



FARM BUSINESS RESILIENCE PROGRAM

Accelerating Apiculture Business Skills and Resilience

About the Program

- Future and resilience focus – drive profit and sustainability with strategic foresight
- Leap ahead & lead the next generation of farming
- Arm yourself with knowledge and confidence to be resilient, tackle change and get ahead of it
- Build on your existing skills, embrace innovation and turn risks into opportunities



Case Study: Broadening Perspectives and Building Confidence in Business Planning

Participant: Lisa Bone
LL & T Bone, Wellstead, Western Australia

For Lisa Bone, participating in the Farm Business Resilience Program (FBRP) through BICWA was an opportunity to step back from the day-to-day demands of her busy mixed enterprise and take a broader look at how her business operates.

Lisa and her family run LL & T Bone in Wellstead, where they manage beekeeping, cropping, sheep, and a body care manufacturing business. With such diverse operations, finding time to plan strategically can be a challenge – but the FBRP program helped Lisa gain a “big-picture” view and the confidence to put her ideas into a structured plan.

“The program got me thinking differently and at the bigger picture.”

Connecting with Other Beekeepers

One of the highlights for Lisa was the opportunity to connect with others in the beekeeping industry. “As a small business, you’re usually on your own, so it was nice to have more than one brain thinking about different issues.”

Meeting with other producers facing similar challenges gave her valuable perspective and reassurance that collaboration and shared thinking are essential for resilience. “Getting together with other beekeepers was definitely a highlight.”

From Ideas to Structure

Before joining the program, Lisa had never completed a formal business plan and wasn’t quite sure where to start. Through the workshops and templates, she and her husband developed both a business plan and a budget, giving their enterprise a clearer direction for the future.

“It has to be done, but not knowing where to start, the program helped get the ball rolling and think about the future – getting it on paper.” Although she admits it was challenging to complete the program during spring – the busiest time of year for beekeepers – she is grateful she persisted.

“It was quite hard, especially during spring when beekeepers are flat out, and it added to my stress trying to get it done. But I’m glad I participated – it’s given me a broader view of our business.”

Resilience Beyond Drought

The program also encouraged Lisa to approach drought preparedness and business resilience differently. “It made us step back and look at the larger picture – and gave us the tools to do so.”

She now sees planning as an ongoing process, rather than something to be done reactively in tough seasons.



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry



Future
Drought
Fund



Department of
Primary Industries and
Regional Development

DELIVERY
PARTNER:



VALUE
CREATORS

Building Farm Business Resilience - Program Journey



IN PERSON DELIVERY AND BUSINESS COACHING

DAY 1: STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR YOUR BUSINESS

- Building business resilience
- Drought, climate change and risk management
- Your business health check
- Vision and goal setting
- Navigating and driving change

DAY 2: INNOVATION AND PLANNING FOR CLIMATE CHALLENGES

- Natural resource management and regenerative agriculture
- Data driven decision making
- Carbon and farming system innovation
- ESG- environment, social and governance
- Biosecurity and risk management

DAY 3: BENCHMARKING AND FINANCIAL DATA DRIVEN DECISIONS

- The economics of building farm business resilience
- Financial management and budgets
- Analysing your revenue stream and cost structures
- The drivers of profit and access to finance
- Innovation- agtech, automation, AI

DAY 4: BUILDING PERSONAL AND SOCIAL RESILIENCE

- Health and Wellbeing
- Building social and community resilience
- Succession and future planning
- Embedding change and endurance

ONE-ON-ONE BUSINESS COACHING

Learning and Growth

Lisa's overall experience was one of growth and discovery — learning not only new skills but also how to seek support when needed.

"Reaching out and getting help where we need, like from Rural West, has been a big step forward."

While she found some parts of the program fast-paced, she still appreciated how much it pushed her to reflect and take action.

"it made me think about things I hadn't before. Making and having a good plan will help you succeed in the future."

Confidence and Family Communication

The program has also made Lisa more confident in how she engages with her family and business partners in decision-making. "It's made me more confident."

She recognises that developing a plan is not just about operations and finances — it's also a foundation for succession planning, ensuring that the family business can continue sustainably into the future.

"Being able to put a business plan together will help in our succession plan."

Looking Forward

For Lisa, the most valuable part of the experience was the in-person workshops — the chance to learn directly, share insights, and be supported by others who understand farming and beekeeping life. "Probably the workshops were the most valuable."

The Farm Business Resilience Program has helped Lisa and her family turn uncertainty into direction. With a solid plan, a renewed mindset, and stronger networks, she now feels equipped to navigate challenges and take the business forward with confidence.

"I'm glad I completed the program and would recommend it to others in the same situation as me."