



Request for Proposal: Support the development of a monitoring and evaluation framework and independent Project evaluation

Date: 27th of July 2026

Support the development of a monitoring and evaluation framework (part of the project initiation phase) and undertake an independent evaluation of the effectiveness of NRM South's 'Farming Forecaster and scenario planning tools package for better on-farm decision-making and resilience' project.

For further information contact:

Jennifer Hemer, Head of Program Delivery, NRM South
P: 0437 600 143; E: jhemer@nrmsouth.org.au

Background

The project builds on the successful statewide rollout of the Farming Forecaster tool in 2021, which has helped hundreds of Tasmanian farmers access real-time, site-specific pasture growth, soil moisture and seasonal forecast data.

Reliable data and practical decision-support tools are critical for managing seasonal variability and drought. By enabling producers to identify changing conditions early and make informed decisions, this project will help improve farm productivity, profitability and resilience while supporting better preparedness for future droughts.

As part of this project, NRM South will work across Tasmania, Victoria and NSW with 12 consortium partners to deliver four key components:

1. Expand the Farming Forecaster network into Victoria and additional NSW sites, supported by producer training and extension.
2. Enhance the Farming Forecaster platform through a new website, improved forecasting functionality and a mobile app.
3. Develop Tasmanian and Victorian versions of MyStockPlanner, supporting feed budgeting, scenario planning and training for producers and advisors.
4. Deliver tailored extension activities that build on previous drought resilience initiatives and support producer-led learning opportunities.

Project partners and technical advisors involved in the project

Our project partners include Farming Forecaster Inc, Monaro Farming Systems C MC Inc, Tablelands Farming Systems Inc, Holbrook Landcare Network, Glenrac Inc, Southern Farming Systems Ltd, Agriculture Victoria, Square V Pty Ltd, NSW DPI, TasFarmers, East Coast Primary Producers Association and CSIRO.

For more information on the project visit: <https://nrmsouth.org.au/project/drought-tech-solutions/> and for more information on NRM South's earlier Farming Forecaster project, visit: <https://nrmsouth.org.au/project/farming-forecaster/>

Tasks and outputs

The Southern Regional Natural Resource Management Association (trading as NRM South) is seeking to procure two related services (1) guidance on the development of a project monitoring and evaluation plan for and (2) the independent evaluation of the *"Farming Forecaster and scenario planning tools package for better on-farm decision-making and resilience"* project, referred to as the *'Drought Tech Solutions'* project. The independent evaluation will be submitted to the Commonwealth outlining the conduct and success of the project, meeting the following grant purpose and objectives:

The project activities plan to:

- Scale and Expand Proven Practices: Amplify the adoption of evidence-based practices, technologies or approaches from previous projects, extending their application across multiple farms, farming systems, landscapes, regions, or industries.
- Enhance Drought and Climate Resilience: Build on established outcomes by advancing knowledge, skills, and transformative practices that strengthen drought and climate resilience, ensuring public benefit and widespread implementation.
- Strengthen Community Wellbeing: Promote social resilience and enhance the wellbeing of rural, regional, and remote agricultural communities, fostering sustainable development and robust support networks.
- Build Capacity and Diversity: Promote learning and capacity building which addresses the complexity of drought and broader climate impacts by supporting the implementation of innovative, proven, evidence-based practices, technologies, or approaches through demonstrations, field days, case studies, fact sheets and other communication activities and products.

The expected FDF outcomes of the project activities will contribute to drought and climate resilience by:

- Increasing uptake and adoption by demonstrating effectiveness of innovative, proven, and evidence-based practices, technologies, or approaches beyond the previous project scope to support economic, environmental, and social resilience to drought and broader climate impacts through:
 - Increasing productivity and profitability of farmers.

- Improving the sustainability of agricultural landscapes through effective management of the natural resource base to improve functioning of natural capital, and ecosystem services; and
- Strengthening the social capital, wellbeing and connectedness of rural, regional and remote agricultural communities.
- Establishing and strengthening collaborative networks between farmers and other land managers, including First Nations people/Traditional Custodians, to improve knowledge sharing, raise awareness, and support adoption of drought and climate resilience practices, technologies, or approaches.
- Fostering collaboration, in the form of a consortium of partners and stakeholders collectively working on shared issues and outcomes to improve innovation, integration, coordination, communication, planning and implementation of drought and climate resilience activities, and avoid unnecessary duplication.
- Increasing participation and outcomes for a diverse range of people, businesses and landscapes involved in the agricultural sector, including First Nations-led initiatives to prepare for, and respond to, future droughts and broader climate impacts. Create opportunity for First Nations self-determination through fostering traditional and agricultural knowledge, including ways of knowing, being and doing for First Nations people.

The suitable qualified consultant will need to have a comprehensive understanding of project monitoring and evaluation and the impact of the project. The consultant should undertake the activities outlined below.

At the project initiation phase (by September 30, 2026):

- Collaborate, advise and develop a monitoring and evaluation framework for the project

At project completion – independent project evaluation phase:

- Engage with project managers, governance, and delivery partners
- Review the project agreement outputs and reporting in relation to the objectives of the project
- Describe project outcomes and impact in relation to the aims of the project
- Assess how the project has added value to existing activities, and the impact of project support to those activities
- Assess how the project has enabled the success of additional project opportunities
- Reflect on how the project has adaptively managed disruption and where impact was not achieved
- Provide recommendations to build on project outcomes which can be used for future funding purposes

- The successful consultant will present a written response to this Request for Quote (see Form of Response below).

Form of Response

Please respond with a proposal detailing the proposed approach to support the deliver the 'monitoring and evaluation framework and to undertake independent evaluation' services, including the knowledge and skills of your team and your availability to conduct the body of work. Examples of previous project evaluation work undertaken would be an advantage. A detailed proposal should be provided, including proposed timing for each task, identification of milestones and an itemised cost breakdown with minimum-maximum ranges. The lowest cost proposal will not necessarily be the proposal accepted.

Insurance

In addition to the proposal please provide evidence of policies of insurance for:

- Contractor's public liability insurance;
- Professional indemnity insurance; and
- Workers Compensation.

Criteria for Assessment

Proposals from consultants will be assessed according to the following criteria – assessment weightings will apply as indicated in brackets for each criterion.

1. Merit of proposed approach and understanding of the tasks and issues involved (30%)
2. Relevant experience conducting similar work and project team experience (30%)
3. Value for Money (20%)
4. Availability to conduct the work within the identified timeframe (15%)
5. Ability to effectively communicate with the project team (5%)

Closing Date and Timeframe

Proposals close	5:00PM, Monday, 10 August 2026 Late responses may not be considered.
Contractor appointment	Monday, 17 August 2026
Delivery of contract and roll-out timeline	1 September 2026 to 31 October 2028
Contract value	\$40,000 +/- 20%

Lodgement can be made by email to jhemer@nrmsouth.org.au (receipt of applications will be acknowledged).