

Australia grants AU\$2M for drought resilience and to boost livestock profitability

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Australian Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and Minister for Emergency Management, Senator the Hon Murray Watt has announced drought resilience grants for six innovative projects to rejuvenate the rangelands landscape and improve livestock profitability.

The \$2 million grants program is backed equally by the Agriculture Climate Resilience Fund and the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund's Resilient Soils and Landscape program. In Southern Rangelands Revitalisation Pilot, various projects were collectively launched to develop pathways to revive rangeland condition, increase livestock profitability and build business resilience.

Grant support for pastoralists to enhance landscape condition, capture carbon opportunities and improve their businesses by embracing new technology and management strategies to boost livestock production.

Grants can be used for various upgrading tasks such as installing virtual fencing, trap yards and biodiversity monitors to improve groundcover and biodiversity through regenerative grazing and many more. The grant will also be invested in earthworks and a native seed nursery to improve perennial vegetation and rehabilitate degraded areas.

Grant beneficiaries are deploying the funds also in decentralising watering points and to establish a grass nursery, erect exclusion fencing for revegetation, install trap yards and remote water monitoring to reduce grazing pressure and explore the use of lick feeders to aid feed management.

A cutting-edge project using ag-tech and data to rehabilitate the landscape and strengthen a Mount Magnet pastoral business is among six recipients to receive inaugural Southern Rangelands Revitalisation Drought Resilience Grants.