



# Review of the Australian Government's Drought Plan: Summary of what we heard

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry conducted targeted consultation on the review of the Australian Government's Drought Response, Resilience and Preparedness Plan for 6 weeks across August to October 2022. The following pages are a summary of what we heard during that consultation – this summary is not exhaustive, it recounts the main recurring themes and views expressed by stakeholders through the consultation.





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Decisions  
should be  
transparent

Unexpected  
extra  
support can  
throw off  
farmers'  
plans

Transparency  
gives people  
something  
they can  
depend on  
and plan  
around

When will  
government  
step in?

What are  
the trigger  
points for  
extra  
support?

Need to  
know what  
programs  
may be  
rolled out  
and when

Government  
should stick  
to the Plan,  
even when  
things get  
tough

What are  
the triggers  
for ending  
support?

Drought  
response needs  
to be better  
coordinated

Responses  
work better  
when  
everyone  
knows their  
role

Mechanism  
to feed  
information  
back to  
government

Bringing  
people  
together  
quickly as  
droughts  
evolve is  
important

Involve  
industry,  
charities and  
all levels of  
government

Drought could  
be managed  
within existing  
emergency  
management  
frameworks

We all have a  
role in drought

Want to align  
the Plan with  
previous work  
on Shared  
Responsibilities

The current  
Plan gives the  
right level of  
detail on roles  
but should  
include more  
stakeholders

Need to be  
clearer about  
people's  
obligations at  
different  
stages of the  
drought cycle

Must avoid  
confusion  
about who  
is delivering  
what  
support

Knowing  
our role  
would help  
our long  
term  
planning

## Stakeholders also said:

It is not clear  
why drought is  
not considered  
a natural  
disaster

States,  
territories and  
the  
Commonwealth  
all define  
drought  
differently

Data needs to  
be more than  
just rainfall  
deficiency

More work  
needed to  
define useful  
metrics for  
success

Hard to  
measure some  
benefits of  
programs

Need to be  
clear about  
eligibility  
criteria