



**CENTRAL DARLING  
SHIRE COUNCIL**



**Regional  
Development  
Australia**  
FAR WEST NSW

## **Developing a Regional Drought Resilience Plan - Central Darling Shire, Broken Hill City Council and the Unincorporated Area of NSW (Far West area)**

### **1. Introduction**

Central Darling Shire Council, Broken Hill City Council, and the Unincorporated Area of NSW - Far West have received joint funding from the Australian Government and the NSW Government under the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program to develop a Regional Drought Resilience Plan.

This Plan will identify our region's priorities, provide a roadmap of actions to help us prepare and act early to respond to future drought risks, ultimately reducing impacts on our people, environment, and economy.

In conjunction with in-person consultation opportunities, this survey seeks your views on our opportunities to enhance drought preparedness, and to understand what actions you want to see to improve our resilience to future drought events.

Your responses will be confidential.

The survey will take about 5 minutes to complete (if completing as both a community member and business operator, allow for 10 minutes).

1. Which council area do you reside in?

- Central Darling
- Broken Hill
- Unincorporated Far West Area
- Other - New South Wales
- Other - Queensland
- Other - South Australia

2. Which council area do you work in?

- Central Darling
- Broken Hill
- Unincorporated Far West Area
- Other - New South Wales
- Other - Queensland
- Other - South Australia

3. How do you wish to respond to this survey:

- As a community member
- As a business operator or owner
- Both



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2.

4. What impacts of drought are you most concerned about? Use the up and down tabs to show your most significant issue at the top and lowest at the bottom.

	<input type="checkbox"/>	Economic downturn / increased costs
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Personal economic hardship
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Decreased productivity
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Availability / access to financial relief
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reluctance for people to reach out if they are experiencing difficulty
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Impacts on young people
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Increasing costs / decreased resources for infrastructure maintenance
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Population decline
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Impacts on physical and mental health
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social connection
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Weed invasion
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Soil erosion
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Dust storms
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ecosystem damage
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Impact on Aboriginal cultural wellbeing / connection with Country

5. Are there any other drought impacts you are concerned about that is not listed above? If not, answer 'no'.

6. What do you see as challenges (barriers) in preparing for and dealing with the impacts of drought?

- Access to information
- Challenging / confusing access to relief programs
- Ability for people to reach out (social isolation)
- Distance to participate in social or daily community events (fuel costs, time away from property, etc.)
- Other (please specify)

7. What do you feel helped you or your community through previous drought periods?

8. What support or changes are needed from your perspective to enhance drought resilience in the Central Darling Shire, Broken Hill City and Unincorporated Area of NSW (Far West area)? (tick all that apply)

- Health and wellbeing, including mental health, support and services
- Financial support and services
- Economic industry diversification
- Improved water efficiency
- Domestic water security
- Industrial / commercial water security
- Agricultural water security
- Community uplift support and services (opportunities to come together for fun)
- Spiritual / religious support and services
- Increased volunteering
- Other (please specify)

9. Is there anything specific you would like to see in the Central Darling Shire, Broken Hill City and Unincorporated Area of NSW (Far West area) Drought Resilience Plan? This could be in terms of community resilience, economic or environmental opportunities (provide up to four (4) brief points)

10. Are there any specific actions / activities / projects that you feel could be undertaken to enhance local levels of drought preparedness and resilience? (provide up to four (4) brief points)



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













### **3.**

This part of the survey focuses on business operators and owners. If you answered this survey as a community member, you can skip answering this following questions and simply hit 'next' at the bottom of this page to complete the survey.

11. Which industry does your work best align with?

- Agricultural / primary producer
- Service industry (i.e. health, aged care, hair and beauty, fitness, etc)
- Retail / hospitality
- Administrative / professional services
- Tourism / accommodation
- Supply chain / transport / logistics
- Education
- Other (please specify)

12. What economic or business-related impacts of drought are you most concerned about or have experienced in the past? Use the up and down tabs to show your most significant issue at the top and lowest at the bottom

		Decreased discretionary spending
		De-stocking and loss of bloodlines / genetics and time to build herds / crops back
		Decreased productivity
		Increased operational costs
		Availability / access to financial relief
		Workforce decline
		Business closures
		Increasing debt / growing lines of credit
		Availability of fodder or resources
		Groundcover and top soil loss / reduced health
		Unforeseen impacts of economic relief programs (i.e. relief money not spent locally)
		Impacts on other businesses with which your business shares a relationship

13. Are there any other drought impacts you are concerned about that are not listed above? If not, simply answer 'no'.

14. What do you see as business or industry-related challenges in preparing for and dealing with the impacts of drought? (tick all that apply)

- Access to information, assistance and/or relief support
- Difficult or confusing relief application processes
- The scope of relief program eligibility criteria
- Market volatility which reduces ability to put a way a bit when times are good
- The influence of commodity prices
- Other (please specify)

15. What do you feel helped your business, businesses around you and wider industries through previous drought periods?

16. What support is needed from your perspective to enhance the economic aspects of drought resilience?

- Improved local business networks
- Direct assistance with business continuity planning
- Workshops or roadshows which focus on business-related drought resilience (both in and outside of drought times)
- Support for business succession planning
- Local spending initiatives (i.e. buy local programs that offer rewards for money spent locally)
- Other (please specify)

17. Is there anything specific you would like to see in the economic aspects of the Central Darling Shire, Broken Hill City and Unincorporated Area of NSW (Far West area) Drought Resilience Plan? Provide up to four (4) brief points.



18. Are there any specific actions / activities / projects that you feel could be undertaken to enhance local levels of drought preparedness and resilience from an economic perspective? Provide up to four (4) brief points.



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### 4. Demographics

To assist us understand which parts of the community have responded to this survey, we are asking some basic demographic questions below.

19. What is your age?

- Under 18
- 18 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 to 74
- 75 or older

20. What is your gender?

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to answer
- Prefer to self-describe:



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### **5. End of Survey**

Thank you for completing the survey.