

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Drought resilience dashboard for southern WA project successful.

**SCF has been successful in a recent application to the Federal government's Future Drought Fund - NRM Drought Resilience Program for a project titled 'Drought resilience dashboard for southern WA – tools, and technologies to deliver adaptive and resilient land management practices'.**

The project runs over the 2021/22 financial year. It will install weather stations, soil moisture probes & digital rain gauges on the south coast of WA and integrate the data into a dashboard to maximise farmer usage.

Enhanced local weather forecasting and a centralised dashboard will enable farmers to make better decisions & improve their farm's resilience to a changing climate.

"Increasing the data collected will improve the accuracy of weather forecasting at a local level", says SCF CEO Nathan Dovey.

"Soil moisture probes will enable farmers to measure the water stored in the soil and, for example, determine how risky it would be to grow a summer crop."

"Once farmers are armed with better forecasting, they will be able to make better input decisions (fertiliser & herbicides) for either cropping or livestock enterprises."

"Real-time data is beneficial, but the prediction of pasture growth rates or cropping yields is the ultimate project goal to help build resilience and optimise productivity, without negatively affecting our soils, water-systems and vegetation."

In summary, the dashboard will host;

- Pasture forecasting for five locations in the Great Southern
- Soil moisture probe information
- Weather forecasting for 20 locations in the Great Southern (Note: weather forecasts will extend beyond the SCF region)
- Drought resilience resources (information materials).

The project will build on similar work conducted in NSW, and to see how the dashboard might look, visit [www.farmingforecaster.com.au](http://www.farmingforecaster.com.au). For further information about the project, head to the SCF website – <https://www.scfarmers.org.au/drought-resilience>.

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*Image caption: The drought resilience dashboard for southern WA may look similar to this produced in NSW (image from [www.farmingforecaster.com.au](http://www.farmingforecaster.com.au)).*



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#### **ABOUT SCF:**

- SCF is a farmer-led organisation, with a steadily increasing membership of 200 farmers and their families, representing 90 farm businesses who manage approximately 400 000ha of farmland between Frankland in the west to Wellstead in the east and south of the Stirling Ranges. SCF has steadily built a reputation for being progressive and innovative when undertaking research trials and holding events in the region where growers can get together and share information and support each other with a strong focus on new technology.