



AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION HUBS PROGRAM GRANT

# SHARING EARLY INSIGHTS FOR MORE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



With increasing numbers of communities in southern NSW experiencing consecutive natural hazard events and having little time to recover from the previous event or prepare for the next, recognising that disaster preparation, response and recovery are not distinct and separate stages is *vita* and we must measure resilience across all parts of the cycle. The Sharing Early Insights for More Resilient Communities project explored this and the innovative use of data to provide earlier insights for more resilient communities.

### Investment

The total investment for the project was more than \$700,000 from the Australian Government's Agricultural Innovation Hubs Program Grant. There was also over \$600,000 invested as in-kind co-contributions from partners, stakeholders and participants in the project.

### Outcomes

- A new online dashboard that uses sets of data-supported indicators as a practical guide for communicating changes in resilience and enables a more rapid identification of changes in resilience in communities.
- The dashboard supports communities and community stakeholders to better understand two things, current levels of resilience and change in level of resilience over time.
- Visit the [dashboard](#)



### Next steps

The next steps are to further the work by integrating the early warning indicators into existing emergency management systems and use the dashboard to help drive additional data gathering and extend the potential impact of the tool. The Hub is keen to work with government, NGOs and community organisations to scope out the level and nature of investment required to progress this work and ensure viability of the tool for ongoing use in communities.

### Stakeholder response

Feedback indicated a successful co-design process, as end users were engaged throughout the project and workshop participants were happy with the level of input they were able to provide. Feedback was positive around the rigour of the underlying research and literature.

Stakeholders felt the indicators will be highly useful in assisting rural communities address emerging issues and useful to community groups and services working to improve community resilience.

Suggested potential benefits of the Early Insights for More Resilient Communities Tool were:



More timely and relevant information provided to communities through change and recovery processes.



More informed communities.



Democratised data.



Improved submissions and policy requests.



Improved response times by councils/organisations.

*“A project of this scale involved a lot of collaboration and that could not have happened without Southern NSW innovation Hub bringing us together. We are very grateful for that.”*

**Professor Jacki Schirmer, Project Lead, University of Canberra**



**8.7 OUT OF 10**

believe indicators will be **very useful** in assisting rural communities **address emerging issues.\***



**8 OUT OF 10**

considered the tool to be **useful/valuable** for community groups and services working to **improve community resilience.\*\***

\* Early Insights for Resilience Project – Engagement workshops participant feedback (Mar/Apr 23)

\*\* Resilient Communities Workshop December 2023 Participant Feedback

### Aims

- Analyse existing and novel data sets to extract insights that can act as ‘early indicators’ that a community’s resilience is changing.
- Test these early indicators to help government, NGOs and community organisations rapidly identify where resilience is at risk and support is needed before, during and after extreme climatic events.

### Outputs

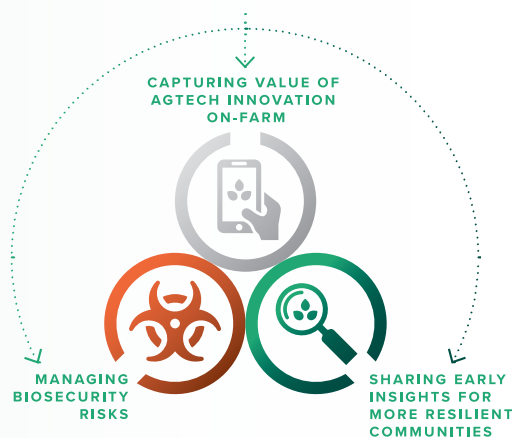
1. Workshops with key stakeholders, identification of early warning signal and the Early Insights for More Resilient Communities Report.
2. Rapid Survey Tool (integrated with annual Regional Wellbeing Survey) and Early Warning Signals Technical Guide.
3. Resilience Early Warning Tool – data and analytics visualisation proof of concept, tested with key stakeholders and path to scale report.

*“Incredible data in there... what a wonderful resource and relevant for so many of the community hats we all wear.”*

Sharing Early Insights for More Resilient Communities is one of three agricultural innovation investment areas. The project is a joint initiative with the Southern NSW Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub and formed part of the Australian Government’s Agricultural Innovation Hubs Program.

### THE AGRICULTURAL INNOVATION HUBS PROGRAM

IS FOCUSED ON THREE KEY ACTIVITIES:



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