
Department of Regional NSW

Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program 2022-2024

Program Guidelines

2 December 2022



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Message from the Deputy Premier

NSW experienced one of the worst droughts on record between 2017 and 2020 with the whole state severely affected by the prolonged dry conditions.

Although seasons have improved this year, drought will come again and this is why we must plan for greater drought resilience across all aspects of regional and remote communities.

This can be achieved by building sustainable and diverse regional economies, reducing the vulnerability of communities to changing economic conditions and accelerating recovery, as well as enhancing the natural environment.

The NSW Government remains committed to supporting regional communities to plan and prepare for the next drought. This is why, as part of the \$64 million **Future Ready Regions Strategy**, additional funding has been allocated in partnership with the **Commonwealth's Future Drought Fund** to the **Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program**.

This program will be available to the regions most affected by drought, to support local councils as consortiums to develop community-driven and focused drought resilience plans. Developing these plans will provide those councils with an evidenced-based approach to drive community actions that build social, economic and environmental resilience.

Councils will also receive funding to kick start implementation of their drought resilience plans.

The last few years have not been easy for regional communities, but this program will help strengthen local approaches to building resilience and cohesion.

I look forward to seeing and hearing how regional councils and their communities collaborate on drought planning that will ensure a better future.



The Hon. Paul Toole, MP

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Toole".

The Hon. Paul Toole, MP

Deputy Premier
Minister for Regional New South Wales
Minister for Police

Fund Overview

The Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program was established as a pilot in 2021-2022 as part of the NSW Government's Future Ready Regions Strategy. The program was co-funded for an initial \$3.8 million from the Commonwealth Government's **Future Drought Fund** and NSW Government's **Regional Growth Fund**. This pilot is now complete.

The NSW Government with the Commonwealth has allocated additional funds to the program for identified regions in NSW to develop drought resilience plans that can be implemented by councils and their communities to manage future drought risks.

The program will now be available (2022-24) to support identified eligible NSW Local Government Area (LGA) council consortiums to develop a Regional Drought Resilience Plan and obtain a grant that supports implementation.

Councils have been grouped into consortiums primarily based on their Functional Economic Region boundaries. Other multi-criteria community resilience indicators, have been used to inform the groupings and the staging of implementation (**Appendix A**).

The criteria included:

- Drought vulnerability –based on the economic contribution of water-dependant industries within LGAs
- Percentage of workforce employed in agriculture
- Strategic alignment with neighbouring LGAs such as shared water catchments and water strategies
- Population size within an LGA and capacity to deliver.

The purpose of the council consortiums is to ensure the program reaches multiple regions while identifying local drought preparedness needs. The program is also sequenced to allow for learnings to be shared across regions as planning occurs.

The objectives and structure of the program outlined below are intended to be flexible to reflect and inform the design of individual plans by local stakeholders.

For the program, the development of a Drought Resilience Plan will be led by a council consortium (who may choose to use funding to resource experts to support design and delivery of the plan). The plan will be informed by local technical studies and co-designed with local stakeholders to ensure it is relevant and actionable for the regions involved.

The planning will need to:

- Be led by a council consortium, who will have the option to form partnerships with joint organisations, regional organisations, consultants, communities and industry to complete the plan
- Identify actions to prepare for future droughts, with a sharp focus on agricultural sector and allied industries
- Bring people together to share their local knowledge and perspectives
- Recognise that no two regions are the same.

The plans will benefit regional communities:

- Being able to identify and plan for the impacts of drought
- Being in a stronger position to adapt to changes and take advantage of opportunities as they arise
- Building their economic, environmental and social resilience to future droughts
- Learning from each other and sharing what's working and not working
- Forming even stronger connections within and between regions
- Having access to best-practice data to make better decisions
- Improving natural resource management across the regions

The plans will be independently reviewed by the CSIRO. The council consortia will have the opportunity to incorporate that independent feedback into the plan prior to finalisation. All plans will need to be approved by the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and then shared publicly. This is a requirement of the Future Drought Fund.

Program Purpose and Objectives

The program aims to build capability and empower regional communities to plan and act early to reduce and respond to drought risks.

The program is designed to support the development of drought plans to consider:

- Growing the self-reliance and drought resilience of regional communities including the agricultural sector
- Improving natural capital of agricultural landscapes for better environmental outcomes
- Strengthening the wellbeing and social capital of rural, regional and remote communities.

The program will enable small council led consortiums of between 2 and 6 local governments to better prepare for, respond to and recover from drought. The council consortiums are designed to relate by Functional Economic Regions (FERs). This is to ensure that the project considers local drought factors and solutions that align with FERs which could support implementation across related regions.

The program will foster partnerships with local farmers, communities and industries to define plans to become more self-reliant and resilient against the effects of drought and other challenges.

The program will support the consortium to design and deliver a Regional Drought Resilience Plan to achieve the objectives.

Project Delivery Approach

<p>Applications open for the 2022-23 year (First round)</p> <p>Applications close for the 2022-23 year (First round)</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p>Application outcome</p> <p>Funding Agreements contracted</p> <p>Project completed</p>	<p>Friday 2 December 2022</p> <p>5pm (AEDT), Friday 3 February 2023</p> <p>Assessment/approval will be within 20 business days of the application closing date.</p> <p>5pm (AEDT), Friday 3 March 2023 Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified within 10 days of the assessment process being completed.</p> <p>The lead council will be required to execute a Funding Deed with the Department of Regional NSW prior to any payment being released.</p> <p>Year 1 2022-23 by 30 October 2023</p>
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In extenuating circumstances, late applications may be accepted at the discretion of DRNSW.

Program Funding

The program is being funded through the Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program which is co-funded by the Commonwealth's Future Drought Fund and the Department of Regional NSW's Regional Growth Fund.

The program will be available (2022-24) to support selected councils to develop their Regional Drought Plans and small grants that support implementation of the plan.

The program will open for two rounds of applications over two financial years.

- The first round of applications will occur in December 2022 for the 2022-23 financial year.
- The second round will occur in June 2023 for the 2023-2024 financial year.

The program will allocate funding of up to \$580,000 to successful applications per consortium of councils listed in **Appendix A**.

Council consortia must choose a lead for the Department of Regional NSW to execute a funding deed with for the project.

The funding must be applied in the following way by the selected consortia of councils:

Regional Drought Resilience Plan Development

- \$200,000 for the development of a drought plan that covers the drought resilience needs of the consortia's regions.
- Where consortia comprise of more than 3 councils, \$10,000 will be provided per additional council to support wider community consultation on the plan.
- Where the cost of the drought plan is less than \$200,000 to complete, these funds can be added to implementation.

Regional Drought Resilience Plan Implementation (action, business case or project plan for actions)

- \$250,000 will be available to the consortia for implementation, once the plan is completed and demonstrates that it meets the requirements of the agreed Funding Deed.
- Where consortia comprise of more than 3 councils, an additional \$100,000 will be provided to the consortia for implementation, subject to approval of activities by DRNSW.

Refer to **Appendix A** for the proposed consortiums.

The plan must focus on how it will support your consortium to:

- Growing the self-reliance and drought resilience of regional communities including the agricultural sector
- Improve natural capital of agricultural landscapes for better environmental outcomes
- Strengthen the wellbeing and social capital of rural, regional and remote communities.

Consortiums have been prioritised based on criteria related to regional data on agriculture, water, FER boundaries, population size and capacity to deliver.

This means the program is prioritised towards supporting communities with strong agricultural business reliance and vulnerability to drought. The purpose of the council consortium is to ensure the program reaches multiple regions while identifying local drought preparedness needs. The program is also sequenced to allow for learnings to be shared across regions as planning occurs. Refer to **Appendix A for those eligible to apply**.

Funding will be released in instalments once milestones are delivered per an executed Funding Deed between the Department of Regional NSW and the lead council for the consortia.

Where the funding allocation is not fully used, it will be returned to the Department of Regional NSW, who has the ability to use these funds in future rounds or for related projects, assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Grant Amounts

GST exclusive

Regional Drought Resilience Plan Development

Maximum Amount available

\$200,000*

*For consortia comprising of more than 3 councils an additional \$10,000 will be available per additional council, to a maximum amount of \$230,000 for up to 6 councils

Regional Drought Resilience Plan Implementation

(action, business case or project plan for actions)

Maximum Amount available

\$250,000**

**For consortia comprising of more than 3 councils an additional \$100,000 will be available for implementation, subject to approval of activities by DRNSW. The maximum total amount available for these consortia will be \$350,000

Eligibility Criteria

Applications that will be sought from council consortiums under the program will need to meet the program eligibility and assessment criteria to receive funding.

All applications will be assessed for eligibility and against the assessment criteria. Only eligible applications will be considered for funding.

Eligible Consortia

Eligible applicants must be councils located in one of the eligible LGAs identified in **Appendix A**.

These LGAs are eligible because they have been identified as being vulnerable to drought, with a strong reliance on agriculture.

LGA council consortia must consist of 2 to 6 local governments in alignment with the consortium groupings listed in Appendix A.

The council consortia should form and submit one application together for the project.

Councils are eligible to apply for the full allocation for their consortium to develop a Drought Resilience Plan for their regions.

The council consortia can make their application through a Joint Organisation to be the lead applicant, providing they are located in an eligible LGA in the consortium. A letter of support as evidence the eligible council consortia support this approach should be provided by the lead applicant.

Councils can use/contract other entities to help with planning only once the application is reviewed and they are notified as successful by the Department of Regional NSW and a Funding Deed is executed with the Department.

Other entities are defined as legal entities that undertake planning at a regional scale and include the Regional Development Australia Network, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples organisations, Natural Resources Management Regions Australia organisations, statutory authorities or other entities as deemed relevant by the Department of Regional NSW.

Where possible councils should be the project lead with support of other entities.

Eligible Planning Types

The funds must be used for Regional Drought Resilience planning and implementation of the plan to:

- Grow the self-reliance and drought resilience of regional communities including the agricultural sector
- Improve natural capital of agricultural landscapes for better environmental outcomes
- Strengthen the wellbeing and social capital of rural, regional and remote communities.

All applications need to demonstrate the project can start immediately once notified and completed by 30 October 2023.

Eligible Project Locations

The Regional Drought Resilience planning and implementation must be for the regions making the application.

The projects in the plan must be located in an LGA in the participating consortium.

The project must be designed to benefit the eligible LGAs.

The locations should align with the consortiums listed in **Appendix A**.

In extenuating circumstances where councils cannot partner per the proposed consortium groups outlined in **Appendix A** a council partnership may be formed with another neighbouring consortia if accepted at the discretion of DRNSW.

Ineligible Projects and Costs

Ineligible Project Types include those that:

- use the allocated planning funding for anything other than drought planning, unless the Department of Regional NSW approves using planning underspend for implementation.
- are not in an Eligible Local Government Area or do not provide direct benefit to an Eligible Local Government Area.
- are for the day-to-day delivery of essential or core council services.
- are the recipient of duplicate grant funding from another NSW or Australian Government grant program for the same project.

Ineligible Project Costs include:

- financing, including debt financing, insurance or rental costs
- non-project related staff training and development costs
- ongoing or recurrent funding that is required beyond the stated timeframe of the project
- infrastructure projects or funding for any ongoing staff or operational costs
- retrospective funding to cover any project component that is already commenced or complete before the Funding Deed is executed

Assessment Criteria

All applications that meet the eligibility criteria must also meet the relevant assessment criteria to receive funding.

Eligible applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

Deliverability

Applications should have a project approach

- 1. A clear design and delivery method to achieve a drought resilience plan for the consortium's region (specifically addressing the planning criteria below):**
 - Co-designed by a minimum of 2 councils partnering to harness the diverse region-specific knowledge and skills required for a triple-bottom line approach to community led and owned planning
 - Evidenced based and developed in collaboration with communities, as they will drive actions and investments to proactively manage drought risks
 - Using best-practice resilience planning principles including consideration of adaptation pathways and scenario testing
 - Building on, complement and take into account the existing strategic planning such as the Regional Development Economic Strategies.



Research
and best
practice



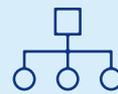
Sharing
and reviewing
existing learnings
and plans



Identify
community
needs, ideas



Test
assess priorities,
approaches,
concepts



Agree
priorities, actions
and implementation
pathways



**Regional
Drought
Resilience
Plan**

- 2. Demonstrated resourcing capacity and capability to deliver the project on time and within budget (by council and/or with other support entities).**

Program Objectives

Applications must demonstrate the project aligns with the program purpose and objectives

The program is for Regional Drought Resilience planning and implementation that will support LGAs to work as consortiums to:

- Grow the self-reliance and drought resilience of regional communities including the agricultural sector
- Improve natural capital of agricultural landscapes for better environmental outcomes
- Strengthen the wellbeing and social capital of rural, regional and remote communities.

The plan and its implementation should be focused on the LGAs within the consortium.

Local Benefits

Applications should address how their regional communities will benefit from:

- Being able to identify and plan for the impacts of drought
- Being in a stronger position to adapt to changes and take advantage of opportunities as they arise
- Building their economic, environmental and social resilience to future droughts
- Learning from each other and sharing what's working and not working
- Forming even stronger partnerships within and between regions
- Having access to best-practice data to make better decisions
- Improving natural resource management across the regions.

Consortiums selected in round one for this financial year (2022-23) must deliver their final plan and all agreed milestones by **30 October 2023** to DRNSW.

Consortiums selected in the next round (2) for the next financial year (2023-2024) must deliver their final plan and all agreed milestones by **28 June 2024** to DRNSW.

Projects will be assessed as a 'Yes/No' against the Assessment Criteria. Projects will not be competitively assessed across Eligible Local Government Areas.

Application Process

The Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program will be a single stage application process run over 2 rounds.

Applications for the first round will be for projects to be completed by 30 October 2023.

Applications for the second round will be for projects to be completed by 28 June 2024.

Applications for both rounds will be sought and applied according to **Appendix A**.

The Department of Regional NSW will invite councils identified in **Appendix A** (for this financial year) to form their consortium and submit an application for the program through an agreed lead council. Councils may choose to submit their application through an agreed JO.

In extenuating circumstances where a council cannot partner with another council as proposed in Appendix A, that council should seek permission from DRNSW to work with another neighbouring consortium by contacting DRNSW to approve at their discretion.

The program will support applications from these LGAs as consortiums to develop a Regional Drought Resilience Plan which covers their region’s needs. Applications should also consider how the plan will be implemented.

We invite applications now from the LGA consortiums listed for the 2022-23 financial year.

The program requires one application per LGA consortium which is prepared and agreed by the council consortiums prior to its submission, which must be evidenced in the application.

Councils will be asked to apply through SmartyGrants.

- only one application is allowed per council consortium. Applicants are to specify how their entire allocation will be spent in one application
- applicants are asked to submit the online form as soon as possible
- applications close for the first financial year of projects (2022-23) on 3 February 2023
- expenses are eligible from the date the Funding Deed is executed
- the plan and all project milestones must be completed by 30 October 2023.

Information required in the application includes:

- basic organisation details including Public Liability Insurance certificate
- proposed project costs
- response to assessment criteria

Prior to applying, council consortiums will need to agree on the lead council for entering a Funding Deed with the Department of Regional NSW for the disbursement of the project’s funds. The lead council will be responsible for ensuring the project is delivered in accordance with the Funding Deed, including project expenditure. Councils working as a consortium should indicate their support for the application. Where the consortium agrees to engage a joint organisation to prepare the application, this should also be evidenced in a letter approved by the participating councils.

Note: If your council is listed in the second round but would like to apply in the first round, you can do this, however you will be prioritised for the second round.

Round 1

Regions prioritised by DRNSW
October 2022

Regions apply with simple project plan
January 2023

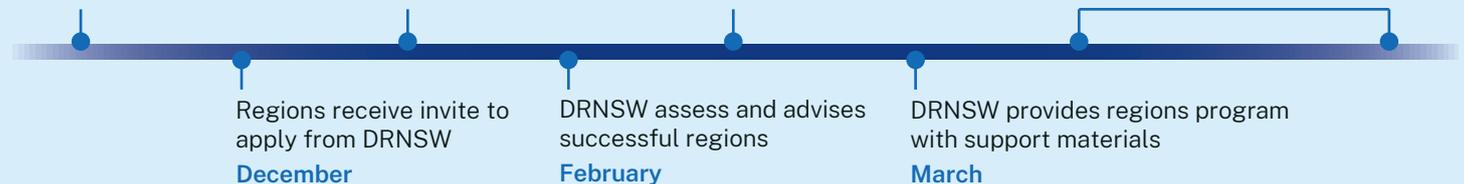
DRNSW establishes Deeds with regions
Feb/Mar

Regions deliver project in accordance with Agreement
Mar/Oct 2023

Regions receive invite to apply from DRNSW
December

DRNSW assess and advises successful regions
February

DRNSW provides regions program with support materials
March



Assessment Process

Following receipt of applications, Department of Regional NSW staff will assess the applications to ensure:

- the applicant is an eligible entity
- all required documentation is complete and submitted
- proposed projects align with the fund objectives and assessment criteria.

Probity Advice

Independent probity advisors will provide guidance to the Department of Regional NSW on any issues concerning integrity, fairness and accountability that may arise throughout the application, assessment, and decision-making process. This will ensure decisions are made with integrity, fairness and accountability, while delivering value for money for NSW.

Decision Maker

The NSW Government's Deputy Premier has approved these guidelines including Appendix A, taking into account the Department of Regional NSW's assessment advice and recommendations.

The Deputy Premier will delegate financial management of the program to the Department of Regional NSW.

Other factors may be taken into consideration when determining final projects to receive funding.

The Department of Regional NSW at its sole discretion, can take other factors into account that may make an application ineligible for funding such as any activity that could cause reputational or other risk to the NSW Government.

Successful Applications

The Department of Regional NSW will advise councils of their success in writing.

The lead council for the consortium will be required to enter into a legally binding Funding Deed with the Department of Regional NSW to receive funding.

Council consortiums will need to include in their application evidence of each council's agreement to participate in the program

Important information applicants should note:

- there is no commitment to funding until both parties execute the Funding Deed
- funding will be paid upon signing of a Funding Deed by both parties
- costs should not be incurred until a Funding Deed has been executed
- successful applicants must not make financial commitments for funded activities until funding deeds have been executed by both parties
- Grants will be paid via milestone payments set out in the Funding Deed. Timing and requirements will vary at NSW Government's discretion
- the applicant is responsible for any costs not met by the funding
- project spend will need to align with the Funding Deed and in accordance with the Future Drought Fund Regional Drought Resilience Planning Program requirements and be reported to the Department of Regional NSW
- evidence will be required in order for projects to be closed e.g., a completed final plan and report
- successful applicants may be required to submit progress reports to the Department of Regional NSW as outlined in the Funding Deed. The reports will be used by the Department of Regional NSW for acquittal purposes at the completion of the project milestones. This includes evidence of project expenditure that will need to be provided via the SmartyGrants portal within 30 days of project completion
- plans will be shared with the Department of Regional NSW, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and CSIRO for review and this should be accounted for in project planning
- plans and any learnings about drought will be shared across regions (once final)
- applicants will be required to participate in evaluation activities conducted by the Department of Regional NSW and/or third-party evaluators contracted by the Department of Regional NSW
- unspent funds will need to be repaid to the Department of Regional NSW before the project can be finalised, within 30 days of the final milestone and report.

Unsuccessful Applications:

Unsuccessful applicants will be notified in writing.

Terms and conditions

The Department of Regional NSW and Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry may choose to publicly announce funding for individual applications. It may also publish the plans and use information provided in the grant program to develop case studies.

Successful applicants will be published on the Department of Regional NSW website.

All awarded grants will be GST exclusive. If you are registered for GST, this will be applied on top of the agreed grant value when payment is made, except for local councils or other Government agencies. Grants are assessable for income tax purposes, unless exempted by taxation law. It is recommended that applicants seek independent advice about taxation obligations or seek assistance from the Australian Taxation Office. The NSW Government does not provide advice on individual taxation circumstances.

The Department of Regional NSW reserves the right to undertake an audit of grant funding within seven years.

There is no promise of funding unless the condition of a Funding Deed being executed by both parties is met.

Funding assistance provided through the program is subject to funds being available. The Department of Regional NSW reserves the right to make changes to the program to ensure it meets the objectives outlined in these guidelines and provides equitable funding support to applicants.

In extenuating circumstances, applications submitted after the deadline may be accepted at the sole discretion of the Department of Regional NSW.

Confidentiality on the outcome of grant applications must be maintained until the NSW Government has made a public announcement.

Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009

Applicants should be aware that information submitted in applications and all related correspondence, attachments and other documents may be made publicly available under the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009. Information deemed to be commercially sensitive will be withheld.

Complaints

Any concerns about the program or individual applications should be submitted in writing to drought@regional.nsw.gov.au. If applicants do not agree with the way the Department of Regional NSW handled the issue, they may wish to contact the NSW Ombudsman via ombo.nsw.gov.au

Ethical Conduct

Applicants must not participate in any anti-competitive conduct. It is a condition of the grant program application process that no gifts, benefits or hospitality are to be given to any Department or Regional NSW employee at any time. Any inducement in contravention of this condition may result in an applicant's proposal not being considered.

Conflicts of Interest

A conflict-of-interest declaration must be submitted with each application or included in the application form. Where a conflict of interest detrimental to the assessment process has been identified, mitigation measures must be put in place, or a program person may be asked not to participate in the grant application, assessment or delivery component of the process.

Confidentiality

Any information identified by the applicant as being confidential and agreed to be deemed as commercial in confidence will only be shared within Department of Regional NSW government employees and contractors, the Minister's office, and appropriate bodies for the purposes of assessment and funding agreement management, review and endorsement or when responding to information requests required by law.

Upon entering into an agreement, details about the agreement may be made publicly available (subject to the redaction of information which Department of Regional NSW deems to be commercial in confidence).

The applicant agrees not to disclose any confidential information pertaining to the grant program application or funding agreement without prior written consent.

Available Support

More information about the program can be found at

<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/farm-food-drought/drought/future-drought-fund/regional-drought-resilience-planning>

For help preparing applications, information and resources are available from

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/regional-nsw/future-ready-regions/regional-drought-resilience-planning>

Or contact DRNSW Drought Mailbox
drought@regional.nsw.gov.au

Disclaimer

The Department of Regional NSW does not guarantee or warrant, and accepts no legal liability whatsoever arising from or connected to, the accuracy, reliability, currency or completeness of any material contained in this publication. Information in this publication is provided as general information only and is not intended as a substitute for advice from a qualified professional.

The Department of Regional NSW recommends that users exercise care and use their own skill and judgment in using information from this publication and that users carefully evaluate the accuracy, currency, completeness, and relevance of such information. Users should take steps to independently verify the information in this publication and, where appropriate, seek professional advice.

These guidelines are subject to change at any time at the sole discretion of the Department.

Appendix A – Eligible Local Government Area Councils in Regional NSW

Year 1 – FY 2021-2022 - Complete

Consortium Group	Local Government Area	Functional Economic Region	DRNSW Region
1	Hilltops Council	South Western Slopes	South East
1	Upper Lachlan Shire Council	Southern Tablelands	South East
2	Tamworth Regional Council	Lower North West	New England & North West
2	Walcha Council	Southern New England High Country	New England & North West
3	Inverell Shire Council	Upper North West	New England & North West
3	Gwydir Shire Council	Upper North West	New England & North West

Year 2 – FY 2022-2023

Consortium Group	Local Government Area	Functional Economic Region	DRNSW Region
4	Glen Innes – Severn Council	Northern New England High Country	New England & North West
4	Tenterfield Shire Council	Northern New England High Country	New England & North West
5	Gunnedah Shire Council	Lower North West	New England & North West
5	Liverpool Plains Shire Council	Lower North West	New England & North West
6	Cobar Shire Council	Western Plains	Far West
6	Coonamble Shire Council	Western Plains	Central West
6	Warren Shire Council	Western Plains	Central West
6	Bogan Shire Council	Western Plains	Central West
7	Parkes Shire Council	Mid-Lachlan	Central West
7	Forbes Shire Council	Mid-Lachlan	Central West
7	Lachlan Shire Council	Mid-Lachlan	Central West
8	Mid-Western Regional Council	Mid-Western	Central West
8	Warrumbungle Shire Council	Castlereagh	Central West
8	Gilgandra Shire Council	Castlereagh	Central West
9	Wentworth Shire Council	Western Murray	Far West
9	Hay Shire Council	Western Murray	Riverina Murray
9	Balranald Shire Council	Western Murray	Far West
10	Junee Shire Council	Eastern Riverina	Riverina Murray
10	Coolamon Shire Council	Eastern Riverina	Riverina Murray
11	Murray River Council	Murray	Riverina Murray
11	Edward River Council	Murray	Riverina Murray
11	Berrigan Shire Council	Murray	Riverina Murray
12	Snowy Valleys Council	Snowy Valleys	Riverina Murray
12	Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council	South West Slopes	Riverina Murray
12	Temora Shire Council	South West Slopes	Riverina Murray
12	Bland Shire Council	South West Slopes	Riverina Murray
12	Weddin Shire Council	South West Slopes	Central West
13	Armidale Regional Council	Southern New England High Country	New England & North West
13	Uralla Shire Council	Southern New England High Country	New England & North West

14	Narrabri Shire Council	Upper North West	New England & North West
14	Moree Plains Shire Council	Upper North West	New England & North West
15	Orange City Council	Orange, Blayney & Cabonne	Central West
15	Cabonne Council	Orange, Blayney & Cabonne	Central West
15	Cowra Shire Council	Cowra	Central West
15	Blayney Shire Council	Orange, Blayney & Cabonne	Central West
16	Bathurst Regional Council	Abercrombie	Central West
16	Lithgow Council	Lithgow	Central West
16	Oberon Council	Abercrombie	Central West

Year 3 - FY2023-2024

Consortium Group	Local Government Area	Functional Economic Region	DRNSW Region
17	Dubbo Regional Council	Central Orana	Central West
17	Narromine Shire Council	Central Orana	Central West
18	Walgett Shire Council	Western Plains	Far West
18	Bourke Shire Council	Western Plains	Far West
18	Brewarrina Shire Council	Western Plains	Far West
19	Broken Hill City Council	Far West	Far West
19	Central Darling Shire Council	Far West	Far West
19	Unincorporated NSW	Far West	Far West
20	Wagga Wagga City Council	Eastern Riverina	Riverina Murray
20	Lockhart Shire Council	Eastern Riverina	Riverina Murray
21	Griffith City Council	Western Riverina	Riverina Murray
21	Leeton Shire Council	Western Riverina	Riverina Murray
21	Narrandera Shire Council	Western Riverina	Riverina Murray
21	Murrumbidgee Council	Western Riverina	Riverina Murray
21	Carrathool Shire Council	Western Riverina	Riverina Murray
22	Albury City Council	Albury-Wodonga	Riverina Murray
22	Federation Council	Albury-Wodonga	Riverina Murray
22	Greater Hume Shire Council	Albury-Wodonga	Riverina Murray
23	Richmond Valley Council	Northern Rivers	North Coast
23	Kyogle Council	Northern Rivers	North Coast
24	Muswellbrook Shire Council	Hunter	Hunter & Central Coast
24	Upper Hunter Shire Council	Hunter	Hunter & Central Coast
25	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council	Capital	South East
25	Snowy Monaro Regional Council	Snowy Monaro	South East
25	Yass Valley Council	Southern Tablelands	South East
26	Cessnock City Council	Hunter	Hunter & Central Coast
26	Singleton Council	Hunter	Hunter & Central Coast
27	Wingecarribee Shire Council	Wingecarribee	South East
27	Goulburn Mulwaree Council	Southern Tablelands	South East

E drought@regional.nsw.gov.au
W nsw.gov.au/RDRP