

OUR **IMPACT** 2026

A series of **case studies** that capture the unique impact of the Southern NSW Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub



SOUTHERN NSW
Innovation Hub

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE,
LANDSCAPES AND COMMUNITIES



Building regenerative farming knowledge in Milton

For Milton beef producer Sian Shea, regenerative farming is more than a management approach. It is a long-term commitment to improving soil health, grazing systems and the resilience of her business.

BACKGROUND

Through co-design discussions with fellow producers and Bega Circular Valley Knowledge Broker Chloe Wilson, Sian helped shape a training opportunity focused on regenerative farming.

The result was a Holistic Management workshop that strengthened producer knowledge, fostered local connections and reinforced the value of regenerative agriculture across the Milton region.

LOCAL PRODUCERS SHAPING LOCAL SOLUTIONS

Sian has engaged with the Southern NSW Innovation Hub through meetings, events and communications coordinated by Knowledge Broker Chloe Wilson. Regular gatherings gave local producers opportunities to discuss challenges, share experiences and explore opportunities for their businesses.

Chloe brought producers together for co-design workshops to identify the support, training and activities most valued by the local farming community. Rather than prescribing solutions, the process enabled farmers to influence future Hub activities and priorities.

During these discussions, regenerative farming emerged as a strong area of interest. Having already adopted regenerative practices on her property, Sian suggested the Hub facilitate a Holistic Management course to provide education and networking opportunities for local producers.



TURNING AN IDEA INTO A LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

Acting on feedback from the co-design workshops, Chloe organised a two-day Holistic Management workshop in Ulladulla in March 2026, delivered by educator Brian Whelburg. The course was partially subsidised through the Southern NSW Innovation Hub and provided practical insights into regenerative farming principles and decision-making.

For Sian, the workshop reinforced practices she had already been implementing while deepening her understanding of the rationale.

"I have been doing regenerative farming for five or six years now, but it was still very informative and gave me a deeper understanding of why I'm doing what I'm doing, which helps you to be more motivated to soldier on even through hardships."

The workshop strengthened Sian's confidence in improving rotational grazing practices, supporting soil health and encouraging beneficial plant growth. The opportunity to discuss concepts with other participants and the presenter also added value.

"During the course, you're able to actually challenge, discuss, and get a firm understanding of the benefit of why we do what we do. So that was really helpful."

BUILDING MOMENTUM FOR REGENERATIVE FARMING

While Sian considered the Holistic Management workshop a success, she believes greater producer participation could deliver even broader benefits. Wider adoption of regenerative farming knowledge and practices can create lasting environmental and community outcomes across the region.

Her experience suggests strong producer engagement during the planning stage is an important ingredient for future events.

THE VALUE OF CONNECTION & SHARED EXPERIENCE

Beyond the technical knowledge gained, Sian believes one of the greatest benefits of participating in Hub activities has been the opportunity to connect with other local producers. Meetings created a space for farmers to share ideas, compare experiences and learn from one another.

One example involved discussions about direct-to-consumer marketing. After Sian shared her experiences selling produce directly to local customers, neighbouring producers became interested in trialling similar approaches.

"We were able to coach each other in how we were doing things, even though we had different styles [of farming]. It's really good as far as collaborating and sharing ideas."

The Hub has also helped Sian build connections with other women in agriculture and recognise the strength of the local farming community.

I didn't realise there were so many female farmers in this area until I started coming to the Hub. It's a great opportunity to support each other.

SIAN SHEA
BEEF PRODUCER
MILTON | SOUTH COAST

INVESTING IN KNOWLEDGE & RESILIENCE

Looking ahead, Sian hopes to continue working with local Knowledge Brokers to explore soil testing opportunities that can improve pasture health and support participation in carbon markets. She also hopes the Hub continues investing in regenerative farming education after seeing the benefits first-hand.

"We've got four farms now in four different stages of regenerative farming, with all different soil types. We can really see the impact of it here at our home farm, and we're starting to see the impacts at the other farms as well."



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