RESILIENT LANDSCAPES | DON'T WAIT FOR THE NEXT DISASTER

ACTION GUIDE FOR LANDOWNERS

Assess your risks → Plan early → Act practically → Work together → Monitor → Adapt

Every landowner has a role in building a more resilient landscape

Individual actions become more powerful when connected across farms, catchments and communities.

BUILD A CLIMATE-RESILIENT PROPERTY

Know your risks and plan ahead

- Identify your property's heatwave, fire, flood, drought, water and erosion risks.
- Use local climate information and early-warning systems to guide decisions.
- Include contingency plans for droughts, heatwaves, fire and floods.
- Review your plans regularly as conditions and knowledge change.
- Apply SMARTAgri principles, protect soils, review stocking rates and crop choice to match changing conditions.
- Maintain diverse land uses and management.

PROTECT AND RETAIN WATER

Slow it, store it, use it wisely

- Monitor water availability and plan for restrictions before shortages.
- Healthy soils improve moisture retention - mulch, groundcover, low till
- Protect natural systems wetlands, rivers, riparian areas and upper catchments.
- Look for opportunities to slow, store, infiltrate and reuse stormwater.
- Apply water saving practices, technology and cultivars for crop water productivity.
- Water wise gardening in urban areas
- Protect and improve water quality.

RESTORE ECOLOGICAL RESILIENCE

Healthy landscapes provide natural protection

- Protect and restore indigenous vegetation, particularly along rivers and watercourses.
- Prioritise strategic clearing of invasive alien plants. Plan for follow-up clearing - initial clearing alone is not enough.
- Maintain or restore ecological corridors and connectivity between natural areas.
- Consider how actions on your property may affect downstream and neighbouring areas.
- Prevent erosion and restore degraded areas.

WORK BEYOND YOUR BOUNDARY

Resilience is a shared responsibility

- Build relationships with neighbours, farmers, communities, municipalities, conservation organisations and FPAs.
- Share local knowledge, skills, equipment and lessons learned.
- Leverage existing networks and collaborate on landscape-scale initiatives rather than creating new structures.
- Tap into and strengthen local early warning systems.
- Support practical partnerships where collective action can deliver wider benefits.
- Assess your supply chain vulnerabilities.

PREPARE FOR FIRE BEFORE THE SEASON

Reduce exposure, don't rely on firefighting

- Maintain effective firebreaks and fire protection measures.
- Reduce hazardous fuel loads from invasive alien vegetation and create safe zones around infrastructure.
- Plan burning and other preventative measures well in advance and meet relevant requirements.
- Join or actively participate in your Fire Protection Association (FPA) and local fire networks.
- Coordinate fire preparedness with neighbouring landowners - fire does not respect property boundaries.

MONITOR, LEARN AND ADAPT

Small actions add up

- Record what you do and whether it works to improve water, vegetation, erosion, fire risk
- Use your property as a learning or demonstration site where appropriate.
- Share observations and lessons with neighbours and relevant organisations.
- Start with achievable, targeted actions, demonstrate their benefits and build from there.
- What decisions, made now, keep the most options open later?

Climate risks are interconnected. Fire, floods, drought, water security, soil degradation and invasive alien plants can compound one another. Building resilience means taking practical action before impacts become emergencies, and working with neighbours and other stakeholders across property boundaries.







GOURITZ® Cluster Biosphere Reserve

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