

About the GRDC's Using Seasonal Forecasts Project

Recognising the importance of year to year climate variability as a major source of risk to grain grower profitability, the GRDC are investing in the *Using seasonal forecast information and tools to manage risk and increase profitability in the Southern Region project*. This applied project is working with the South Eastern Australian grains industry to improve how we communicate and use imperfect, through improving, seasonal climate forecast information.

GRDC Grower Relations Manager - South, Randall Wilksch, says "Many growers and their advisers are aware of seasonal climate forecasts but are unsure how to best use the information in decision making. We want to address this challenge by encouraging the most effective use and uptake of the latest climate information to improve profit and risk management for our grain growers."

The project has three main components:

1

Extending 'The Break' suite of seasonal forecast products to cover the whole GRDC southern region. This includes climate outlook newsletters, videos and webinars for each of South Australia, Victorian, Tasmanian and southern New South Wales growers.

2

Working closely with over 20 advisors from South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania through workshops and follow-up discussions to explore if and how seasonal climate forecasts can be better incorporated into the management of grain farms.

3

Creation of this publication of case studies and advice for GRDC Southern region growers and advisors on making the best use of seasonal forecast information to better target crop inputs, manage risk and increase profitability.

Seasonal climate forecasts (SCF) can play an important role in the farm decision making process, especially in years that sit outside the 'average'. Examples of where and when seasonal forecasts can be particularly useful to grain growers are outlined in the articles and case studies that follow.

This information presented in this booklet draws on the knowledge and experiences of grain farmers, advisors and researchers around how and when seasonal forecasts can aid you in making decisions about your farm enterprise. The project is being led by Graeme Anderson and Dale Grey from Agriculture Victoria. In addition to overall project management, they lead the extension of the successful 'The Break' suite of communication products across the Southern region.

For more project details visit; www.forecasts4profit.com.au.