North-West Tasmania: drought resilience planning action areas, 2025

Look at the example initiatives below to get ideas for your Quick Wins grant application.

	Goal	Example initiatives
Theme 1: Interconnected nature of drought		
1	**Knowledge and Education:** Increase knowledge and awareness of drought and climate variability through education, training, tools, guides, communication and knowledge creation and sharing.	**Increase climate adaptation mindsets:** Raise awareness in communities about the potential for drought and the necessity of proactive preparation. Use education to shift the mindset that the past is not always a reliable indicator of the future. Possible actions include behaviour change programs around drought risks, the future of climate change, and the increasing need for resource efficiency (water, energy). (S, M, L; Transformational; All partners)
		Promote and develop climate adaptation skills and tools: Equip land managers and business owners with adaptive management tools and knowledge for climate variability. This could include (but not be limited to) literacy and training resources around enterprise drought plans and actions, ecological management strategies and actions, and climate change impacts
		Improve communication on drought and climate change: Develop strategies to communicate effectively about drought risk and climate change impacts, focusing on long-term resilience rather than short-term fixes. Tailor messages to different audiences, ensuring that knowledge is accessible and relevant
		Support research on effective education methods: Conduct research on how to best engage people on drought resilience
		Develop direct action guides: Create plain English revegetation species selection guides suggesting suitable species for drought futures revegetation
		Develop drought warnings and triggers for management action: Develop early warning systems for drought and provide education on potential drought conditions, including district level drought risk warnings for farmers to trigger drought management plan actions

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		Valuing Tasmanian Aboriginal land management knowledge: Offer more community education on Tasmanian Aboriginal land management practices and improve knowledge sharing between Tasmanian Aboriginal organisations and people and non-Aboriginal communities including through social and networking events
		Communicate innovation and knowledge: As new information becomes available, fill regional gaps in knowledge and services through research and stakeholder involvement
2	**Climate and environmental solutions:** Coordinate and collaborate on policy, strategy and action planning for climate adaptation	**Region-wide landscape and biodiversity planning:** Prioritise the development of coordinated multi-agency landscape policy and management plans for conservation of threatened alpine and Gondwanan relic ecosystems
		Action plans with trigger points: Research and design trigger point action plans (eg hydrological manipulation actions) to protect high value at-risk ecological communities from climate stressors
		Coordinate and engage market-based policy tools and financial instruments: Leverage emerging carbon and biodiversity markets to simplify access to capital and provide financial support for land managers protecting at-risk ecosystems and high carbon assets from climate change instigated threats (eg bushfire and drought)
		Investigate and apply novel adaption actions: Identify and apply nature-based solutions to address environmental challenges to drought and fire resilience
3	**Community and social resilience:** Build community resilience by supporting local networks, behaviour change actions and diversification	**Build social networks:** Strengthen local and regional social support networks, especially in times of drought, to support community adaptability
		Increase financially resilient agricultural enterprises: Support strategies (eg direct market sales, tourism, accommodation) for agricultural producers to diversify their businesses to reduce climate associated risk, and to maintain profitability
		Community-wide water conservation: Encourage behaviour change towards water conservation at household and community level

	Goal	Example initiatives
		Support local government leadership: Encourage councils and community stakeholders to educate on drought preparedness and implement strategic actions
Theme 2: Drought governance		
4	**Coordinated drought resilience planning:** Collaborate with government, industry and private stakeholders to create unified drought and climate adaptation strategies	**Strategic landscape-wide interagency planning:** Fund coordinated landscape-wide drought and climate change policies and action plans across government and industry sectors (eg agriculture, CCNRM, Sustainable Timber Tasmania, Parks and Wildlife Service, Tasmania Fire Service). Invite large private land managers (eg Forico and Tasmania Land Conservancy) to be involved in the process to leverage innovation and collaboration across all land managers
		Develop coordinated water management systems: Develop integrated water management plans involving multiple water entities, (eg Hydro Tasmania, TasWater and others), to improve data sharing and resource management
		Climate variability planning: Encourage strategic drought management plans for agriculture and forestry sectors, focusing on long-term management and adaptive strategies
		Coordinate climate projections: Implement a statewide coordination system for climate data and drought modelling to ensure consistency and accuracy in planning
		Local government: Encourage system-focused regional management and engagement with local councils, ensuring they are equipped to handle climate resilience challenges
5	**Financial and economic preparedness:** Ensure communities have access to financial support and guidance, and strategic funding to build economic resilience and enhance community drought preparedness	**Financial tools for resilient land managers:** Develop financial products that reduce reliance on debt for farmers and land managers, enabling them to invest in drought preparedness without increasing financial risk
		Long-term investment in resilience building: Provide long-term funding and avoid short-term funding cycles that limit the continuity of drought resilience projects and knowledge transfer

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		Climate variability grants: Offer grant possibilities to primary producers to action drought management plans to become better prepared for drought
6	**Community mobilisation and communication:** Encourage communication and collaboration between local government, all sectors and community members to ensure coordinated actions and problem-solving	**Drought coordinators:** Establish local government-hosted drought and climate variability coordinators to facilitate communication between services, industries and communities
		Foster collaboration: Encourage collaboration across all sectors (eg between producers, processors, water managers and government at all levels), ensuring coordinated actions, increased communication, efficient resource use and better problem-solving
		Support volunteers: Develop strategies to mobilise and support community-based volunteers effectively
7	**Research and capacity building:** Undertake further research and knowledge sharing to address gaps in regional drought preparedness and improve access to financial incentives like carbon and biodiversity markets.	**Continuous improvement through research:** Undertake research to understand and fill local and regional and industry knowledge gaps in drought preparedness, identifying where and how to make the biggest differences
		Increase access to carbon markets: Develop a statewide system for carbon accounting and assess the impact of anthropocentric climate change and bushfire risks on Tasmania's carbon storage and biodiversity assets
		Increase understanding of biodiversity markets: Investigate the role of biodiversity and carbon markets in funding mitigation actions for ecosystems at risk due to anthropocentric climate-induced drought and fires
Theme 3: Community self-reliance		
8	**Social connectivity and community building:** Support actions to foster strong social networks and community bonds that enhance collective resilience during drought	**Strengthen rural social connections:** Encourage actions that build social connections in good times, creating support networks that increase resilience when drought impacts rural towns, personal relationships and mental health
		Foster stronger local networks: Promote initiatives that bring people together, such as small gatherings in local halls, saleyards and undertaking Landcare actions, to build stronger social infrastructure

	Goal	Example initiatives
		Create spaces for community engagement: Foster community spaces for dialogue, such as climate grief circles and events that bridge Indigenous and non-Indigenous perspectives on land and water management
		Support community-building through arts and recreation: Leverage activities such as music, art and community sports (eg running or walking clubs) to enhance mental health, foster connectedness and prepare communities for drought
9	**Mental health and wellbeing support:** Support initiatives to improve mental health awareness, support systems, and reduce stigma in rural communities affected by drought	**Mental health first aid:** Equip service providers and retailers (often the first point of contact) with mental health first aid to better support communities during tough times
		Enhance mental health support: Build on current proactive mental health support systems (eg Rural Alive and Well) that can be quickly deployed during drought, targeting vulnerable groups like farmers and their families
		Encourage mental health awareness: Use ongoing community engagement and activities, such as walk/run clubs, to keep mental health on the agenda and reduce stigma, especially in rural areas where seeking help can be challenging
10	**Localised and participatory approaches to drought resilience:** Prioritise community-centred strategies that incorporate local knowledge, Indigenous perspectives and youth engagement to address unique resilience needs	**Place-based strategies:** Focus on localised, place-based approaches that engage community members in resilience planning and actions. Recognise that different communities (eg King Island community) and farmers have unique needs and circumstances
		Engagement with Indigenous knowledge: Increase community understanding and integration of Indigenous knowledge in drought resilience practices. Host events and discussions that bring together Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities to foster cross-cultural learning
		Empower youth and future leaders: Focus on engaging the next generation by fostering opportunities for youth leadership and planning for succession in agricultural communities

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		Integrate local and scientific knowledge: Foster collaboration between local communities and scientific experts to enhance drought resilience. Encourage combining traditional knowledge with modern science for a more robust approach to managing drought and other climate variability events
		Build drought support networks: Establish drought support networks that remain active between droughts, ensuring that communities are prepared when drought occurs. These networks should involve peer support and formal assistance systems
11	**Economic resilience and food security:** Strengthen local economies and secure food supply through local markets, shorter supply chains, and community education on food security	**Strengthen local economies:** Seek out opportunities for shorter supply chains to keep value within regions and increase economic resilience against climate shocks
		Increase use of local markets: Explore ongoing procurement opportunities to increase use of Tasmanian food by local institutions (eg aged care, hospitals, schools) to improve farmgate returns and provide a stable market for farmers
		Promote food security through education: Educate the public on the importance of food security and sustainable water management by supporting community gardens and other local food initiatives
12	**Community-led water management:** Encourage water-sensitive urban design, water conservation and efficient water usage within communities to build awareness and prepare urban areas for drought conditions	**Promote water-sensitive urban design:** Encourage practices such as rainwater harvesting, greywater recycling, and infrastructure that maximises water retention and minimises runoff through revegetation and other means
		Promote urban water use efficiency: Support programs that increase community awareness of urban water usage efficiency and preparing for drought
Theme 4: land management		

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13	**Land management and adaptation:** Explore climate-adaptive practices for farms, forests and natural landscapes to enhance resilience to drought and climate change impacts	**Support climate variability adaptation actions for farmers:** Promote actions that increase drought and climate variability preparedness. This could include raising drought awareness and education, supporting farm-level drought action plans, irrigation efficiency tools, fodder storage and stocking rate calculators adapted to new climate projections, water management works (eg cleaning dams and actions to reduce evaporation), revegetation activities and water conservation actions, as well as other initiatives that build resilience to shocks caused by climate variability
		Support climate variability adaptation actions for farm foresters: Support actions to increase knowledge, skills and confidence for long-term silviculture investments within the context of drying and warming climate, including species selection guides, fire management practices (including fire risk modelling), planting design for shelter and reduced evaporation, and other initiatives that increase landscape, financial and ecological resilience
		Support community-led action and management in the landscape: Support 'Friends Of …' programs, Wildcare, Land for Wildlife and Landcare group actions within the farmlands, forests and reserve areas to foster greater ownership and stewardship by the community of the landscape
		Support climate variability adaption actions for native forest managers and natural area managers: Support actions to build native area land managers' understanding and capacity to plan and adapt to climate variability. This could include assisted migration of forestry-managed vegetation communities, identifying trigger points for water application to threatened vegetation communities, fire management practices including tolerable fire intervals for varying vegetation communities, actions to protect revegetation from browsers (eg deer) and other actions around biosecurity and ecosystem dieback to improve knowledge and actions
14	**Fire preparedness and education:** Improve fire	**Coordinated fire monitoring and detection:** Support the Forest Foresight project for coordinated bushfire detection

	Goal	Example initiatives
	detection, response and community preparedness, including training on culturally informed and ecologically aware fire management	**Fast bushfire ignition response:** Install technical solutions to enable rapid fire ignition response (eg automated drones applying fire retardant) in high value, high risk and isolated areas
		Fire manager education: Educate fire managers on ecological principles and sustainable outcomes when fighting fire or undertaking planned burns (eg protecting endangered species, community and NRM plantings and weed spread)
		Community fire management capacity building: Continue and increase support for both the Firesticks Alliance organisation, enabling cultural burning practices, and the Red Hot Tips program to assist landholders with fire management
		Seed banks for post disaster remediation: Implement strategic seed banks and broaden seed collection zones for reforestation after fires
		Firefighting infrastructure: Support actions to improve firefighting logistics including maintaining access to firefighting equipment, identifying helicopter water access points and improving road networks to ensure rapid deployment in times of fire
		Community fire preparedness: Continue to support programs aimed at rural landholders increasing preparedness for increased fire risks including clarification of rules surrounding construction of fire survival bunkers
15	**Water planning and management:** Prioritise strategies to enhance water storage, efficiency, and quality to ensure reliable water resources during drought periods	**Store more water on farm:** Increase on-farm water storage through a range of actions including improved on-farm storages (eg deepening existing storages), increasing water retention within the soil profile, and using shelter belts and other technological solutions (eg floating solar arrays) to reduce evaporation
		Support 'healthy dam' initiatives: Establish campaigns for healthy dams to safeguard water quality and availability during dry periods as well as improvements to dam design to reduce evaporation loss
		Support drought-tolerant species: Supply information to the farming sector on drought-tolerant crops and pasture species to optimise water use especially in dryland grazing systems

	Goal	Example initiatives
		Water management training: Support better irrigation technology and water use efficiency training (eg Dairy Australia's pilot course on irrigation)
		Increase water use efficiency: Strengthen water use efficiency, particularly in irrigation schemes, to avoid over-reliance on water reserves during dry periods
16	**Technological innovation:** Encourage the use of innovative technologies and digital tools to monitor, mitigate and adapt to drought conditions and other climate variability	**Support exploration innovation to solve problems:** Support investigation and trialling of technological solutions to drought and climate variability adaption challenges. The following were identified during consultation with the community: Install **soil moisture probes** for real-time drought condition monitoring across the major agricultural districts linked to communication tools and drought plans Install **automatic fuel moisture sensors** to monitor fire risks and improve preparedness Improve **fodder storage** and **feed testing** as a drought mitigation strategy Use **drones with retardant loads** for faster and more efficient fire suppression in high-risk areas Explore the feasibility and application of **floating PV solar panels** on water bodies to reduce evaporation and generate energy for water pumping and other uses Support the uptake of innovative practices through **digital literacy training**, ensuring that farmers and businesses can access and use the latest drought resilience tools
17	**Socio-ecological resilience:** Facilitate meaningful ways community members can take action to care for country	**Create community connections to the landscape:** Facilitate meaningful ways community members can take action to care for country and facilitate events that bridge Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, fostering stronger social ties and emotional resilience
		Protection of natural capital: Protect key ecological assets (eg 3 million Ha of native vegetation and threatened species) through comprehensive risk mitigation strategies (including against key threats of drought, fire, temperature rise and land clearing) to prevent biodiversity and carbon loss
Theme 5: Industry and agriculture		

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18	**Strengthening local agricultural economies:** Explore opportunities to build economic resilience and support sustainable farming practices	**Shorter supply chains:** Keeping economic value within the region by promoting shorter, more resilient supply chains
		Increase awareness of farm-level financial planning: Educate farmers on using financial gains and current financial tools during prosperous periods to prepare for droughts
		Market diversification: Encourage farmers and processors to diversify their markets through continued innovation in crops and pursuing market opportunities
		Supply chain collaboration: Support the development of agricultural clusters to foster collaboration between growers, manufacturers and value-adding processors
		Support for future leaders: Focus on developing the next generation of agricultural leaders rather than relying on established voices. Continued support for succession planning to ensure long-term business viability for future generations
		Water-sensitive agricultural practices: Promote efficient irrigation and sustainable farming practices that conserve water, even during periods of abundance
		Recycled water: Explore irrigation and environmental flow opportunities with recycled water
19	**Adaptation, research and innovation:** Focus on long-term climate strategies and cross-sector innovation to support stakeholders in adaptive change	**Cross-sector innovation:** Encourage collaboration between agriculture, renewable energy, and manufacturing to promote innovation, productivity and resilience
		Long-term planning for climate change: Shift focus from short-term responses to long-term strategies that integrate climate change projections and anticipate extended periods of drought
		Carbon and biodiversity credits: Explore programs to assist small and medium businesses to access the carbon and biodiversity credit markets
		Climate change projections for industry: Support projects that use the best available climate projections tailored to specific industries (eg dryland grazing) to inform adaption and mitigation actions

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20	**Infrastructure development:** Enhance critical transportation and logistics infrastructure to support uninterrupted access to markets and resources.	**Improve transportation and logistics:** Enhance transportation networks (eg port infrastructure on King Island) and logistics planning (eg seasonal forecasting for shipping) to ensure timely access to markets and essential inputs for farmers during drought conditions
		Strengthen critical infrastructure: Ensure vital infrastructure, including transportation routes and utilities, is resilient to drought-related disruptions and climate change impacts (eg trailer washdown facility in Devonport to facilitate timely stock trailer movement)
21	**Drought-resilient water systems:** Undertake coordinated and detailed water infrastructure planning for resilient water sources, including household water supplies and sustainable irrigation practices to support long-term water management	**Strengthen local water infrastructure:** Establish emergency water sources and supporting infrastructure in areas identified as highly vulnerable (eg King Island groundwater facility) for firefighting and stock water during drought
		Resilient reticulation systems: Support strategic planning to maintain high quality and high reliability reticulated water supplies, including through reducing reticulation leakages and losses
		Secure household water supplies: Provide education and support for communities not supported by reticulated water systems to become more resilient to longer dry periods
		Support sustainable land management practices: Connect public investment in irrigation scheme development to sustainable farm management practices (eg land clearing cessation, water use efficiency and carbon farming)
22	**Corporate social responsibility:** Advocate for local corporate social responsibility that supports drought and climate resilience	**Corporate role in drought resilience:** Encourage corporations to integrate drought resilience and sustainability goals into their CSR strategies, particularly by improving water management and adopting low-emissions initiatives
		Encourage corporate investment in resilience actions: Seek out and encourage corporations to partner and engage on drought resilience actions
Theme 6: Globally significant ecological communities and Aboriginal cultural landscapes		

	Goal	Example initiatives
23	**Adaptive land management and biodiversity:** Develop adaptive land management practices to preserve biodiversity and ensure long-term ecosystem resilience in the face of climate change	**Sustainable land management:** Develop an integrated, adaptive, coordinated, landscape-wide management plan that considers climate change's long-term impacts on biodiversity and natural values of NW Tasmania. Strategies must focus on the protection of fragile ecosystems, identify ecological communities that can be preserved, prioritise mitigation actions, and identify research, coordination and resourcing requirements
		Biodiversity protection: Prioritise efforts to conserve vulnerable and endangered species, including protecting ecosystems like rainforests and alpine environments found in North-West Tasmania, from the impacts of climate change and fire
		Community engagement: Increase community involvement and acceptance of translocation strategies, to addresses any conflict with established social values or conservation rules
		Climate grief circles: Establish community-based emotional support systems, such as climate grief circles, to help individuals process their concerns and grief about environmental degradation and disasters. These can also motivate collective climate action
24	**Water and fire management:** Address water scarcity and prepare for fire risks to protect and conserve globally significant ecological communities	**Hydrological manipulation:** Implement strategies to secure water for vulnerable ecosystems during drought. This could range from local interventions, such as installing sprinklers based on moisture stress trigger points, to larger scale engineering solutions
		Infrastructure for mitigation: Invest in infrastructure for hydrological interventions and ecosystem management during drought. This includes building tools to deliver water to stressed ecosystems and developing large-scale systems to ensure the survival of critical habitats
		Preparedness for fire: Fire management strategies should incorporate ecological principles to protect biodiversity (eg parrots, Gondwanan relic species, alpine ecosystems) and manage post-fire invasive species. The use of trigger points, (eg 50 mm rainfall within last 30 day protection of rainforest fire), can guide preparedness efforts

	Goal	Example initiatives
25	**Aboriginal knowledge and community engagement:** Encourage knowledge sharing and use of Aboriginal land management practices, such as cultural burning, to enhance ecosystem resilience	**Cultural burning practices:** Support organisations like Firesticks, which focus on cultural burning for landscape management, to continue teaching and training in Aboriginal fire management practices. This can benefit both agricultural and natural landscapes
		Aboriginal land management and ownership: Explore differing approaches to Aboriginal land management and ownership to enhance landscape resilience, in ways that support the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This could include analysis of landscape and community resilience outcomes from a range of models, jurisdictions and agreements offering differing levels of self-determination
26	**Drought monitoring and species protection:** Establish clear drought monitoring indicators and triaged next steps to protect species and maintain biodiversity during periods of extreme environmental stress	**Seed banks expansion:** Expand and better utilise seed banks, including ensuring that Tasmanian threatened plants are included in international collections like the Millennium Seed Bank. These efforts will support ecosystem recovery after disturbances like fire
		Ex-situ conservation: Use nurseries to grow endangered species outside their natural habitats (ex-situ conservation), ensuring that these species can be reintroduced into the wild when conditions improve
		Species translocation: Develop strategies for translocation or assisted migration of species to more climatically suitable areas after disturbances. This practice requires community acceptance and regulatory flexibility, as well as closing knowledge gaps regarding where and how to move species
27	**Addressing knowledge gaps:** Work to address knowledge gaps and build community and broader stakeholder understanding and support for innovative ecological adaptation and intervention approaches	**Ecological literacy:** Enhance ecological literacy within communities, especially regarding drought resilience and climate change impacts. Engaging local populations in conservation and adaptation efforts will foster a sense of ownership and responsibility
		Research on trigger points: Conduct research to identify ecological 'trigger points' that indicate when interventions (eg water provision, re-seeding) are needed to protect species and ecosystems. Understanding these triggers will help prioritise resources during drought

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.