

SQNNWS Innovation Hub

Regional Priorities 2021-2024

The Regional Priorities for the SQNNWS Innovation Hub were identified during the Hub's extensive initial co-design process, involving a wide range of stakeholders from across the region, industry and community.

Priorities

Data and decision-making

data access, interpretation and application, decision-making support, tools, processes and capacity

Example pathways for future projects and activities

Capability

- Build capacity and skills of rural and regional stakeholders in using available data and tools to support key decision-making
- Mentoring of rural and regional stakeholders to improve decision-making skills
- Support drought preparedness and resilience by building capacity, at a local level, and based on localised, industry-based needs

Collaboration

- Facilitate peer supported learning processes for data assessment and decision-making
- Best practice extension
- Local and sector relevant case studies
- Capture and extension of First Nations data and traditional knowledge with regard to drought management, to support better decision-making

Central support

- Collate data/information so it's available; demonstrating what data/information can do in relation to farm/sector decisions
- Improve online curation and collation of available tools/knowledge

Workforce

- Measures to build individual confidence in data, and work planning and career opportunities, development and pathways
- Support practical skills extension for workers
- Employment support strategies

Understanding

- Learning about producer decision making
- Identify local industry-based needs in building capacity

Tools and technology

- Understanding, interpretation and use of data improved through innovative products and processes, including further extension of existing tools

Infrastructure

- Reliable, workable access to internet and phone mobile services

Wellbeing and employability
recognising the connection between support for wellbeing and personal capacity in skills and confidence as business managers, employees and community members

Digital literacy

- Support initiatives to develop confidence with digital skills and accessing online services
- Incorporate digital tools in decision making

Connected community

- Connect and support existing community wellbeing networks, groups and services
- Community mapping and participatory needs assessments

Workforce support

- Contextualise individual needs and motivations so as to develop and deliver support in optimism, self identity, and adaptability for both personal wellbeing and paid or volunteer employment.
- Projects both link and highlight adapting to change in work (paid or volunteer) starts with a focus on wellbeing (physical and mental).
- Projects/activities to address rural and regional workforce and skills shortages
- Develop and utilise training packages incorporating technology and decision-making tools to support skills building, knowledge retention, and future proofing workforce development.
- Support First Nations and youth into training and employment, including collaborations to provide transport, and navigation/promotion of regionally-available training options

Accessible counselling

- Increase knowledge of available services and foster a willingness among rural and regional stakeholders to reach out for support

Internet and mobile access

- Support reliable access to digital services

Environmental commodities
understanding opportunities and risks in engaging in emerging environmental markets

Education and awareness

- Demonstrate the value of environmental commodities and the potential pathways toward participation
- Increase the understanding of risks and ensure rural and regional business owners and land managers are well informed and empowered to participate and negotiate on an equal and well-informed footing
- Support the exploration and development of First Nations food and fibre opportunities

Validation and standards

- Explore consistent, credible, relative measures of value in environmental commodities
- Linking regenerative/restorative practices and environmental markets

Best management practices

- Support the extension of natural capital stewardship programs and practices

Best practice agriculture and preparing for drought techniques, tools, processes and approaches that support holistic, sustainable, productive, profitable management of natural resources within extreme variable climate conditions

Property

- Property planning to assist with long term planning, flexibility, financial opportunities
- Farm innovation and infrastructure
- Productivity gains, within a sustainable system
- Natural capital stewardship – soil, vegetation, water, biodiversity, carbon

Operations

- Support producers to “job share” employees to reduce outlays, build worker skills

Training, awareness support

- Capture and extension of First Nations traditional knowledge with regard to drought management
- Support the ongoing education/upskilling of local extension advisors
- Mentoring programs to encourage practice change
- Support best practice extension and adaptive management
- Support for the development/extension of quality employment services for young people that is built upon individual support tailored to interests, capabilities, skills development, and wellbeing.
- Develop and utilise training packages incorporating technology and decision-making tools to support skills building, knowledge retention, and future proofing workforce development.

Diversity

- Research best practice + regenerative methods and practices
- Encourage consideration, and potential implementation, of measures to increase diversity across business and land management areas (for example) income streams, land use, rotational farming, vegetation
- Support rural and regional stakeholders to cultivate multiple income streams to build resilience