

The logo consists of the letters 'TNOQ' in a bold, orange, sans-serif font. The 'Q' has a small tail that extends downwards and to the right.The text 'Drought Hub' is written in a white, sans-serif font and is centered within a solid black rectangular box.

# Australian Drought Hubs – Tropical North Queensland

A new approach to preparedness and resilience – Tropical North Queensland  
Prof David Phelps, James Cook University.



Australian Government  
Department of Agriculture,  
Fisheries and Forestry



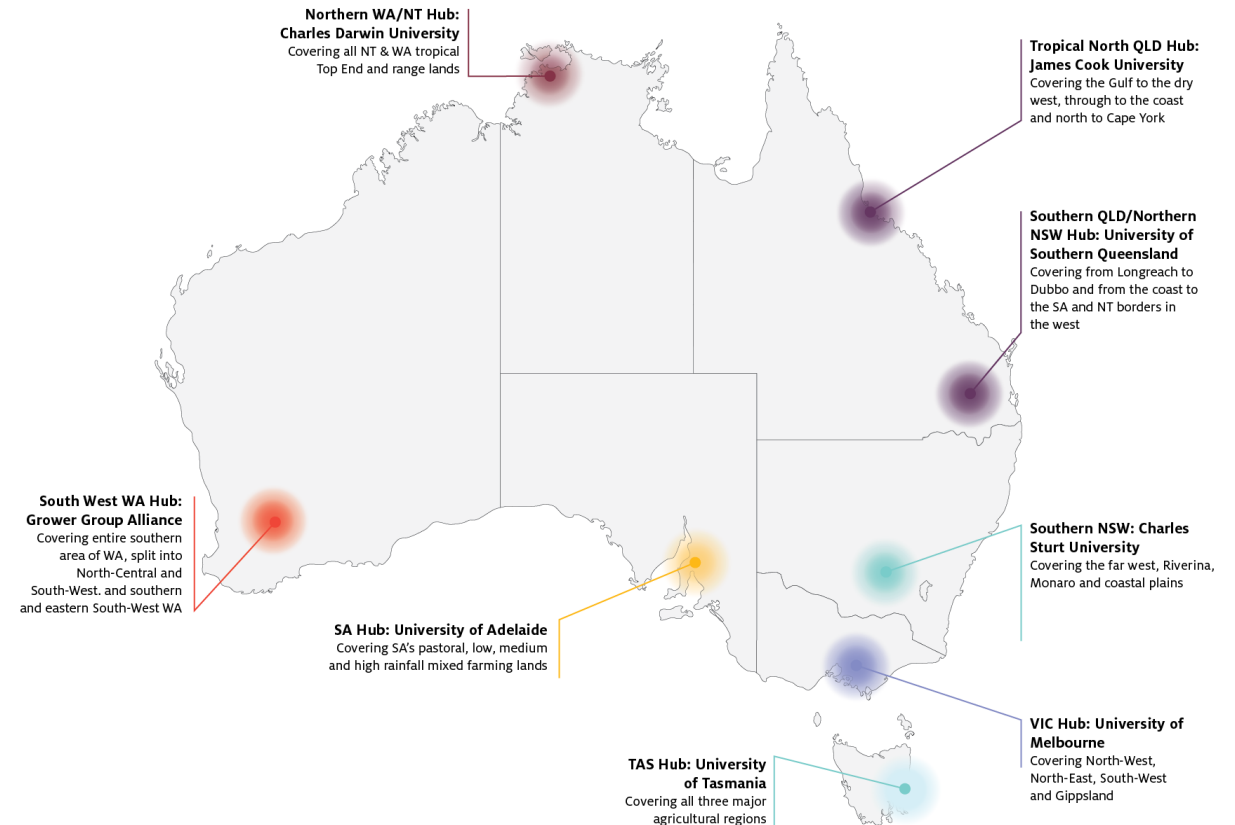
Future  
Drought  
Fund



JAMES COOK  
UNIVERSITY  
AUSTRALIA

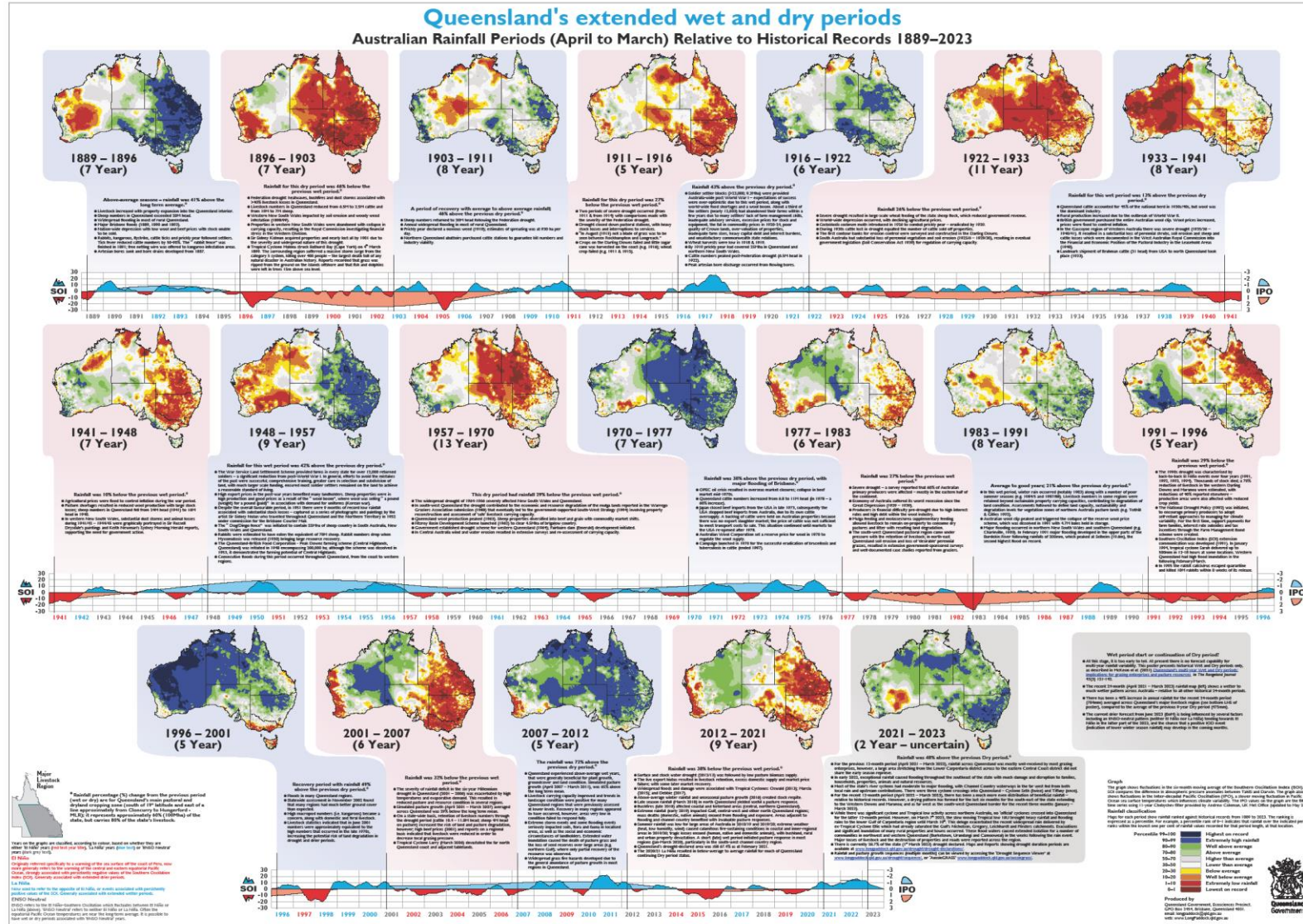
# Eight Drought Resilience hubs across Australia

- Future Drought Fund (FDF) co-contribution model
- Each in a major climatic and agriculture zone
- All linked with a regional university
- Each hub has several nodes reaching across their region
- Hubs and nodes cover over 40 locations and involve 143 partners
- Delivering more than 150 projects



# Drought is a major disruptor for rainfed production systems

- Northern Australia's agricultural regions are susceptible to drought
- Production systems rely on rain-fed pastures, mainly on extensively grazed native pastures



# Resilience is needed at three scales:

- **Individual property, farm and agribusiness** e.g.
  - maximising the health of the natural resource base
  - optimising production efficiency
- **Town and community** e.g.
  - supporting human capacity in leadership
  - economic diversification
- **Regional** e.g.
  - capturing place-based advantages
  - enhancing internal and external socioeconomic networks



# Resilience is enhanced through:

- Social Capital
  - **Strengthening internal and external socioeconomic networks (linking, bridging and bonding capitals)**
  - **Empowering local communities**
  - **Enhancing decision making capacity**
- Economic (Financial) Capital
  - **Economic diversification beyond rainfed dependence**
  - Maximising productivity and efficiency
  - Increasing cash and asset reserves
  - Reducing losses during downturns
- Environmental (Natural) Capital
  - Enhancing natural processes e.g. ecosystem services
  - **Improving Land Condition and soil health**



# Questions?

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