



This is my second submission.

Some additional brief thoughts on our national approach to Drought:

- We must start from a place NORMALISING drought. We must look through both recorded history & geological history & realise & accept that drought is a reoccurring natural feature of the Australian landscape. We must learn to accept this fact, expect & plan for it, & deal with it in a calm manner.
- Tools such as The Climate Services for Agriculture (CSA), the Drought Resilience Self-Assessment Tool (DR.SAT) & *My Climate View* are useful \*ONLY\* for developing an understanding of the variability & historical extremes that should be prepared for. They \*DO NOT\* “enable users to anticipate future conditions” and \*SHOULD NOT\* be used for “future climate projections at a farm scale”, & should not be promoted as future prediction tools. Foreseeing the future is a dangerous game that gets many into dire trouble. Day-by-day farm decisions must be made on the actual conditions as experienced each day.
- ‘Drought resilience’ in practice is BUSINESS profitability & resilience. Financial resilience offers flexible management options. When the farm BUSINESS finances are limited, then the options for drought management & mitigation are limited. Financial & business literacy & strategic planning are essential to ‘drought resilience’.
- There is much focus in Agriculture on ‘production’, however in business profit is separate from production. Profit is what you can sell your product for, minus the cost of production. Agricultural R&D needs to move away from a blind focus on production to a focus on cost of production efficiency & opening up the margin between sale price & production cost. Over production can also lead to over supply & market value crash. The FIRST RESPONSIBILITY of any agricultural business is to be a successful business, NOT to be an unprofitable & unviable producer slave.

- Small business is the backbone of communities, national economy & employment.
- Farms are the backbone of environmental stewardship & national future prosperity.
  - Small business farms are at the intersection of land stewardship for the future & communities, economy & employment.
  - there is ENORMOUS PUBLIC GOOD in supporting small business farms to be both financially successful and environmentally sustainable.
- There is a fundamental lack of understanding across government, agricultural departments & many farmers as to basic grazing ecology & the interactions between plants, livestock & soils. For example, “overgrazing” is all about TIME since last grazing & plant stage of recovery, & has NOTHING to do with animal numbers or ‘stocking rate’. These fundamentals must be understood by all before a reasonable & realistic conversation about drought can proceed.

Thankyou for this opportunity to contribute to the national conversation around drought funding & preparedness.

