



THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

# Australia's National Drought Policy: Lessons and recommendations

Dr Linda Botterill

# Australia's National Drought Policy

## 1992 Policy

- Underlying principles of risk management and self reliance
- Exceptional circumstances provisions
- Main components
  - Interest subsidies
  - Income smoothing
  - Welfare payments

# Implementation issues

Defining exceptional drought

The issue of declarations

The 2008 reviews

- Climate outlook
- Social impact of drought
- Economic assessment of the policy

The Government's response

- The WA pilot program

# Lessons from the Australian experience

Reaffirm the principle of risk management

Remove welfare from drought policy

Be very careful about the use of triggers, declarations and lines on maps