



**Rural R&D for Profit program
Final Report**

Improved use of seasonal forecasting to increase
farmer profitability



APPENDIX 17

KPI progress in the current reporting period for BCG

Activity	Output #	KPI #	KPI Description	Date Due	Lead	Activity	Outputs
1	1(h)	2.3, 4.3, 6.4	Advise the Department of outcomes from the annual stakeholder forum	31/05/2018 31/05/2017 31/05/2018	Agrifutures	The first annual stakeholder forum was held in Sydney following the CCRSPI conference involving all project personal and the MCV project committee. An update on all projects were provided and a workshop session on the CoP was conducted to establish expectations.	Introduction of project personnel, overview of three projects and approaches, identification of opportunities to collaborate and presentation of literature review.
4	4(b)	2.5	Provide the Department with report on outcomes of workshops with farm advisory groups	31/05/2016	BCG	Community of practices met 10 times each year and BOM CoP met 12 times each year	Vibrant CoP that is continuing beyond project. Value is clearly shown identified by ongoing continuation post project creating legacy. (Appendix Document 4 and 10)

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	4(d)	3.2	Provide report to the Department on the skill and timeliness of forecasts	15/12/2017	BCG	Developed in conjunction with USQ and NSW DPI.	Related to work conducted in project 1b by USQ. Presented May 18, 2018. (image 1 and 2)
5	5(a)	6.6	Report to the Department on engagement with industry and analysis of factors affecting the adoption of climate forecasts in farm business decision making	31/05/2018	BCG	To better understand the barriers to the adoption of seasonal climate forecasting in agriculture, a review was commissioned. The resulting report: The adoption of seasonal climate forecasting in agriculture, was developed by Geoff Kaine for the Southern Beef case study and made available to NSW DPI for use within KPI 4.5 and KPI 4.6. A report was also developed in conjunction with Peter Hayman (SARDI) investigating the barriers and enablers to SCF adoption as perceived by CoP members and a subsequent report provided.	Content presented on at CoP meeting to provide framework for meaningful SCF communications and extension activities. Both reports are provided as appendices (Appendix Document 2 and 13)
	5(b)	6.7	Report to the Department on the application of the ADOPT tool	31/05/2018	BCG	Each of the decision points considered in the case studies in Project 1a (led by NSW DPI) were entered into the CSIRO ADOPT tool to determine time to adoption and percentage of audience likely to adopt.	Outcomes were presented at the final Annual Stakeholder forum. Results from this activity suggest that widespread use of SCF's will take many years to reach peak adoption. (Appendix Document 11 and 12)

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5(c)	6.8	Final report, farmer and adviser guides and decision support tools, products and services developed and road tested with farm advisory groups and report approved by the Department	31/05/2018	BCG	<p>A meeting held in Wagga Wagga in February 2017 included a review of the case studies being developed within Project 1a – Case Studies. This allowed the decision frameworks to be reviewed. The meeting reviewed existing seasonal climate forecasting tools and products being used and produced by meeting attendees, a few of whom were not directly associated with the project but were rather members of the Community of Practice. Following on from sharing knowledge of existing tools and products across Australia an audit of existing communication products was conducted. Where it existed, current audience and reach was captured to better understand the coverage of existing materials. Through the CoP and subsequent project activities, the further development of these existing products was supported to tailor to audiences in different sectors/regions.</p>	<p>The ADOPT work, Geoff Kaine report and ‘Barriers/enablers to adoption’ survey provide useful feedback on resources and approaches that can be used in communicating, extending and developing/improving SCF decision support tools. All these learnings have been shared through CoP activities to ensure incorporation in outputs both internal and external to the project.</p>
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6	6(a)	1.8	Advise the Department of the appointment of Project lead and establishment of Community of Practice (CoP)	15/12/2015	BCG	A project lead commenced at BCG in February 2016 and Community of Practice was established. A workshop for CoP key members was conducted as part of the Annual Stakeholder Forum and regular webinars have been established. The first webinar occurred in May 2016 and will recur monthly.	A phased implementation strategy was developed and the first phase completed as per the milestone. Terms of reference were developed and key members identified and approached regarding participation in the CoP, with additional members identified for included in subsequent phases. Activities suggested by CoP members to better collaborate to meet other project objectives are being implemented. (Appendix Document 15)
	6(b)	1.9	Advise the Department on the operation of the web/social media platform	15/12/2015	BCG	BCG initially collaborated with another Rural R&D for Profit project led by Agrifutures (RIRDC at the time), 'Extension and adoption for Australian farmers and fishers' which sought to developing an 'Extension Hub' to act as a platform for CoP's to operate. The project leader presented the concept to the CoP core members at a CoP webinar. This platform was eventually deemed not suitable due to excessive timelines and technical difficulties. BCG worked with the MCV project management committee to link with the 'Climate Kelpie' website, to avoid duplication of efforts and to leverage off an existing product with good industry awareness and support.	The CoP has been operating through emails, Zoom/Webex online meeting software. Additionally, 'Slack' was trialled with CoP core members to assist with project collaboration and evaluation. This was particularly useful for storing webinar recordings, (Appendix Document 4 & 10)

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6(c)	2.7	Advise the Department of outcomes of the pilot testing of products tools and services	31/05/2016	BCG	<p>A number of pilot products, tools and services have been tested by DEDJTR project staff. Additionally, BCG assisted with a BoM seasonal outlook workshops for local farmers.</p> <p>BCG have also been exploring how SCF output can be incorporated by making an API available. The API is in development and a number of online tools have been identified to pilot the API in the coming 6 to 9 months.</p> <p>Existing seasonal climate decision tools are being identified to be improved by utilising seasonal climate outputs. These tools include Yield Prophet, Farm 4 Prophet, and Grain and Graze. Other industries are about to be engaged over coming months by starting with the broad project team and RDC's to pick products that may benefit from incorporating a seasonal climate input into the product or tool. The CoP will be instrumental in identifying and assessing these tools.</p>	<p>The activities outlined above were discussed with the CoP to determine their relevance to other sectors and regions. Products, tools and services can then be extended, refined and developed to ensure needs of farmers are best met. (Appendix Document 16)</p>
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		3.3, 4.5 and 5.5	Advise the Department of outcomes from training and other activities	15/12/2016 31/05/2017 15/12/2017	BCG	<p>A communications and extension schedule of activities was developed in conjunction with the CoP to identify extension opportunities that build on the work being done in project 1a and 1b. Additionally, BCG undertook work on understanding barriers and enabling factors for producers using SCF's to help further guide extension activities. The CoP reviewed the BoM's 'Comet' module, which is an online learning course aimed to assist farmers and their advisors to better understand SCF's BCG engaged with the VET sector, leveraging the CoP to review an online 'Climate Risk' unit and provide additional resources that related to project outputs.</p> <p>Climate extension practitioners are receiving monthly training through webinars with BoM researchers (who are also CoP members). This monthly online webinar provides a 'behind the scenes' look at the seasonal climate outlook, allowing communications that use the outlook (such as the Break) to be better informed.</p>	<p>All activities were developed in conjunction with and outcomes communicated through the CoP so that findings could be leveraged in other areas both internal and external to the project. (Appendix Document 16)</p> <p>CoP meetings also had a strong focus on professional development activities, providing participants with not only information relating to SCF technical content, but also information relating to presenting/delivering information and better understanding producer preferences and stakeholder segments. Meetings also provided practical advice on key considerations when developing decision support tools. (Appendix Document 1 & 5 & 16) Also audio and video available on request of COP meetings</p>
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						BCG has supported NSW DPI with KPI 5.4 and 5.6 through the development of graphical representation of the industry case studies (infographics). These form a method of engaging audiences on farming systems and decision points across regions and industries.	NSW DPI submitted their case studies
		6.9	Training and other materials, outcomes summary and report on final event provided to the Department	31/05/2018	BCG	Highlighted in previous section	(Appendix Document 1 & 5 & 16) Also audio and video available on request of COP meetings NSW DPI submitted their case studies