



New WA High Rainfall Zone (HRZ) Research Hub and staff announcement – Esperance, WA

FAR Australia are pleased to announce the establishment of a new field research hub in Esperance, WA.

New WA Research Hub

Whilst FAR have worked in the WA HRZ region previously, the new Esperance Research Centre Hub will be the first time that the organisation has operated from an office and field research base in the region. The focus of the organisation's research will initially be based on *Optimising high rainfall zone cropping for profit in the Western and Southern Regions (DAW1903-008RMX)*, a new GRDC investment that started in 2019. This project will see the organisation collaborate with both DPIRD and CSIRO in a farming systems project aimed at improving the productivity of wheat and canola in the HRZ region. The FAR Australia field research centre hosting this project will be based near Gibson and will have a focus on earlier cereal crop establishment.

James Rollason – Field Research Officer

The new research hub will be run by FAR Australia's Field Research Officer James Rollason. James has been working with FAR Australia at its head office base in Bannockburn for the last 18 months and will relocate to Esperance in early March. James has been working in the broadacre cropping industry for the past 3 years and has a passion for grains research and extension. He is currently working to complete a Bachelor of business (Agribusiness) at Marcus Oldham College in Victoria.

Commenting on the establishment of the new research hub FAR Australia's Managing Director Nick Poole said that "the new hub for the organisation would generate greater opportunities to link field research projects across the HRZ regions of southern Australia covering both shorter and longer growing season agroecological regions". Securing new staff for positions in rural Australia is not easy and so we are delighted that James, one of our existing Field Research Officers, has accepted the position at the new Esperance Research Hub.

6th February 2020