



Australian Government

Community
Grants Hub
Improving your grant experience



Future Drought Fund: Drought Resilience Research and Adoption Program - Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs

Webinar Question and Answers – Transcription

The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (the department) recently presented a webinar series on the Future Drought Fund's Adoption and Innovation Hubs grant opportunity. Webinar participants included representatives from state and local governments, research organisations, not-for-profit organisations, industry as well as individuals.

This is a collation of the Questions and Answers that were received during the webinars.



Grant application details

- 1. What is the closing date? All other documentation states the 23rd of the 12th of this year, and that, I think, was referring to submissions closing at 11:00 PM?**

Applications close **11:00 PM, Australian Eastern Daylight Time, 23 December 2020.**

- 2. What sort of detail are you looking for in terms of the CVs? Long, short? What's appropriate?**

Short would be preferred, like all applications in terms of CVs, but you really just need to tell the story of the experience and the capabilities that those people bring to the Hub, and that's really the key focus.

- 3. Would it be an eligibility issue for any of the attachments being in excess of 2 megabytes? Can any large files be sent through via email in accordance with the Guidelines without being in breach?**

Yes and the Community Grants Hub have an email to send those queries to (support@communitygrants.gov.au). They will help you in terms of those technical issues and constraints with applications.

- 4. The PowerPoint presentation suggests there is a template for the Business Plan, however, one is not provided on GrantConnect, but is that the case? I think in terms of the presentation I've seen, there is not a template for them.**

There is no template for the business plan. It's Research, Development, Extension, Adoption and Commercialisation (RDEA&C) plan, which is activity-level and a Risk Management Plan. These are the 2 templates that are provided. For the other attachments, you are free to use whatever format and approach you would like.

- 5. What process will be used to assess the applications and what are the timelines for advising successful and unsuccessful applicants?**

The process for assessment is included in section 7.3 of the Guidelines. That really steps through the process and timing. As mentioned at slide 20 of the presentation, it is anticipated that advice to applicants will be in approximately February-March 2021.



6. What criteria and areas should we focus on when writing the CVs for key personnel? I am unable to find assessment criteria in the grant opportunity documents.

In terms of key personnel there are requirements for a Hub Director and a Knowledge Broker and we've provided some details regarding what's expected about their capabilities. As each of the regions and consortiums are likely to be quite different and will have a different mix of skills and capabilities, it is important that you to tell the story about what capabilities you bring to the Hubs and how you can provide that extension, adoption, commercialisation and development opportunity to the local region. We really encourage you to draw out those key skills that are really key to the Hubs and they'll be part of looking at the overall capability and capacity that you bring to the application process.

7. Several universities have asked for endorsement for their Hub application. Are governments required provide support or endorsement of applications?

The Guidelines do not ask for or require state and territory government endorsement. It is up to state and territory governments to decide if and how many proposals it will support. We aren't asking state and territories governments to provide endorsements for particular applications, but we are seeking state and territory government involvement in the Hubs.



Hub funding

8. What timeframe is the Hub funding and what year is year one?

Year one is this current financial year. The full year funding will be available as soon as contracts are signed and aiming to have those in place by March 2021. Funding is approved to 30 June 2024.

9. The grant period is actually 3 years and 3 months, could the annual budget actually be more than 2 million?

The approved funding under the Future Drought Fund for each Hub is \$2 million per year for 4 years. It is recognised that there's a shorter period in terms of this first year, but this does not change the amount of funding available.

10. Is there additional funding available for cross Hub activities and initiatives that might be useful across all Hubs or should each Hub plan to fund such initiatives from their own resources?

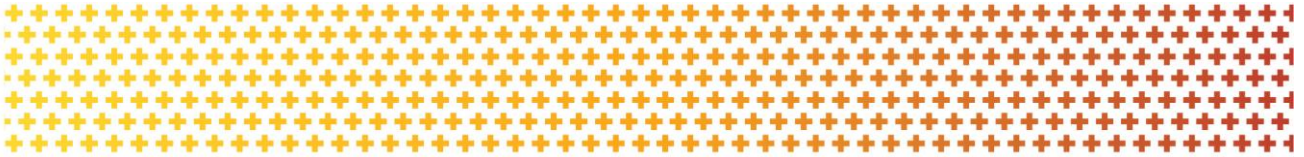
There are Innovation Grants as part of the Research and Adoption Program that would be available to Hubs to apply for, either as a single Hub or cross-Hub collaborations. The co-design process that Hubs will undertake once established should also identify priorities and other funding opportunities for Hubs to access, to support their activities.

11. Can the spending of the grant funds differ from year to year, to reflect start-up and wind down phases?

The funding available is \$2 million per annum that will be allocated to each Hub, and how those funds are expended is really up to the Hub to develop as part of the business plan and how the funding will be profiled for activities to 30 June 2024.

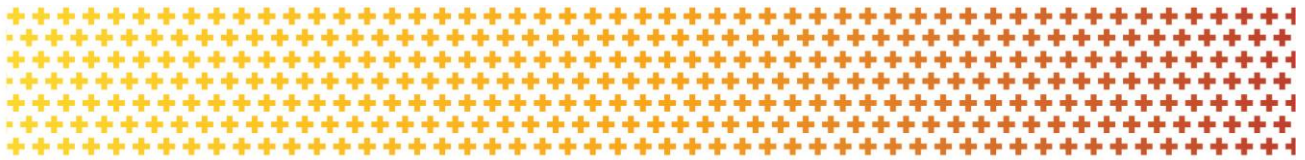
12. What's the difference between the Hub, a program and project activities? This has implications for indirect costs. Can indirect costs be applied to Hub salaries; can indirect costs be applied to salaries for projects? The Guidelines state, subsidy of electricity phone and rent is ineligible.

Section 5 of the Guidelines provide guidance regarding what the Future Drought Fund funding can be used for.



13. If the Hubs start in March/April 2021 and end by 30 June 2024, this leaves only 3 1/4 years for funded activities. How does this mesh with the statement that Hubs will receive funding for 4 years? Will they get 4 years (i.e. up to \$8M) to be spent over 3 1/4 years?

Adoption and Innovation Hubs will receive the full 4 years of funding over the grant period.



Grant agreement

14. Governance, minimum expectations? Is the deed of agreement between the lead agency with the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment the minimum?

The deed of agreement will be between the lead entity and the department. A draft will be available through Community Grants Hub website.

15. I understand that the grant agreement is not available to review. However, the declaration for the online application states, 'I have read, understood and agree to the grant terms and conditions should this application be successful.' Can we receive a copy of the grant agreement template?

A draft will be available through Community Grants Hub the week of the 14th December, before the grant period closes.



Consortia and regional coverage

16. Can an organisation be part of more than one Hub application?

Yes they can. The focus on Hubs is collaboration and inclusivity. Any organisation that want to participate in more than one Hub are encouraged to do so.

17. The map is an excellent idea for proponents to get together. However, it is possible that some applicants might not. Is it possible to get visibility of those that don't, or for you to play a linking role?

The department is not able to link organisations to Hub applicants during the grant application process. It is encouraged that organisations who have registered and those that are interested in Hubs to go to the map and find the organisations that have nominated to participate in Hubs and make contact. Hubs that have registered can also reach out to organisations within their regions and have conversations now about collaborations. The map is a mechanism to try and bring visibility to those organisations that are interested in participating in Hubs for organisations preparing Hub applications.

18. Where there is one Hub identified each for Victoria, South Australia, and Tasmania, is the idea that those Hubs will service the whole of those respective states?

This grant process is looking for the applications to define what their regions are and providing the evidence base and the justification for that selection of that regions. Boundaries are deliberately not being defined to enable applicants to consider the region and delivery model most relevant achieving the outcomes that are being sought in terms of building drought resilience for their region.

19. What breadth of agricultural sector coverage is expected within each Hub? Is it the top 2 or 3 sectors per state, or does it need to be more inclusive?

Hubs need to be inclusive and it is recognised that each region and area will have different stakeholders and agricultural sectors. It is up to the Hub consortium and applicants to work through what's relevant for their region.

The Hub consortium can be really broad-based and doesn't have to be limited to a small number of organisations. Beyond that the reach of the Hubs in delivering their activities can be inclusive of a larger range of organisations as well.

20. Should a consortium focus on a particular area or whole of a state such as Queensland?

Regions are not defined. It is up to applicants to define the region that's relevant to them and provide the justification for scope of that region.



21. In section 2.3.1 of the Guidelines, it says that the Hubs will, 'plan and undertake co-designed and demand driven resilience research, development, extension A and E'. Then it says, the Hubs will, 'bring together pre-existing research and translate research'. I read this as saying that the Hubs are to, in part, design demand-driven research. If that is the case, will there be some opportunity for Hubs to design and do new, demand driven research, rather than just rely on existing research outcomes?

The Hubs are about establishing partnerships and collaborations to identify the high priority needs for end-users in their region. In this first instance the focus of the Hubs is about developing those co-designed processes and the knowledge or the translation of existing knowledge and research. It is understood that co-designed processes will identify new research opportunities, and that's where the Innovation Grants are one opportunity that could support such activities. There are also other opportunities for funding outside of the Future Drought Fund that can also help support new research through the Hubs.

22. What role do the Research and Development Corporations (RDCs) have in the Hubs?

Hubs should be inclusive of the range of different organisations that are reflective of the region and its priorities. RDCs are encouraged to participate in those conversations in terms of forming Hubs, identifying Hub priorities and sharing their depth of knowledge in terms of research and agricultural industries. RDCs can have an important contribution to the Hubs.

23. Can organisations which have potentially applicable technology apply to work with Hubs?

The Hubs should be a consortium of partnerships that are inclusive of different organisations that can facilitate innovation. All types of organisations that think they can contribute to this agenda and ambition should contact organisations in their regions developing Hub applications.

24. Are Natural Resource Management (NRM) organisations encouraged to be Hub partners?

All types of organisations can be a Hub partner.



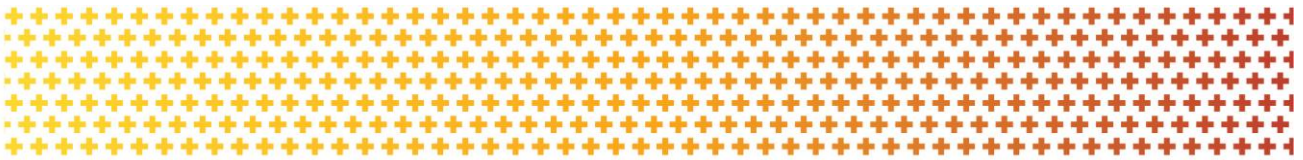
25. The NRM Drought Resilience Program* grant's Guidelines included the following limitation, 'The agriculture sector in scope includes food, fibre, and fodder, including aquaculture, but does not include forestry or fishing.' Does this hold for the program as a whole?

Yes, it does.

*The NRM Drought Resilience Program is one of the foundational programs under the Future Drought Fund, along with the Research and Adoption Program.

26. Can you speak to the process of refining the specific geographic areas that are covered in the 8 regions?

The regional areas that have been identified are intended to be indicative and will be refined based on the applications received. This refinement will be on the margins and not fundamental changes. The current commitment is to establish 8 Hubs. Therefore, splitting a region in half and having 2 Hubs will not be considered, However, extending one region into another region if it makes sense in terms of a Hubs positioning and capability to service that particular region might be considered.



Governance

27. What does the future governance arrangement look like? How onerous is it going to be?

The intention is to keep all reporting and administrative arrangements as streamlined as possible, whilst ensuring that the Hubs are performing, they are doing the tasks that are set out, but also contributing to the national coordination and priorities and linkages across Hubs. An Advisory Committee is also being established that will help provide guidance in terms of bringing those different connections together. Contract management between the department and each Hub will be informed by the different Hub consortiums and arrangement.

28. Is the preference for distributing funds for RDEA&C, Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) model where different groups apply competitively within the Hub for projects, which are then selected by a board, or is this considered sort of an unnecessary level of administration?

The program is not aiming to replicate a CRC model. Applicants must, through their application, actually describe what the proposed governance and administration model is that will help facilitate co-design of projects to meet the needs of end-users that will build drought resilience and encourage transformational change within their communities.

29. How much detail are you looking for in terms of lead organisations structure in the application? If it's a university, obviously, universities are big places, and some of that may not be relevant, so what sort of detail are you looking for?

The detail relevant to the priorities of the Hub are needed. This includes the skills and capability that gives consideration to those identified in the Future Drought Fund Funding Plan across the dimensions of economics, social and environmental resilience. It is also necessary to demonstrate that for the lead entity the financial capacity and experience is provided with enough details to give confidence that they are able to administer the funding through the contract period to the end of 30 of June 2024. Information regarding the financial viability is required as part of the business plan.

30. Overall, is the lead agency responsible for managing the Hub and implementing milestones and reporting? So, who's accountable?

The lead entity is accountable for the Hub.



31. Is it possible for a consortium to be formed but not yet incorporated and still put in an application?

Yes, it is possible. We don't need the consortia to be incorporated at all, the lead applicant just needs to be an eligible entity as set out in the Guidelines in section 4.1.

32. Isn't unincorporated joint venture with the university as the lead applicant permissible under the Guidelines?

Yes, a university is an eligible entity. For an unincorporated joint venture, if an eligible organisation as defined in section 4.1 of the Guidelines is part of that unincorporated joint venture that organisation can apply as the lead entity.

33. Can a university apply to lead a Hub with industry/community partners as participants in the Hub? Or do you need to form a new entity to apply, similar to a CRC?

A university can be a lead entity. Any organisations can participate as a member of that consortium. Applicants do not need to create a new entity to apply for a Hub grant.

34. Will DAWE be taking a broader role to assist with the coordination of Hub activities with existing initiatives?

The department will be taking on that national coordination role and linking Hubs to other national government programs and particularly that evolving and emerging National Agricultural Innovation Agenda.

35. The Guidelines asked for CVs of key personnel. Are we expected to have formed a board structure and show nominated people particularly indigenous and uni representation in the application?

As part of the application process, we're seeking a business plan which will outline governance and delivery arrangements. CVs for the key personnel of the Hub Director and Knowledge Broker are required.



36. Is it anticipated that the consortium will become a legal entity at some point? Also, is there a preferred governance structure, in particular a particular way of engagement with partners, DAWE and other Hubs (e.g. partner committee)?

37. Is there an expectation that Hub governance will have a committee of management that includes management from across the consortium membership, or is the lead agency the governing point?

[Questions 36 and 37 are addressed by the text below]

The lead organisation of the consortium must be a legal entity, but there is no requirement that the consortium is a legal entity. Details about the lead organisation's structure and the proposed structure of the structure of the Hub (i.e. Oversight or Advisory Committee) must be included as a separate attachment to the application. Please refer to sections 7.1 and 10.5 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

In addition, each Hub will be expected to appoint a Knowledge Broker. The Knowledge Broker will provide a significant point of liaison with the department. See page 9 (section 2.3.1) of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for more information on Knowledge Brokering.



Co-design

38. What evidence should be included to demonstrate co-design between parties?

Applications should provide evidence of a participatory process that is inclusive of end-users in the design of the Hub plan and activities as they are designed. The assessment criteria seeks these details without being specific regarding mandatory forms of evidence. The delivery of a co-designed plan for each Hub will be the first contract milestone and is not expected as part of the application.

39. Given there is a focus on end-user outcomes, how much weight % during the assessment process, is placed on existing agency client base/demonstrated client engagement?

Refer to Criterion 2 (section 6) of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines as this section explores stakeholder networks, including those networks that already exist.

40. What agreements need to be in place between participants in a Hub before the application is submitted?

None. Only letters of support from Hub partners are required in the application.

41. How much intended RD&E in the Hubs needs to be predetermined and described in the application, versus creating a structure for co-design of R, D, and E with partners once the Hubs commence?

In terms of the level of detail regarding project activities in the proposal, there is a template to help guide this input. As a detailed co-designed plan will be developed as the first milestone, the application should include those priorities and areas of focus relevant for the region. Proposals should document the co-design, participatory process that will be undertaken in the development of the RDEA&C program for the Hubs and its ongoing delivery.

42. What process is there to ensure resources are allocated to consortium members with proven track records of commercialisation, considering the 2 million per year may be use largely in administration expenses. In terms of RDEA&C, we are focused on the A and the C?

It is expected that most of the funding would actually be allocated to support the RDEA&C activities and not administration. Criterion 4 of the Guidelines outlines the expectation that the cost of administration activities should be consistent with other similar programs, for example the National Environmental Science Program with an average administration cost of 6% of funding. The adoption and commercialisation activities are the focus of this program.



43. If the fund is not for new research but for application of existing research, can the submission involve different researchers from different universities rather than single university partnerships and to a degree, until the geographic areas are clarified, it may not be possible to identify all the research areas that will be appropriate?

Multiple universities can be part of an application.

44. I'm still not 100% clear on exactly what kind of evidence you are looking for that demonstrates an authentically co-designed approach. Is it letters of support? Is it history of projects already undertaken together? Is it membership of joint committees together?

Criterion 3 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines provides information about a co-designed approach.

After your application is submitted, we will ask you for a letter of support from each of the partner organisations from an authorised officer. We will ask that each letter of support detail the arrangements as set out in section 7.2. of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.



Specified personnel

45. You refer to a CV for a Knowledge Broker? Does this mean, you intend there only be one per Hub or is Knowledge Broker a group of people?

There is a requirement to have a Knowledge Broker function per Hub, with one person to be appointed as the point of contact for the department and other Hubs. Hubs will need to organise and arrange how they manage that. The details are in the Guidelines under section 4.3 in terms of what we're looking for in the Knowledge Broker role.

46. Regarding the CV of the Director and Knowledge Broker, what if a Hub is planning to go to market for these positions? Can the selection appointment of a Director be made once the Hub has been approved, or should you identify a Director designate in the application?

I think that would really be up to each Hub proposal. As this is a specified role, details regarding the proposed capability and initial management arrangements would need to be described and justified in the application.

It will be up to the Hub applicant to provide or give us confidence about the capability and capacity and how it's going to be delivered.

47. Can you just clarify, are you wanting CVs only for the Director and the Knowledge Broker?

As part of the Guidelines, we've specified that we need at least CVs for the Director and Knowledge Broker. But if there are other CVs and people that you'd like to include you're welcome to include those as well.

48. What is the job description/role of the Knowledge Broker?

Hub applications must include provision for a Knowledge Broker. This is a role that helps facilitate the connections between science and research to end-users. There will be a focus on communication and developing products that explain research outcomes for non-scientists. The Knowledge Broker will also help connect the Hubs to national priorities and programs and provide a significant point of liaison with the department.

See page 9 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines for more information on Knowledge Brokering.



Hub design and linkages

49. The plan for each satellite Hub in terms of its approach, design, and application may be different?

It is expected that there to differences in the approach and design of Hubs as no region is the same. There are different stakeholders, different challenges, and different opportunities. Hubs need to reflect the approaches, design and partnerships that are relevant to their region.

50. Is there any comment on the balance between science-based projects versus business risk financial drought projects?

Applications should include the justification and evidence base that have determined and informed the selection of priorities and activities.

51. Is it correct that Hubs don't do research? Also, the government had asked that industry lead research with universities – is this approach changing?

The \$2 million dollars is for Hubs to undertake extension, adoption and commercialisation activities, rather than fundamental research. However, the Hubs can access other funds to undertake research, including from the Future Drought Fund's Innovation Grants.

The Adoption and Innovation Hubs Grant Opportunities is seeking diverse participation in the Hubs. Universities have knowledge, capability and research rigor that will be important to the success of the Hubs and their collaboration.

52. Will all the Hubs be linked in any way in terms of communications, marketing, and promotion, or will each one be required to manage this independently of the other?

As the department is providing that national coordination, it will work with the Hubs appropriately to ensure that there is coordination and support for national or broader communication campaigns, but would also look to the Hubs at tailoring communication specific for their Hub region as well. Hubs will be required to develop a communications and marketing plan specific to the Hub's needs and the department will help coordinate and support the Hubs through connection to national priorities and programs and between Hubs.

53. Can you elaborate on what you mean by the Hub's being enduring institutions? So you envision that they will be about more than drought in the future?

In the first instance, the Hubs are very much focused on drought resilience. Even with that lens, we want to see them as enduring institutions because building drought resilience is a long-term task. It's not something that can be achieved in one year and



not even in 4 years. That is what is meant in terms of enduring institutions. It has also been flagged in the Guidelines that there is potential for the Hubs to eventually take on a broader role and support a broader Agricultural Innovation Agenda. No decision has been made on that yet. Even if the Hubs do stay focused on drought resilience, that doesn't mean that they can't, and shouldn't, connect to the broader agricultural innovation system.

54. Can you explain what you mean, by transformational change? Indeed, what are you hoping to transform?

The Future Drought Fund Funding Plan provides guidance and outlines expectations regarding transformational change to achieve drought resilience. It is accepted that change in practice and knowledge and capability and capacity needs to a much bigger transformational process to achieve and build drought resilience and develop the social, economic and environmental outcomes rather than the current incremental change processes.

55. Is a university fund to invest in commercialising promising drought adoption technologies an eligible contribution?

Section 3.2 of the Guidelines states that matching co-contributions can come from any source other than Commonwealth funding.

56. Regardless of source of funding, do you think it likely that the Hubs established for Drought Resilience under the Future Drought Fund (FDF) may later be used as the focus points for other missions, or do you think there may later be other calls for totally different Hubs for those other missions?

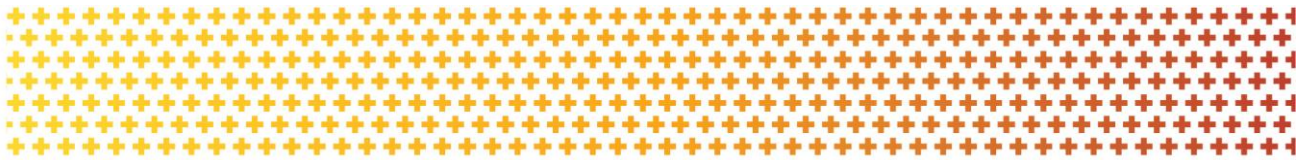
The Adoption and Innovation Hubs are being established under the Future Drought Fund. As such, they will be focused on drought resilience in accordance with the *Future Drought Fund Act 2019* and the Drought Resilience Funding Plan.

As noted in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines, the government may, in the future, look to the Hubs to take on a broader role in supporting agricultural innovation. No such decision has been taken at this time.

57. Will each Hub have themes like CRCs, or will Hubs be focused on the main agricultural activities of their regions? Also, Hubs will need a broader membership than universities to undertake extension and adoption.

No, each Hub will not have to identify a thematic focus. The Hubs will need to reflect the key agricultural and climatic zones of their region and will need a broad membership that is inclusive of a diversity of regionally relevant organisations to be successful.

The department will have the role of connecting Hubs with similar interests. There may be some confusion with some stakeholders because we were previously going to have a National Centre of Excellence for Drought Resilience Research, Innovation and



Adoption to coordinate activity across the Hubs, and this was to be delivered by a university. The Centre's functions are now to be delivered by the department.



Hub outputs

58. All outputs are expected to be made publicly and freely available, except those specifically agreed during project design. Does the project design phase occur once an application is successful?

The grant agreement the lead entity will specify IP arrangements. The starting principle is to make all outputs from Hubs freely available. It is recognised that some projects will have a commercialisation focus and will need different IP arrangements to enable this. In this circumstance IP arrangements can be negotiated on a project basis to support commercialisation activities.

59. You speak about an end-user focus and call out farmers. Does the term end-user include the whole of the supply chain of the agri system, including not just farmers but food manufacturers, urban water providers, logistics, etc?

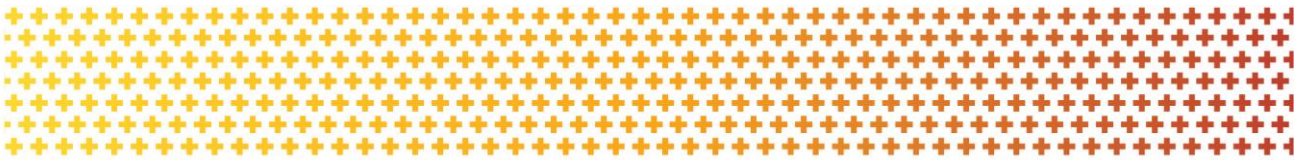
End-user is inclusive of the whole of supply chain. The Hub participatory and co-design process is about identifying end-users and decision makers and engaging with them in the design process to define shared research needs and priorities.

60. What will be the model for sharing research and outcomes from the various Hubs? Will that happen through the department?

The role of the department is not just about administration, but more national coordination and ensuring there is connection between the Hubs, as well as with the Hubs to national priorities. The Guidelines specify the requirements for a Knowledge Broker as part of a Hub. The Knowledge Brokers have an important function in helping share research outcomes within the Hub network, between Hubs and connecting with the department to national priorities. This is a network to share learnings and be involved and engaged and connected with each other.

61. My understanding is that there are 4 types of resilience, physical resilience, soil and water, mental resilience, emotional resilience, and social resilience. I assume that the Hub needs to cover all of these aspects involving social science, agricultural science, extension personnel and farming groups?

The Future Drought Fund Funding Plan sets out the objectives and outcomes sought under the drought resilience framework.



Co-contributions and in-kind support

- 62. Is it okay if CSIRO provides cash specifically if the source of their contribution is not funded by the Commonwealth or State Government? CSIRO derives about 30% of its annual budget directly from industry / Would you please explain again the co-contribution of Commonwealth entities RDCs CSIRO? Can we count in-kind salary of CSIRO employee? RDCs in-kind time?**

[Questions 62 and 63 are addressed by the text below]

- 63. RDCs receive 50% of their funding from levy payers. Can that 50% from levy payers be counted as co-contributions for the Hubs?**

[Questions 62 and 63 are addressed by the text below]

As outlined in section 3 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines, Commonwealth resources can't be counted for the purposes of the required matching contribution. This includes in-kind and other contributions from Commonwealth entities, such as the CSIRO and RDCs. Commonwealth sources of funding, including in-kind contributions, can be considered as a contribution to the Hub as an additional co-contribution above the matching funding.

Where Commonwealth entities have non-commonwealth sources of funding that they wish to contribute to a Hub application, evidence will be required to verify the non-commonwealth source of funding as part of the letter of support as per section 7.2 of the Guidelines. This non-commonwealth funding, if it can be substantiated to the satisfaction of the department that it is from a non-commonwealth source, can be counted towards the matching funding.

- 64. The Hubs are funded by \$2M from DAWE and \$2M cash/in-kind from the consortium of partners. Can you describe any supporting programs that may fund activities (e.g. research) identified by the Hub?**

Supporting programs that may fund activities identified by the Hub may include Drought Resilience Innovation Grants, which will be available for research organisations, the private sector, industry, not-for-profit organisations and community groups.

The Grants will support RDEA&C projects co-designed to deliver targeted solutions to identified drought resilience priorities. Further details regarding the Innovation Grants will be set out in the forthcoming grant Guidelines when the call for applications opens next year.

In addition, there are other government or industry programs that may be available to support Hub activities, subject to their eligibility criteria.



65. The Guidelines say that Hubs need matched funding and co-contributions can come from any source other than the Commonwealth. Does this mean that the Commonwealth entities, such as the CSIRO, the Bureau of Meteorology, Rural Research and Development Corporations, does that exclude them from being involved in the Hubs?

Not at all. CSIRO, the Bureau of Meteorology, and the Rural Research and Development Corporations are really important organisations that have a role to play in the success of the Hubs and are encouraged to engage and be members of Hubs. The Guidelines in section 3.2 are focussed on describing what funding can be considered as the matching co-contributions. While Commonwealth funding can't be considered as matching co-contributions, it in no way prevents, precludes, discourages, or devalues their participation or their co-contributions to Hubs above the matching funding.

As set out in the Guidelines in section 6, assessment criteria, criterion 4 , the total investment of the grant and that leverage will be considered in the context assessing value for money and scale of the Hub. In addition, the capability, resources and partnerships of each Hub are assessed under criterion 1 and 3.

66. Are you able to provide guidance on the ratio of cash and in kind required in matching funds?

There are no requirements regarding the ratio of cash to in-kind as part of the matching funding. The proportion of cash to in kind contributions will be considered in assessing the total investment the grant will leverage as per the assessment criteria for as well as the overall value for money of the proposal, which is section 8.1 of the Guidelines.

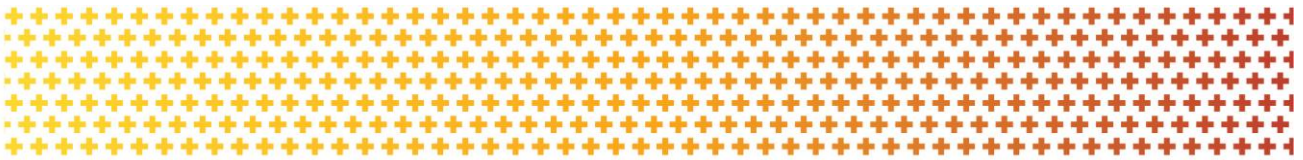
67. Is there going to be a greater weighting to cash as an in-kind contribution?

No.

68. Does that mean that you were encouraging Commonwealth entities to be involved, but that contribution won't be calculated or won't be included? / Do you anticipate that rural RDCs will be eligible to contribute part of the co-investment matching funds?

As outlined in section 3 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines, Commonwealth resources can't be counted for the purposes of the required matching contribution. This includes in-kind and other contributions from Commonwealth entities, such as the CSIRO and RDCs. Commonwealth sources of funding, including in-kind contributions, can be considered as a contribution to the Hub as an additional co-contribution above the matching funding. As set out in the Guidelines in section 6, assessment criteria, criterion 4 , the total investment of the grant and that leverage will be considered in the context assessing value for money and scale of the Hub and the overall value for money of the proposal, which is section 8.1 of the Guidelines.

Where Commonwealth entities have non-commonwealth sources of funding that they wish to contribute to a Hub application, evidence will be required to verify the non-



commonwealth source of funding as part of the letter of support as per section 7.2 of the Guidelines. This non-commonwealth funding, if it can be substantiated to the satisfaction of the department that it is from a non-commonwealth source, can be counted towards the matching funding.

69. My question surrounds contributions where the cash are in-kind from partners. The online form asks whether the contributions are, 'secured?' Are you able to clarify the difference between secured and not secured and provide examples of non-secured contributions as this will have implication for our letters of support?

The 'secured' means that there's been a decision made and that the funding or co-contribution from that organisation is committed to the Hub, where non-secured is more that indicative level of funding that has not had formal approval or commitment towards the Hub. It is recognised that because of the reasonably short timeframes in terms of getting the Hub applications prepared, not all organisations will be able to undertake a formal approval process and can only provide a commitment to funding rather than approved funding.

70. Can a Hub application have multiple sources of cash and in-kind contributions noting that the online form only has space to enter 10 sources?

Yes, that is possible and there will be an amendment to the Community Grants Hub application process to enable inclusion of more than ten sources of cash and/or in-kind contributions.

71. Is there capacity to profile either the grant or the matching contributions, year-by-year?

Yes, your Business Plan should include a cash and in-kind co-investment profile. A matching co-contribution is required and must be provided by the end of the 4 years. Refer to section 15 of the Grant Opportunity Guidelines.



Stakeholder engagement

72. Will organisations need to demonstrate how they intend to engage with clients throughout the contract period?

Yes, and that will need to be included as part of the application as per the assessment criteria in section 6 of the Guidelines, specifically criteria 1 and 3.

73. Do 'farming communities' include local township municipality drought resilience solutions?

I'm going to say 'yes' on the basis of look what we're targeting here in terms of drought resilience is a triple bottom line approach, so, it's the economic and it's the social and it's the environmental, so, an important part of social resilience is the communities who are affected by drought. So, yes, we would like to see Hubs engaging in that space.

Drought resilience is a triple bottom line approach, that includes economic, social and environmental resilience. An important part of social resilience are the agricultural communities that rely on farmers and are also affected by drought and Hubs should engage in that space as necessary.

74. Is it appropriate to engage with Cooperative Research Centres, the CRC's, and national industry growth centres?

There are only requirements regarding eligible entities that can lead a Hub as per section 4.1 of the Guidelines. All other entities can be partners or part of the Hub network – no organisation is excluded.



Research and Adoption Program

75. The main grant page states that \$86 million is going towards this program however Hubs will receive \$64 million. Where is the difference in funding being directed (e.g. \$22 million)?

The Drought Resilience Research and Adoption Program (the Program) is a national four-year program which will invest \$86 million. It is one of 8 programs currently underway under the Future Drought Fund.

In addition to the Adoption and Innovation Hubs, the Program has the following interconnected elements:

- Innovation Grants - \$14m for Drought Resilience Innovation Grants will be available for research organisations, the private sector, industry, not-for-profit organisations and community groups. The Grants will support RDEA&C projects co-designed to deliver targeted solutions to identified drought resilience priorities. Further details regarding the Innovation Grants will be set out in the forthcoming grant Guidelines when the call for applications opens next year.
- A Research Investment Plan will be developed through a participatory process to identify the highest national drought RDEA&C priorities.
- A Science to Practice Forum will be held to bring together program participants, synthesise RDEA&C outcomes and inform practice and policy; and to facilitate key stakeholders' discussion on RDEA&C gaps and priorities.

Additional information about the program can be found on the Drought Resilience Research and Adoption [web page](#).

76. When are the Guidelines for the Innovation Grants expected to be issued?

The Grant Opportunity Guidelines for the Innovation Grants are expected to open in 2021. Further details regarding the Innovation Grants will be set out in the forthcoming Grant Opportunity Guidelines.

77. Will the Advisory Committee have a regional perspective?

The Advisory Committee will consist of a small group of people who understand drought resilience research, development, extension, adoption and commercialisation but are not conflicted through significant involvement in developing a Hub proposal. The Committee will be able to seek further advice/insight from a regional perspective should they need to.



78. Are the Hubs under this scheme the planned infrastructure that will support the National Innovation Agenda?

The Hubs are being established under the Future Drought Fund. As such, they will be focused on drought resilience in accordance with the *Future Drought Fund Act 2019* and the Drought Resilience Funding Plan.

As noted in the Grant Opportunity Guidelines, the government may, in the future, look to the Hubs to take on a broader role in supporting agricultural innovation. No such decision has been taken at this time.

Refer to Question 28 in the Questions and Answers document on the Community Grants Hubs website, www.communitygrants.gov.au.