



**CENTRAL DARLING
SHIRE COUNCIL**



6 March 2024

Councils welcome Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program

Central Darling Shire Council, Broken Hill City Council, and the Regional Development Australia Far West NSW Unincorporated Area are working together to produce a plan for drought resilience.

Our Councils have welcomed funding for the project under the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program which is funded by the Australian Government and NSW Government under the Future Drought Fund. Our Councils are funded under round two of the program.

The program acknowledges that we can learn from previous droughts and plan for broader community implications.

Minister for Regional NSW Tara Moriarty said the expanded program acknowledges that each region in NSW is different and needs a tailor-made approach to drought preparedness.

“Having Regional Drought Resilience Plans that target the needs of regional areas in NSW will help these regional communities forward-plan for inevitable periods of reduced rainfall,” she said.

Work is already well underway with an Independent Consultant, Meridian Urban, being appointed to develop the drought resilience plan.

The aim is to produce a plan with practical solutions that will support our communities prepare for and respond to drought. The plan will present:

- Historical and predicated impacts of drought in each region.
- An evidence-based strategy to mitigate or adapt to future drought impacts.
- A prioritised list of actions and pathways to build drought resilience specific to the region and that addresses the needs of the community.

Widespread consultation and feedback from communities, stakeholders and First Nations people in the region is a priority and will be crucial to the success of the final working document. Community level drought resilience depends upon strong primary industries and agricultural supply chain sectors as well as other businesses, community organisations and local government.

We look forward to producing a drought resilience plan that will be actionable and relevant to our far west communities whilst also acknowledging the differences between our areas.
Ends

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