

Northern Tasmania: drought resilience planning action areas, 2025

Look at the example projects below to get ideas for your Quick Wins grant application. Where example initiatives aren't provided, we'd love your ideas!

| Action area | | Example initiatives |
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| Theme 1: People and communities | | |
| 1.1 Building community knowledge and preparedness: Build capacity in knowledge, understanding and tools required to respond to drought and climate risks and take proactive measures to prepare for and adapt to these challenges | | Learning resources: Create simple and accessible resources to increase understanding of climate projections and drought implications at the regional level |
| | | Resilience toolkit: Develop a toolkit and deliver engagement to increase community knowledge on drought and climate risks, and resilience-building actions, targeting broad community reach |
| | | Drought and climate literacy: Expand programs like 'Curious Climate Tasmania' to build climate and drought literacy, with specific modules for schools, community events and digital outreach |
| 1.2 Strengthening social connections and belonging: Foster connections and networks within communities to increase sense of belonging, mutual support, and resilience during times of drought and climate stress | | Community spaces: Establish and enhance community hubs, spaces and gardens |
| | | Skills and resource sharing: Support initiatives where residents can build skills, relationships and share resources, creating a foundation of social resilience for times of drought and change (ie community spaces and activities) |
| 1.3 Nurturing community leaders: Support current and emerging leaders, particularly young people, to take active roles in building community resilience and mobilising others to be involved | | Emerging leaders: Offer leadership and development programs to empower emerging leaders working on resilience-building activities |
| | | Youth involvement: Collaborate and support youth-led climate resilience projects |
| 1.4 Promoting mental health and wellbeing: Address the psychological impacts of drought and climate challenges through accessible mental health | | Mental health training: Offer specialised training for community members, emergency responders and local leaders to understand and respond to mental health challenges associated with drought and climate variability |

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| resources and services, with an emphasis on reducing stigma and supporting rural residents | <p>Well-being services: Expand mental health support services to be widely accessed in rural areas. This could include onsite counselling, helplines and programs to reduce stigma and encourage seeking support</p> <p>Community networks: Establish and fund community-based support (in priority areas). These support workers would connect vulnerable residents to services, facilitate social cohesion and strengthen local networks</p> <p>Green spaces: ensure plans are made to keep public spaces such as sporting ovals and gardens green during dry times</p> |
| 1.5 Supporting vulnerable and marginalised groups: Provide targeted support and resources to vulnerable groups to ensure that resilience is built equitably across communities and those already experiencing hardship are not further disadvantaged | <p>Create inclusive resources and support for vulnerable groups, including emergency planning</p> <p>Organise social events to welcome and connect new residents, including migrants, with existing community members to build relationships, belonging and social fabric</p> <p>Develop community relocation assistance programs (for priority areas) to assist people and families who need to relocate their homes or businesses to less drought-affected or isolated areas</p> |
| 1.6 Mobilising community-wide action and creativity: Support widespread community participation in resilience activities, encouraging local people to respond with agency and creativity to climate challenges | <p>Support community grants that rapidly test and develop innovative and adaptive solutions at the local level</p> |
| Theme 2: Agriculture and economies | |
| 2.1 Nurturing business leaders: Empower agricultural and business leaders—including emerging leaders, entrepreneurs and small business owners—with the skills, knowledge, and networks to champion climate resilience and adaptation | <p>Resilient agricultural leaders program: develop an agricultural leaders program to build adaptive leadership capabilities and sustainable farm practices such as drought-resistant crops, rotational grazing, and regenerative soil health practices</p> <p>Young agricultural leaders program: Offer leadership training (such as the change makers</p> |

| Action area | Example initiatives |
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| | program), mentorship, networking and access to seed funding for youth-driven projects that emphasise climate adaptation, low-impact farming and technology-driven solutions |
| <p>2.2 Promoting sustainable farming practices: Accelerate adoption of low-impact, sustainable, and climate-responsive agricultural practices that enhance landscape resilience and farm productivity</p> | <p>Diversification incubator program: Create an incubator to help agricultural businesses diversify into new sectors, such as renewable energy, ag-tech, or agritourism. This could provide mentoring, business development support, and access to funding opportunities for initiatives that promote economic diversity and resilience</p> <hr/> <p>Climate-responsive crop and commodity diversification: Deliver targeted support and education on crop and commodity diversification, tailored to local climate projections. This initiative would assist farmers in selecting climate-resilient and high-value crops, aligning with changing environmental conditions</p> <hr/> <p>Circular economy pilots: Launch circular economy initiatives from early adopting hubs such as Flinders Island with a focus on waste reduction, resource recovery, and local economic benefits. These pilot projects could explore innovative practices like nutrient recycling, community composting and circular food systems – sharing insights to inspire replication in other communities</p> |
| <p>2.3 Supporting, digital literacy, innovation and technology adoption: Improve digital literacy and innovation capacity, and encourage innovative practices, technologies, and products that support economic diversity, resilience, productivity, and sustainable farming systems</p> | <p>Digital literacy improvement program for farmers and employees: Develop a program aimed at improving the digital literacy of farmers and employees, enabling them to make better use of digital tools and platforms. This could include training on the use of farm management software, precision agriculture, AI, and social media for business promotion and community connection</p> <hr/> <p>Incubator and accelerator for resilient agriculture innovation: Provide funding and support programs for agricultural ventures that deliver adaptation and resilience benefits. The program could prioritise projects that experiment with technologies like nutrient efficiency monitoring, precision agriculture tools, and new methods in crop or feed storage</p> |

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| <p>2.4 Increasing access to resources and financial support: Provide streamlined and equitable access to financial incentives, grants, and technical support to enable farmers and businesses to invest in resilience and adaptation strategies</p> | <p>Streamlined resilience grant program: Deliver a grant and support scheme that supports businesses to access funding and technical assistance for resilience projects.</p> <hr/> <p>Farm resilience assessment and support program: Provide and expand existing resilience assessments for farms, identifying risks and opportunities for adaptation. These assessments could be followed by support and action planning, helping land managers diversify and strengthen their agricultural operations in response to climate variability</p> <hr/> <p>Financial incentives for low-impact farming: Develop a targeted grant scheme that rewards small-scale and organic farmers for low-chemical and regenerative practices, supporting them in meeting certification costs or marketing for premium product differentiation</p> |
| <p>2.5 Strengthening local food systems and regional economies: Support the development of robust local food networks, resilient supply chains, and diversified regional economies to increase food security and economic sustainability</p> | <p>Freight and biosecurity vulnerability assessment: Conduct a targeted assessment to evaluate risks related to freight and biosecurity in relation to increasing climate variability. Use findings to inform preparedness strategies and protect essential supply chains</p> <hr/> <p>Food storage facilities: Incentivise the establishment of food storage facilities to prevent losses during drought and dry times, with secure, weather-protected infrastructure to stockpile essential goods</p> <hr/> <p>Local food network expansion: Support the establishment and expansion of local food networks, community gardens, cooperatives and farmers' markets, emphasising local exchange to bolster regional food security and strengthen farm-to-community connections</p> |
| <p>2.6 Climate risk management solutions: Advocate for and test new resilience insurance models so businesses and communities can access low-cost, natural hazard insurance and climate finance to manage climate risk and invest in climate adaptation</p> | <p>Tell us your ideas!</p> |

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| Theme 3: Landscapes and ecosystems | |
| <p>3.1 Monitoring ecosystem health for targeted management: Establish systems for assessing and monitoring the health and risk of ecosystems, including mapping biodiversity hotspots, evaluating drought and climate risks, and prioritising vulnerable areas for targeted management</p> | <p>Protection of native vegetation areas: Implement stringent measures, incentives and regulations to halt the clearing of remnant native vegetation, especially in areas where agricultural expansion poses a risk to land degradation and loss of biodiversity</p> <hr/> <p>Ecosystem risk assessments: Establish a systematic approach to assessing and monitoring ecosystem health and risk across the region. This program would involve mapping and evaluating the vulnerability of critical habitats, biodiversity hotspots and natural resources to threats such as drought, land degradation and climate change</p> |
| <p>3.2 Protecting biodiversity hotspots: Safeguard areas of high ecological value to preserve species diversity and maintain ecosystem health. Focus on protecting native vegetation, conserving vulnerable species, and implementing measures to prevent habitat loss and land degradation</p> | <p>Vulnerable species conservation efforts: Invest in research and targeted conservation actions for species at risk, such as eastern quolls and eastern barred bandicoots. Engage with experts to prioritise habitat protection and restoration, and promote community involvement in species recovery initiatives</p> <hr/> <p>Integrated riparian management programs: Strengthen efforts to protect and restore riparian vegetation through fencing, revegetation and agricultural codes of conduct that safeguard waterways. Work with landowners to establish streamside buffer zones, reducing erosion and improving water quality while providing habitat connectivity</p> |
| <p>3.3 Restoring degraded ecosystems: Rehabilitate areas impacted by degradation, drought and other stressors to enhance water retention and sequester carbon while</p> | <p>Ecosystem restoration projects: Implement riparian restoration and wetland conservation projects, particularly in areas affected by drought and soil degradation, with community and landowner partnerships</p> |

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| <p>supporting biodiversity and sustainable land use. Activities include river and wetland restoration, reforestation projects, and soil health programs.</p> | <p>Integrated land management practices: Encourage on-farm biodiversity by supporting tree planting, habitat corridors and native grassland preservation, incentivising farmers through grants for land conservation</p> <hr/> <p>Restoration of drained marshlands: Fund efforts to reinstate drained natural marshes using proven methods from organisations like Nature Glenelg Trust. This can involve filling in old drainage systems to restore wetland ecosystems, which increases resilience to drought and supports biodiversity. Prioritise sites where marsh restoration can have significant ecological and water retention benefits</p> |
| <p>3.4 Strengthening community stewardship: Enable community-led initiatives that restore and maintain healthy landscapes and ecosystems, including supporting Aboriginal land management practices, school and community planting projects, and partnerships with local groups</p> | <p>Mini-forests on public land: Establish mini-forests on under-utilised public land, particularly in urban or peri-urban areas, to increase tree canopy cover, enhance biodiversity, and provide climate refuges for local wildlife. Engage local communities and schools in planting and monitoring efforts to build stewardship and awareness</p> |
| <p>3.5 Building fire-resilient ecosystems: Equip landholders and communities with the resources, training, and infrastructure needed for effective fire management – including planned burn support, ecosystem recovery projects, and permanent water infrastructure for bushfire protection in vulnerable areas</p> | <p>Fire-resilient ecosystem management: Provide increased resources and expertise for private landholders to conduct planned burns safely and effectively. Expand programs like ‘Red Hot Tips’ to include access to expert guidance and necessary equipment, such as fire vehicles for loan</p> <hr/> <p>Enable palawa practices: Enable and learn from Aboriginal ranger programs, like Firesticks, to manage land and water resources</p> |

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| | <p>Permanent water infrastructure for bushfire protection: Install permanent hose lays and other firefighting infrastructure in areas with high conservation value, such as sphagnum bogs, to defend against bushfires. Collaborate with local fire services and land managers to prioritise locations and maintain readiness.</p> |
| <p>3.6 Promoting sustainable land management: Encourage land management practices that reduce land degradation, enhance soil health, and mitigate erosion. Provide education, technical assistance, and incentives for landholders to adopt practices that align productivity with ecological health</p> | <p>Catchment-based plantation management: Develop guidelines for the staging of plantation forestry to minimise water depletion in catchments. This strategy aims to balance forestry activities with the need to maintain adequate water flows and ecosystem health, particularly in regions susceptible to drought</p> |
| | <p>Soil health and erosion control programs: Conduct education and provide technical assistance for soil health, offering resources on erosion control, soil management and regenerative practices</p> |
| | <p>Community-led land regeneration projects: Support community-based initiatives that restore degraded landscapes and increase ecosystem resilience. Programs could provide technical guidance, financial incentives, and resources for planting climate-appropriate tree species that enhance soil health, reduce erosion and sequester carbon, while also benefiting farm yields and biodiversity</p> |
| | <p>Liaison service or coordinator function: Help farmers and community members navigate and access the funding and support available across different levels of government to build landscape and ecosystem health</p> |

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| Theme 4: Water systems and infrastructure | |
| 4.1 Strengthening water storage and access: Expand and diversify water storage and supply systems to ensure reliable access for communities, agriculture, and industry, supporting long-term water security | Could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community water tanks - Improvements to infrastructure |
| 4.2 Increasing water literacy & engagement: Build community understanding and participation in sustainable water practices through education, awareness programs, and resources that empower individuals and organisations to conserve water and adopt efficient practices | Could include engagement to build understanding around key roles and responsibilities in Tasmanian water management Education to non-potable water users, including those reliant on water frontage access and rainwater tanks |
| 4.3 Promoting water recycling and reuse: Encourage the sustainable use of water through recycling and reuse initiatives that reduce pressure on natural water sources and demonstrate innovative approaches to water management | Tell us your ideas! |
| 4.4 Optimising irrigation and water efficiency: Improve the efficiency and sustainability of irrigation systems by upgrading infrastructure, adopting advanced monitoring technologies, and managing groundwater resources responsibly | Tell us your ideas! |
| 4.5 Climate-resilient public infrastructure: Assess and adapt public and essential infrastructure to withstand climate risks, ensuring critical services and systems remain | Could include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community water tanks - Improvements to infrastructure |

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| operational and are strategically located to reduce exposure to drought- prone areas | |
| 4.6 Water sensitive planning: Incorporate water-sensitive and climate-adaptive design principles in urban and town planning to reduce vulnerability to drought and climate impacts | Tell us your ideas! |
| Theme 5: Systems of governance, collaboration and learning | |
| 5.1 Strengthening governance and coordination: Establish trusted, transparent, and effective governance structures with clear roles and responsibilities to guide resilience efforts | Tell us your ideas! |
| 5.2 Fostering regional collaboration and alliances: Build and sustain collaborative networks across councils, agricultural organisations, Aboriginal groups, and community stakeholders to align resilience efforts. This includes forming alliances, conducting comprehensive stakeholder mapping, and ensuring coordinated planning and delivery across sectors | Tell us your ideas! |
| 5.3 Engaging communities and diverse voices: Facilitate meaningful community participation in resilience planning and action by engaging diverse groups, including palawa communities, young people, and marginalised groups. | Tell us your ideas! |
| 5.4 Promoting best practices and knowledge sharing: Develop, document, and advocate for region-wide best practices in resilience. Initiatives include | Tell us your ideas! |

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| <p>creating guidelines, hosting annual summits and exchanges, and celebrating successes through resilience awards and showcases to inspire and align efforts</p> | |
| <p>5.5 Enhancing measurement, learning and improvement: Embed learning and evaluation into resilience efforts to ensure continuous improvement. Establish systems for measuring progress, reviewing plans with stakeholders, and integrating new data and evidence to refine strategies over time</p> | <p>Tell us your ideas!</p> |
| <p>5.6 Building trusted partnerships and delivery capacity: Forge partnerships with trusted organisations to implement and deliver resilience plans effectively. Focus on leveraging existing strengths, resources, networks and community trust</p> | <p>Tell us your ideas!</p> |

Note: Action areas have been developed in collaboration with regional communities and guided by a regional Project Advisory Group. They reflect those of engaged stakeholders and may not necessarily represent the broader views of the Tasmanian Government.