



**GROWER  
GROUP  
ALLIANCE**  
Together we grow

# Annual Report



2023-2024

# CONTENTS

1	CHAIR & CEO REPORT
2	GGA BOARD
4	OUR PURPOSE, VISION & STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES
6	METRICS SNAPSHOT
8	THE GROWER GROUP ALLIANCE NETWORK
10	GGA STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS
12	GGA MANAGEMENT
15	CAPACITY BUILDING
19	BROKERED PROGRAMS
22	SOUTH-WEST WA DROUGHT RESILIENCE ADOPTION AND INNOVATION HUB
30	GGA TIMELINE
31	FINANCIALS
42	COMMITTEE'S REPORT
43	STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE
44	AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION
45	INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT
48	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

# Chair & CEO Report



**Peter Roberts**  
Chair, GGA

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Grower Group Alliance Inc. (GGA), it is a pleasure to present the annual report and audited financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2024.

The strategic direction, revised by the Board during 2023/24 aims to add more value to the network, further strengthen our core, and build for the future. Strategy focus areas have been set as climate resilience, water-related themes, and sustainability, inclusive of new programs around innovation and regenerative agriculture.

Continued investment in the capability and professionalism of our network is vital for the network to take advantage of increased investment opportunities around innovation, sustainability and agricultural productivity. As such, developing grower group capacity remains a key pillar of the GGA strategic plan.

As policy and regulation, societal and industry requirements, and innovation developments evolve, it is imperative the GGA ensures our structures and governance is appropriate for the operating environment. Your Directors in GGA are fully cognisant of the continued need of GGA to be fit for purpose.

The Directors of GGA are to be congratulated for their ongoing dedication to the organisation and for undertaking their fiduciary duty in a very professional manner. Their diligence and oversight have positioned GGA well for the future with a clear direction, and a healthy financial position. Following the strategic path set by the Board, CEO Rikki Foss and the management team have been able to deliver a strong operational result for GGA and its members.

I would particularly like to express my gratitude and best wishes to retiring directors Nicole Batten and Debbie Gillam, and appreciation to Chris Wyhoon, for his two-year service term. As directors of the Board and sub committees they have had immense impact on the direction of GGA.

GGA recognises the ongoing commitment of the State Government through the DPIRD-GGA collaboration co-investment that enables strong leveraged value to be delivered to the state of Western Australia (WA), as highlighted in the annual report.

To our valued sponsors, stakeholders and investment partners I convey my appreciation for the recognition that alignment with GGA continues to add value to their direction and investment in WA.

Most importantly, I express my sincere appreciation for the support of our members. A strong and vibrant GGA is ultimately to the benefit of the members and agriculture in WA.

**Together we grow.**



**Rikki Foss**  
Chief Executive Officer, GGA

The 2023/24 year has been pivotal for the Grower Group Alliance (GGA), marked by significant achievements, progress with strategy and governance, and a continued focus on initiatives and projects that add real value to the network, industry and greater community.

This year, the GGA management team established our first ever operational values ensuring they align with staff, connect energetically, and foster pride and purpose in our work. These newly affirmed GGA values include: Agility – embodying nimbleness; Daring – being brave; Passion – demonstrating care; and Delivery – achieving outcomes. I take pride in leading a team that embraces these values, which I consider a true reflection of our identity and collective principles.

Importance of strong operational values underpins the extent of activities presented in this annual report, especially considering that our outcomes are so reliant on building genuine and effective partnerships across the GGA network and the wider agricultural sector.

GGA network engagement and growth continued this year, now with 94 organisations (up from 37 in 2019). The collective vitality, diversity, knowledge, commitment, skills and connectivity embodied by the network remain at the core of GGA's value proposition.

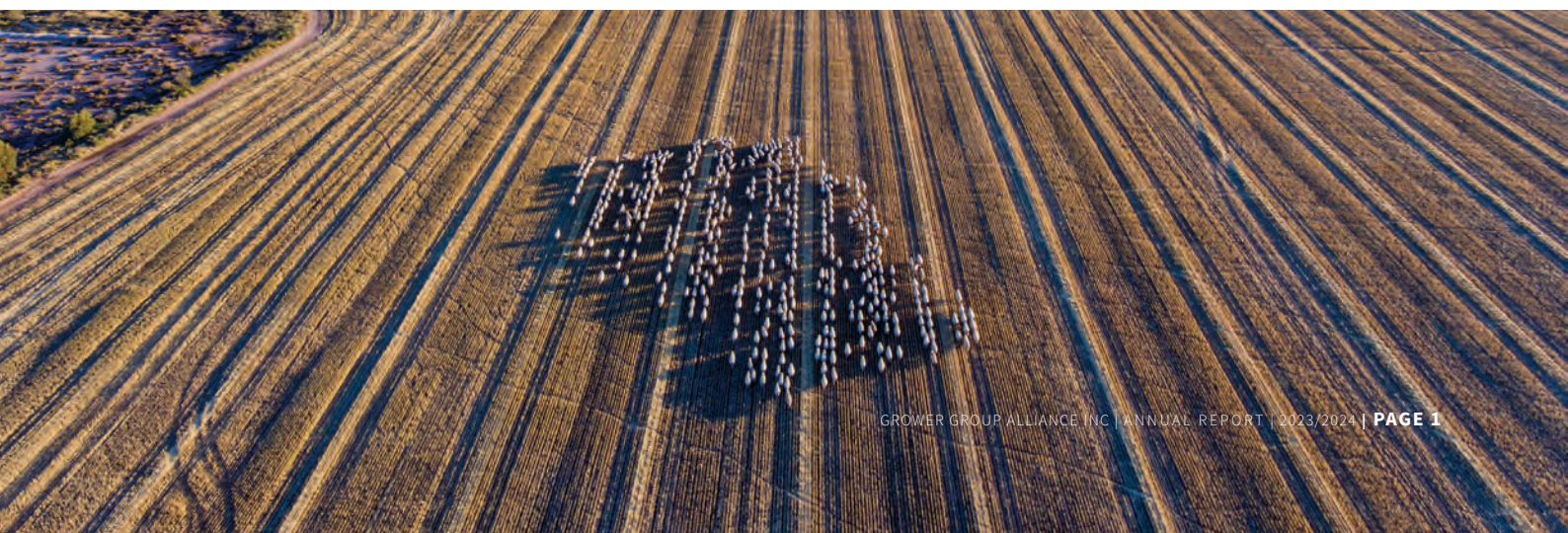
We continued to invest in strengthening the human capital of the network in 2023/24, delivering over 20 professional development and training initiatives attended by over 600 participants.

GGA also continued to build partnerships with leading agricultural bodies, universities, and private sector stakeholders and is currently collaborating in 24 research, development, extension and adoption projects focused on a breadth of areas such as crop diversification, soil health, and climate resilience to name a few.

Our reputation as an effective, delivery organisation has enabled GGA to successfully tender for, and secure new projects increasing the value of active projects to a new portfolio high of \$68M, up from \$60M last year. Member groups partnering in projects also prospered with project management fee revenue brokered flowing directly to grower groups also rising to a new high of \$10.8M, up for the fifth consecutive year: \$400K (2020), \$880K (2021), \$3.7M (2022), and \$9.3M (2023).

The achievements outlined in this annual report are a testament to the passion and expertise of grower groups and our partners. I also extend my deep gratitude to our dedicated staff, Board Directors, and all stakeholders for their commitment to building a vibrant, sustainable future for agriculture.

**I look forward to continuing this journey with you all.**



# GGA Board

Under GGA's constitution (Rules) the Board of Directors has the power to direct and manage the affairs of the alliance, accountable to its members.

The Board of eight Directors comprises five member-elected Directors serving staggered two-year terms, and the Board appoints another three Independent Directors to complement the skills mix. Independent Director appointments are ratified at the following Annual General Meeting (AGM). As with all company directors, GGA Directors take on fiduciary duties and responsibilities of the Association with their role.

At the September 2023 AGM two new member-elected Directors Audrey Bird (Facey Group), and Maree Fowler (SEPWA) were elected for two-year terms, and Chris Wyhoon's (WA Regenerative Livestock Producers) appointment to fill a vacancy was ratified by members to serve through to AGM 2024. The other five Board positions remain unchanged.

Independent Directors, Peter Roberts continued as Chairman, and Erin Gorter as Vice Chair. GGA staff member Maddison McNeil served as GGA Corporate Secretary.

## Independent Directors



**Peter Roberts**  
Chairperson

Appointed 25 September 2018

People & Culture

Formerly a farmer from Dunn Rock, Peter is a graduate of Harvard Agribusiness Seminars and the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Peter was appointed as a GGA Independent Director in September 2018, to the GGA Chair in September 2020 and currently represents GGA on the steering committee of the Western Australian Agricultural Research Collaboration. Peter has extensive leadership experience as past Chair of the GRDC Western Panel from 2011-2018, past Director of Barley Australia, past Western Malting Barley Advisory Committee member, and past Chair of South East Premium Wheat Growers Association (SEPWA).



**Erin Gorter**  
Vice Chair

Appointed 13 December 2018

Finance Risk & Audit

Hub Steering Committee  
Carbon Steering Committee

Erin Gorter is a rural industry consultant, a non-executive Director of Australian Grain Technologies, and manages all facets of the Ag4U Career Pipeline Program. Erin serves on the Council for Australian Arab Relations, the Council of Agricultural Economic Development, and the Mt Burdett Foundation's Rural and Regional Advancement Foundation committee. Erin has extensive experience with grower groups as the former Executive Officer of Evergreen Farming and Southern Dirt. Erin is a graduate of the Australian Institute for Company Directors program, the Australian Rural Leadership Program, and the Curtin Business School Ignition program.



**Graham Smith**  
Independent Director

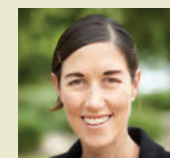
Appointed 31 August 2020

Innovation

Hub Steering Committee

Graham is passionate about helping farmers improve long-term viability and sustainability through research and innovation. Graham has served in numerous senior leadership roles, including the Institute of Environmental Science and Research and Federated Farmers in New Zealand. Earlier positions have included leading Sheep Producers Australia, the Herd Improvement Co-operative Australia, and the technology commercialisation group at the University of South Australia.

## Member Directors



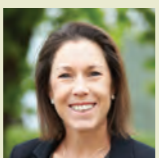
**Debbie Gillam**  
Member Director

Term: 31 August 2020 - AGM 2024

Finance Risk & Audit

People & Culture

Debbie is a grain and livestock farmer from Irwin. Debbie holds a Bachelor of Science (Agriculture). She is a former Mingenev Irwin Group research and project officer, which provided her with an understanding of the roles, issues, and relevance of grower groups and the challenges faced by farmers. Debbie has served numerous local community groups, such as the Dongara District High School Board, P&C, and Irwin District Charity Ball. Debbie is a graduate of the Leadership WA Signature Leaders Program and the Australian Institute of Company Directors course.



**Nicole Batten**  
Member Director

Term: 3 December 2019 - AGM 2024

Finance Risk & Audit

Innovation

Carbon Steering Committee

Nicole Batten is a grain and livestock farmer from Yuna and a passionate advocate for agricultural and sustainable rural communities. Nicole is currently Shire of Chapman Valley Vice President and Midwest Drought Resilience Plan Advisory Group Member. Previous roles include Biosecurity Council of WA, Yuna Farm Improvement Group Secretary, Rabobank Client Council Member, Advisory Group member for the National Centre for Farmer Health, and past National & WA Chairperson of Rural Edge. Nicole is also a recent graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



**Chris Wyhoon**  
Member Director

Term: 7 December 2022 - AGM 2024

People & Culture

Chris is a mixed farmer who produces in the Avon Valley and is currently Chair of the WA Regenerative Livestock Producers grower group. Chris also sits on a ministerial committee (DPIRD Cattle Industry Funding Scheme Management Committee) and key meat and livestock advisory groups, including WA Livestock Research Council, the CarbonEdge™ Development advisory group, and MLA Environmental Credentials for Australian grass-fed beef advisory group. Previous board roles have included Vice-Chair Wheatbelt NRM, WAFarmers, Farmsafe, and WA Landcare Network. Chris is an Australian Institute of Company Directors graduate with an MBA in Sustainable Business.

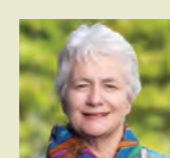


**Marie Fowler**  
Member Director

Term: 22 September 2023 - AGM 2025

People & Culture

Marie farms east of Esperance, producing grain, beef, lamb, and wool. Marie has a Bachelor of Agriculture, MSc Environmental Science, and completed the Rabobank Executive Development program in 2019. Marie currently sits on the Rabobank Client Council and Chairs the Condingup District Recreation Association. She has served on numerous community, school, and sports group committees, including as a member of the executive committee of South East Premium Wheat growers Association [SEPWA].



**Audrey Bird**  
Member Director

Term: 22 September 2023 - AGM 2025

Finance Risk & Audit

Innovation

Audrey is a grain and livestock farmer who produces on a 4,500-ha farm in Wickiepin. Audrey served for 12 years on the Facey Group, six years as Chair, and currently as Secretary, and has the honor of being the group's inaugural Life Member. Prior positions have included the West Australian Livestock Council 2018 - 2022, MLA Producer Adoption Reference Group 2018 - 2022, and Board of the West Australian No-Till Farmer Association from 2010 - 2015. Audrey completed the Australian Institute of Company Directors course in 2008 with a refresher in 2024.



# Purpose, Beliefs, Vision & Values

## OUR PURPOSE

To grow together to make Western Australia stronger

## OUR BELIEFS


- We believe in sustainable production and that's why building and extending innovative research, development and extension in Western Australia is vital for growers' prosperity.
- We believe that developing the capacity of a diverse and connected network of grower groups enables producers, families, and communities to thrive.
- We believe in the power of collaboration and ecosystems where building deep relationships and mutually rewarding partnerships with industry makes an enormous difference.

## OUR VISION


A producer-led system of agricultural innovation, adoption and collaboration

## VALUES


Our shared values include agility, a passionate approach to work, being daring, and delivery. These values empower everyone, regardless of their role, to make informed decisions and take action with confidence in every interaction with stakeholders.




**Agility**  
embodying nimbleness



**Passionate**  
demonstrating care

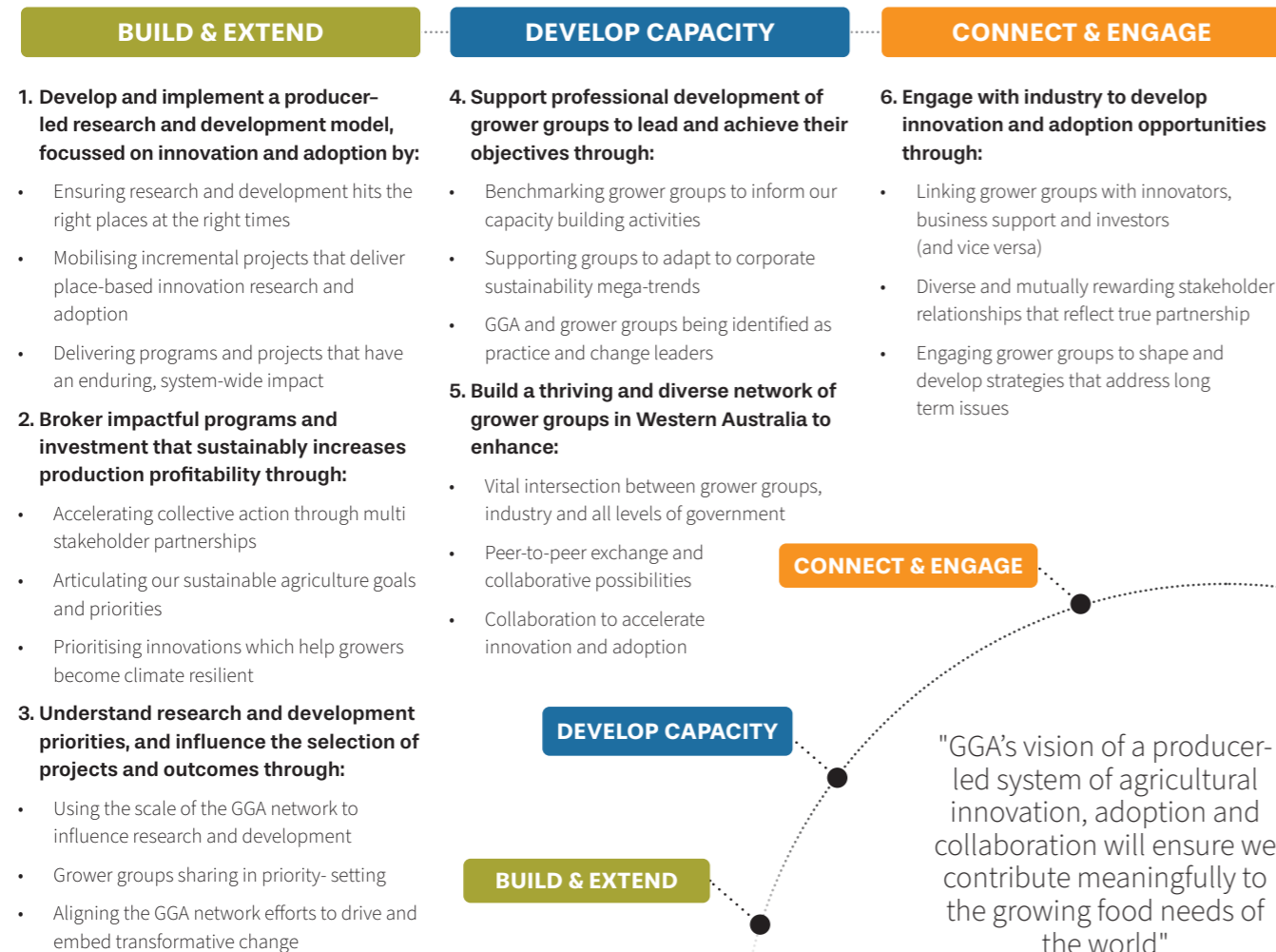


**Daring**  
being brave



**Delivery**  
achieving outcomes

# Strategic Objectives

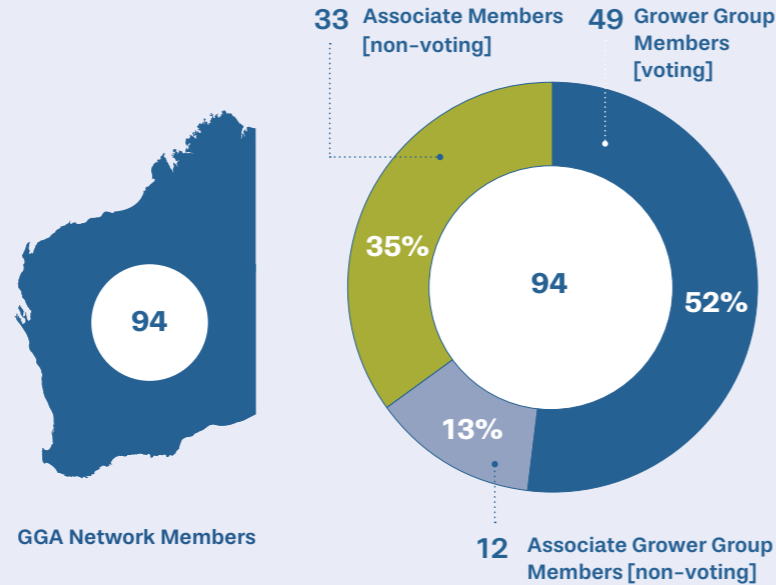
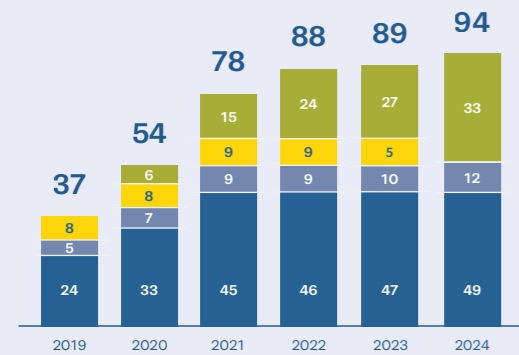


# Metrics Snapshot

## NETWORK

### NETWORK GROWTH

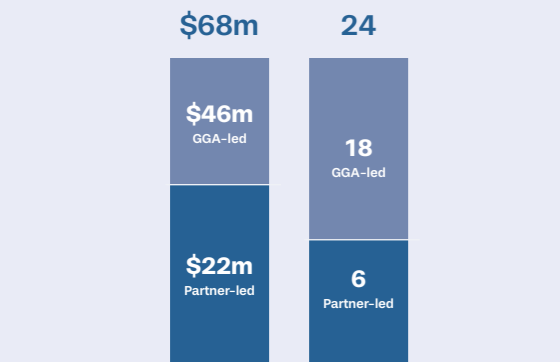
- Associate Members
- Network Participants
- Associate Grower Group Members
- Grower Group Members [voting]



## PROJECTS

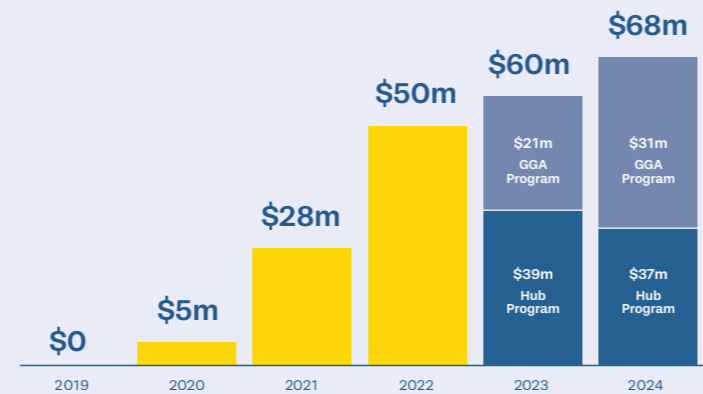
### PROJECT PORTFOLIO

\*Active projects as at 1st September 2024.



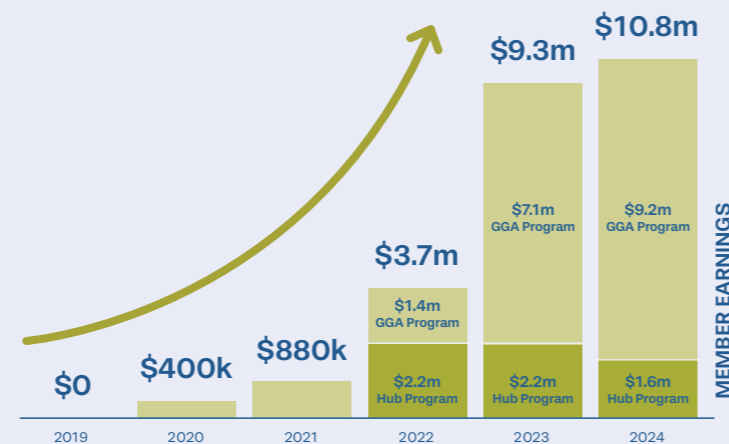
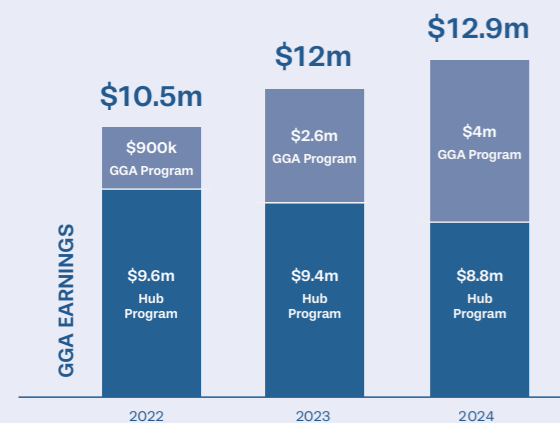
### PROJECT PORTFOLIO GROWTH

\*Values are over life of project (cash and in-kind)



### FORWARD PROJECT MANAGEMENT FEES BROKERED

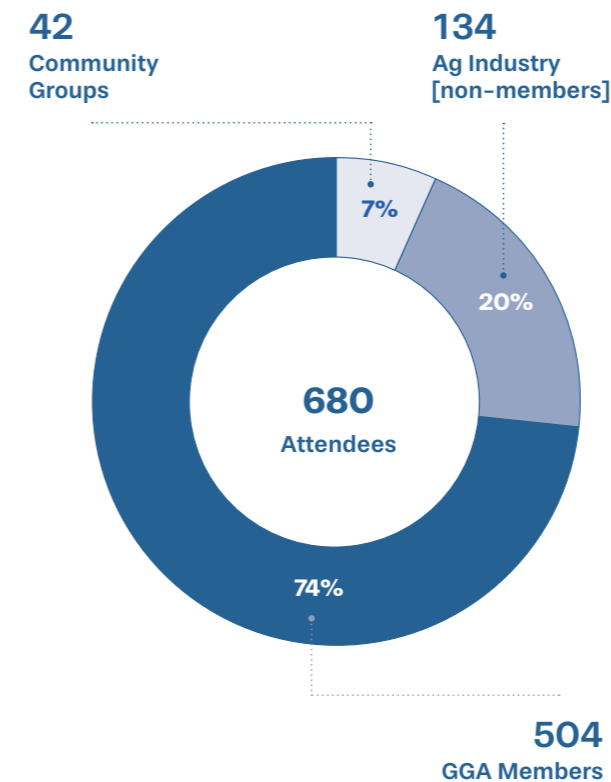
\*Revenue distributed over life of active projects [currently 2021-2028]



# Metrics Snapshot

## CAPACITY BUILDING

2024 calendar year program



## COMMUNICATION ENGAGEMENT

Rolling 12 month metrics as at August 2024



# The Grower Group Alliance Network

The Grower Group Alliance is a thriving statewide network of 94 member organisations, including 61 farmer-led local grower groups, with a combined producer membership base exceeding 4000 Western Australian farm enterprises.

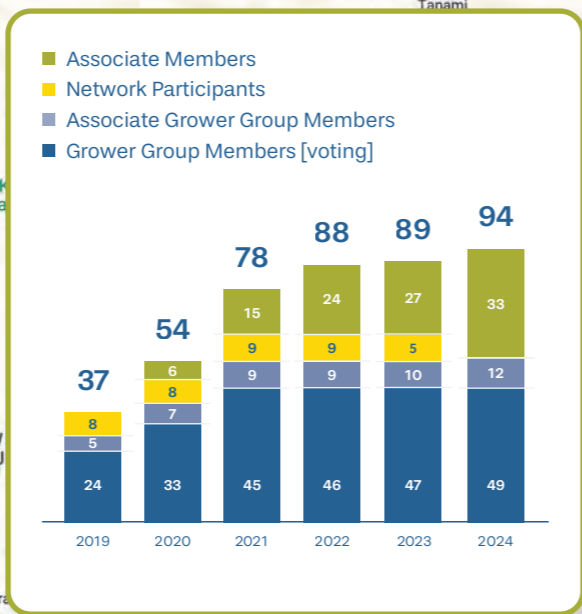
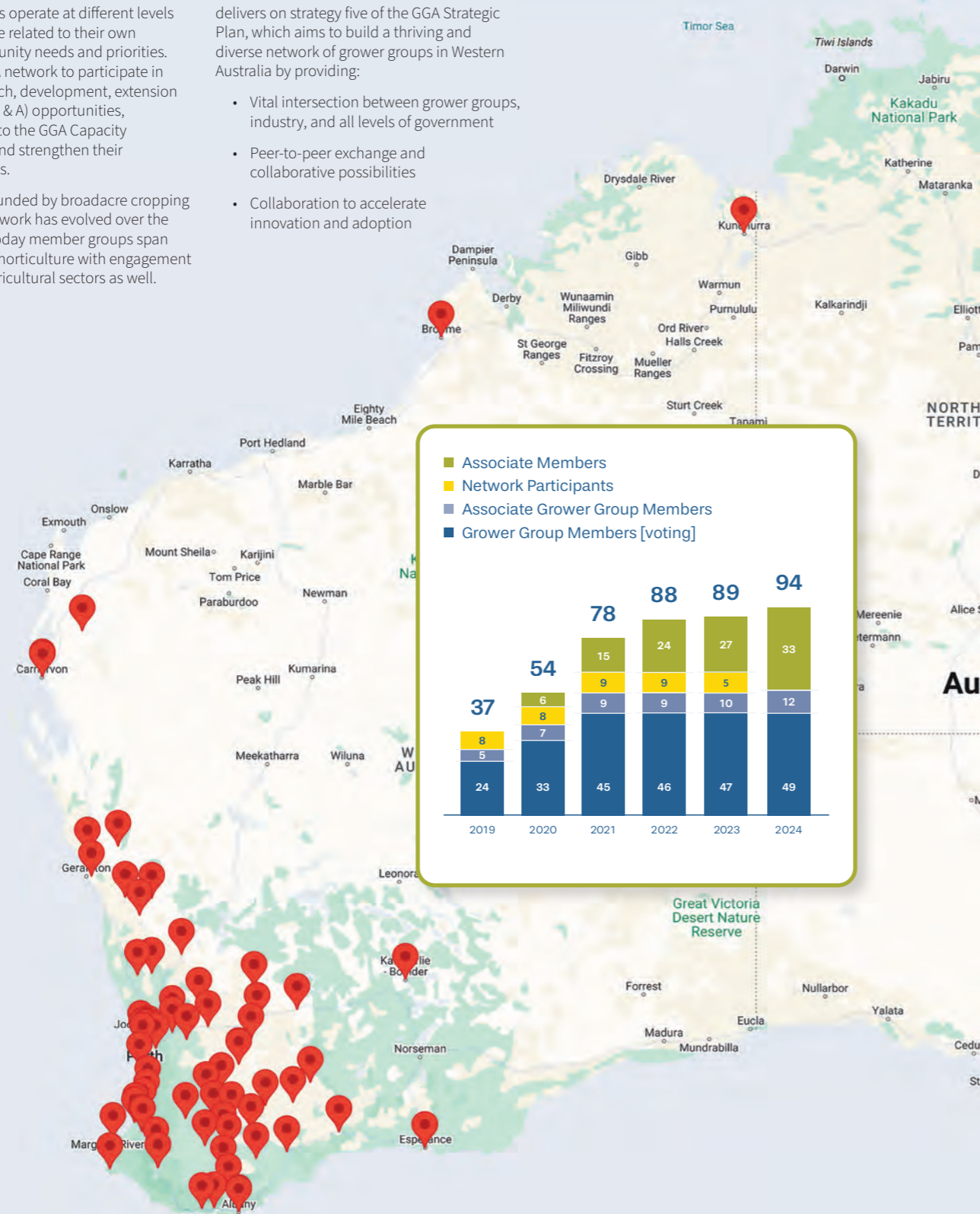
GGA member groups operate at different levels of scale and purpose related to their own membership community needs and priorities. Groups join the GGA network to participate in collaborative research, development, extension and adoption (R,D,E & A) opportunities, gain priority access to the GGA Capacity Building program, and strengthen their industry connections.

Although initially founded by broadacre cropping groups, the GGA network has evolved over the last two decades. Today member groups span grain, livestock and horticulture with engagement from other niche agricultural sectors as well.

Interaction within the network provides agricultural leaders, and influencers the opportunity for cross-sector exchange, enriching divergent thinking, collective innovation through inclusive thinking, and impactful collaboration projects.

Growth and diversification of the GGA network delivers on strategy five of the GGA Strategic Plan, which aims to build a thriving and diverse network of grower groups in Western Australia by providing:

- Vital intersection between grower groups, industry, and all levels of government
- Peer-to-peer exchange and collaborative possibilities
- Collaboration to accelerate innovation and adoption



# Grower Group Alliance Network

## Grower Group Members (voting rights)

- Agricultural Women Wheatbelt East (AWWE)
- ASHEEP & BEEF
- Certified Organic Biodynamic Western Australia Inc (COBWA)
- Compass Agricultural Alliance
- Corrigin Farm Improvement Group
- Esperance Zone Innovation Group (EZI)
- Facey Group
- Far Eastern Agricultural Research Group (FEAR)
- Fitzgerald Biosphere Group
- Future Food Producers Group
- Gascoyne Catchments Group
- Gillamii Centre
- Great Southern Wine Producers Association
- Hills Orchard Improvement Group
- Kimberley Pilbara Cattleman's Association
- LIEBE Group
- Lower South West Grower Group
- Merredin and Districts Farm Improvement Group (MADFIG)
- Mingenew Irwin Group (MIG)
- Mooramb Pasture Improvement Group
- Morawa Farm Improvement Group
- Mortlock Ag Focus Group
- Mullewa Dryland Farmers Initiative
- Noongar Land Enterprise Group (NLE)
- North Stirlings Pallinup Natural Resources
- Northern Agri Group
- Nyabing Farm Improvement Group
- O'Connor Research Group
- Oil Mallee Association of Australia
- Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network (RAIN)
- Regen WA
- Society of Precision Agriculture Australia (SPAA)
- South East Premium Wheat Growers Association (SEPWA)
- Southern Dirt Incorporated
- Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance
- Stirlings to Coast Farmers
- Sweeter Banana Co-operative
- Three Springs Farm Innovation Network (3FIN)
- Toodyay Agricultural Alliance
- Turf Growers Association of Western Australia
- WA Hemp Growers' Co-op Ltd
- WA No-Tillage Farmers Assoc (WANTFA)
- WA Regenerative Livestock Producers
- West Midlands Group
- Western Australian Lot Feeders Association
- Western Beef Assoc Inc
- Wheatbelt Integrity Group (WIG)
- Women in Farming Inc
- Yuna Farm Improvement Group

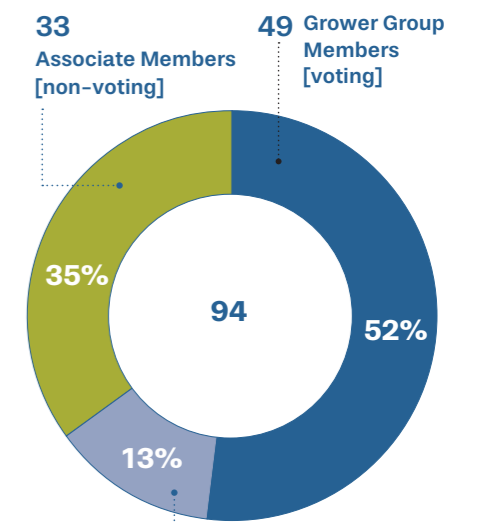
## Associate Grower Group Members (non-voting)

- Broomehill Cropping Group
- Bruce Rock Land Conservation District Committee
- Dumbleyung Land Conservation District Committee
- Holt Rock Group
- Lakes Grower Group
- Lakes Information & Farming Technology (LIFT)
- Living Farm Grower Group
- Lower Blackwood Land Conservation District Committee
- Northern Australia Crop Research Alliance Pty Ltd (NACRA)
- Owingup Kent Grower Group
- Southern Grazer Network
- Wilson Inlet Grower Group (WIGG)

## Associate Members (non-voting)

- AgZero 2030
- Australian Association of Agricultural Consultants (AAAC WA)
- Bee Industry Council WA (BICWA)
- Carnarvon Rangelands Biosecurity Association Inc
- Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association
- Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group
- Gascoyne Food Council Inc
- Gate 2 Plate Inc.
- Goldfields Nullarbor Rangelands Biosecurity Association
- Grain Industry Association of Western Australia Inc (GIWA)
- Julianne Hill
- Leschenault Biosecurity Group
- Northern Biosecurity Group
- Oyster Harbour Catchment Group Inc
- Peel Harvey Biosecurity Group
- Peel-Harvey Catchment Council Inc (PHCC)
- Rural Edge
- South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc
- South West NRM
- Southern Biosecurity Group
- Southern Forests Community Landcare
- Southern Forests Food Council
- Torbay Catchment Group
- TrialCo Pty Ltd
- vegetablesWA
- WA Citrus
- WA Future Food Network
- Wagin Woodanilling Landcare Zone
- Western Australian Livestock Research Council (WALRC)
- Wheatbelt Natural Resource Management
- Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee (WICC)
- Wines of WA
- Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group

## Membership Composition



12 Associate Grower Group Members [non-voting]

49 Grower Group Members - incorporated not-for-profit grower groups. This class of membership holds exclusive voting rights.

12 Associate Grower Group Members - grower groups that are either not incorporated or trade as 'for profit' grower groups. These grower groups have no voting rights.

33 Associate Members - Non-grower group organisations such as Natural Resource Management (NRM) groups, Biosecurity groups, or industry bodies, that have operational interaction, strategic alliances or collaborations with grower groups. No voting rights.

# GGA Strategic Partnerships

## DPIRD-GGA Collaboration Agreement



### STRENGTH IN COLLABORATION

**GGA's major operational WA strategic partnership continues to be with DPIRD, via a formal DPIRD-GGA collaboration agreement first executed in May 2019.**

The initial term of the collaboration was four years, from May 2019 to May 2023, with a value of \$4.3 million. In November 2021, it was extended to a six-year term with a revised total value of \$7.3 million (over the life of the agreement), now set to expire in May 2025.

The DPIRD investment over the six-year term consists of approximately 30% in cash, with the remaining 70% made up of in-kind contributions and resources, including office space, IT support, fleet access, support services, and four DPIRD staff assigned to GGA.

GGA's performance under the collaboration agreement is overseen by a Collaboration Council, with regular reporting against key performance indicators (KPIs). By leveraging DPIRD's research capabilities, the collaboration will continue to focus on increasing investment in on-ground innovation and adoption practices, driving practice changes to benefit WA agriculture.

To date, the agreement has created significant opportunities for grower groups and their farmer-driven networks, while strengthening links between grower groups, their members, research providers, and agribusiness.

The business case to determine whether the collaboration will continue beyond May 2025 is currently in progress. This process involves an independent third-party consultant evaluation report and a comprehensive economic analysis to calculate the return on investment for the state.

### COLLABORATION SUMMARY

- Total State Government investment of \$7.3m over six years
- GGA retains independence under a skills based and representative Board
- GGA is co-located with DPIRD in Perth accessible to grower groups and industry
- Investment split of 30% cash for GGA operations, and 70% resources and in-kind

### COLLABORATION OUTCOME AREAS

#### Network projects

Working with grower groups to design grower driven, network-scale projects and attract investment from strategic partners to drive research and innovation in WA agriculture.

#### Benchmarking & building

Supporting groups to be fit, strong and sustainable by delivering training and development in a systematic, strategic way.

#### Technology and innovation

Facilitating opportunities for groups by linking grower groups with innovators, and the agtech industry to ensure emerging innovations are relevant to WA farmers.

## GGA Sponsors



2024 marks the eighth consecutive year of multi-year sponsorship terms with the CBH group. The funds are specifically allocated to developing leadership, delivering capacity building and governance training through three streams:

1. Growing Leaders Scholarship – Two leaders from the grains sector participate in the renowned 10-month Signature Leaders program (through Leadership WA), with 14 scholars to date.
2. Capacity Building – Support for the GGA Annual Forum or alternative agreed activities, such as the not-for-profit groups Business Model Masterclass, enabling members to access subsidised opportunities.
3. Governance Training Series – Includes two governance workshops (Reading Financial Statements and 1-Day Governance Workshop), a Governance e-course, and the 'Let's Talk Governance' podcast.



In June 2022, FARMANCO committed to a three-year cash and in-kind sponsorship partnership set to expire in June 2025.

Cash portion – used to provide subsidised access for members to GGA capacity-building events such as the annual Chairs Summit, GGA Forum (or others).

In-kind portion - access to FARMANCO's suite of administrative or consulting staff was made transferrable by GGA to network members to establish an 'In-kind Program' whereby members can apply for a share of the in-kind services to enable new initiative activation or temporary back-fill for operational resources.

Round 1 and 2 of the 'In-Kind Program' has so far supported 11 member groups with \$35,000 in-kind support to activate initiatives, develop tools or boost staff capability. Applications to round 3 close September 30, 2024.



Farm Weekly commenced a media partner annual sponsors partnership with GGA in late 2020 with a renewed agreement in place each year until mid 2025. Farm Weekly's sponsorship provides a full-colour, double-page GGA feature in its newspaper each quarter. The feature aims to drive engagement with grower groups, inform the agricultural community of current opportunities via GGA activities, and provide relevant updates on the DPIRD-GGA Collaboration.



# GGA Strategic Partnerships

## WA Agricultural Research Collaboration



**WA Agricultural Research Collaboration**  
Innovation • Transformation • Growth

The Grower Group Alliance (GGA) is among six participants in the WA Agricultural Research Collaboration launched in July 2023. The research collaboration aims to reinvigorate WA's research, development and extension capabilities by applying cutting edge science to WA's unique challenges and opportunities.

GGA takes a place alongside five other collaboration partners including the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), Australia's national science agency CSIRO, and WA universities: Curtin, Murdoch and the University of Western Australia.

GGA's Chair Peter Roberts serves as the GGA representative on the WA Agricultural Research Collaboration Steering Committee, and GGA has relevant subject matter expert delegates involved in each of the program planning committees.

Initially, the collaboration scope of work will focus on a series of six program focus areas including:

1. Northern Agriculture
2. Grains Transformation
3. Climate Resilience
4. Agricultural Technologies
5. Aboriginal Participation
6. Capacity Building and Extension



[L-R] Cecilia (Cec) McConnell - Deputy Director General Primary Industries Development of DPIRD, Peter Roberts - GGA Chair, Hon Jackie Jarvis MLC Minister for Agriculture and Food; Forestry; Small Business, Dr Kelly Pearce - Director, Western Australian Agricultural Research Collaboration, Heather Brayford - Director General at DPIRD

## Evergreen Legacy Fund



After 23 years of successful operation, the Evergreen Farming grower group wound up in 2024, with reserves of around \$150,000.

These unused funds will be transferred to GGA which will serve as custodians for grants of up to \$25,000 [+GST] for voting GGA member grower groups to use in ways aligned to Evergreen Farming's work around perennial pasture systems.

A framework on pre-agreed uses and governance for grants has been established between Evergreen Farming and GGA. Eligible uses include:

1. Research and development projects such as trials on perennial pasture systems\*
2. Extension and adoption initiatives such as field days, special knowledge-building events with subject matter specialists on perennial pasture systems\*
3. Capacity Building initiatives such as student bursaries, guest speakers, and learning resources such as in-field workbooks or podcasts aiming to boost knowledge and capacity around perennial pasture systems\*

\*includes fodder shrubs



# GGA Management

## Leadership Team



**Rikki Foss**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Appointed 15 November 2021  
DPIRD Nash St office

Rikki is responsible for the execution of the GGA Board corporate strategy and fulfillment of GGA contracted obligations across all projects, state and federal government agreements. Rikki leads daily operations, including resourcing, recruiting, performance, reporting, and building the highest-level strategic relationships across the industry to advance the GGA and opportunities for members.



**Mark Holland**  
Hub Director & GGA Program Broker  
Appointed 1 January 2020  
DPIRD Nash St office

Mark leads the delivery of GGA's largest project, the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub, which involves wide engagement with the industry at a regional, state and national level. Mark also leads GGA project tendering and provides guidance for the fulfillment of the DPIRD-GGA collaboration agreement. [DPIRD assigned staff member]



**Kallista Bolton**  
Head of Stakeholder Engagement and Regenerative Agriculture Program  
Appointed 23 March 2020  
DPIRD Nash St office

Kallista will lead a new body of work in regenerative agriculture for GGA which has an ambitious vision for global partnerships and initiatives. Kallista's scope also spans whole of organisation stakeholder management, network membership, strategic partnerships, directing major stakeholder events, and team delivery of corporate communications, project communications and the GGA capacity building program.



**Dr Jo Wisdom**  
Innovation Manager  
Appointed 1 August 2022  
DPIRD Nash St office

Jo works across the whole of GGA with a majority focus on the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub project. Jo is responsible for driving innovation-related projects and forging GGA's involvement with the global innovation ecosystem. Her research background also sees Jo engage in opportunities for GGA within the WA Agricultural Research Collaboration (WAARC).



**Julianne Hill**  
Hub Adoption Manager  
Appointed 1 November 2022  
DPIRD Bunbury office

Julianne works within the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub project driving uptake of new innovation and practices for improved drought resilience. Working broadly in the field, she enables knowledge transfer at a farm and regional level to accelerate on-farm adoption. Julianne also oversees and assists the performance of the eight appointed Regional Node Leads.

## Team



**Maddison McNeil**  
Project Manager & GGA Corporate Secretary  
Appointed 25 July 2022  
DPIRD Nash St office

Maddison is responsible for the delivery of the National Industry-led Carbon Farming Outreach Program, GGA's first national project. This large program sees her collaborating with 40 contracted project partners across Australia to provide train-the-trainer education for the delivery of nationwide workshops. Maddison also serves GGA as the Board appointed Corporate Secretary.



**Philip Wang**  
Corporate Services Manager & Chief Financial Officer  
Appointed 30 October 2023  
DPIRD Nash St office

Philip manages the GGA finances, including the whole organisation budgeting, payroll, receivables, and payables across all divisions and projects, plus some duties in the people and culture arena. Philip also serves GGA as the Board appointed Chief Financial Officer.



**Dr Daniel Kidd**  
Project Manager  
Appointed 2 September 2022  
DPIRD Nash St office

Daniel leads regional, state and national projects within both the GGA main program and the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub. With an extensive research background, he coordinates the delivery of all work through collaboration with contracted project partners from the grower group network and the broader agriculture ecosystem at large.



**Tanya Kilminster**  
Hub Knowledge Broker  
Appointed 1 April 2020  
DPIRD Merredin office

Tanya works within the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub project to lead and translate engagement and collaboration between industry stakeholders to improve drought resilience. Tanya maintains strong scientific links working out of DPIRD's Merredin Dryland Research Institute.



**Kellie-Jane Pritchard**  
Hub Project Manager  
Appointed 13 September 2021  
DPIRD Bunbury office

Kellie-Jane (KJ) works within the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub project with responsibility for development and delivery of SWWA hub project management role (plans, reports, in-kind). She establishes, maintains and effectively manages strategic partnerships, collaborative working relationships and effective communication networks with key stakeholders. KJ manages the Hub's bursary and study tour programs.



**Alison Lacey**  
Project Manager  
Appointed 4 November 2021  
DPIRD Narrogin office

Alison works across both the GGA main program, and assists in an extension and adoption capacity within the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub. Her project work spans regional and state projects coordinating delivery of all work through collaboration with contracted project partners from the grower group network and the broader agriculture ecosystem at large. [DPIRD assigned staff member]

# GGA Management

## Team



**Michelle Condy**  
Program Broker  
Appointed 28 January 2020  
WFH Margaret River

Michelle works across the project and capacity building space for the GGA main program of work. As lead for a new multi-year GGA Researchers Professional Development Program, Michelle works particularly closely with researchers from grower groups and the wider agriculture industry research ecosystem. Her focus area in projects also sees her engage in the agtech, data, and innovation arena. [DPIRD assigned staff member]



**Jessica Scholle**  
Hub Stakeholder & Communications Manager  
Appointed 13 November 2023  
DPIRD Nash St office

Jessica delivers communication and stakeholder management specific to GGA's largest project, the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub. This role sees her engaging with consortium partners and wider stakeholders and working with the latest tools and methods to simplify scientific communication.



**Theodore Nabben**  
Hub MEL Manager / Adoption Officer  
Appointed 15 August 2022  
DPIRD Nash St office

Theo works in a dual role capacity across the whole of GGA and the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub project. Theo is responsible for measuring and evaluating all projects to ensure we deliver high-performance outcomes. He is responsible for the MEL reporting for both the Hub and Carbon Farming Outreach Program. Within the Hub, he assists with accelerating First Nations participation and adoption to drive the uptake of innovation and practices for improved drought resilience.



**Lucy Tomassini**  
Project Manager  
Appointed 6 November 2023  
DPIRD Nash St office

Lucy works in a blended role across the whole of GGA and the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub. She is the project manager for the suite of six Hub-funded 'Transformational Projects', where she works closely with project initiators to achieve their project outcomes for the Hub investment. Lucy also assists with innovation projects, the carbon project and GGA exhibition event involvement.



**Sarah Belli**  
Project Manager  
Appointed 8 April 2024  
DPIRD Albany office

Sarah began work as a Hub Adoption Officer within the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub, building connections between grower groups, researchers, and landholders, facilitating adoption of drought-resilient practices. Sarah also assisted delivery of the GGA Dry Season Response Outreach project and will now take on a role within the National Industry-led Carbon Farming Outreach Program.



**Carly Watts**  
Capacity Building & Communications Officer  
Appointed 1 July 2024  
DPIRD Albany office

Carly works in the main GGA stream of work, executing delivery of the renowned Capacity Building Program, comprising over 20 initiatives a year. This scope includes both co-ordinating logistics for each of the activities or events and communications around each initiative. This role sees her working closely with suppliers and with GGA members to drive attendance.



**Charlotte Strand**  
Project Communications Specialist  
Appointed 17 June 2024  
DPIRD Nash St office

Charlotte works with various GGA project managers to deliver the communications components of around a dozen GGA-led projects. As part of this role she engages with project partners to enable communications alignment and enhanced visibility and extension for projects. Charlotte also assists with some mainstream GGA corporate communications, reporting and collateral preparation.



**Sharon Keeler**  
Team Assistant  
Appointed 8 November 2021  
DPIRD Nash St office

Sharon provides administration support for the GGA team, the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub project, and recently, the National Industry-led Carbon Farming Outreach Program. Sharon supports with detailing, scheduling, internal communications and co-ordination to assist with the smooth delivery of GGA operations.



**Rory Whitelaw**  
Executive Assistant  
Appointed 14 April 2024  
DPIRD Nash St office

Rory assists the GGA team with a variety of operational and administrative tasks spanning internal and external operations. His scope includes contract and grant administration, document preparation, activity reporting and assisting elements of project delivery.



**Amber Atkinson**  
Grains R,D&E Communications Manager  
Appointed 2 August 2021  
DPIRD Nash St office

Amber is the communications team manager delivering on GGA's contracted obligations for DPIRD's Grains Research, Development and Extension work. Amber is embedded within the DPIRD grains team and works at a strategic level conceiving their grains communication plans, tactics and individual elements for enhanced cut-through to stakeholders.



**Adrianna Jakimowicz**  
Communications Officer  
Appointed 24 July 2023  
DPIRD Nash St office

Adrianna is GGA's Grains Communications Officer, assisting with delivery of GGA's contracted obligations for DPIRD's Grains Research, Development, and Extension work. Adriana is embedded within the DPIRD grains team and works at an operational level delivering a suite of communications services.

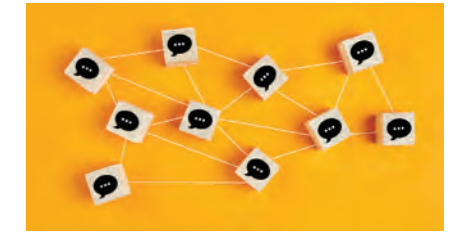


# Capacity Building

The GGA capacity building program is fundamental in building the human capital of the GGA network.

The program delivers on strategies four and six of the GGA Strategic Plan, supporting the professional development of grower groups to effectively lead and achieve their objectives whilst providing engagement with industry to explore innovation and adoption opportunities.

Activities featured in the annual training program are tailored to the needs of the GGA network informed by an annual capacity building survey completed by GGA members. Many activities are open to wider industry participation, which provides the numbers necessary to deliver group learning activities, enhances the learning experience and supports development of broad industry relationships and linkages.



## Researchers Professional Development Program

In 2024 GGA launched a new four-part professional development program for research and project officers to build the technical capability of this vital cohort whilst cultivating a supportive professional community of practice within the GGA network. Following a co-design process, the program evolved into four components adapted to serve the ongoing and changing needs of the network:

- Part 1 - Independent learning ~ a comprehensive onboarding and basic training series for new hires
- Part 2 - Group learning ~ continuous learning professional development series comprising a blend of group learning opportunities via in-person or online events during the year and
- Part 3 - 'Community of Practice' within the GGA network cohort.
- Part 4 - Private optional mentoring support for existing research or project officers.

111 delegates have engaged in the nine activities delivered so far in 2024.



## Extension Fest

During April and July, GGA delivered briefing session on resources for six different topics, with different guest speakers over six dates in a 1-hour online morning format. Resources covered in the sessions included: Dry Season Resources [SW WA Drought Hub team], Grains Extension [DPIRD] resources, Carbon [Agrifutures study], Banking on Sustainability [Agrifutures study], Emergency & Biosecurity response [Resources & Project], Best Practice Grain Storage [GRDC]. 65 delegates engaged in the series with the Dry Season resources attracting the highest engagement.

## Cooee Calls

Launched in 2023 and hosted by GGA's CEO Rikki Foss, Cooee Calls support Executive Officers from voting member grower groups, with a private forum to discuss common challenges, cultivate inter-group Executive Officer links, and provide a direct line of communication to the GGA CEO. Held twice a year, the May call discussed HR Law changes with the scheduled November call planning to discuss development of new HR template packs for groups. The calls are usually attended by around 6-9 staff each time.



## Reach Co-design

As part of GGA's strategy to foster innovation and its involvement in the global innovation ecosystem, GGA Innovation Manager Dr. Jo Wisdom led the first co-design session for the development of an innovation brokering service called 'Reach'. This service aims to connect solution providers with the on-ground farmers who need these innovations. GGA and grower groups are positioned to play a valuable role in facilitating this process. This was step six in a twelve-stage development process that will run into 2025 with further stakeholder engagement with the network to follow. 12 delegates attended this session held on May 16.

## Lift Off x evokeAG

Held in February at the start of the calendar year, Lift Off supports GGA member groups to build capacity and operational connections for the year ahead. Run as an overnight experience, delegates are provided GGA updates, capacity building and networking opportunities as well as operational briefings from the likes of GRDC, MLA, Landcare and Agrifutures. In 2024 Lift Off was paired with the major agriculture industry event Agrifutures evokeAG for a grower group exchange experience including delegates from visiting interstate and overseas grower groups. GGA also negotiated heavily discounted rates for grower groups and their farming members to register independently for evokeAG and take a shift on the GGA exhibition at evokeAG. 73 delegates engaged in Lift Off '24.



## Diploma of Project Management

Delegates from grower groups and industry participated in an accredited Diploma of Project Management course aimed at improving the skills of research project managers or staff running events. The course was delivered in June as a four-day immersion learning component held at the Muresk Institute, Northam, with an in-class group assignment to cover practical assessment. GGA has also followed up comprehension and knowledge building with a series of resources and learning pieces. 24 delegates participated in this cohort.

# Capacity Building



## Reading Financial Statements Workshop

Returning for a third time as part of our governance training series, this workshop catered for volunteers, committee and staff of not-for-profits whose roles include reading financial statements and evaluating financial performance.

The June 19 workshop was sponsored by CBH and was open to the wider regional community as well as the GGA network, which saw 15 delegates participate.



## Growing Leaders Scholarship

In its seventh year of operation and sponsored by the CBH Group, the aim of the Growing Leaders Scholarship is to build a pool of growers ready to take on leadership positions in the grains industry. The program places up to two scholars into the renowned Leadership WA 10-month Signature Leadership Program, which is valued at \$16,940 per participant. The 2024 scholars were Gemma Walker and Sam Messina who now join an alumni totaling 14 that have been developed through this program.



## Business Models Masterclass

Part of the governance training program, this half day masterclass supporting groups to review or build a business model, a critical piece of any group's strategic planning. Delivered by consultants BDO, content covered the 10 key parts to a business model. Sponsored by CBH, the masterclass held on 31 July was open to the wider regional community not-for-profit sector. 19 delegates participated in the masterclass and five in a technical follow-up session.



## Governance e-Course

Run again for a fourth year as part of the CBH-sponsored governance training series, this 9-hour e-course delivered by governance instructor Caroline Robinson, supports new or experienced committee members and staff of not-for-profit groups through six easy-paced modules delivered over six weeks. Open to regional volunteer community groups, the 2024 cohort had 47 delegates participate.



## Governance - 1 Day Workshop

In its seventh year of delivery this is an essential one-day workshop sponsored by CBH as part of our governance training series. The workshop is aimed at volunteers, committees and staff of not-for-profits seeking to build skills and knowledge in best practice governance to lead their community group with high impact, confidence, and compliance. Also open to the wider regional community not-for-profit sector this years workshop was delivered in Perth on August 8, and attended by 14 delegates.



## Chairs Summit & AGM

Supporting connection and exchange among leaders in the GGA network, the Chairs Summit was introduced in 2021 as a high-value networking and operational update event for the GGA 'voting group' Chairs & Vice-Chairs. The program includes a social dinner and overnight accommodation, followed by morning operational updates from GGA staff and the formal AGM.



## Digital Design Tutorial Series

Ranked as #7 training priority by members for our 2024 program, the GGA communications staff will deliver a series of 3 tutorials to upskill members on Canva. The series will cover topics such as social media tiles, photo editing, poster and report design to support member group staff and volunteers achieve improved engagement with their audience and accelerate groups efficiency around inhouse production.



## Public Speaking Workshop

This workshop supports groups to improve the quality of their public speaking skills, communicate with impact, and achieve more cut-through with their stakeholders. Content covers the anatomy of a good speech, engagement techniques, and elements of polished delivery, including power points. Delivered by renowned agriculture industry speaking coach Esther Price, the workshop has been delivered three times before with around 25 delegates each time split between the GGA network and industry.



## Let's Talk Governance Podcast

Nine episodes currently exist in the podcast series with further episodes being recorded around Human Resources Laws Governance later in 2024. Fully sponsored by CBH as part of our governance training series, the resource provides on-demand access to governance training for new recruits to grower group Boards, and serves as a refresher for those more experienced. Since launching in 2021 over 700 unique listeners have made over 1260 downloads of the podcast episodes which translates to approximately 630 hours listening time of governance training content, of which around 183 hours occurred in 2024.

# Capacity Building



## Strategic Plan (75% subsidy)

In a repeat of a 2021 program, GGA will provide up to six grower groups with a 75% subsidy [in the 23/24 financial year] to work with a specialist ag industry consultant to prepare or update their groups' strategic plan. This activity supports groups to ensure they have fundamental stakeholder priorities and business documents in place to support changes in board members and staff, providing continuity and clarity in priorities through succession. 18 groups have now been assisted by GGA to prepare a strategic plan.



## Planfarm Academy

Repeating from good opt-in numbers in 2022, GGA network groups have been offered 50% discounted access to the Planfarm Academy Agronomy of farming short course for twelve months in financial year 2023/24. Identified as a need in the annual member survey, this course supports staff of groups with any knowledge gaps, enabling them to better deliver in their assigned work role. Opt-in has been low in 2024.

## Resources - Policy & Process templates

GGA will commission a series of templates for groups across HR/Safety governance management aligned to recent laws. Fully sponsored by CBH as part of our governance training series, this resource assist with groups awareness around HR governance obligations and supports adoption of current processes and standards.

## Hub Delivered Activities



## Extension & Adoption Training Program

Repeated from a successful series in 2023, the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub delivered a six-part technical extension and adoption training program for grower group staff, industry consultants and new extension/research staff who want to extend research to support on-farm adoption. Delivery comprised two in-person workshops and four online. 38 delegates, totalling 118 registrations, engaged across the series of six workshops. The delegate split comprised 19 delegates (50%) from 10 different GGA member groups, 17 delegates (45%) from the general agriculture industry, and 2 (5%) from non-GGA member NRM groups.



## Most Significant Change Workshop

The Most Significant Change (MSC) technique is a powerful monitoring and evaluation process to capture outcomes resulting from a project. MSC is based on collecting perceptions and stories of important changes resulting from a project or program. The introductory workshop included practical exercises and covered the core steps of story collection and selection processes. Delivered by GGA Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning Manager and Hub Adoption Officer Theo Nabben, 13 delegates from industry and the GGA network attended a full-day training workshop on 22 May which aimed to enhance delegates' suite of project reporting methodologies.

# Capacity Building

Activity Series #	Individual activity #	Run Date	Activity	Delegates	Hrs Invested	Series delegates
01	1	19-Feb-24	Lift Off x evokeAG	73	475	73
02	2	19-Feb-24	Launch - Researchers PD Program	12	36	100
	3	17-May-24	[Pt 1] Science Communications Workshop	15	30	
	4	17-May-24	[Pt 2] Report writing workshop	15	30	
	5	13-Jun-24	[Call 1] 'Phone-a-friend' Research Officers	6	6	
	6	25-Jun-24	Soil Science Part 1 - Soil Science 101 & Soil Biology	18	45	
	7	26-Jun-24	Soil Science Part 2 - Plant and Soil Nutrition & Soil Test Interpretation	18	45	
	8	5-Sep-24	Experimental Design	15	75	
03	9	10-Apr-24	E&A Training Module 1 - Issue Capture/KASA & Priority setting (5 hrs)	11	55	118
	10	11-Apr-24	E&A Training Module 2 - Extension planning framework (6 hrs)	23	138	
	11	17-Apr-24	E&A Training Module 3 - Extension event planning (2 hrs)	24	48	
	12	1-May-24	E&A Training Module 4 - Introduction to Monitoring and Evaluation (2 hrs)	23	46	
	13	8-May-24	E&A Training Module 5 - Facilitation Training (2 hrs)	26	52	
	14	15-May-24	E&A Module 6 - Group Chat - Mentoring Session (2 hrs)	11	22	
04	15	23-Apr-24	Extension Fest - Briefing [1] - Dry Season Resources [Hub]	24	24	65
	16	15-Jul-24	Extension Fest - Briefing [2] - Grains [DPIRD]	2	2	
	17	16-Jul-24	Extension Fest - Briefing [3] - Carbon [Agrifutures study]	14	14	
	18	17-Jul-24	Extension Fest - Briefing [4] - Banking on Sustainability [Agrifutures study]	15	15	
	19	18-Jul-24	Extension Fest - Briefing [5] - Emergency & Biosecurity response [GGA]	6	6	
	20	19-Jul-24	Extension Fest - Briefing [6] - Best Practice Grain Storage [GRDC]	4	4	
05	21	9-May-24	Cocee Call [1] HR Laws	8	8	8
06	22	16-May-24	'Reach' co-design meeting [1] - [GGA innovation pillar]	12	24	12
07	23	22-May-24	Most Significant Change Technique	13	91	13
08	24	4-Jun-24	Diploma of Project Management	25	625	25
09	25	19-Jun-24	Reading Financial Statements Workshop	15	45	15
10	26	1-Jul-24	Growing Leaders Scholarship [applications]	2	800	2
11	27	31-Jul-24	Business Model Masterclass	19	67	19
12	28	2-Aug-24	Governance e-course	47	447	47
13	29	8-Aug-24	Governance - 1 Day Workshop	14	84	14
14	30	19-Sep-24	Chairs Summit Dinner	[incl. below]	[incl. below]	55
	31	20-Sep-24	Chairs Updates & GGA AGM	55	327	
15	32	31-Oct-24	Digital Design Tutorial - Session 1	30	30	67
	33	6-Nov-24	Digital Design Tutorial - Session 2	18	18	
	34	13-Nov-24	Digital Design Tutorial - Session 3	19	19	
16	35	20-Nov-24	Public Speaking Workshop	25	175	25
17	36	2-Dec-24	'Let's talk governance' Podcast [x 1 Human Resource episode]*	N/A	183	N/A
18	37	Assorted	Strategic Plan Subsidy Remaining [FY23/24]	3 groups	150	N/A
19	38	26-Feb-24	Planfarm Academy	1	3	1
20	39	2-Dec-24	Resources - Policy & Process templates [updates]*	12 groups	24	N/A
				<b>680</b>	<b>4357</b>	

\*Production completed and shared in Jan 2025.

# Brokered Programs

The GGA Brokered Programs deliver on strategies two, and six of the GGA Strategic Plan. GGA is currently collaborating in 24 active projects across research, development, extension and adoption (R,D, E & A) valued to WA at \$68m (cash and in-kind). The portfolio is split between \$31m for 12 projects within GGA's main program, the balance of \$37m relates to 12 projects linked with the SW WA Drought Hub program.



## Emerge Program

This project is a collaborative effort between CSIRO and GGA to connect producers with the innovation system. The objective of the 'Emerge Program' is to facilitate development of ideas that will help WA farmers and the agri-food sector prosper in hotter, drier climates, and build greater resilience to more frequent and prolonged droughts.

**Investor:** CSIRO  
**Project Lead:** GGA  
**Project Life:** 15/5/2023 - 2/9/2024



## Best Practice Grain Storage Workshops

This project connects grower groups, and growers with extension support for on-farm grain storage capacity and best practice supporting growers to retain grain quality and seed germination. GGA is collaborating with GRDC Stored Grain project lead Primary Business as national lead and Ben White as the WA-based extension team member.

**Investor:** GRDC  
**Project Lead:** Primary Business  
**Other Ecosystem Partners:** Kondinin Group  
**Project Life:** 18/5/2021 - 30/9/2024



## Dry Season Response

GGA partnered within the WA government's dry season response program through the newly formed Dry Season Task Force. GGA administered a five-part plan, including 21 grants to grassroots organisations supporting the rapid mobilisation of on-ground efforts around community wellbeing in the agricultural sector.

**Investor:** WA State government  
**Project Lead:** GGA  
**GGA Network Partners/Beneficiaries:** Stirlings to Coast Farmers, ASHEEP & BEEF, Morawa Farm Improvement Group, Western Beef Assoc Inc, Mingenew Irwin Group (MIG), Facey Group, Southern Forests Food Council, LIEBE Group, South West NRM, Regen WA, Great Southern Wine Producers Association, Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network (RAIN), AgZero 2030  
**Other Ecosystem Partners:** Williams Community Resource Centre, Wagin Community Resource Centre, Yarloop Community Resource Centre, Yuna CWA  
**Project Life:** 10/5/2024 - 30/9/2024



## WA Farm Data Sharing

This project aims to help growers make more sophisticated investment decisions using their own farm data. Initially the model will assess an optimal liming strategy, however could later be adapted to soil amelioration investments, insurance evaluations, property valuations or securing banking loans.

**Investor:** Food Agility CRC  
**Project Lead:** DPIRD  
**GGA Network Partners/Beneficiaries:** Esperance Zone Innovation Group (EZI), Stirlings to Coast Farmers, Facey Group, LIEBE Group, Gillamii Centre  
**Other Ecosystem Partners:** Curtin University, Food Agility CRC  
**Project Life:** 1/7/2021 - 31/3/2025



## Extension Services for DPIRD (Grains)

Provision of two GGA communication specialist personnel for the delivery of DPIRD Primary Industries Development communications strategy and plan. Services include R&D project extension materials design, writing & content development for enhanced adoption.

**Investor:** DPIRD  
**Project Lead:** GGA  
**Project Life:** 1/6/2021 - 30/6/2025



## NDRR - To build preparedness and resilience in grower groups to enhance relief and recovery efforts following an emergency response

Grower Groups are often called to assist after severe natural disasters or emergencies, a role for which they are typically unprepared. This project aims to equip them to respond promptly on location, collaborate effectively with emergency agencies, understand the ground support they may be asked to provide, and enhance their overall preparedness and resilience.

**Investor:** DFES  
**Project Lead:** GGA  
**GGA Network Partners/Beneficiaries:** Facey Group, Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network (RAIN), South East Premium Wheat Growers Association (SEPWA), Yuna Farm Improvement Group, Northern Australia Crop Research Alliance Pty Ltd (NACRA)  
**Other Ecosystem Partners:** DPIRD, DFES, Great Southern DEMC  
**Project Life:** 1/5/2024 - 30/9/2025

# Brokered Programs



## SheepLinks FEED365 (all year livestock forage systems)

This project will engage sheep producers and allied industries to re-design livestock forage systems for grazing all-year-round in Mediterranean environments to create resilient sheep production systems. The focus is sheep grazing systems in Southwest WA challenged by climate change with increasingly hotter, drier and more variable seasons.

**Investor:** DPIRD, MLA

**Project Lead:** DPIRD

**GGA Network Partners/Beneficiaries:**

ASHEEP & BEEF, Merredin and Districts Farm Improvement Group (MADFIG), WA Regenerative Livestock Producers, West Midlands Group, Wagin Woodanilling Landcare Zone, Stirlings to Coast Farmers

**Other Ecosystem Partners:** DPIRD, MLA

**Project Life:** 1/5/2021 - 30/12/2025



## NGN - Frost Management Workshops / Field days

This project builds on previous GRDC-frost investments, applying research to inform grower and adviser decisions for pre-season planning, in-season management, and post-frost responses. GGA will collaborate with grower groups, DPIRD, and consultants to develop and share knowledge on frost management, focusing on early career personnel to build industry capacity.

**Investor:** GRDC

**Project Lead:** GGA

**Other Ecosystem Partners:**

DPIRD, ConsultAg [Garren Knell]

**Project Life:** 1/11/2023 - 31/12/2025



## Evergreen Farming Legacy Fund

After 23 successful years, Evergreen Farming has wound up with around \$150,000 in reserves, which will be transferred to GGA to be used for grants of up to \$25,000 for GGA voting member grower groups to use in research, extension, adoption, or capacity-building projects focused on perennial pasture systems, including fodder shrubs.

**Investor:** Evergreen Farming

**Project Lead:** GGA

**GGA Network Partners/Beneficiaries:** TBA

applications under assessment.

**Project Life:** 1/7/2024 - 31/12/2025



## National Industry-Led Carbon Farming Outreach Program

This project will deliver a nationwide carbon farming outreach program, focusing on broadacre and pastoral industries. Working with 40 farming and industry groups from all states and the Northern Territory, partners will provide local training in partnership with farm advisory service providers to deliver trusted, independent advice to an estimated 3,500+ farming enterprises. Participants will gain the knowledge to understand their emissions and explore carbon farming opportunities.

**Investor:** DCCEEW

**Project Lead:** GGA

**GGA Network Partners/Beneficiaries:** Corrigin Farm Improvement Group, Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Association, Facey Group, Mingenew Irwin Group (MIG), Oil Mallee Association of Australia, Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance, Stirlings to Coast Farmers, LIEBE Group, WA Regenerative Livestock Producers, West Midlands Group, Merredin and Districts Farm Improvement Group (MADFIG)

**Project Life:** 1/1/2024 - 31/3/2026



## Closing the Economic Yield Gap of Grain Legumes in WA

This comprehensive project will combine extension, trials, technical and economic analysis to support growers to access the benefits of legumes in crop rotations moving forward. The project will carry out farm-scale trials under grower conditions/situations to demonstrate the optimum agronomy practices for the different grain legume species.

**Investor:** GRDC

**Project Lead:** GGA

**GGA Network Partners/Beneficiaries:** Corrigin Farm Improvement Group, Facey Group, Gillamii Centre, LIEBE Group, Merredin and Districts Farm Improvement Group (MADFIG), Mingenew Irwin Group (MIG), Ravensthorpe Agricultural Initiative Network (RAIN), South East Premium Wheat Growers Association (SEPWA), Stirlings to Coast Farmers, WA No-Tillage Farmers Assoc (WANTFA), West Midlands Group, Yuna Farm Improvement Group, Lakes Information & Farming Technology (LIFT)

**Other Ecosystem Partners:** DPIRD, Curtin University

**Project Life:** 26/10/2021 - 30/6/2026



## RiskWiSe

The National Risk Management Initiative (NRM) known as RiskWiSe, is a GRDC initiative that aims to understand and improve risk-reward outcomes for Australian grain growers through participatory action research (PAR).

**Investor:** GRDC

**Project Lead:** CSIRO

**GGA Network Partners/Beneficiaries:** Corrigin Farm Improvement Group, Facey Group, LIEBE Group, West Midlands Group, Mingenew Irwin Group (MIG), Stirlings to Coast Farmers, South East Premium Wheat Growers Association (SEPWA), WA No-Tillage Farmers Assoc (WANTFA)

**Other Ecosystem Partners:** GGA, DPIRD, UWA, CSIRO, BCG, GRDC, AAGI, University of Melbourne, AgriLink, University of Queensland, Pinion Advisory, Barry Mudge Consulting, Trengove Consulting, SA Drought Hub, SARDI, AgGrow Agronomy Research, AMPS, BFIG, CWFS, EPAG Research, FarmLink, FAR Australia, GOA, Holbrook Landcare Network, Irrigated Cropping Council, MSF, Riverine Plains, Murray Plains Farmers, NSS, Southern Growers, UNFS, Hart Group, Charles Sturt University, AIR EP, QDAF

**Project Life:** 2/3/2023 - 20/3/2028

# Brokered Programs

## Hub-led projects



## South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub

The project facilitates partnerships and drives targeted, relevant knowledge exchange to enhance climate resilience of farmers and communities in South-West WA.

**Investor:** DAFF - Future Drought Fund

**Project Lead:** GGA

**GGA Network Partners/Beneficiaries:** Merredin and Districts Farm Improvement Group (MADFIG), South East Premium Wheat Growers Association (SEPWA), Facey Group, Stirlings to Coast Farmers, Southern Forests Food Council, West Midlands Group, Corrigin Farm Improvement Group, Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance, Fitzgerald Biosphere Group, Southern Dirt Incorporated, Mingenew Irwin Group (MIG), WA No-Tillage Farmers Assoc (WANTFA), Yuna Farm Improvement Group, Bruce Rock Land Conservation District Committee, Noongar Land Enterprise Group, Oil Mallee Association of Australia, Western Beef Assoc Inc, Agricultural Women Wheatbelt East (AWWE), Living Farm Grower Group, South West NRM, Rural Edge, Nyabing Farm Improvement Group, vegetablesWA, WA Citrus, WA Hemp Growers' Co-op Ltd, Wines of WA, LIEBE Group

**Other Ecosystem Partners:** DPIRD, UWA, AEGIC, Curtin University, Farmanco, Kondinin Group, Murdoch University, Northern Agricultural Catchments Council (NACC), Rangelands NRM, CBH, Edith Cowan University, Southern Cross University

**Project Life:** 16/6/2021 - 28/6/2025



## WaterSmart Dams

Better understand how dams can function in dry years and through co-design develop new farm water planning tools to create more drought-resilient farm enterprises and regional communities.

**Investor:** DAFF - Innovation Grants

**Project Lead:** GGA

**GGA Network Partners/Beneficiaries:** Southern Dirt Incorporated, Compass Agricultural Alliance, Merredin and Districts Farm Improvement Group (MADFIG), Fitzgerald Biosphere Group

**Other Ecosystem Partners:** UWA, DPIRD, DAFF, Water Corporation, DWER, SEPWA, Katanning Landcare Group, Gillamii Centre

**Project Life:** 22/3/2022 - 30/9/2025

## Completed Projects [ending prior to September 1, 2024]

Project Name	Program	Type/Purpose	End
Fast Tracking WA and NT to align with nutritional feed base mapping technology advancements at a national level	Hub	Drought Resilience	30/9/2023
Modern soil moisture monitoring to improve irrigation management	Hub	Drought Resilience	31/12/2023
Managing Rangelands for Drought Resilience	Hub	Drought Resilience	31/12/2023
Value added lupin exports	Hub	Innovation	31/1/2024
Implementing improved vineyard floor management for premium grape production in a warm and dry Mediterranean climate	Hub	Innovation	31/1/2024
Drone-mounted Species Recognition System	Hub	Innovation	31/1/2024
Developing Automated Technology To Assess Natural Capital On Pastoral Leases	Hub	Innovation	31/1/2024
Supporting the adoption of biodegradable mulch technology in vegetable and perennial fruit enterprises	Hub	Innovation	31/1/2024
Avondale First People's Traditional Produce Innovation and Manufacturing Hub	Hub	Innovation	31/1/2024
Agtech decoded: growers critically analysing the role of new technology in on-farm decision making	Hub	Innovation	31/1/2024
Paddock Level Carbon Benchmarking	Hub	Innovation	31/1/2024
Reducing technical barriers for malting barley market access using innovative technology	Hub	Innovation	31/1/2024
Digital Edge: Next generation agribusiness analytics for the Eastern Wheatbelt	Hub	Innovation	31/1/2024
Innovation Hub Expansion	Hub	Innovation	29/2/2024
Water quality testing and herbicide efficacy	Hub	Innovation	7/5/2024
Regional Soils Coordinator	Hub	Capacity Building	30/6/2024

# South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub

## HUB VISION

Thriving producers and communities adapting to our variable environment

## HUB MISSION

Be a connected and trusted partner building pathways to accelerate innovation and adoption

The South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub (SW WA Hub) facilitates partnerships to enhance drought resilient practices and accelerate innovation and adoption.

Funded by the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund (FDF) in April 2021, the SW WA Hub is led by the Grower Group Alliance (GGA).

The SW WA Hub plays a unique role in the agricultural ecosystem by bringing together agribusiness, academics, government agencies, and producers.

It leverages the GGA grower group network through a 'Hub and spoke' model to promote ground-up innovation and help farmers enhance resilience to an increasingly variable climate in the South-West WA region.

Twenty-two grower groups are among the Hub's 54 consortium partners, who represent all sectors of the WA agricultural supply chain and contribute over \$10 million cash and in-kind support.

At the end of 2023/2024, the Australian Government had funded 27 SW WA Hub projects valued at over \$41 million, including co-contributions. These projects address local drought resilience priorities the SW WA Hub has identified through a comprehensive and consultative process.

## Fostering Collaboration

The SW WA Hub was instrumental in supporting stakeholders who applied for the 2024 Climate-Smart Agriculture grants funded by the Natural Heritage Trust.

The program's focus on agricultural sustainability, productivity, and competitiveness aligns closely with the SW WA Hub's mission.

The SW WA Hub provided guidance on 24 proposals, assisting with aligning to local drought resilience priorities, navigating grant guidelines, and advising on best practices for monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL), as well as adoption and extension strategies.

The SW WA Hub involvement ranged from leading projects to offering communication support and drafting letters of endorsement.

## Mid-term review

The federal government has committed funding over the next eight years to continue the Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs model, reflecting confidence in the positive impacts the Hubs have shown over the past three years.

The FDF will conduct a mid-term review of the Hubs model in the coming months to help define the direction of the Hubs beyond June 2025.

## Extension and Adoption

The SW WA Hub Adoption team delivers valuable activities to stakeholders, including grower groups. In 2024, extension and adoption (E&A) training attracted 118 registrations.

The SW WA Hub also awarded bursaries to university students, encouraging them to engage with grower groups and industry to undertake E&A activities. Additionally, the SW WA Hub continued working with students from WA Agriculture Colleges on an innovation challenge, expanding the drought resilience theme into a broader climate challenge.

In 2023/2024, the SW WA Hub launched a podcast and a series of short videos to help producers prepare for and respond to dry seasons. These resources feature farmers, consultants, researchers, and other industry professionals sharing their experiences and advice. Since its launch, the podcast has reached over 900 unique listeners, with more than 1,200 episode downloads. The videos have been viewed thousands of times across YouTube and social media.

## Project outcomes

SW WA Hub projects are generating tangible outcomes aimed at improving drought resilience, innovation and adoption.

For instance, a Hub innovation project led by the University of Western Australia found that converting a cover crop into green mulch provides improved vineyard floor management, reducing water use and loss through evaporation while improving fruit quality.

Another innovation project led by Farmanco developed a farmer-friendly carbon calculator that collects paddock-level data for both broadacre cropping and livestock, simplifying on-farm carbon audits and supporting decision-making at the paddock level.

## Drought Hubs at evokeAG

The eight Drought Hubs collaborated to present a unified presence at evokeAG (20-21 February). Following the main event, the SW WA Hub hosted a study tour to the South-West and Wheatbelt regions of WA. 28 attended, including staff from the Drought Hubs, DPIRD, DAFF, AgriFutures, and Beanstalk Agtech.

The tour showcased water management challenges in the region and how farmers are addressing them through Hub-initiated projects.

The event facilitated shared learning and collaboration among the Drought Hubs and key industry stakeholders.

## Transformational Program

Six 18-month transformational projects are currently underway, supported by a \$1 million grant from the SW WA Hub and an additional \$1.6 million from collaborating organisations.

These projects aim to achieve long-term benefits for producers through transformative changes to agricultural systems. Topics include alternative land use for green energy, natural capital, water harvesting in rain-fed cropping systems, farm dam water quality, applying First Nations knowledge for climate resilience, and the circular economy of agricultural waste streams.



This project received funding from the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund



Scan the QR code to find out more about the SW WA Hub

# South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub

## Hub Steering Committee

GGA has a steering committee to oversee the SW WA Hub project governance. In 2023/24 this comprised of two GGA representatives and two industry representatives chosen for their experience and broad understanding of the WA agricultural context.



**Erin Gorter - Chair**  
GGA Independent Director & Vice Chair



**Graham Smith**  
GGA Independent Director



**Mark Sweetingham**  
Research Scientist and Consultant (Agriculture & Food)



**Rohan Prince**  
DPIRD, Director of Horticulture and Irrigated Agriculture

## SW WA Hub operational activities [DAFF, FDF, NHT & AgriFutures funded]

Project name	Project Description
South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub	This project facilitates partnerships and drives targeted, relevant knowledge exchange to enhance climate resilience of farmers and communities in South-West WA.
Adoption Officers	Adoption Officers work with primary producers to promote the uptake of new practices and technologies, and to identify priority areas for investments that enhance drought resilience for both businesses and rural communities.
Innovation Broker	The Innovation Broker provides assessment of issues and opportunities for specific industries or regions and match possible innovation/technology options between stakeholders and agrifood innovation partners.
Regional Soil Coordinator	The Regional Soil Coordinator provides opportunities for researchers, primary producers and community groups to collaborate and share knowledge related to soil health and management
Innovation Hub Expansion - Management activities	This project enables the SW WA Hub to expand its remit beyond drought and to deliver on one or more of the four innovation priorities identified within the National Agricultural Innovation Agenda.

Acronyms: DAFF - Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, FDF - Future Drought Fund, NHT - Natural Heritage Trust



# South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub

## Projects facilitated by the SW WA Hub [DAFF, FDF and AgriFutures funded]

Project name	Project Lead	Project Description
<b>SW WA Hub Transformation Program</b>		
SMART SPRAYS: maximising the benefits of rainfall	Murdoch University	Testing the use of biodegradable polymer sprays to improve water harvesting and water retention in cropping systems.
Diversified Farmland Income: assessing the impact and opportunities for integrating renewable energy generation into farming systems and regional economies	Farmanco	Identifying opportunities where renewable energy initiatives can enhance and complement existing agricultural businesses in Western Australia's Wheatbelt region.
Barriers and opportunities for agricultural natural capital as an asset class	The University of Western Australia	Helping WA farmers understand how natural capital might be valued as an asset class.
Transformative Aboriginal agricultural methods: Maaman Marra Boodjar	Edith Cowan University and Maaman Marra Boodjar	Exploring how First Nations knowledge can provide alternative ways to address current and future climate challenges in contemporary agricultural systems.
Preliminary investigation of methane emissions from farm dams in Western Australia	The University of Western Australia	Exploring methods for monitoring methane emissions from WA farm dams. This project will highlight the broader benefits of improving water quality for better livestock health and productivity, and more effective spray programs.
Sustainable transformation of waste from the potato industry into novel feedstock	Whole Green Foods	Scaling-up a manufacturing process to turn potato peel into a livestock feed. The technology will increase the bioavailability of nutrients, enhancing livestock productivity.
<b>SW WA Hub Innovation Program – DAFF Innovation Grants</b>		
Digital Edge: Next generation agribusiness analytics for the Eastern Wheatbelt	Curtin University	Deploying the next generation of agribusiness models aimed at improving climate resilience in the eastern wheatbelt of WA by targeting profitability and sustainability at paddock, farm and farm enterprise scale.
Supporting the adoption of biodegradable mulch technology in vegetable and perennial fruit enterprises	DPIRD	Demonstrating a novel, semi-commercialised Sprayable Biodegradable Polymer Membrane (SBPM) developed by CSIRO.
Value added lupin exports	DPIRD	Establishment of an incorporated lupin value-adding syndicate to advance the production and export of lupin food ingredients, finished food products and concentrated livestock feeds.
Reducing technical barriers for malting barley market access using innovative technology	Australian Export Grains Innovation Centre	This project will generate value to barley growers, barley breeders and the entire barley industry by supporting a faster pathway to market and market acceptance of new higher yielding barley varieties.
Paddock-level carbon benchmarking	Farmanco	Development and implementation of Clean Energy Council-approved University of Melbourne carbon calculator within a cloud-based data capture and benchmarking platform.
Agtech decoded: growers critically analysing the role of new technology in on-farm decision making	Liebe Group	Assessing the ability of modern data analytics to address farming system challenges and improve in-season decision making when faced with a variable climate.
Avondale First People's Traditional Produce Innovation and Manufacturing Hub	Noongar Land Enterprise Group	The Avondale First People's Traditional Produce Innovation and Manufacturing Hub ('Avondale Hub'), a commercially viable not-for-profit organisation, will support existing and aspiring Noongar and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traditional produce entrepreneurs to develop and grow traditional produce businesses.
Developing automated technology to assess natural capital on pastoral leases	Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance	This project will develop automated technologies for the assessment of the natural capital elements of biodiversity and soil organic carbon to remove the current human requirements which impact resources, time and costs. It will digitise the measurement, management and processing of these natural capital elements through the establishment of an in-field methodology with readily available devices.

# South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub

## Projects facilitated by the SW WA Hub [DAFF, FDF and AgriFutures funded]

Project name	Project Lead	Project Description
Drone-mounted feral species recognition system	Southern Rangelands Pastoral Alliance	This project aims to use a drone mounted species recognition system to locate and visually record feral animal species that contribute negatively to total grazing pressure.
Implementing improved vineyard floor management for premium grape production in a warm and dry Mediterranean climate	The University of Western Australia	This project will demonstrate whether cover crops can be used in vineyards to address future drought and temperature change challenges.
<b>Drought Resilience Innovation Grants Program – Innovation Grant</b>		
WaterSmart Dams	GGA/SW WA Hub	Better understand how dams can function in dry years, and through co-design develop new farm water planning tools to create more drought-resilient farm enterprises and regional communities.
<b>Cross hub collaboration FDF</b>		
Managing Rangelands for drought resilience	Northern Hub	Using digital technology to monitor and assess ground cover and forage availability to better manage rangeland condition across seasons.
Fast tracking WA and NT to align with nutritional feed base mapping advancements at a national level	Northern Hub	Testing and refining the Cibo Labs satellite-based biomass monitoring platform in WA and NT, allowing pastoralists to manage grazing pressure and future-proof properties against changing climatic conditions.
Modern soil moisture monitoring to improve irrigation management	GGA/SW WA Hub	This project will establish on-farm demonstration sites at growers' properties in WA, Northern Territory, and Victoria to build their capacity to strategically implement soil moisture monitoring.
<b>AgriFutures Innovation Grant</b>		
Water quality testing and herbicide efficacy	GGA/SW WA Hub	This Open Innovation project explores technology options to simplify and encourage on-farm water quality testing. This will help farmers make best practice choices regarding water use for spraying to improve herbicide efficacy.
<b>Drought Resilient Soils &amp; Landscapes Grants Program</b>		
Revitalising the drought resilience of WA's Southern Rangelands	DPIRD	This project collaboratively implements and demonstrates mature drought resilience strategies and land and drought management practices of pastoralists in WA's Southern Rangelands.



Highlights of evokeAG and the Drought Hub Study Tour that ensued, February 2024.

# South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub

## Projects supported by the SW WA Hub [FDF funded]

Project name	Project Lead	Project Description
<b>Drought Resilience Innovation Grants Program – Innovation Grant</b>		
Kondinin Group Drought Resilience for Agriculture Research Extension and Adoption program	Aspermont Limited	A comprehensive farmer-focused extension and adoption program aimed at seeking out the most successful drought-related techniques, strategies and technologies being used by farmers and agribusinesses around the country.
<b>Extension &amp; Adoption Drought Resilience Farming Practices Grants</b>		
Up-skilling farming communities with landscape rehydration infrastructure and farm system solutions for drought resilience	The Mulloon Institute Limited	Working across five states with land managers and NRM professionals, to increase adoption of landscape rehydration practices. Mounting evidence suggest these practices are proven to re-establish landscape functions & enable producers to make better use of rainfall and improve drought resilience. Farming communities will be upskilled, through mentorship and peer support groups, with natural infrastructure and farm system solutions.
De-risking the seeding program. Adoption of key management practices for the success of dry and early sown crops	AG Excellence Alliance Incorporated	Partnering with fifteen prominent Grower Groups and four Drought Hubs, the project will aim to deliver a program that accelerates the adoption of strategic dry and early sown crop management approaches. Each group will tailor activities to meet the knowledge, experience, and needs of their member bases and local communities by providing a legacy through developed extension networks, resources, information to initiate, practice adoption across 2 million hectares of arable land. This will help mitigate the impacts of increasingly erratic seasonal rainfall and, consequently, improve drought resilience of cropping systems.
Cropping Resilience 2025 - Delivering lasting large-scale practice change by building capacity and infrastructure for adoption of soil health drought resilience cropping practices	Soils for Life Pty Ltd	The project supports building capacity and infrastructure for large-scale practice change and adoption of drought resilience practices to improve soil health in cropping systems. Trusted farmer-led and NRM organisations will engage with farmers in 3 key cropping regions in WA, Victoria and Queensland. An integrated approach will be used, including peer-to-peer learning, national awareness raising and the establishment and strengthening of networks with more than 3,600 farmers
Better Making and Use of Hay and Silage - Mitigating drought and season variability effects for WA livestock industry	Western Beef Association	TopFodder (TF) program will up-skill dairy, beef and sheep producers on making, storing and feeding silage, enabling these producers to improve the quality of traditionally produced hay, which further improve the quality feed for their stock in times of drought. The Rumen8-Beef software will be used in training on efficient hay/silage allocation. Project activities will cover a vast area 1,000 km wide between Geraldton and Esperance that supports approximately 800,000 head of cattle, eight million head of sheep and the entire WA dairy industry.
Adoption & extension of digital weather and soil moisture monitoring technologies to drive climate-resilient farming practices in the SW Agricultural region of WA	Stirlings to Coast Farmers	The project will promote adoption of digital weather and soil moisture monitoring technologies to drive climate-resilient farming practices in the South-West agricultural region of Western Australia. With 60 grower groups and approximately 4,000 WA farming enterprises, the project aims to promote adoption effectively across cover the South-West Western Australia. This encompasses approximately 25 million hectares across broadacre grains and livestock (sheep, cattle), viticulture, dairy and vegetable/fruit producers.
Expanding Adoption of Bee Friendly Farming Best Practices to strengthen drought resilience of Australia's pollinator-dependent crops	The Wheen Bee Foundation Limited	Using proven, science-based Bee Friendly Farming (BFF) Certification program to help farmers in pollinator dependent industries, such as nuts, avocado, berries, and stone fruits, to protect, preserve and promote pollinator health on their farms. This will improve drought resilience by bolstering food security, biodiversity and ecosystem health. The project aims to double the area of BFF Certified farmland nationally from 100,000 ha by 31 May '25. Promotions, such as field days, will increase practice awareness and adoption and practice change.
Managing water in a changing climate extension toolkit, facilitating best practice water management by WA pork and poultry producers	Pork Innovation WA	Increasing adoption of best practice water management in the Western Australia pig and poultry production systems to improve resilience to drought. Producers will be supported, through extension programs, to improve their knowledge and management of the impacts of poor water quality, including marginally saline water, on the health and productivity of their stock and, consequently the drought resilience of their farms.

# South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub

## Projects supported by the SW WA Hub [FDF funded]

Project name	Project Lead	Project Description
<b>Long-term Trials of Drought Resilient Farming Practices Grants</b>		
Novel approaches to build drought resilience	CRC for High Performance Soils	Evaluating novel approaches to build drought resilience in farming systems and soils through capitalising on an established network of long-term trials.
Diversity in pastures	Deakin University	Investigating diversity in pastures to build resilience and support 365 days of feed production in southern temperate grazing enterprises.
<b>Drought Resilient Soils &amp; Landscapes Grants Program</b>		
Improving sowing opportunities for increased farm resilience in a changing climate	CSIRO	Demonstrating the impacts on drought resilience of practices involving early sowing and optimal soil water storage. The program spans regions in WA, Vic, SA and NSW. In partnership with the Australian Government's Future Drought Fund, CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology released the second prototype of the Climate Services for Agriculture Platform in December 2021. The platform enables farmers to see historical and future climate that could impact their farm, based on their location and what they produce.
Drought resilient landscapes with profitable native shrub and legume systems across southern Australia	CSIRO	The project demonstrates the use of novel forage systems based on native shrubs and self-regenerating annual legumes to address feed gaps during drought. This will improve profitability and drought resilience of mixed farming and rangeland enterprises.
Making every drop count	Mingenew Irwin Group	Making Every Drop Count - Below and Above Ground Targeted Soil Moisture Conservation from Paddock to Landscape.



Highlights of evokeAG and the Drought Hub Study Tour that ensued, February 2024.

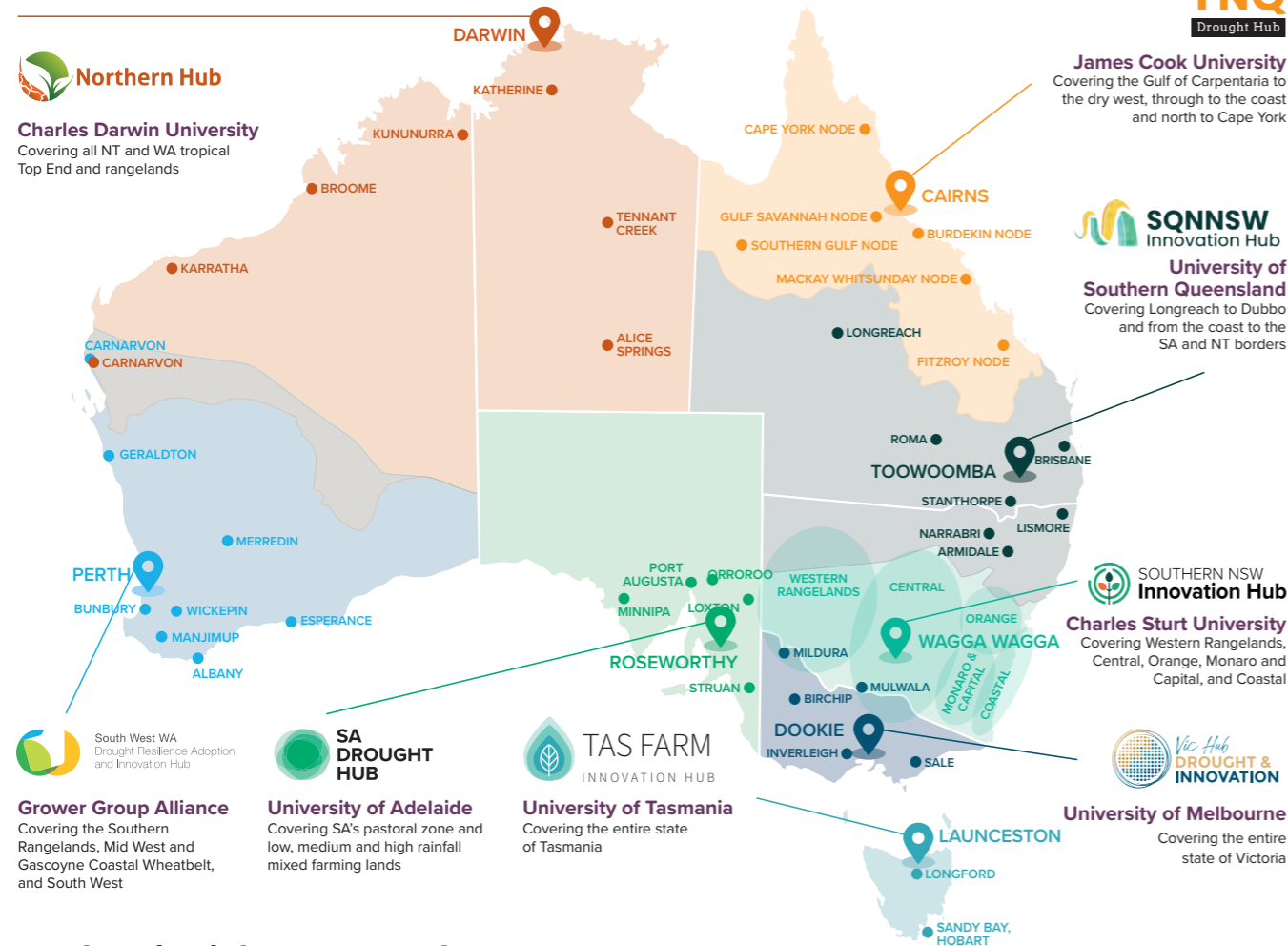


# South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub



South-West WA  
Drought Resilience Adoption  
and Innovation Hub

## National Hub Map

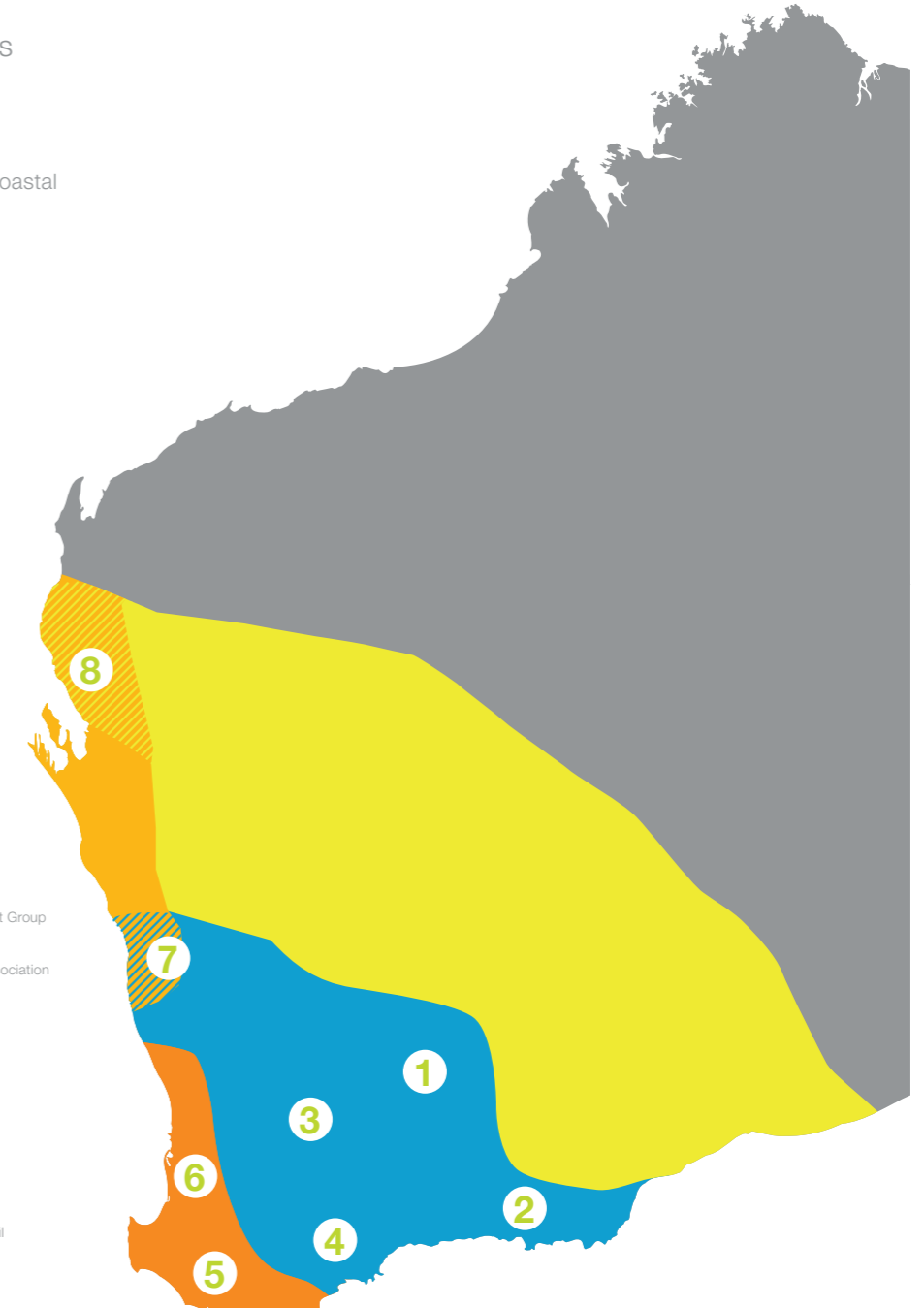


## Agro-Ecological Zones

- Wheatbelt
- Southern Rangelands
- Mid West & Gascoyne Coastal
- South West
- Not in SW WA Hub

## Nodes

- 1 Merredin  
Merredin and Districts Farm Improvement Group
- 2 Esperance  
South East Premium Wheat Growers Association
- 3 Wickepin  
Facey Group
- 4 Albany  
Stirlings to Coast Farmers
- 5 Manjimup  
Southern Forests Food Council
- 6 Bunbury  
South West NRM
- 7 Geraldton  
Northern Agricultural Catchments Council
- 8 Carnarvon  
Rangelands NRM Co-ordinating Group



Map not to scale. Illustration purposes only

## Regional Advisory Committees

The South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub has appointed Regional Advisory Committees (RACs), which comprise skills-based representatives of agricultural industries for each of the four agro-ecological zones in the area covered by the SW WA Hub. Through their knowledge and expertise, they provide guidance to the SW WA Hub on priority issues impacting the drought and climate resilience of farming systems, their industries and communities.

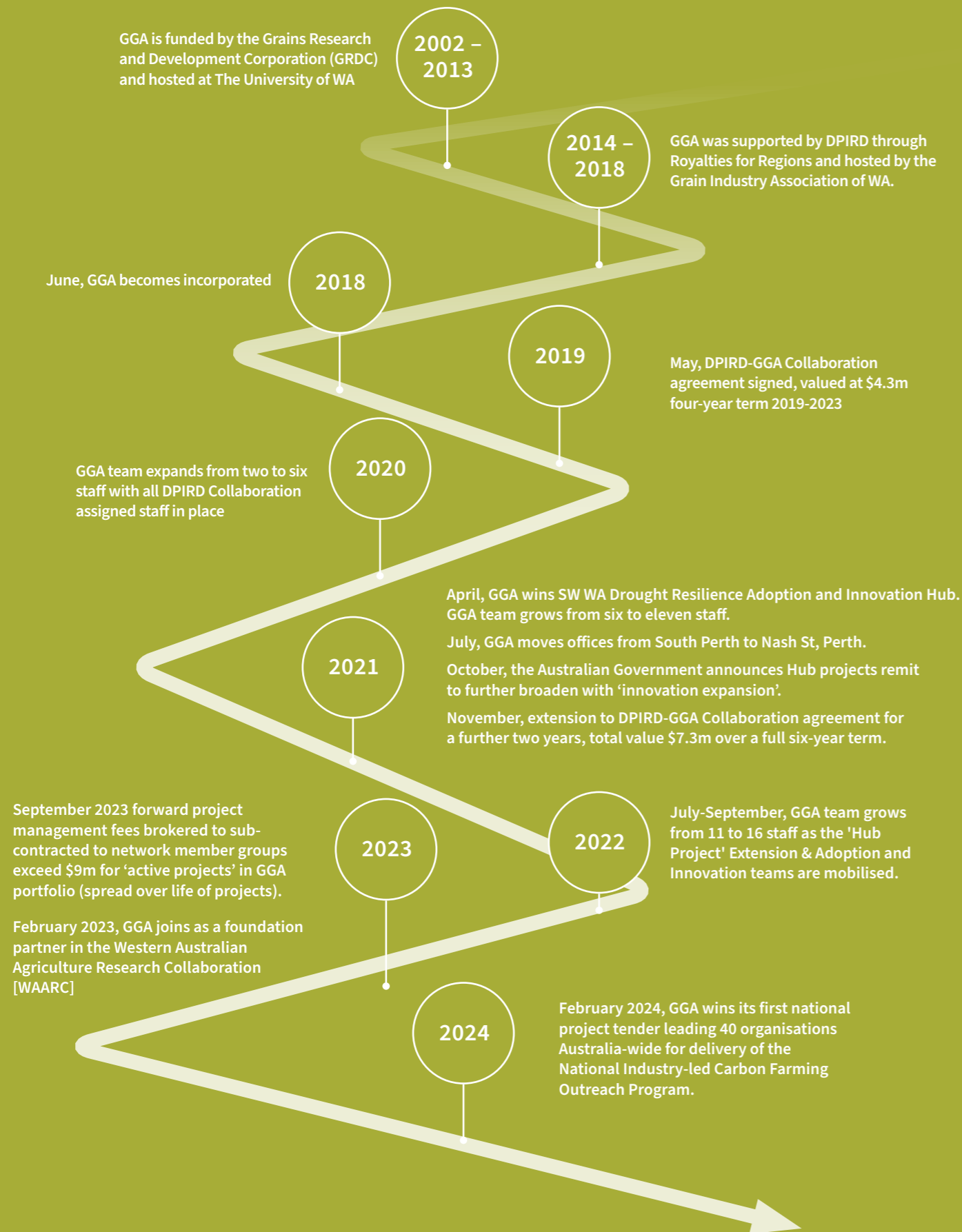
Southern Rangelands	South West	Mid West & Gascoyne Coastal	Wheatbelt
Laurene Bonza (Chair)	Julia Easton (Chair)	Paul Shain (Chair)	Rod Birch (Chair)
Kari-Lee Falconer	Kelly Hill	Annie van Blommestein	Vanessa Stewart
Amanda Day	Neil Lantzke	Christine Zaicou-Kunesch	Andrew Fletcher
Alan Peggs	James Bowie	Bronwyn Walsh	Jo Wheeler
Phil Vercoe	Dean Thomas	Zora Singh	Rob Grima
Richard Marver	John Ruprecht	Neil Lantzke	Nik Callow
Greg Brennan	Bruce Mullan	Doriana Mangili	Heidi Mippy
Margi Weir	Zora Singh	Giao Nguyen	Bronwyn Clarke
Sean D'arcy	Catherine O'Keefe		Catherine Borger
Bronwyn Clarke	Larry Jorgensen		
	Bronwyn Walsh		
	Esther Jones		

Regional Advisory Committee members as of 1 September 2024.

## Key Metrics - South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub



# GGA Timeline



# Profit and Loss Statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	2024	2023
<b>Income</b>		
<b>Activity and Event Income</b>		
Sponsorships	54,442	86,443
Ticket Sales	60,385	41,413
<b>Total Activity and Event Income</b>	<b>114,826</b>	<b>127,856</b>
<b>Direct Income</b>		
Applied R,D & E	37,525	78,533
Benchmark & Build	-	3,000
DPIRD COMMS	239,191	105,978
Drought Hub	2,629,065	3,204,664
Regional Soils Co-ordinator	106,293	158,252
Water Smart Dams Project	812,061	2,145,424
Drought Hub Ag Innovation	1,466,795	581,363
Pilot Water Quality Testing Tech Scouting Project	123,375	125
Drought Hub Adoption Officers	390,846	375,000
National Risk Mgt Initiative (RiskWise)	722,485	1,019,534
Yield Gap Grain Legume	405,416	314,387
Harvester Losses	8,190	96,579
Emerge	43,212	12,978
Agrifutures	47,697	126,180
Carbon Farming Outreach	657,198	-
Dry Season Response	196,723	-
Direct Income - NDRR (Emergency)	8,170	-
WA Farm Data Sharing Project	18,489	-
<b>Total Direct Income</b>	<b>7,912,733</b>	<b>8,221,997</b>
<b>Project Admin Income</b>		
Project Admin Income (Internal)	1,602,058	1,045,659
<b>Total Project Admin Income</b>	<b>1,602,058</b>	<b>1,045,659</b>
<b>DPIRD Support</b>		
DPIRD Funding - Annual (Cash)	341,206	450,000
DPIRD Reimbursement (Cash Support Services)	242,261	254,941
DPIRD In-Kind (Non Cash - Rent & Utilities)	31,800	31,800
DPIRD In-Kind (Non Cash - Wages)	381,342	379,359
DPIRD In-Kind (Non Cash Support Services)	6,000	55,866
DPIRD In-Kind (Oncosts for Non Cash Wages)	106,886	106,421
<b>Total DPIRD Support</b>	<b>1,109,495</b>	<b>1,278,387</b>
<b>Other Income</b>		

# Profit and Loss Statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024



	2024	2023
Centrelink Receipts	17,655	-
Interest	38,006	8,721
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>55,661</b>	<b>8,721</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>10,794,772</b>	<b>10,682,619</b>
<b>Gross Income</b>	<b>10,794,772</b>	<b>10,682,619</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<b>Activity and Event Costs</b>		
Advertising & Promotion	6,741	2,950
Contract Costs - Other	44,874	35,065
Travel & Accommodation Costs	13,327	36,925
Venue Hire & Catering	34,228	64,815
Activity and Event Miscellaneous Expense	6,417	534
Activity and Event Staffing Costs In-Kind	-	273
Staffing Costs	-	263
<b>Total Activity and Event Costs</b>	<b>105,596</b>	<b>140,825</b>
<b>Direct Expenses</b>		
Event Costs	107,869	14,756
Contract costs - Technical	119,761	(22,058)
Project Communication costs	42,365	82,231
Staffing costs	11,902	405
Travel Costs	97,490	77,115
Project Admin Income (Internal)	1,602,058	1,045,659
Capital Expenses - Tools	92,014	51,100
UWA distribution	-	1,173,318
DH UWA (X-Hub 1) In-Kind	975	57,200
DH UWA (X-Hub 1) Soil Moisture Monitoring	90,298	177,300
DH X-Hub 2	1,763	-
DH X-Hub 2 Rangelands	110,738	10,000
DH X-Hub 4	-	109,568
DH Subscriptions	2,336	49
Payments to Grower Groups (Service Agreement)	1,816,733	3,098,151
Payments to Other Parties (Service Agreement)	1,661,979	1,399,182
DH Steering Committee Meetings	1,985	3,085
Study Tours	15,830	832
Consultants	80,868	141,746
Advertising & Promotion	4,139	4,688
PD & Conferences & Seminars	8,142	11,558
Computer Software & Support & Website	9,362	2,355
Miscellaneous Costs	7,588	90
Contract costs - Other	67,580	64,569

# Profit and Loss Statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024



	2024	2023
Scholarships	9,664	-
<b>Total Direct Expenses</b>	<b>6,000,303</b>	<b>7,502,900</b>
<b>In-Direct Expenses</b>		
Contract costs - Technical	-	10,000
Event Costs	500	-
Project Communication costs	5,700	-
Miscellaneous Costs	26	-
Staffing costs	-	233
Travel Costs	661	-
<b>Total In-Direct Expenses</b>	<b>6,886</b>	<b>10,233</b>
<b>Board &amp; Committees</b>		
Board Contract Services (Strategy, Professional Development)	30,363	25,982
Board Meetings (Inc. Chair Honorarium)	58,143	25,211
Board Meeting Expense	1,942	-
Board Project Travel & Accommodation (Partnership Meetings)	753	6,432
Board Superannuation	-	2,837
<b>Total Board &amp; Committees</b>	<b>91,202</b>	<b>60,462</b>
<b>Employment/Staffing Costs</b>		
Annual Leave Provision	41,803	53,117
Payroll Tax	82,102	49,422
PD & Conferences & Seminars	36,580	21,788
Staff Expense	32,494	14,799
Sub Contractors	50,186	73,732
Superannuation - Employees	205,331	158,684
Travelling Expenses	18,309	7,872
Wages - Employees	1,922,389	1,537,631
<b>Total Employment/Staffing Costs</b>	<b>2,389,195</b>	<b>1,917,044</b>
<b>Administrative Expenses</b>		
Accountancy Fees	35,505	34,125
Advertising & Promotion	5,035	3,463
Audit Fees	8,250	15,390
Bank and Credit Card Charges	2,731	3,361
Bookkeeping Fees	25,536	8,511
Insurance	24,300	19,099
Interest paid	719	-
Legal Expenses	78,348	77,394
<b>Total Administrative Expenses</b>	<b>180,424</b>	<b>161,342</b>

# Profit and Loss Statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024



	2024	2023
<b>Motor Vehicle Expenses</b>		
Cleaning	14	12
Fuel & Oil	285	267
Parking	695	339
Other Motor Vehicle Expenses	-	457
<b>Total Motor Vehicle Expenses</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>1,076</b>
<b>Office Costs</b>		
Computer Software & Support & Website	7,369	3,080
Photocopying & Printer	6,713	2,120
Stationery & Supplies (Postage, Couriers)	3,200	2,008
Subscriptions	14,331	12,785
Telephone + Mobile	251	1,520
<b>Total Office Costs</b>	<b>31,864</b>	<b>21,513</b>
<b>Project &amp; Program Development Costs</b>		
Program Development Consumables (Travel, Catering, Venue Hire)	-	253
Program Development Design & Scoping	12,449	38,615
Program Development Business Cases	31,250	-
<b>Total Project &amp; Program Development Costs</b>	<b>43,699</b>	<b>38,868</b>
<b>Group Network Expenses</b>		
Network Advertising & Promotion	2,250	655
Network Consumables	-	225
Network Industry Events	5,220	107
Network Memberships	56,977	-
Network Travel & Accommodation	1,390	1,270
<b>Total Group Network Expenses</b>	<b>65,837</b>	<b>2,257</b>
<b>DPIRD In-Kind Expenses</b>		
DPIRD In - Kind (Non Cash Support Services)	6,000	55,866
DPIRD In-Kind (Non Cash - Rent)	25,098	24,996
DPIRD In-Kind (Non Cash - Utilities includes cleaning, overheads)	6,702	6,804
DPIRD In-Kind (Non Cash-Wages)	381,342	379,359
DPIRD In-Kind (On Costs for Non Cash-Wages)	106,886	106,421
<b>Total DPIRD In-Kind Expenses</b>	<b>526,028</b>	<b>573,446</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>9,442,018</b>	<b>10,429,965</b>
<b>Net Surplus</b>	<b>1,352,755</b>	<b>252,654</b>
<b>Adjustments</b>		
Prior Year Project Admin Income	703,633	-
<b>Total Adjustments</b>	<b>703,633</b>	<b>-</b>

# Balance Sheet

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024



	2024	2023
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		
ANZ - Business Account	3,584,857	3,126,150
ANZ - Drought Hub 8834	2,332,396	1,210,264
ANZ - GGA Term Deposit	309,811	301,754
ANZ - Drought Hub Term Deposit	1,036,478	1,006,737
ANZ - Innovation Hub	4	1,330,636
ANZ - GGA Savings Account	287,946	287,917
ANZ - Carbon Outreach Project Account	1,021,537	-
ANZ - Water Smart Dams DPIRD Funds Account	432,183	-
<b>Total Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>9,005,212</b>	<b>7,263,460</b>
<b>Trade and Other Receivables</b>		
Accounts Receivable	1,455,114	823,906
<b>Total Trade and Other Receivables</b>	<b>1,455,114</b>	<b>823,906</b>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>		
Prepayments	22,913	23,302
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>22,913</b>	<b>23,302</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>10,483,239</b>	<b>8,110,668</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>10,483,239</b>	<b>8,110,668</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
ANZ - Credit Card - GGA	8,406	738
ANZ - Credit Card - Drought Hub	3,626	(8)
Provision for Annual Leave	138,244	96,441
<b>Trade and Other Payables</b>		
Accrued Wages	19,918	973
Accounts Payable	74,005	144,689
Accrued Expense - Acquittal of Regional Soils Coordinator Project	2,000	-
GST	346,238	50,766
PAYG Withholding Payable	48,116	100,832
Payroll Tax Liability	75,387	43,688
Superannuation Payable	3,271	44,095
<b>Total Trade and Other Payables</b>	<b>568,936</b>	<b>385,044</b>
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>		
<b>Revenue Received in Advance</b>		

# Balance Sheet

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024



	2024	2023
DPIRD - 2023	32,122	375,000
DPIRD COMMS	145,895	-
Agrifutures	47,864	63,820
Regional Soils Coordinator	-	78,808
Innovation Hub	-	680,373
Pilot Water Quality Testing Tech Scouting Project	-	114,875
Harvester Losses	261,176	169,367
Emerge	43,810	87,022
Dry Season Response Grant	53,277	-
<b>Total Revenue Received in Advance</b>	<b>584,144</b>	<b>1,569,265</b>
Revenue Invoiced in Advance	1,074,300	-
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>2,377,656</b>	<b>2,051,481</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>		
<b>Other Non-Current Liabilities</b>		
<b>Revenue Received in Advance</b>		
Drought Hub	1,972,619	2,940,949
Drought Hub Adoption Officers Variation	359,154	375,000
WaterSmart Dams	307,901	650,193
WA Farm Data Sharing Project	24,616	43,106
Yield Gap Grain Legume	430,197	395,613
National Risk Management Initiative	378,961	190,962
Carbon Farming Outreach	977,043	-
Frost	26,800	-
NDRR (Emergency)	108,540	-
<b>Total Revenue Received in Advance</b>	<b>4,585,831</b>	<b>4,595,822</b>
<b>Total Other Non-Current Liabilities</b>	<b>4,585,831</b>	<b>4,595,822</b>
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>	<b>4,585,831</b>	<b>4,595,822</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>6,963,487</b>	<b>6,647,303</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>3,519,753</b>	<b>1,463,365</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained Earnings	3,519,753	1,463,365
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>3,519,753</b>	<b>1,463,365</b>

# Statement of Changes in Equity

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024



	2024	2023
<b>Equity</b>		
Opening Balance	1,463,365	1,210,710
<b>Increases</b>		
Current Year Surplus	1,352,755	252,654
Prior Year Project Admin Income	703,633	-
<b>Total Increases</b>	<b>2,056,388</b>	<b>252,654</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>3,519,753</b>	<b>1,463,365</b>

# Statement of Cash Flows

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

<b>Operating Activities</b>		
Cash receipts from other operating activities	11,551,493	10,416,424
Cash payments from other operating activities	(9,809,741)	(10,397,507)
<b>Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>	<b>1,741,752</b>	<b>18,917</b>
<b>Net Cash Flows</b>	<b>1,741,752</b>	<b>18,917</b>
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	7,263,460	7,244,543
Net change in cash for period	1,741,752	18,917
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	9,005,212	7,263,460

# Notes to the Financial Statements



FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

## 1. Summary of Material Accounting Policies

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015. The Committee has determined that the Grower Group Alliance (Inc) is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the following accounting policies disclosed below which the Board has determined are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. Such accounting policies are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs unless otherwise stated in the notes. The accounting policies that have been adopted in the preparation of these statements are as follows:

AASB 101: Presentation of Financial Statements AASB 107: Cash Flow Statements AASB 108: Accounting Policies, Change in Accounting Estimate and Errors AASB 1031: Materiality AASB 1048: Interpretation of Standards AASB 1054: Australian Additional Disclosures

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by Grower Group Alliance (Inc) in the preparation of the financial report.

- i. The financial report was prepared on accrual basis of accounting, including the historical cost convention and the going concern assumption.
- iii. The requirement of accounting standards and other professional reporting requirements in Australia do not have mandatory applicability to the association because it is not a 'reporting entity'.

The following material accounting policies have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

### Income Tax

As the incorporated association is a resource development in terms of subsection 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, as amended, it is exempt from paying income tax.

### Impairment of Non-Financial Assets

Non-financial assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount.

Recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value-in-use. The value-in-use is the present value of the estimated future cash flows relating to the asset using a pre-tax discount rate specific to the asset or cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. Assets that do not have independent cash flows are grouped together to form a cash-generating unit.

### Project Admin Income (Internal)

# Notes to the Financial Statements



FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

A number of employees are seconded from GGA into the Drought Hub and their applicable portion of FTE has been charged to the Drought Hub by GGA. Additional charges are made to the Drought Hub by GGA for the portion of salary and on-cost attributable to the salaries. This is to realise the opportunity cost of their contribution (salary) in the Hub that is not available for GGA. Salary and on-cost charges amounted to \$484,693.34 (2023: \$427,569) for the period ended 30 June 2024. Salary and on-cost charges from other projects other than Drought Hub are \$710,610.

Project administration fees for the management of all projects is charged at a rate of 7%. An amount of \$405,327 (2023: \$618,090) has been charged for the period ended 30 June 2024.

### Revenue and Other Income

The incorporated association recognises revenue as follows:

#### Revenue from contracts with customers

Revenue is recognised at an amount that reflects the consideration to which the incorporated association is expected to be entitled in exchange for transferring goods or services to a customer. For each contract with a customer, the incorporated association: identifies the contract with a customer; identifies the performance obligations in the contract; determines the transaction price which takes into account estimates of variable consideration and the time value of money; allocates the transaction price to the separate performance obligations on the basis of the relative stand-alone selling price of each distinct good or service to be delivered; and recognises revenue when or as each performance obligation is satisfied in a manner that depicts the transfer to the customer of the goods or services promised.

Variable consideration within the transaction price, if any, reflects concessions provided to the customer such as discounts, rebates and refunds, any potential bonuses receivable from the customer and any other contingent events. Such estimates are determined using either the 'expected value' or 'most likely amount' method. The measurement of variable consideration is subject to a constraining principle whereby revenue will only be recognised to the extent that it is highly probable that a significant reversal in the amount of cumulative revenue recognised will not occur. The measurement constraint continues until the uncertainty associated with the variable consideration is subsequently resolved. Amounts received that are subject to the constraining principle are recognised as a refund liability.

#### Sales revenue

Events, fundraising and raffles are recognised when received or receivable.

#### Donations

Donations are recognised at the time the pledge is made.

#### Grants

Grant revenue is recognised in profit and loss when the incorporated association satisfies the performance obligations stated within the funding agreements of the grant. If conditions are attached to the grant which must be satisfied before the incorporation association is eligible to retain the contribution, the grant will be recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until those conditions are satisfied. The recognition is made under either AASB 15 or AASB 1058, whichever criteria apply for each grant.

#### Interest

Interest revenue is recognised as interest accrues using the effective interest method. This is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and allocating the interest income over the relevant period using the effective interest rate, which is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset to the net carrying amount of the financial asset.

#### In-Kind Contributions

The total In-Kind contribution as recognised in the financial statements is \$526,028 (2023: \$573,446). All In-Kind

# Notes to the Financial Statements



FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

## Other revenue

Other revenue is recognised when it is received or when the right to receive payment is established.

## Prior Year Project Admin Income

Retrospective adjustment of previous years project admin fee for \$703k. The retrospective adjustment is a backdated project admin fee contracted for project management charges.

## Employee Provisions

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be wholly settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Employee benefits expected to be settled more than one year after the end of the reporting period have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may satisfy vesting requirements. Cash flows are discounted using market yields on high quality corporate bond rates incorporating bonds rated AAA or AA by credit agencies, with terms to maturity that match the expected timing of cash flows. Changes in the measurement of the liability are recognised in profit or loss.

## Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

## Cash on Hand

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

## Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors

Accounts receivable and other debtors include amounts due from members as well as amounts receivable from donors. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

## Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

# Committee's Report



FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

Your committee members submit the financial report of Grower Group Alliance (INC) for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

## Committee Members

The names of committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Peter Roberts (Chair)

Erin Gorter (Vice Chair)

Graham Smith (Independent Director)

Chris Wyhoon (Member Director)

Nicole Batten (Member Director)

Debbie Gillam (Member Director)

Audrey Bird (Member Director)

Marie Fowler (Member Director)

## Principal Activities

The GGA was established in 2002 by a number of WA grower groups to develop a stronger connection with other groups, researchers, funding bodies and industry.

GGA's recent scope spans facilitating collaboration in the Research, Development and Extension (R,D&E) project arena, plus delivering a needs-tailored capacity building program supporting stakeholders to achieve higher impact and engage in the R,D&E arena.

Within current R,D&E deliverables, GGA facilitates stakeholder collaboration and co-design of grower driven, network scale R,D & E projects that secure investment for grower groups.

Within current capacity building deliverables, GGA aims to increase the capabilities and the connections of grower groups across all primary production industries through:

- a) Training workshops, learning and leadership experiences
- b) Networking events connecting grower groups to researchers, industry and agtech locally and nationally
- c) Acting as a connector for industry and grower groups on accessing WA grower groups for collaboration

# Committee's Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024



- d) Provision of resources for groups, industry and researchers enabling increased collaboration by grower groups in the R,D&E arena
- e) Advocating the importance and impact for the agriculture industry of partnering with grower groups

### Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Peter Roberts  
Chair

Dated: 27/08/2024

Erin Gorter  
Vice Chair

Dated: 27/08/2024

# Statement By Members of the Committee

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024



The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in the notes to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report:

1. Presents fairly the financial position of Grower Group Alliance (Inc) for the year ended 30 June 2024 and its performance for the period ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Grower Group Alliance (Inc) will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:

Peter Roberts  
Chair

Dated: 27 / 08 / 2024

Erin Gorter  
Vice Chair

Dated: 27 / 08 / 2024



DIRECTORS:  
ROBERT CAMPBELL RCA, CA  
VIRAL PATEL RCA, CA  
ALASTAIR ABBOTT RCA, CA  
CHASSEY DAVIDS RCA, CA

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR:  
SANTO CASILLI FCPA PFIIA

AUSTRALIAN  
AUDIT 

DIRECTORS:  
ROBERT CAMPBELL RCA, CA  
VIRAL PATEL RCA, CA  
ALASTAIR ABBOTT RCA, CA  
CHASSEY DAVIDS RCA, CA

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR:  
SANTO CASILLI FCPA PFIIA

AUSTRALIAN  
AUDIT 

## AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

To the members of Grower Group Alliance (Inc)

In accordance with the requirements of section 80 of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA), in relation to our audit of the financial report of Grower Group Alliance (Inc) for the year ended 30 June 2024, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- a. No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA)* in relation to the audit; and
- b. No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit

Australian Audit



Viral Patel, CA, CPA, RCA  
Registered Company Auditor number 333615  
Director  
Australian Audit  
Perth, Western Australia  
Date: 30 August 2024

PO Box 3336, EAST PERTH, WA 6892 | 17 WITTENOOM STREET, EAST PERTH, WA 6004  
(08) 9218 9922 | INFO@AUSAUDIT.COM.AU | WWW.AUSTRALIANAUDIT.COM.AU | ABN: 63 166 712 698

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation



Trade mark of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand and used with permission

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of Grower Group Alliance (Inc)

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Grower Group Alliance (Inc) (the entity), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion the accompanying financial report has been prepared in accordance with requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA), including:

- a. giving a true and fair view of the entity's financial position as at 30 June 2024, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended; and
- b. complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1.

#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA) and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

PO Box 3336, EAST PERTH, WA 6892 | 17 WITTENOOM STREET, EAST PERTH, WA 6004  
(08) 9218 9922 | INFO@AUSAUDIT.COM.AU | WWW.AUSTRALIANAUDIT.COM.AU | ABN: 63 166 712 698

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation



Trade mark of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand and used with permission



We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the entity to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA). As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

### Responsibilities of Management and The members for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA). The responsibility of Management also includes such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The members are responsible for overseeing the entity's financial reporting process.

### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the members regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

### Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In our opinion, the entity has complied with 82(1)(b), (c) and (d) of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA):

- a. by providing us with all information, explanation and assistance necessary for the conduct of the audit;
- b. by keeping financial records sufficient to enable a financial report to be prepared and audited; and
- c. by keeping other records required by Part 5 of the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA)*, including those records required by Section 66 that correctly record its operations, so as to enable true and fair financial statements to be prepared.

### Australian Audit

Viral Patel, CA, CPA, RCA  
Registered Company Auditor number 333615  
Director  
Australian Audit  
Perth, Western Australia  
Date: 30 August 2024

# Acknowledgements

**GGA wishes to acknowledge the numerous stakeholders vital in our operations and advancement:**

- Grower groups and our broader membership for continued engagement and investment in developing the GGA Network.
- The Honorable Jackie Jarvis MLC, Minister for Agriculture and Food; Forestry; Small Business.
- The leadership team at the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), for their support in optimising the potential of the DPIRD–GGA Collaboration agreement.
- Operational staff at DPIRD for their continued positive working relationship and shared goal of improved outcomes in the WA agriculture ecosystem.
- Our major Sponsor partners; the CBH Group, Farmanco, and Farm Weekly for their investment in developing stakeholder value within the GGA Network.
- All other GGA business partners that invest and collaborate to deliver value and make a positive impact on the WA agriculture industry.





## CONTACT US

Grower Group Alliance Inc  
Level 6, 1 Nash St, Perth 6000  
[www.gga.org.au](http://www.gga.org.au) | [admin@gga.org.au](mailto:admin@gga.org.au) | @GGA\_WA



Grower Group Alliance Inc accepts no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.