

Future Drought Fund's Communities (FDFC) Program

Community Impact Program

Program Guidelines

Key Dates

Opens
7 July 2026



Closes
4 August 2026



Announced
October 2026

Note: Projects funded in this round must be undertaken between October 2026 and April 2028.

All applications close 5pm AEST (Victorian) time

About FRRR

FRRR (Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal) supports remote, rural and regional communities across Australia to be vibrant, resilient, empowered and sustainable. We work alongside communities to catalyse locally led solutions, especially in areas facing systemic challenges. To do this, we connect resources, build enduring local skills and knowledge, and reshape how rural and remote Australia is seen, valued and supported.

FRRR recognises that small and remote areas are vulnerable to drought, climate change and disasters, and experience capacity challenges in responding to and preparing for climate related impacts where often existing disadvantage is exacerbated.

That is why our grant programs focus on building resilience and strengthening communities, and actively seek to support a more **prepared and climate resilient** remote, rural and regional Australia.

FRRR partner with the Australian Government, and Australian Rural Leadership Foundation (ARLF), to deliver the Future Drought Fund's Communities (FDFC) Program.

About the Future Drought Fund's Communities Program

The Australian Government's Future Drought Fund (the FDF) is a secure, continuous investment to help farmers and communities to prepare for drought.

The FDF is investing \$36 million over the next three years to implement the *Future Drought Fund's Communities Program*, which extends and integrates both the Networks to Build Drought Resilience Program and the Helping Regional Communities Prepare for Drought Initiative (delivered by the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal, or FRRR), and the Drought Resilience Leaders Program (delivered by the Australian Rural Leadership Foundation, or ARLF.)

The Future Drought Fund's Communities Program brings together five elements that directly support communities to prepare for and build social resilience to drought in agriculture-dependent communities across remote, rural and regional agricultural communities.

Element 1: [Community Impact Program \(CIP\)](#): An integrated package of support in 12 regions to strengthen the social capital, wellbeing, and connectedness of communities to prepare for and build social resilience to drought. Based on local engagement and collaboration, it will include:

- Community Impact Grants: Working with locally led community organisations to develop and deliver a program of support to strengthen community networks, capabilities and facilities that support drought preparedness (delivered by FRRR, and contained within these guidelines);
- Community Impact Leadership Activities: Supporting community members to develop their leadership skills to contribute to drought resilience in their community (delivered by ARLF, and not contained within these guidelines).

Other complementary program elements within Future Drought Fund's Communities Program (but not contained within these guidelines) include:

Element 2: [Regional Drought Resilience Plans \(RDRP\) Social Outcome Grants](#) (delivered by FRRR) to deliver projects or initiatives identified in an eligible RDRP that strengthen the social capital, wellbeing, and connectedness of communities to prepare for and build social resilience to drought.

Element 3: [Small Network Grants](#) (delivered by FRRR) to develop and deliver one-off events or initiatives to strengthen community capability to build drought preparedness. Locations outside of the Community Impact Program are eligible for Small Network Grants.

Element 4: [National Mentoring Initiative](#) (delivered by ARLF) brings together mentees from agriculture-dependent communities who want to contribute to their community's drought resilience with experienced mentors.

Element 5: [Capacity Building](#) (delivered by FRRR) designed to strengthen the foundational elements or systems that not-for-profits need to function and achieve their goals, where they may have limited access to specialist expertise and support. As part of this initiative, the FRRR Expertise Pool may be used as a resource to access specialist expertise, which CIP grants can support the cost of where required.

Program Information

Program Purpose and Focus Areas

The Future Drought Fund's Communities Program brings together five elements that directly support people to **prepare for and build social resilience to drought** in agriculture-dependent communities across remote, rural and regional agricultural Australia.

Element 1: Community Impact Program will support not-for-profit organisations to deliver local projects and activities that broadly result in **strengthened social capital, wellbeing, and connectedness** to prepare for and build social resilience to drought.

The Community Impact Program Element has two parts:

- Community Impact Grants (delivered by FRRR), and
- Community Impact Leadership Activities (delivered by ARLF).

This program will be delivered in 12 dedicated CIP regions. The eligible locations are listed in [Appendix 1](#).

Projects located in the 12 CIP regions are not eligible for funding through Element 2: Regional Drought Resilience Plans (RDRP) Social Outcome Grants or Element 3: Small Network Grants.

These guidelines provide information about Community Impact Grants (Round 1) only. Please refer to associated guidelines, or information relating to other program elements.

Types of Projects Supported

Projects may include:

- **Networks:** Initiatives to strengthen the capacity, capability and collaboration of professional, social or community networks and/or locally based not-for-profit organisations.
- **Community Events:** Field days, conferences, forums, summits and seminars that facilitate professional, social and community connection to build understanding of drought and climate related risks.
- **Training:** Initiatives to improve skills, knowledge and capacity in community risk management, planning and project delivery in relation to drought.
- **Small Scale Community Infrastructure:** Projects that improve local community meeting places, including purchase of minor equipment, to support increased usage, social connectedness and community wellbeing.
- **Development and Learning:** Initiatives to facilitate professional, personal and leadership related development and learning to support drought preparation.

Projects should be designed to result in the following outcomes with clear linkages to how the project will help the local community in future droughts:

1. New, expanded, or diversified community-based networks.
2. Improved communication, social connection and collaboration.
3. Increased skills, knowledge and understanding of drought.
4. Improved access to and use of services, resources, infrastructure and facilities.
5. Greater diversity of community members and organisational participation.
6. Improved implementation and effectiveness of place-based practices.
7. Strengthened individual leadership capacity and capability.

In the long term, projects and initiatives will contribute towards:

1. Stronger connectedness and greater social capital within communities, contributing to wellbeing and security.

Program Priorities

Priorities for program investment, which will be used to inform decisions about which applications receive support, include:

- Projects that primarily support social resilience outcomes.
- Activities and initiatives that focus on long-term social connection, capacity building and an increased capability for people and communities to adapt to change over time.
- Activities and initiatives that can make a clear and distinct linkage to building drought preparedness in local communities.
- Initiatives that are tailored to meet local needs and the unique geographical, climatic and community context.
- Where relevant, projects that are identified in an RDRP within the region.
- Initiatives that build upon learnings, sustain momentum and deepen impact of previously funded FDF projects.
- Demonstrated community readiness to support the project at a local level.
- Collaboration of a diverse range of community-based organisations (non-agricultural focus) who play an active role during drought.
- Initiatives that specifically engage local young people and First Nations people or communities.
- Projects that do not duplicate other [Future Drought Fund investments](#), or other community resilience initiatives.

**Funds
Available
&
Key dates**

The program will provide grants up to a maximum grant of \$150,000 in [12 regions across Australia](#). A total of \$900,000 is available for each region through a collaborative grant making process.

Locally based not-for-profit organisations within each region will work collaboratively with FRRR and a facilitator to design and agree upon a series of community driven projects or initiatives that will help the local community to be better prepared for drought into the future. All projects will be recorded in an agreed 'Roadmap' of local initiatives.

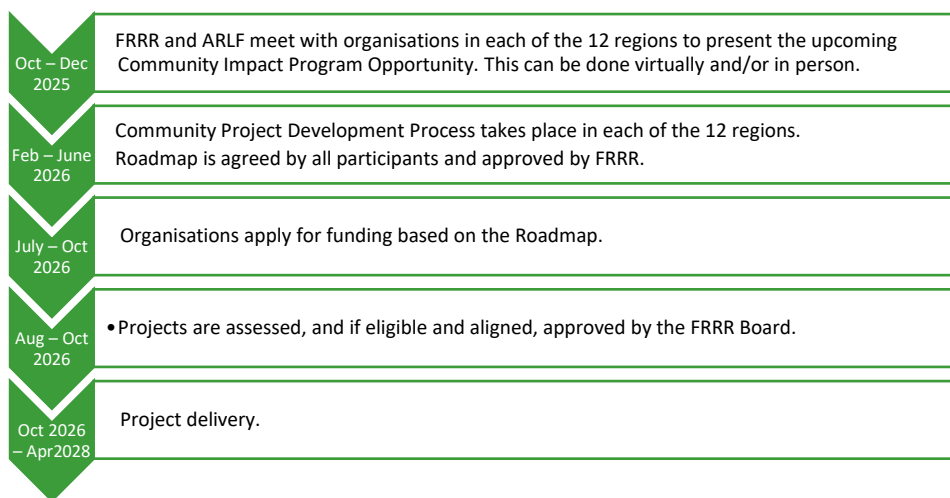
Where relevant, a key influence will be the projects, initiatives and/or social resilience themes identified in the adopted Regional Drought Resilience Plan (RDRP), as these will form the basis for initial discussion.

Local organisations will then apply to FRRR to seek project funds to deliver the project where they wish to lead individual projects or collaborate with others to do so.

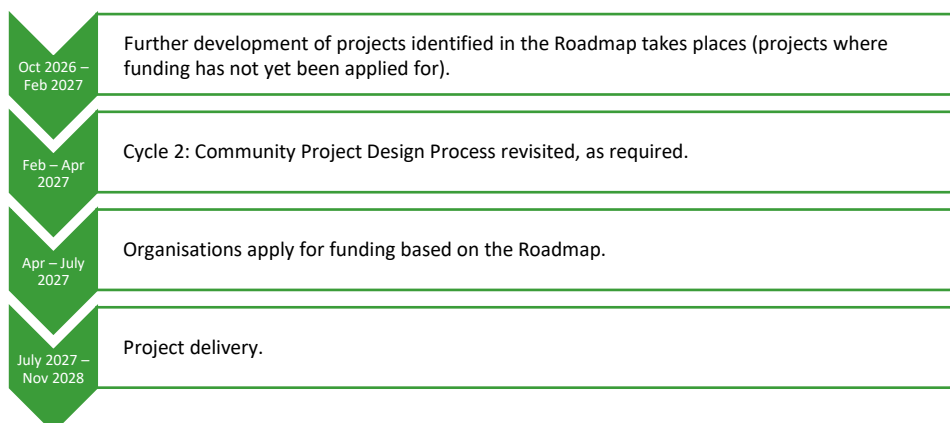
In addition to individual projects, the program provides an opportunity for one locally based organisation to act as a paid 'Region Coordinator' for the duration of the program, to convene the network of funded organisations, share information, promote collaboration and act as the central, local point of contact for the region for FRRR, ARLF and potentially an evaluator, until November 2028 ([see Appendix 3](#) for information on this role).

The local community project development, collaboration and application process will take place over two cycles across a three-year period.

Cycle 1



Cycle 2



[More information on this project can be found in Appendix 2.](#) If sufficient funds remain, a further round of funding will be offered, with outcomes advised in November 2027.

All projects must be completed by 30 November 2028, with final reports due 30 December 2028.

Additional Support

Community Leadership Activities

In addition to the Community Impact Grants, ARLF is offering a selection of optional and complementary Leadership Activities at no cost to the applicant. The Leadership Activities are designed to strengthen the leadership capabilities of communities to build individual and community drought resilience. [Information about the Leadership Activities can be found here.](#)

Definitions

Social Resilience: Drought can cause strain on maintaining the social fabric or social capital of rural, regional, and remote Australia, which may threaten the viability of some communities. Social capital is built on social networks of trust, mutual support and understanding. When people are part of social networks, they are more involved in community life and can be better supported through challenging times. Maintaining positive mental health is also an important aspect of personal resilience. Drought can undoubtedly cause personal and family stress which can be lessened when social connections, networks are strengthened.¹

Drought Resilience: The ability to adapt, reorganise or transform in response to changing temperature, increasing variability and scarcity of rainfall, and changed seasonality of rainfall, for improved economic, environmental and social wellbeing.

Agriculture-Dependent: Agriculture-dependent communities refer to remote, rural and regional communities with a high economic dependency on agriculture and related industries.

Networks: An interconnected and open-ended circle of people linked by a shared interest, occupation, etc.

Not-for-Profit: An organisation that does not operate for the profit, personal gain, or other benefit of particular people (for example, its members, the people who run it or their friends or relatives).

Strategic Drought Resilience: Drought resilience that is achieved through a considered and collaborative process (with involved parties / stakeholders), which includes a plan to achieve a particular outcome.²

Innovative Activities: Generating, diffusing and applying knowledge in order to do new things or do existing things in new ways.³

What Can't be Funded

There are a range of areas that we **cannot fund** through this program, including:

- ▶ Projects that are not located in remote, rural and regional Australia;
- ▶ Projects that support core business and areas of responsibility of Federal, State and Local Governments;
- ▶ Activities that primarily result in economic or environmental outcomes relating to drought preparedness, not social outcomes;
- ▶ Utilising funds to re-grant to other organisations.

¹ Future Drought Fund Act 2019 Future Drought Fund (Drought Resilience Funding Plan 2024-2028) Determination 2024, Page 8 and 9, Clause 5 – Strategic objectives: Social resilience, <https://www.legislation.gov.au/F2024L00150/asmade/downloads>.

² https://www.macquariedictionary.com.au/features/word/search/?search_word_type=Dictionary&word=strategy, retrieved 2022.

³ Department of Agriculture, Water & Environment (2022) National Agricultural Innovation Agenda: Digital foundations for agriculture strategy (awe.gov.au), p.37.

- Applications from sporting organisations need to clearly demonstrate charitable outcomes and benefit to the wider community that are above and beyond the sporting activities of the club, and clear linkage to drought resilience. This is because the encouragement or advancement of sport, recreation and social activities are not considered charitable activities under Australian law;
- Prizes, gifts, trophies, or awards;
- Projects solely focused on animal welfare;
- Activities that do not directly support agriculture-dependent communities;
- Activities that do not directly strengthen community networking, wellbeing, drought preparedness, or reduce the risk of social isolation associated with drought;
- Activities that duplicate existing projects or services in a particular community;
- Activities where costs have already been incurred because the activity has already been undertaken or will have been undertaken prior to the start of the activity;
- Activities outside of Australia or involving overseas travel;
- Activities that provide private and/or commercial benefit rather than not-for-profit or social enterprise activities that enhance the public good in agriculture-dependent communities;
- Business activities where the primary purpose is for profit;
- Activities already funded through another Australian, state or territory, or local government program;
- Provision of funding to any person or organisation who have outstanding final reports from a prior Australian Government grant of financial assistance;
- Any costs that are not directly related to carrying out the activity such as:
 - Preparation of grant application materials;
 - Protecting or patenting intellectual property;
 - Activities of a distinctly commercial or proprietary nature that are aimed at selling or attracting investment;
 - Developing, building, or producing commercial prototypes to commercialise a research project outcome;
 - Creation of new institutions;
 - Establishing new commercial ventures;
 - Core business expenses not directly related to carrying out the activity, including administrative, overhead (and infrastructure not specified in a project budget) costs, staff salaries (unless directly engaged in delivering the Funding Program) and relocation costs, travel and living allowances;
 - Financial support for feasibility studies, or master plans;
 - Alcohol;
 - Hospitality and catering beyond reasonable costs for providing refreshments at activity-related events such as workshops or field days;
 - Purchasing of infrastructure not specified in a project budget;
 - The conduct of activities that could be considered part of normal business or ongoing operations, unless integral to the delivery of the activity;
 - Purchase or acquisition of land or buildings;
 - Capital expenditure;
 - Activities involving political advocacy;
 - Production of clothing, equipment, or merchandise for distribution;

- Subsidy of general ongoing administration of an organisation such as electricity, phone and rent; and
- Major construction or large capital works.

If unsure, please contact us to discuss your eligibility prior to lodging your application.

Please note: Staffing and reasonable program delivery costs to support the coordination and delivery of planned activity or project are considered an eligible expense.

Eligibility

To apply, your organisation must meet the following criteria:

- Applicant organisation must be a not-for-profit organisation **with an ABN or Incorporation Certificate**. Organisations with or without DGR-1 endorsement are eligible. The proposed project must be for charitable purposes and offer clear public benefit;
- Applicant organisation must be identified in the Regional Roadmap as 1) a contributor to the development of the Roadmap; and 2) as the organisation agreed by fellow contributors to apply for the project described in the application;
- Organisations can submit one application per grant round; unless otherwise agreed with FRRR;
- Projects must benefit communities in remote, rural or regional Australia that are agriculture-dependent.

Please note, you will be considered **ineligible** if the:

- Application is submitted by individuals, sole traders, private or commercial businesses (as per the submitted ABN);
- Application is submitted by an organisation that is not a legal entity (i.e. a registered not-for-profit), without the written consent of the governing / partnering body who holds the ABN / Incorporation Certificate;
- Application is submitted without required financial documentation (see below);
- Overdue Final Report/s from any FRRR grants awarded in the previous seven years have not been acquitted (delivery organisations should check with legal organisation to see if there are any outstanding final reports);
- Application is for a project or activity that has already occurred / is occurring prior to the announcement of funding;
- Application is incomplete. **NOTE:** Due to the volume of applications received, applications are assessed based on the documentation received at the time of application. **FRRR is unlikely to follow up missing documentation after applications have been submitted.**

How to Apply

Before beginning your application, please read the information on the following pages. It sets out critical, additional information that we require and explains why it is important.

FRRR accepts applications online via the Blackbaud Grants Portal.

BLACKBAUD
Grants Portal

FRRR

IMPORTANT NOTES: APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Please read the information below to support the planning and preparation of your project. It also sets out what you **MUST** include for your project to be considered. The FRRR website also includes a list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) that provide valuable information. Contact FRRR if you have any questions about this information or any aspect of the application form.

Eligible legal entities

Every application needs to include an organisation that holds either an **ABN or Incorporation Certificate**. If your organisation doesn't have that, FRRR may still fund the project, but you need another organisation's support, which we refer to as the '**legal organisation**' (with your organisation being the **delivery organisation**). This situation often occurs when the organisation **delivering** the activity or project is a branch of an overarching organisation - such as a local CWA or YMCA branch. In this case, the CWA or YMCA would be the legal organisation.

Even though your organisation may complete the application (and will be doing the work), **it's the 'legal organisation's' legal and financial information that needs to be provided**. They also need to provide a letter of support, confirming they are willing to play this role, with a [template available here](#).

FRRR conducts a broad range of due diligence queries when reviewing applications, such as: reviewing current and past incorporation, DGR and ACNC status. If your organisation has happened to have their incorporation status, DGR status or ACNC status changed or ACNC registration revoked or voluntarily withdrawn, please let us know the reasons for this.

Applications from ACNC and/or unincorporated associations are required to submit their organisation's Constitution.

Why is this important?

The Future Drought Fund's Communities Program will only distribute funds to not-for-profit organisations with an ABN or Incorporation Certificate and FRRR needs to know that the organisation with that ABN / Incorporation Certificate understands and agrees to carry out their responsibilities in relation to your project, if successful.

Financial information

Applications received without the requested financial information are ineligible. Providing incorrect financial information is currently the most common reason why applications are not able to be considered. You must attach the following:

- For organisations that have **audited financial reports**: Attach the most recent annual audited statements.
- For organisations that **do not have an annual financial audit**: Attach the most recent 12 months Income and Expenditure Statement. If you have a Balance Sheet, please also submit this.
- For organisations **less than one year old**: Provide Bank Statements for the period you have been operating.

Please note:

- If financial documents are more than 18 months old, please provide an explanation as to why the organisation does not have more recent documents.
- Bank Statements are **only** acceptable as financial documentation if your organisation has been operating for less than one year.
- Please explain any deficits and steps to sustain the organisation financially.
- Provide a brief explanation of any large financial surplus or current assets and reasons why FRRR funds are still required.
- Income and Expenditure statements must cover a full 12-month period.

Please contact us if you cannot provide required financials or are unsure about what to provide.

Why is this important?

FRRR uses this information to understand your organisation's financial viability and ability to manage grant funds.

Project Budget

You must include a project budget that clearly shows the items that FRRR grant funding will be used for and shows all income and expenses related to your project.

Budgets should be realistic and must add up – i.e., total expenditure must match total income.

Applicant contributions in cash or in-kind are highly regarded. Quotes or detailed rationale for items over \$1,000 are required, where possible. Note: FRRR suggests costing unskilled volunteer labour at \$45 per hour.

For more info on costing volunteer labour, visit: <https://explore.fundingcentre.com.au/help-sheets/valuing-volunteer-labour>.

Why is this important?

A clear budget helps FRRR to understand the size of your project, exactly how FRRR funds will be spent and helps demonstrate community support for your project through in-kind contributions either from your organisation or partners / community members.

Supporting Materials

FRRR strongly recommends that you provide supporting materials such as [letters of support](#), [evidence of permission from the property owner](#), community plans, survey results, photographs, media clips and research reports that can show broad-community support and partnerships involved in the project. For more information on supporting documentation, [watch this recording](#).

Large documents should be referenced and explained in the application.

Why is this important?

FRRR seeks to fund projects that are well-supported by the broader local community, are locally-led and delivered, show good partnerships and benefit multiple parts of the community. As FRRR is not always familiar with your community, our staff consider support material as evidence toward understanding level of community need, benefit and support.

Clear Project Information

A clear description is required of exactly **what** the grant funds will be used for, **when** and **where** the project will happen, **who** will benefit and **who** will be involved in delivering the project, **why** the project and grant funds are needed, **how** funds will be spent and **how** the activities and success of the project will be recorded, evaluated and shared.

Where possible, we encourage you to make it really clear that your community is ready and able to deliver the project and if required, can provide ongoing support for the initiative.

Why is this important?

FRRR needs to clearly understand your project to assess its merits. Applicants should focus on addressing what, when, where, who, why and how of the project, as this is the best way to clearly communicate the details of the project.

A ready community is best placed to achieve the aims of your project, so during assessment, our staff look for information that tells us that good leadership, skills and awareness exist in your community to support the project now and in the future.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Eligible Regions and Local Government Areas for Community Impact Program Grants

State	New South Wales	
CIP Region	Region 1 – NSW Western and Far West	Region 2 – Murray and Riverina
Local Government Area	Balranald	Berrigan
	Bourke	Carrathool
	Brewarrina	Edward River
	Broken Hill	Federation
	Central Darling	Griffith
	Cobar	Hay
	Unincorporated NSW	Leeton
	Walgett	Murray River
	Wentworth	Murrumbidgee
		Narrandera

State	Queensland	
CIP Region	Region 3 – Central West	Region 4 – South West
Local Government Area	Barcaldine	Balonne
	Barcoo	Bulloo
	Blackall-Tambo	Maranoa
	Boulia	Murweh
	Diamantina	Paroo
	Longreach	Quilpie
	Winton	

State	Western Australia	
CIP Region	Region 5 – Wheatbelts	Region 6 – Coastal and Inland Great Southern
Local Government Area	Beverley	Albany
	Brookton	Broomehill-Tambellup
	Bruce Rock	Cranbrook
	Chittering	Denmark
	Corrigin	Gnowangerup
	Cuballing	Jerramungup
	Cunderdin	Katanning
	Dalwallinu	Kent
	Dandaragan	Kojonup
	Dowerin	Plantagenet
	Dumbleyung	Woodanilling
	Gingin	
	Goomalling	
	Kellerberrin	
	Kondinin	
	Koorda	
	Kulin	
	Lake Grace	
	Merredin	
	Moora	
	Mt Marshall	
	Mukinbudin	
	Narembeen	
	Narrogin	
	Northam	
	Nungarin	
	Pingelly	
	Quairading	
	Tammin	
	Toodyay	
	Trayning	
	Victoria Plains	
	Wagin	
	Wandering	
	West Arthur	
	Westonia	
	Wickepin	
	Williams	
	Wongan-Ballidu	
	Wyalkatchem	
	Yilgarn	
	York	

State	South Australia		
CIP Region	Region 7 – Arid Lands	Region 8 – Eyre Peninsula	Region 9 – Murraylands and Riverland
Local Government Area	Cooper Pedy	Ceduna	Berri and Barmera
	Flinders Ranges	Cleve	Coorong
	Port Augusta	Elliston	Karoonda East Murray
	Roxby Downs	Franklin Harbour	Loxton Waikerie
	Unincorporated SA	Kimba	Mid Murray
		Lower Eyre Peninsula	Murray Bridge
		Port Lincoln	Renmark Paringa
		Streaky Bay	Southern Mallee
		Tumby Bay	
		Whyalla	
		Wudinna	

State	Tasmania
CIP Region	Region 10 – Tasmania
Local Government Area	Break O'Day
	Brighton
	Burnie
	Central Coast
	Central Highlands
	Circular Head
	Clarence
	Derwent Valley
	Devonport
	Dorset
	Flinders
	George Town
	Glamorgan / Spring Bay
	Glenorchy
	Hobart
	Huon Valley
	Kentish
	Kingborough
	King Island
	Latrobe
	Launceston
	Meander Valley
	Northern Midlands
	Sorell
	Southern Midlands
	Tasman
	Waratah / Wynyard
	West Coast
	West Tamar

State Victoria		
CIP Region	Region 11 – Mallee	Region 12 – Wimmera Southern Mallee
Local Government Area	Buloke	Hindmarsh
	Gannawarra	Horsham
	Mildura	Northern Grampians
	Swan Hill	West Wimmera
		Yarriambiack

Appendix 2: Community Impact Program Dates and Community Project Design Process

Step 1: October – December 2025: Getting Started

- FRRR and ARLF meet with organisations in each of the 12 regions to present the upcoming Community Impact Program Opportunity and explain the Project Development Process. This can be done virtually and/or in person.

Step 2: February – June 2026: Cycle 1 Project Development Process

- Over several months, FRRR, with an independent facilitator, will convene a Project Development Process in each of the 12 regions, inviting all locally-based not-for-profit organisations to participate in the design and development of a series of local projects and initiatives that will help the local community be better connected, informed, skilled and prepared in future droughts.
- The process may involve a series of in-person or online workshops, determined by participants, and local priorities.
- The identified projects will be documented in a Regional Roadmap. This process will build upon work previously done in the development of a Regional Drought Resilience Plan (where relevant) and be designed to complement and add value to existing local efforts.
- Participants may also choose to collaboratively decide which organisation is best placed to serve the role of [Region Coordinator](#). This provides an opportunity for one locally based organisation to act as a paid 'Region Coordinator' for the duration of the program, to convene the network of funded organisations, share information, promote collaboration and act as the central, local point of contact for the region for FRRR, ARLF and potentially an evaluator. See appendix for more information.
- In June 2026, the Roadmap is agreed by all participants and approved by FRRR.

Step 3: July – October 2026: Application and Assessment

- When projects are developed and 'grant ready', organisations may apply to FRRR for up to \$150,000 per project for funds from the total regional pool of \$900,000 via FRRR's Blackbaud Grant making portal.
- Applicants must have participated in the development of the Roadmap and been identified as the organisation best placed to deliver the local project. This includes the Region Coordinator role.
- Local organisations may choose to apply for funds in Cycle 1, or Cycle 2 of the Project Development Process, pending readiness to apply.
- FRRR assess all applications based on the approved Roadmaps. The FRRR Board approves applications.

Step 4: October 2026 – April 2028: Project Delivery

- Successful applicants are notified.
- Organisations receive funds and deliver the project that they have been funded to deliver.
- Region Coordinator convenes the network of funded organisations, shares information, promotes collaboration and acts as the central, local point of contact for the region with FRRR, ARLF and potentially an evaluator. This continues on a quarterly basis or as agreed.
- FRRR monitors the projects through formal (e.g. progress reports) and informal (e.g. phone calls) methods.

Step 5: October 2026 – Feb 2027

- Further development of projects identified in the Roadmap takes places (projects where funding has not yet been applied for).

Step 6: February 2027 – April 2027: Cycle 2 Project Development Process

- Each of the 12 regions is invited to revisit their Roadmap, with the support of FRRR, the external facilitator, Region Coordinator. ARLF revisits Leadership support needs.
- Projects are further developed.

Step 7: April 2027 – July 2027

- For projects that are grant ready, organisations apply for funding through FRRR's Blackbaud grant making portal.
- FRRR assess all applications based on the approved Roadmaps. The FRRR Board approves applications.

Step 8: July 2027 – November 2028

- Organisations receive funds and deliver the project that they have been funded to deliver.
- Region Coordinator convenes the network ongoing.
- FRRR monitors the projects through formal (e.g. progress reports) and informal (e.g. phone calls) methods.

Step 9: Final Steps

- Where funds remain unspent, a further round of funding will be offered with outcomes advised in November 2027.
- All projects must be completed by 30 November 2028, with final reports due 30 December 2028.
- Evaluation and Final Report is published by FRRR and ARLF.

Appendix 3: Region Coordinator: Summary of Role and Responsibilities

The purpose of this document is to describe the roles and responsibilities associated with the 'Region Coordinator' organisation, who will convene the network of funded organisations, share information, promote collaboration and act as the central, local point of contact for the region as part of the FDFC Community Impact Program, both through Grants and Leadership. It is Appendix 3 of the FDFC Community Impact Grants Program Guidelines, which should be read in conjunction with this Summary.

Context:

The Australian Government's Future Drought Fund (FDF) is a secure, continuous investment to help farmers and communities to prepare for drought.

The Community Impact Program is an integrated package of support to strengthen the social capital, wellbeing, and connectedness of communities to prepare for and build social resilience to drought.

Based on local engagement and collaboration, it will include:

- Community Impact Grants: Working with locally led community organisations to develop and deliver a program of support to strengthen community networks, capabilities and facilities that support drought preparedness (delivered by FRRR).
- Community Impact Leadership Activities: Supporting community members to develop their leadership skills to contribute to drought resilience in their community (delivered by ARLF)

The program will provide grants up to a maximum grant of \$150,000 in 12 regions across Australia. A total of \$900,000 is available for each region through a collaborative grant making process.

Locally based not-for-profit organisations within each region will work collaboratively with FRRR and a facilitator to design and agree upon a series of community driven projects or initiatives that will help the local community to be better prepared for drought into the future. All projects will be recorded in an agreed 'Roadmap' of local initiatives.

Local organisations will then apply to FRRR to seek project funds to deliver the project where they wish to lead individual projects or collaborate with others to do so. The local community project design, development, collaboration and application process will take place over two cycles across a three-year period.

In addition to individual projects, the program provides an opportunity for one locally based organisation to act as a paid '**Region Coordinator**' in each region for the duration of the program, to convene the network of funded organisations, share information, promote collaboration and act as the central, local point of contact for FRRR, ARLF and contractors. Adopting feedback from funded organisations throughout the previous stage of work, FRRR have simplified the title, formerly referenced as Community Partner Lead Organisation, or CPLO, now known as a Region Coordinator (RC), further defined the scope of tasks for the RC, and changed when and how the RC will join the Project Design Process, and be resourced to undertake the role.

Role Outline and Purpose

The purpose of the locally based Region Coordinator organisation is to lead, strengthen and diversify a network of not-for-profit organisations, either new or existing, to create a legacy of connection for future droughts or community disruptions through:

- Sharing information,
- Encouraging collaboration,
- Building relationships,
- Promoting skill development and capability building, and
- Acting as the local point of contact for FRRR, ARLF, and program contractors.

The role is designed to be undertaken in a paid capacity to recognise the time and resources required to activate locally led efforts of the FDFC Program.

To achieve this, the Region Coordinator will:

- Lead, strengthen and diversify a network of not-for-profit organisations, either new or existing. to share information, promote collaboration and build lasting relationships,
- Promote drought resilience opportunities, activities and events to bolster social connection and NFP capability across the region.
- Where relevant, collaborate with other local organisations to plan and execute activities over multiple years to achieve program outcomes.
- Act as the local point of contact for FRRR, ARLF, and other contractors involved in the general delivery, evaluation, facilitation, leadership, capability building, project reporting, or impact documentation throughout the program.
- Act as a local champion, connector and ‘translation agent’ of FDF programs to the local community and other delivery partners of the FDF to maximise investment, avoid duplication, and ensure coordinated efforts at a local level.
- Undertake the minimum agreed deliverables, and by negotiation, and if agreed, undertake other deliverables where it benefits the local region and adds value to the primary intent of the role.
- Effectively resource and staff the role between October 2026 and November 2028.

Further details regarding minimum deliverables and supporting tools and resources will be available during the Community Project Design Process.

Selection and Application for the Region Coordinator role will be embedded in the Project Design Process due to commence in regions from February 2026 onwards.

Need more information?

Visit the FRRR [FDF Communities](#) website, or

Contact the FRRR FDFC Program team via email futuredrought@frrr.org.au, or

Phone: 1800 170 020