

WBF Agriculture Program

The WBF Agriculture Program will support initiatives which focus on strengthening the resilience and capacity of regional and rural communities.

What we know:

William Lionel Buckland was a highly successful pastoralist who acquired a string of pastoral holdings in the eastern States and Northern Territory. We know that he had a great love of the land and agriculture and his suggestion that his Trustees, in administering funds from the Foundation, “give preference to agriculture and related pursuits” has been instrumental in developing the Agriculture Program for the Foundation.

Much has changed for the Agriculture sector in Victorian and for farming communities since William Buckland’s death in 1964. Successfully farming the great sunburned country has required our farmers to develop innovative techniques and our farming communities to develop a special kind of toughness and “capacity... to absorb change, seize opportunity to improve living standards, and to transform livelihood systems while sustaining the natural resource base. [Resilience] is determined by community capacity for collective action as well as its ability for problem solving and consensus building to negotiate coordinated response”) ¹ to challenges.

Priority outcomes and promising approaches were identified by the Program Manager through a three part process: careful review of the wording of William Buckland’s will, discussion with thought leaders in the sector, and review of previous grant outcomes. In this way, contemporary approaches that honour the intentions of the Foundation and address present need were identified.

Program Goal: Rural farming communities in Victoria are more resilient to adversity and change.

Priority Outcomes of Agriculture Program

The Foundation considers these four outcomes to be **key** to achieving the Agriculture Program Goal:

1. **Farming expertise and entrepreneurship:** farmers obtain higher education in agriculture and have the business skills to translate ideas into profitable enterprises
2. **Innovative farming:** farmers understand, support and adopt innovative approaches to farming that increase yield and/or reduce damaging environmental impacts
3. **Effective leaders:** Rural leaders (both men and women) are equipped to inclusively address the challenges and embrace the opportunities that arise through change

¹ (Walker, B., Sayer, J., Andrew, N. L., & Campbell, B. (2010). Should enhanced resilience be an objective of natural resource management research for developing countries? *Crop Science*, 50, 10.

4. **Emergency relief:** Farmers have access to support when faced with shocks and stressors (e.g. drought, crop failure, illness/death) that seriously threaten their health and economic security.

Promising approaches

In order to achieve these outcomes the Trustees identified the following promising approaches which will be given priority in making funding decisions:

- Scholarships to promote and support **access to education**
- Supporting regional and rural people and communities in the down times through an **emergency relief fund**
- **Leadership training**
- Supporting **community driven solutions** to increase resilience

Eligibility for the Agriculture Program:

The WBF can only consider requests from organisations that:

- Clearly demonstrate alignment to one or more of the Priority Outcomes for the Program
- Operate in Victoria and who will use the grant for the benefit of Victorians
- Have an ABN (Australian Business Number)
- Are incorporated.

Applicants are not required to have Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status, preference is expressed for organisations that are endorsed with Tax Concession Charity (TCC) status from the ATO.

The William Buckland Foundation – Agriculture Program



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PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT

Grant funding available approximately \$500k per year

- Signature Grants – **Invitation only** (\$150k plus)
- Open Large Grants (\$50k - \$100k) over 4 years

Impact Investment Opportunities

Program related Impact Investments will be considered by the Trustees

- We will measure *outcomes* including:**
- = Stronger rural communities (examples of collective actions)
 - = Number of young people pursuing careers on the land
 - = Reduction in negative environmental impacts

- = Yield and financial return from innovative farming techniques
- = Dissemination of outcomes of innovative farming techniques
- = Achievements of local leaders
- = Income and income stability