

Media Release



Victorian
Farmers
Federation

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Preparation needed as big dry looms

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) is urging farmers and decision makers to prepare for drier conditions as the first seasonal outlook by the [Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences \(ABARES\)](#) points to reduced farm outputs later this season.

VFF President Emma Germano said despite many farmers being well-placed following years of favourable growing conditions, now is the time plan for the impact of potential drier months ahead.

“By and large, we’ve had incredibly good farming conditions for the past few years here in Victoria, that has resulted in record harvests and outputs.”

“That can’t last forever and many farmers are already planning for drier times ahead. It’s a balancing act, with farmers juggling fluctuating input prices with volatile market conditions at the current time,” Ms Germano said.

Ms Germano added that long-term thinking was needed by decision makers to ensure the industry is equipped to navigate the inevitable change in forecast weather conditions.

“We’ve just gone through horrific floods that exposed some gaping holes in our primary production support infrastructure and networks. Decision makers need to use past experiences to plan for the future.”

“For drier times, that means prioritising drought preparedness, sustainability, resilience and risk management for farming businesses and communities well ahead of when drought strikes.”

“Resilient infrastructure that can withstand the extremes of our environment needs to be considered. We can’t afford to be continually counting the cost of crippled roads, fences and telecommunication networks that we know fail during times of disaster.”

“Farming is cyclical and the best preparation for the tough times is done when the going is good. That time is now and there’s no time to waste,” Ms Germano said.

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