches	
			Establish a regional working group of stakeholders and interested persons				
			Conduct a regional review and map ‘critical’ community support infrastructure that is ‘vital’ during periods of drought – e.g. hospitals, health care, places of worship; meeting places; social venues; airstrips; accommodation venues etc. Key informant interviews and focus groups for additional information				
			Draft a Plain English discussion paper				
			Hold a regional Drought Resilience Community Support Infrastructure Forum - discussion forum to share findings and develop ideas for a regional strategy				
			Formulate a Drought Resilience Community Support Infrastructure Strategy for the region. Share with relevant govt agencies, asset mgrs.; and local govt.				

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Community Champions (individual and Organisation) are able to effectively support and lead drought resilience activities	PROJECT (27) Local Champions – both individual and organisations- are identified, supported and have their capacity strengthened so that they can lead and support their communities through 'hard times'  		Identify key 'local champions' with regional stakeholders				RDA WBB ARLF FRRR TRACC Rotary/Lions CWA Community groups Local govt State Govt NFPs Red Cross Federal Govt Philanthopics Faith Groups
			Research 'best practice' ideas to support/enhance 'champions' and provide 'backbone' support for local champions				
			Identify appropriate 'leadership' programs (such as FRRR, ARLF etc) and support local champions to apply and undertake programs -particularly for young people and women				
			Identify appropriate grant programs (e.g. FRRR community grants etc) and support local groups to apply for funds				
			Institute a regional 'Resilience Champions' award				

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