

SUBMISSION MADE FOR THE FUTURE DROUGHT FUND

1. Two things in drought: Firstly little to no rain and secondly the same with the income.
2. The future drought fund acknowledges some it through soil, erosion and water storage and the Agri-Silence program to manage effective decisions affecting your income.
3. More needs to be done in regards to developing policies with utilities to offer some relief during the dry than usual times on the land. For example in regards to water rates maybe offer some relief with supply charges if the meter is not being used and once it is then start paying for it. Council rebates were offered last time but only to farmers and not businesses in the area
4. The consultants have started to run their course. Now is the time to be at ground level helping farmers to implement some of their strategies' in all areas not just certain ones that seem to be getting more than others.
5. Work more closely with interstate charities to have co-coordinators in place where needed to monitor what is going on and what assistance is needed. There has been some progress made in that area.
6. Maybe invest some of the money in a high bearing interest account to be used for immediate assistance when the next drought hits. Criteria would need to be met.
7. Use of any unused silo facility's for seed storage for farmers to utilize it at a reduced cost to store it. Short term could be some employment in local areas and Long term for farmers knowing they can access their seed and or purchase some at reduced cost when the drought hits.
8. Progress with mental health has been more than adequate. Now is the time to direct the money into other areas to benefit farmers and their communities.
9. An overhaul of the Farmer Household Allowance to try and make it more streamlined for those eligible to receive it.
10. Soil testing and water erosion activities have been very useful.
11. More development in drought tolerant crops.
12. Trial plots having been working well. Perhaps offer to more farmers in the drier areas for the research side of things.