River red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) forest, Murray River, New South Wales
Claire Howell

Maximising Drought Resilience with Natural Capital Opportunities

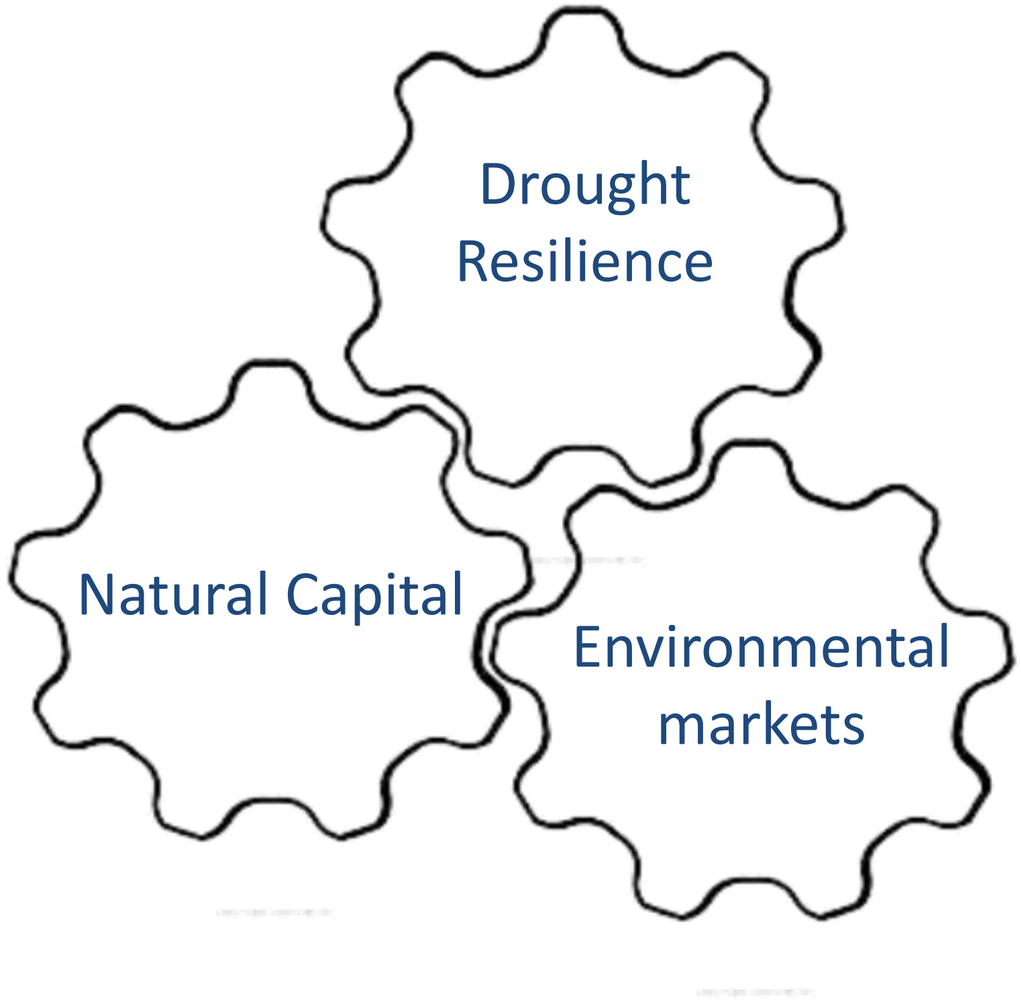
Co-design Day 2
8 May 2024

Western Murray
Land Improvement Group

What is today about?

Today is day 2 of a **co-design** project where you will **design a tool** to support you to **engage in environmental markets** to improve **drought resilience** and maximise our **natural capital**.

Today is about coming up with a **prototype** of this decision support tool. **What does it look like? What does it do for you?**



What we are looking for (Jac)

Hidden slide

- Important points to mention: both pre and during drought
- Both on your property and at a landscape / community scale
- We want this tool to help us make those decisions or be better prepared to make them
- In drought we have to make many decisions all the time, we want this tool to help us understand our assets, which includes our individual farm natural capital and other landscape and community assets, to assist us in maximising opportunities in very dry times. Many farmers say the worst decision can be no decision because in the teeth of drought it can get overwhelming, we have to make many decisions all the time, we want this tool to help us understand our assets, which includes our individual farm natural capital and other landscape and community assets, to assist us in maximising opportunities in very dry times. Many farmers say the worst decision can be no decision because in the teeth of drought it can get overwhelming

Outline for the day

9:30am – 9:50am	Welcome.
9:50am – 10:20am	Recap. Information from the last workshop
10:20am – 11:45am	Define. What are the pain points? What do we need help with?
11:45am – 12:00pm	**Break !!!**
12:00pm – 1:10pm	Design What could it look like? What questions does it help me answer?
1:10pm – 1:30pm	Wrap-up
1:30pm	**Lunch !!!**

Codesign at a glance

1. **Discuss:** Identify and talk about what's going on and support people to ideally see what they'd like to see happen. See if issues / topics / opportunities of shared interest emerge.
2. **Discover:** Name the issue / topic / opportunity and unpack it to the extent that you have a true understanding of it and its impact.

3. **Define:** Be creative and work together to see and define the issue / topic / opportunity in a new way.
4. **Design:** Create a draft prototype. A model of what you propose. Keep it simple

5. **Develop:** Seek further inspiration. Design with others and ensure it gives answers to the defined problem, issue or opportunity.
6. **Deliver:** Test out solutions. Keep it small scale for now. Make decisions about what will and won't work and which solutions to improve

Rules of engagement and expectations

- Plenty of thinking and doing from you – engage !
- Less information and more creativity in this session
- Still not a lot of certainty to work with…
- Ask questions – plenty of experts around the table and you’re not expected to know everything
- Share your expertise freely and your opinions respectfully
- Focus on the region and the community as well as meeting your own needs and your concrete reality

Recap

Your input

Strengths

Inland delta of rivers, creeks, wetlands creating small watre cycle
Swan Hill-Moulamien some bore water
Irrigation system for multi-purpose water - enviro, stock & domestic, production, cultural
Ramsar protected wetland complex
State and national parks forest creating a micro climate
Retracting rice industry which supports wildlife - ie Australasian bitterns
FullCam says 16 C tonnes per ha in this region for enviro plantings
WMLIG
Positive people who keep making decisions
Best wool best lamb groups
Knowledge sharing organisation - LLS, banks,
note: "We want to be acknowledged +rewarded for the flora, fauna we support while we grow food@

Weaknesses

Time poor - can't execute the opportunities
This soil needs moisture for any productivity
No access to ground water in majority
Strict water monitoring and regulation
Production vs environment perception

Opportunities

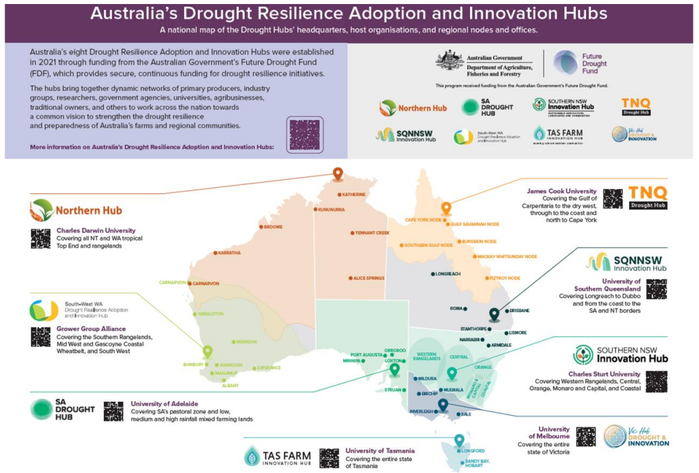
Building a community for support, laughter, parties
Philanthropy
Good outcomes/succession for community groups to thrive
grant experts
Instigators for generational mentoring
Multi-gen event committees for 'big memorable events'
Inclusive Whatsapp groups
Local media to make venues used and valued
Natural capital as a driving mechanism to regenerate regional communities, landscape and people
Reconise irrigation assets as enviro assets
Monitoring/ best practice techniques development for waterholding capacity in soils
Income/ resources 4 biodiversity in creataing shelter belts, biolink
$$, mngbest practice in managing stocking rates accurately
Good mng of ground cover (soil moisture retention and carbon capture)
Effective and affordable tools to create fodder reserves(cover cropping)
Create more shade in the landscape
More knowledge in biodiversity -hoe to promote it, how to monetise it
Balance of native and introduced pastures to promote pasture resilience (what for animals, birds, wetlands …?)
Mng of soil to improve health, microbiology, carbon content
Stockholding paddocks/ Stock containment areas
Good knowledge of water on farm, pick the enterprise suitable for the conditions
Greater emphasis on soil testing

Farm deposits for backup income
Non drought-impacted income
Relationship with bank/suppliers
Sell/buy water, stock numbers decisions are clear
How do you financially value natural capital to help (as equity, project support…)
Incomes from mng interventions/best practice for land stewardship payments- B+C
Biochar - organic waster conversion return for than mitigation in cattle/long term carbon storage in land
Farm dams & wetlands methane reduction/carbon seq/biodiversity payments
Community made facilities/mng for biofertilisers
Participants/$/sustainable sales to support cooperatives for better buying/selling power
Opportunity for landscape rehydration
Opportunity to build the social, financial & IT infrastructure RFM for farmers to have buying and selling power in supply chains and eviro markets
Renewable energy
Biomass to bioenergy
Industrial hemp carbon method - 20 tonnes per ha
Natural capital as a catalyst for building ecological literacy
Create a process where CEWH* water is distrib to support farm wetlands - 93pc MDB wetlands are on private land
Troughs/good systems for good water quality+supply/water cycling
Resilient production- not always effected by conditions
Recognition of the value of natural assets
Growing wattles, native grasses to be direct seeded in degraded landscapes

Threats

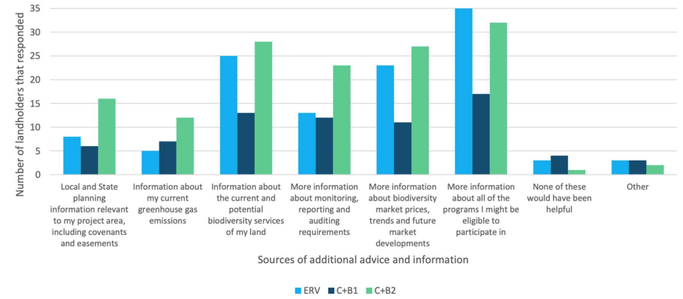
Being fragmented
Price takers
Regulation falls on the farmers
Bottom up asset recognition (?)

Key points from Angus, Jac and Rohan's presentations



What information do farmers need?

Figure 27: Additional information that may have helped landholders apply



REGEN

Define

Hear from others’ experience

‘Define’ Brainstorming

Two sections of 15’ >>> beware it goes fast
Break into 4 groups with a black, yellow, green and white person.

In the first 15’ define the hurdles “pain points” experienced by you / stories you’ve heard in trying to explore EM or leverage natural capital and improving your drought resilience.

Be specific, try to build sentences like ‘ To maximise {DR capability}, {Stakeholder X} needs/is lacking {specific need or lack} because/due to/although... {insight}
Black or white hats use the 5 whys technique to make it more specific

In a second part articulate (as many)
“I’d like this tool to help me [decide][do] [this] wrt to my natural assets or EM projects or transactions”
Thinking about pre-drought scenarios and during drought
Thinking about your own property as much as landscape / community opportunities
Thinking about what would make your property / the region attractive to investors

Then at the end you will report back your findings to the rest of the group and improve theirs

Design

Newtown

Questions to keep in mind and examples

- How does it update / keep current?
- How does it cover me and the landscape / community opportunity?
- How is it tailored / specific to me (is it)?
- How do I use it both to prepare and during drought?
- How does it align to my current drought plan?
- Time and budget

- LLS Nat cap
- CODST
- MLA environmental credentials platform

‘Design’ Brainstorming

45’
Break into the same 4 groups with a black, yellow, green and white person.

Decide what you think is the best tool you want in June – ideally or practically > record why you pick a given tool format

Then … build it !
Draw / build… in as much detail as you can what the tool looks like and what it does
Describe sections of a binder, with pages in it and what content
Draw the screen of an app and what the buttons do, and what other screen you can see…

Importantly … write down what questions are answered where eg ‘on this page it will rank my assets by order of DR capability’, ‘If I press this button it will give me a scenario of what to do with my project in drought’…

That’s it !

- Thinking time – take notes, scribble draw… What has been important, what you need to remember? What are you going to do?
- Questions and exchange
- Next steps

Acronyms

ACCU: Australian Carbon Credit Unit
AfN: Accounting for Nature
ANREU: Australian National Register of Emissions Units
CBAM: Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism
CEA: Carbon Accounting Area
CER: Clean Energy Regulator
CH4: Methane
CO2: Carbon dioxide
CO2e: Carbon dioxide equivalent
CSP: Carbon Service Provider
DR: Drought Resilience
EIH: Eligible Interest Holder
EM: Environmental Markets
EPBC: Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act
ERF: Emissions Reduction Fund
ESG: Environmental, Social and Governance
GHG: Greenhouse gas
GIS: Geographic Information System
GWP: Global warming potential
LLS: Local Land Services (NSW)
LMS: Land Management Strategy
LRF: Land Restoration Fund (QLD)
MNES: Matters of National Environment Significance
MSES: Matters of State Environment Significance
N2O: Nitrous Oxide
OR: Offset Report
RVM: Regulated Vegetation Management (QLD)

MLA environental credentials

EC | Environmental Credentials

- Home
- Learning Library
- My Credentials
- My Properties
- Shared Credentials

- FAQ
- Glossary

Login as
Christophe Bur

Logout

Drought Resilience

The drought resilience self-assessment enables producers to assess and demonstrate their resilience against droughts. The more actions you are taking that support drought resilience, the higher your rating.

Our people and Us

- Yes, we've nailed it
- Ok, but we could do better
- No, and we should do something abc
- No, and it's not relevant to us

Our Business

- Yes, we've nailed it
- Ok, but we could do better
- No, and we should do something abc
- No, and it's not relevant to us

Our Natural Resources

- Yes, we've nailed it
- Ok, but we could do better
- No, and we should do something abc
- No, and it's not relevant to us

Our Land

- Yes, we've nailed it
- Ok, but we could do better
- No, and we should do something abc
- No, and it's not relevant to us

MLA environental credentials

EC | Environmental Credentials

- Home
- Learning Library
- My Credentials
- My Properties
- Shared Credentials
- FAQ
- Glossary
- Login as **Christophe Bur**
- Logout

EC | Environmental Credentials

Join the beef sustainability movement and start learning today.

Australian Government

mla MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA

WWF

The University Of Queensland AUSTRALIA

Welcome, Christophe Bur to the Environmental Credential for Grassfed Beef platform.

This platform allows producers to demonstrate their sustainable on-farm practices and share their credentials with an end user, such as a processor, retailer, or bank.

This platform was developed in response to the growing demand from the supply chain to reduce scope 3 emissions and report on their environmental sustainability. The main aims for the platform are to provide an accessible (low to no cost) and user-friendly mechanism for producers to learn about environmental sustainability and use data to validate their sustainable on-farm practices.

An environmental credential is a representation of the good work that producers are doing on farm. More information about the development and background of the project can be found on the FAQ and Glossary pages located on the left-hand menu bar.

This project is (jointly) funded by the Australian Government through the Natural Heritage Trust and has been developed in partnership with MLA, WWF Australia and the University of Queensland.

Continue learning →

Resume or start your learning, open a module from one of the three Sustainability Themes.

View my credentials →

View your completed and in progress credentials.

Update my property details →

Ensure your property boundaries, carbon calculations and biodiversity questions are up to date.

RFM Digital Twin

REGEN

- Locations
- Records
- Integrations
- People
- Setup

Close

Locations

Add Land Asset

- All locations
  - 1541 Old Gayndah Road, Gungaloon QLD 4620
  - Buildings
  - Cadastral Boundary
  - ERF CEA AC
  - Koala habitat
  - Tatiana's dam
  - Wetalnd project

Toggle drag and drop | Save | Reset