

**Submission
No 1**

**SUPPORT FOR DROUGHT AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN NEW SOUTH
WALES**

Name: Mr Grant Mistler

Date Received: 26 September 2019



26 September 2019

Dear Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development

Re: Support for Drought Affected Communities in NSW

Thank you for convening to discuss this important area of distress, resilience and opportunity, for the people living across rural and remote NSW.

My only contribution here is to consider implementing a Social Benefit Bond financial instrument that pays a return based on the achievement of agreed social outcomes. This will encourage innovative investment opportunities to harness world best-practice within an open and transparent market environment. Achievements gained from any Social Benefit Bond should reduce the need for, and therefore spending on, government services. Part of the resultant public sector savings are then used to repay the principal investment capital, and to also make additional reward payments.

The level of the return on investment is dependent on the degree of measurable outcome improvement that is achieved – this supports the impetus for driving sustainable innovations. Israeli drone and artificial intelligence technologies on water saving and water delivery for agricultural regions are outstanding achievements, as one example of innovative thinking. Overall, there is opportunity here for evidence-based investment mechanisms to address and resolve current issues facing drought affected communities across NSW for their long-term resilience.

I welcome this opportunity to contribute towards this important inquiry, and I look forward to receiving your final report.

Yours faithfully

Grant Mistler