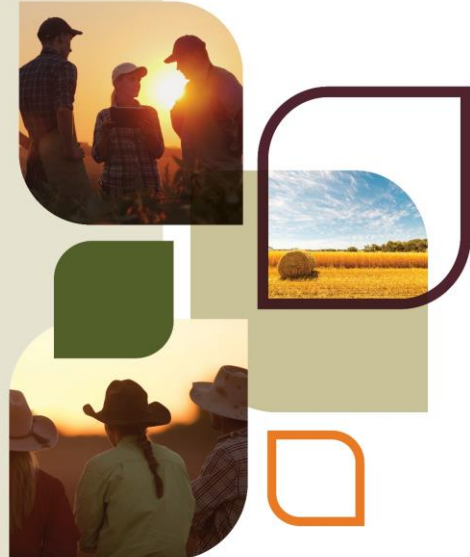


National Drought Forum

BUILDING, CONNECTING, PARTNERING

Tuesday 26 September 2023
Rockhampton, Queensland



Program

About the Forum

The 2023 National Drought Forum will focus on ensuring that Australia's drought preparedness, response and recovery meets the needs of Australian farmers and rural communities. With drought predicted to become more severe and longer lasting in many regions as our climate changes, discussion around drought policy has never been more important. Building on the outcomes of previous forums, the theme for this year's event is 'building, connecting, partnering'. This theme focuses on building effective drought policy, connecting people and organisations who work with farmers and rural communities, and partnering with them to deliver the right program, information and support at the right time.

This year's National Drought Forum will be facilitated by Oli Le Lievre, Founder and CEO of the Humans of Agriculture podcast series.

Tuesday 26 September 2023

Session 1: Preparing for drought, the next steps

8:00 – 11:00 am, Gardner Lounge

Time	Session
8:00 – 8:45 am	Registration
8:45 – 8:50 am	Welcome and housekeeping Oli Le Lievre, Founder and CEO, Humans of Agriculture
8:50 – 9:00 am	Welcome to Country Darumbal Enterprises
9:00 – 9:15 am	Minister's Opening Address Senator the Hon Murray Watt, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
9:15 – 9:30 am	Welcome and Introduction Melissa Brown, First Assistant Secretary – Farm Resilience Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

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Time	Session
9:30 – 10:15 am	Keynote Address and Farmer Wellbeing Survey Tony Mahar, Chief Executive Officer, National Farmers' Federation
10:15 – 10:30 am	Drought Policy Update Courtney Bryant, Assistant Secretary – Drought Policy Branch, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
10:30 – 11:00 am	Morning tea

Session 2: Panel discussions

11:00 – 1:30 pm, Gardner, Phillips & McHugh Lounges

Time	Session
11:00 – 12:30 pm	<p>Panel 1: Money talks Session Chair: Bron Christensen, Chair - National Farmers' Federation Economics Committee</p> <p>An Interactive panel discussion on how we can help farmers build financial resilience and what is getting in their way.</p> <p>Panel includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leanne Rudd, Director of The Money Edge - Agribusiness Accountants & Advisors and Certified Practicing Accountant • Andrew Smith, Head of Agribusiness Development, Rural Bank
11:00 – 12:30 pm	<p>Panel 2: Not the usual suspects Session Chair: Nina O'Brien, Disaster Resilience and Recovery Lead, Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal</p> <p>Featuring presentations and Q&A style discussion on how we can include and engage the whole community to drive action from the ground up to prepare for, manage through and recover from drought.</p> <p>Presenters include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melanie Shannon and Melinee Leather, Barfield Producers Group <p>Panel include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oli Le Lievre, Founder and CEO, Humans of Agriculture • Dr Raylene Ward, Knowledge Broker First Nations Engagement, Southern Queensland & Northern NSW Drought Resilience Adoption & Innovation Hub, Future Drought Fund • Ross Blanch, Lifeline Counsellor • Sarah Parker, 2022 Rural Community Leader of the Year
11:00 – 12:30 pm	<p>Panel 3: Decision time</p> <p>Featuring presentations and Q&A style discussion on supporting better decision-making by farmers, communities and governments, before, during and after drought.</p> <p>Presenters include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kristie Lisle, 'Moonkan Park' Lisle Holdings Pty Ltd • Elizabeth Johnston, Major Programs Director – Water and Agriculture, Bureau of Meteorology • Dr Yiheyis Maru, Principal Systems Research Scientist, Team leader - Adaptation Pathways and Social Transition, CSIRO • Neal Hughes, Senior Economist, Farm Data and Analysis, ABARES <p>Panel includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courtney Bryant, Assistant Secretary – Drought Policy Branch, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry • Scott Hansen, Director General, NSW Department of Primary Industries

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Time	Session
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Natalie Hughes, Rural Financial Counsellor, Townsville, Burdekin and Northwest QueenslandJohn Warlters, Chief Executive Officer, Rural Aid
12:30 - 1:30 pm	Lunch

Session 3: Interactive workshops

1:30 – 3:30 pm, Gardner, Phillips & McHugh Lounges

Time	Session
1:30 – 3:00 pm	Workshop 1: Back to the Future Getting the priorities right for preparedness programs in the next 4-year plan for the Future Drought Fund.
11:00 – 12:30 am	Workshop 2: What helps and what hinders What should guide Australian Government decisions in response to drought?
11:00 – 12:30 am	Workshop 3: Who, what, when and why? How can we use information flows to build better connectedness
3:00 – 3:30pm	Afternoon tea

Session 4: Drought in the climate context and Forum close

3:30 – 5:00 pm, Gardner Lounge

Time	Session
3:30 – 3:45 pm	Summary of interactive workshop discussions Oli Le Lievre, Founder and CEO, Humans of Agriculture
3:45 – 4:45 pm	Drought in the Climate Context Presentation and panel discussion
4:45 – 5:00 pm	Wrap-up, communique and closing remarks Melissa Brown, First Assistant Secretary – Farm Resilience Division, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Wednesday 27 September 2023

Optional Site Visits

Time	Tour descriptions
8:15 am – 12:30 pm	<p>Belmont Research Station Tour</p> <p>Belmont Research Station, managed by CQUniversity and AgForce, is approximately 30 minutes outside of Rockhampton, located on the Fitzroy River. This tour provides participants with an opportunity to get a first-hand look at some of the latest developments in sensor-based research for improving livestock management and productivity in Northern Australia. This tour has a climate adaptation focus, including information on methane mitigation through targeted nutritional supplements, strategic tree planting to minimise heat stress, and pasture management practices.</p> <p>Itinerary</p> <p>8:15 am Depart Rockhampton Leagues Club</p> <p>8:45 am Arrive Belmont</p> <p>9:00 am Focus on benefits of methane mitigation, strategic tree planting and pasture management practices</p> <p>10:30 am Morning tea</p> <p>11:00 am View latest developments in sensor technologies for livestock management and productivity</p> <p>12:30 pm Depart Belmont back to Rockhampton Leagues Club</p> <p>1:00 pm Approx. arrive back at Rockhampton Leagues Club</p>
8:00 am – 12:00 midday	<p>Bindaree Property Tour</p> <p>Bindaree is a 1400-hectare organic certified breeding and finishing property, about 50 minutes north-west of Rockhampton, located on the Fitzroy River. This tour provides participants with an opportunity to see on-farm strategies for managing drought, managing pasture die-back, stock management, animal health and rotational grazing strategies, and techniques used to rehydrate the farming landscape and maintain ground cover. Bindaree is also a carbon neutral farming property.</p> <p>Itinerary</p> <p>8:00 am Depart Rockhampton Leagues Club</p> <p>8:50 am Arrive Bindaree</p> <p>9:00 am Focus on managing pasture die-back, stock management & rotation, and techniques used to rehydrate the farming landscape and maintain ground cover</p> <p>10:30 am Morning tea</p> <p>11:00 am Focus on on-farm strategies & practices for managing climate variability</p> <p>12:00 pm Depart Bindaree back to Rockhampton Leagues Club</p>

Time	Tour descriptions
12:50 pm	Approx. arrive back at Rockhampton Leagues Club

Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the National Farmers' Federation would like to acknowledge that the 2023 National Drought Forum is being held on Darumbal Nunthi (Country). We pay our Yadaba (respects) to the Traditional Custodians of this land, their culture, their language and elders both past and present.

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