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Challenges of drought policy and options for the future

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Overview

Responding to drought in a dry continent

The National Drought Policy

The Challenges of Implementation

Options for the future

The National Institute for Rural and Regional Australia

Responding to drought in a dry continent

Disaster relief:

- 1939 £1000 for bushfire relief in Tasmania
- Commonwealth support on an ad hoc basis until the 1960s
- 1971 Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements

A new approach (1989)

- The shift to a risk management paradigm

The National Drought Policy

Avoiding ad hoc responses

Recognising the reality of our climate

Self reliance and risk management

The role of government

- Assisting the farm business
- Supporting the farm family

The Challenges of Implementation

The issue of definitions

- What is drought?
- 'Normal' vs exceptional drought

Complexity and red tape

Federalism

Equity

Options for the future

Is drought a useful concept in Australia?

Support farm management across the climate cycle

Provide equitable standing welfare arrangements for farm families in need

An Office of Rural and Regional Affairs

Climate change?



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