

OBA Quick Bite - May 2021

On the 20th of April 2021 OBA received correspondence from Office of the Premier of NSW Gladys Berejiklian, below left, followed by further correspondence from Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Western NSW Adam Marshall on the 26th April 2021, below centre, online [here](#), additionally for context reference is also drawn to a letter replying to OBA on behalf of the Prime Minister from April 2019, below right:

 <p>Office of the Premier of New South Wales</p> <p>Ref: A4022069</p> <p>Mr Brett O'Brien admin@obaconconsulting.com.au</p> <p>Dear Mr O'Brien</p> <p>Thank you for your correspondence of 15 April 2021 regarding correspondence sent to the Hon Adam Marshall MP, Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW.</p> <p>Having made enquiries on your behalf and I am advised the Minister's Office is aware of the issues you have raised and a reply will be sent to you shortly.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to bring this issue to the Government's attention.</p> <p>Yours sincerely, <i>Gayle Mitchell</i></p> <p>Gayle Mitchell Correspondence Manager</p> <p>GPO Box 5341 Sydney NSW 2000 • P: (02) 8574 5000 • F: (02) 9339 5500 • W: nsw.gov.au</p>	 <p>The Hon. Adam Marshall MP Minister for Agriculture Minister for Western New South Wales</p> <p>CMG1/772</p> <p>Mr Brett O'Brien Managing Director OBA Consulting admin@obaconconsulting.com.au</p> <p>Dear Mr O'Brien</p> <p>Thank you for your email of 16 January 2021 regarding a national insurance scheme for the agricultural sector. I note you have written previously about this matter and appreciate your continued interest.</p> <p>Enhancing the ability of farmers to manage financial risk is a key goal for the NSW Government, and for the personally. How farmers manage such risk is a complex topic given the broad range of farming systems operating in Australia.</p> <p>I note from your previous correspondence and website information that you are an advocate of government subsidies to develop insurance products for farmers to better manage catastrophic risks such as drought and floods.</p> <p>Subsidising these type of insurance products for farmers is not NSW Government policy, and the provision of agricultural weather insurance in Australia is complicated by the volatility of climate. As the NSW Government evaluates its assistance measures under the recent drought, options for future drought and floods may be considered in more detail.</p> <p>I agree that programs to support farmers better manage risk are best initiated at a national level, which is why the NSW Government engaged the National Farmers Federation (NFF) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify, and detail the purpose and operation of all existing and realistically potential financial risk management measures, products and services Make recommendations for Government, industry and other relevant bodies on ways to improve and expand the suite of financial risk management tools available. <p>I trust this is of assistance, however if you have any further enquiries, I have asked Mr Tim Edmondstone, Manager, Industry Analysis, Strategy and Policy, Department of Primary Industries to be available to answer any questions you may have. Mr Edmondstone can be contacted on 0439 332 221.</p> <p>Thank you again for your interest in this matter.</p> <p>Yours sincerely <i>Adam Marshall</i></p> <p>Adam Marshall MINISTER 26 APR 2021</p>	 <p>Australian Government North Queensland Livestock Industry Recovery Agency</p> <p>MC19-013007</p> <p>29 April 2019</p> <p>Mr Brett O'Brien bretto_brien@hotmail.com</p> <p>Dear Mr O'Brien</p> <p>Thank you for your email dated 26 February 2019 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, regarding the impact of the monsoonal flood event that occurred in North Queensland earlier this year. I am replying on behalf of the Prime Minister as the Government is now in a caretaker role pending the outcome of the federal election on 18 May 2019.</p> <p>The Agency is taking a multi-phased approach to assist with recovery and reconstruction efforts in north and western Queensland. Its responsibilities include coordinating the Commonwealth's recovery and reconstruction activities in flood-affected areas, and working with industry, communities and the Queensland Government to develop a long-term plan for the recovery and reconstruction of those areas. Your ideas regarding stock insurance will be considered as part of the development of this plan. Recruitment for NQLIRA will be undertaken following the normal public service guideline, as such you may wish to watch</p>
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The above adds to the below chronology of correspondence with & from Federal & State Government officials which OBA thanks these persons & their staff for including pictured from left to right:

- The Prime Minister's (office) – Scott Morrison; The Federal Minister for Agriculture – David Littleproud;
- Member of the Senate – Bridget McKenzie; The Premier of NSW (office) – Gladys Berejiklian;
- Adam Marshall MP - Minister for Agriculture Western NSW; Bob Katter MP (office) - Member for Kennedy;
- Leader of the ALP (office) - Anthony Albanese;




 <p>Department of Primary Industries</p> <p>MF20274</p> <p>Mr Brett O'Brien admin@obaconconsulting.com.au</p> <p>Dear Mr O'Brien</p> <p>Income protection insurance for farmers</p> <p>Thank you for your emails of 20 and 29 January 2020, to the Hon Adam Marshall MP, Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW, regarding income protection insurance for farmers. The Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf.</p> <p>I am grateful for your offer to lend your expertise in this area. I understand that the issue of insurance solutions for farmers is a complex question that has a history of extensive debate. It is in this context that the NSW Government announced last year that it has committed \$2 million to facilitate a process of industry collaboration and partnership that we expect will result in improved options available to farmers to mitigate business risk. I am well aware of the complexities that have shaped the debate in this area over many years, which is why we are deliberately taking a stakeholder approach in developing this scheme, and in this context I appreciate your valuable input.</p> <p>Through the Department of Primary Industries (DPI), the Government is taking with other state governments and the Commonwealth to determine their appetite to commit time and resources to this project. DPI is also working with the National Farmers Federation, our partner on this project, to establish the relevant processes.</p> <p>These discussions will help develop a detailed course of action, where we will seek to engage with relevant industry groups and experts writing to offer their input and valuable experience. To this end, I thank you for your early engagement on this matter and welcome your contributions going forward.</p> <p>If you require additional information or wish to discuss the shape of the income protection scheme further, please contact Mr Darren Budekoff, Director, Industry Insights and Analysis, in DPI, on 0450 604 244.</p> <p>Thank you again for your interest in this matter.</p> <p>Yours sincerely <i>Kate Lorimer</i></p> <p>KATE LORIMER GENERAL DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL DPI AGRICULTURE</p> <p>25/07/20 from NSW DPI</p>	<p>Submitted: Tuesday, 26 February 2019 - 10:58am Title: Mr First name Brett Family name O'Brien Subject: Income protection against drought and flood in Australia</p> <p>Dear Scott,</p> <p>I have a solution I'd like to pose to you which respects farmers being able to insure stock for loss arising from drought or flood.</p> <p>I note we have recently lost 500,000 live stock in QLD as a result of flooding and the cyclic systemic drought issues in Australia are well well known.</p> <p>The are millions of head of stock nation-wide which are almost exclusively uninsured for drought and flood - they are insured for fire yet not drought and flood.</p> <p>My proposal centres around the Gov setting up a website under to http://www.droughtandflood.com.au</p> <p>Insurers are willing to insure the perils of drought and flood for stock - they just need to be pushed.</p> <p>I have recently promoted this cover - per flyer attached - yet am a lone voice nation-wide on the matter with Gov support and even already this could go places.</p> <p>Can you imagine the relief felt by farmers if through drought and flood and the tragic loss of life of hundreds of thousands of stock follows that it was at least recoverable financially for farmers.</p> <p>It could change the fabric of farming in this great country of ours.</p> <p>I can work as a consultant and would make myself available to work with you / your ministers on this initiative.</p> <p>Keep up the great work Scott, look forward to hearing from you.</p> <p>Sincerely, Brett O'Brien - ANZIF Fellow - 0413 814 421</p> <p>26th Feb 2019 Email to PM S Morrison</p>	<p>The Hon. David Littleproud MP Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources Federal Member for Mackay</p> <p>Ref: MC19-06790 04 APR 2019</p> <p>Mr Brett O'Brien Managing Director OBA Consulting admin@obaconconsulting.com.au</p> <p>Your email received 01/04/2019</p> <p>Dear Mr O'Brien</p> <p>Thank you for your email of 21 March 2019 about insuring stock against losses attributable to drought or flood.</p> <p>Insurance is an important risk management tool for dealing with drought, floods and other events that can cause stock and crop losses. The Australian Government is not currently offering insurance to individual producers for livestock protection as this relates to sporting livestock.</p> <p>The Australian Government is providing support for flood-affected North Queensland farmers, including through establishing the North Queensland Livestock Industry Recovery Agency to assist with the immediate response, recovery and reconstruction efforts. A large number of the flood-affected farmers had previously been dealing with years of drought, and the government also remains committed to providing drought assistance to eligible farmers across the country. More information on the range of drought assistance measures is available on my department's website at agriculture.gov.au/assistance. Further information on the range of flood-related assistance measures are available at p.dpi.gov.au/national-policy/north-queensland-livestock-industry-recovery-agency.</p> <p>Thank you again for bringing this matter with me.</p> <p>Yours sincerely <i>David Littleproud</i></p> <p>DAVID LITTLEPROUD MP</p> <p>Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600 Telephone: 02 6277 5001 Email: david.littleproud@agriculture.gov.au</p> <p>04/04/19 from Fed Ag Min D Littleproud</p>	<p>Australian Government North Queensland Livestock Industry Recovery Agency</p> <p>MC19-013007</p> <p>29 April 2019</p> <p>Mr Brett O'Brien bretto_brien@hotmail.com</p> <p>Dear Mr O'Brien</p> <p>Thank you for your email dated 26 February 2019 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, regarding the impact of the monsoonal flood event that occurred in North Queensland earlier this year. I am replying on behalf of the Prime Minister as the Government is now in a caretaker role pending the outcome of the federal election on 18 May 2019.</p> <p>On 1 March 2019, the North Queensland Livestock Industry Recovery Agency, led by the Honourable Shane Stone AC QC, was announced. Mr Stone is supported by an Advisory Board comprising members with extensive experience in the livestock industry, and from the communities affected. The Board also has federal and local government representatives.</p> <p>The Agency is taking a multi-phased approach to assist with recovery and reconstruction efforts in north and western Queensland. Its responsibilities include coordinating the Commonwealth's recovery and reconstruction activities in flood-affected areas, and working with industry, communities and the Queensland Government to develop a long-term plan for the recovery and reconstruction of those areas. Your ideas regarding stock insurance will be considered as part of the development of this plan. Recruitment for NQLIRA will be undertaken following the normal public service guideline, as such you may wish to watch</p> <p>APR Jobs for p.dpi.gov.au/jobs and Ant Centre (open tenders.gov.au) for opportunities to contribute or directly to this work. More information about the Agency is available at 2016.gov.au/nqlira</p> <p>Yours sincerely <i>Nico Adams</i></p> <p>Nico Adams Deputy Secretary NQLIRA Taskforce Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet</p> <p>29/04/19 - from PM's office</p>	<p>Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie Deputy Leader of The Nationals Senator for Victoria</p> <p>Ref: MC19-066420</p> <p>Mr Brett O'Brien Managing Director OBA Consulting admin@obaconconsulting.com.au</p> <p>Dear Mr O'Brien</p> <p>Thank you for your correspondence of 31 May 2019, offering congratulations on my appointment as Minister for Agriculture. As a proud representative of regional Australia, it is a honour to serve in the Agriculture portfolio.</p> <p>Agriculture is key to Australia's prosperity and economic development. Strong leadership is needed to continue to benefit generations to come. The agriculture industry is diverse and our work continues to make Australia's farming, fishing and forest industries more resilient and prosperous while safeguarding Australia from animal and plant pests and diseases.</p> <p>My initial priorities include building Australian Agriculture into a \$100 billion industry by 2030, protecting Australia's biosecurity and our olive and grape vines, taking a hard line on onshore animal activism and maintaining and increasing access to foreign markets to ensure a premium price for our agricultural products.</p> <p>Strong international demand for agricultural products and ongoing improvements to Australia's market access to countries provide more opportunities for our exporters. A strong agriculture sector is vital for supporting regional jobs.</p> <p>Thank you again for your letter of support and your passion for the agriculture sector is appreciated.</p> <p>Yours sincerely <i>Bridget McKenzie</i></p> <p>22/07/19 From Senator Mckenzie</p>
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'Your (OBA) idea's regarding stock insurance will be considered as part of the development of this plan'



Pertaining to the aforementioned recent letter from Adam Marshall MP of the 26th April 2021 OBA has clarified with Adam that an [ARPC](#) style Risk Transfer mechanism (Government Agency), or similar such as a Reinsurance Pool Working Group that ultimately materialises an operating mechanism (Government Agency) is what we advocate for being a more sophisticated, wholistic & bespoke mechanism which is less reactive & conversely more proactive than traditional 'Government premium subsidises'.

OBA raised this directly with the Federal Minister of Agriculture David Littleproud [here](#), in June 2019 & has since made several further references to such including in our April 2021 Quack Bite as follows encompassing a short article from February 20th 2021 pertaining to the renewal of the program [here](#):



Insurance BUSINESS AUSTRALIA **ARPC renews terrorism reinsurance scheme**

2 ARPC webinars on the 3rd Sept & 12th Nov 2020 respectively OBA participated in [here](#)

ARPC CEO states that ARPC “remains well positioned to be an effective provider of terrorism risk insurance” – one that enables market participation, supports national resilience, & mitigates some of the potential losses resulting from terrorism events.

At OBA we have [been advocating](#) for a similar scheme to address Drought


Interestingly Bob Katter MP recently raised with Prime Minister Scott Morrison an ARPC style re-insurance pool for Flood / Cyclone / Storm effected North Queensland, which the Prime Minister responded to [positively](#) states Bob as follows from [article](#) in Insurance Business of 19th March 2021:

Floods, cyclones, and other emergency events have flattened and damaged homes in north Queensland – resulting in rising insurance premiums. As a result, Federal MP Bob Katter is calling to expand The Commonwealth’s terrorism reinsurance scheme to encompass state-of-emergency events such as those in the region.





Mr Katter said Prime Minister Scott Morrison responded [positively](#) during their meeting.

Click [here](#) for a video from 19th March 2021 showcasing OBA MD discussing the above article with the [ASA](#)



OBA, The ARPC & Risk Transfer for large scale weather events





Per above [video](#) OBA specifically referenced Flood insurance in QLD to the Prime Minister ([here](#)) in February 2019 & as referenced earlier in this document put a suggestion directly to Federal Minister for Agriculture David Littleproud that the Government investigate replicating the ARPC as the prototype for a reinsurance type scheme to address Drought – from our [YouTube Channel](#) 2 short videos on Cattle lost to Flood in February 2019 [here & here](#) – [The OBA Journey](#) [here](#)




Following the release of our [April 2021 Quick Bite](#) on the 19th of April 2021 including reference to Bob Katter's aforementioned meeting with the Prime Minister from Insurance Business News 5th May 2021 an interesting development as follows from this [article](#) with excerpts below:

Insurance
BUSINESS AUSTRALIA

Insurers welcome government reinsurance pool for cyclone and flood risk

Insurers have welcomed the Federal Government's \$10 billion reinsurance pool for cyclone and cyclone-related flood risk in northern Australia and its \$40 million investment in making older strata buildings more resilient to extreme weather events.

The reinsurance pool will cover the cyclone and associated flood risk in home, strata, and small business insurance policies. Meanwhile, the \$40 million investment would help the North Queensland Strata Title Resilience Pilot Program to subsidise the cost of cyclone risk mitigation works for strata properties in north Queensland.

Reinsurance Pool Working Group (Group)

Now, the Group will work with the Federal Government's design and consultation process to determine the pool's operation.

[Insurance Council of Australia](#) (ICA) chief executive officer [Andrew Hall](#) has backed the government's commitment to improving the affordability and availability of insurance for homeowners and small businesses at risk of cyclones.

For some time OBA has been [calling for](#) a Reinsurance Pool Working Group to address 'Agriculture'.

OBA referenced recently appointed [ICA CEO Andrew Hall](#) in [issue 5](#) of Chewing The Cud as follows:

In relation to the Federal Government's involvement in such matters some exceptionally welcome, ([perhaps familiar sounding to OBA readers](#)), commentary from [recently appointed](#) Insurance Council Australia CEO Andrew Hall:



"the federal government must take the lead on building a more resilient Australia."



Further to the above & as per recommendations from the Bushfire Royal Commission referred to in Chewing The Cud [issue 5](#) the Government has established a new / re-hashed an existing agency to address climate change risks, full article [here](#) from 7th May 2021:

Insurance **Australian government establishes new agency to address climate change risks**

This now means as a nation we have **Government Agencies** to address including however not limited to:

- 1. Terrorism including Cyber – **ARPC** 
- 2. **Nth QLD Home Insurance** - 

referenced to the PM 26th Feb 2019 by Brett O'Brien [here](#)

Submitted: Tuesday, 26 February, 2019 - 08:13am
Title: Mr First name: Brett Family name: O'Brien
Subject: Insuring livestock against drought and flood in Australia

Dear Scott,

Recently I have seen you on the news visiting rural communities - great to see.


I am a 4th generation farmer and Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand Institute of Insurance & Finance.

I have a solution I'd like to pose to you with respect to farmers being able to insure stock for loss arising from drought or flood.

I note we have recently lost 500,000 live stock in QLD as a result of flooding and the cyclic systemic drought issues in Australia are sadly well known.

The are millions of head of stock nation-wide which are almost exclusively uninsured for drought and flood - they are insured for fire yet not drought and flood.

My proposal is to **insure livestock against drought and flood** in relation to stock:



Insurers are willing to insure the perils of drought and flood for stock - they just need to be pushed.

I have recently promoted this cover - per flyer attached - yet am a lone voice nation-wide on the matter.

With Govt support and even subsidy this could go places.

Can you imagine the relief felt by farmers if when drought and flood strike and the tragic loss of life of hundreds of thousands of stock follows that it was at least recoup-able financially for farmers.

It could change the fabric of farming in this great country of ours.

I now work as a consultant and would make myself available to work with you / your ministers on this initiative.

Keep up the great work Scott, look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely, Brett O'Brien - ANZIIF Fellow - 0421 814 401



Journey cont...

FEBRUARY 2019


In the midst of rampant Drought on Australia's east coast within the country's worst Drought in 100 years Brett O'Brien starts OBA Consulting to address wholistic Livestock Risk Transfer, namely Drought.

In doing so Brett writes to Prime Minister Scott Morrison in relation to a concept for Livestock Drought insurance, highlighting to the Prime Minister that Australian farmers are unable to insure Livestock against Drought within the mainstream Australian insurance market – a status quo Brett considers unacceptable.

Brett suggests to the Prime Minister the Government sets up an **agency** or website such as the one it established in 2009 to assist Australians unable to secure **Flood insurance** in Far Nth Queensland.






Brett O'Brien writes to Prime Minister Scott Morrison in relation to Livestock Drought Insurance


- 3. Climate Change – **National Recovery & Resilience Agency**  formerly named the NQLIRA referenced in [The OBA Journey](#) as follows:

APRIL 2019

March 2019, the Australian Government launches the the North Queensland Livestock Industry Recover Agency (NQLIRA) to address, amongst other things 500,000 cattle lost to floods in QLD February 2019 – the Agency would go on to be renamed Drought and Flood Response Recovery:

The NQLIRA writes to OBA Consulting on behalf the Prime Minister in April 2019:



MC19-013007


29 April 2019


Mr Brett O'Brien
bretto_brien@hotmail.com


Dear Mr O'Brien

Thank you for your email dated 26 February 2019 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, regarding the impact of the monsoonal flood event that occurred in North Queensland earlier this year. **I am replying on behalf of the Prime Minister** as the Government is now in a caretaker role pending the outcome of the federal election on 18 May 2019.

The Agency is taking a multi-phased approach to assist with recovery and reconstruction efforts in north and western Queensland. Its responsibilities include coordinating the Commonwealth's recovery and reconstruction activities in flood-affected areas, and working with industry, communities and the Queensland Government to develop a long-term plan for the recovery and reconstruction of those areas. **Your ideas regarding stock insurance will be considered as part of the development of this plan.** Recruitment for NQLIRA will be undertaken following the normal public service guideline, as such you may wish to watch

1. 


2. 

3. 



For consideration:

- (4.) Agriculture – Yet to be formed
- (5.) Pandemics – Presumably inevitable, referred to in this OBA [update](#) of 11th May 2020:



Livestock Drought Insurance:
The importance of the Australian Governments support of
Agriculture Insurance Products

May 11th, 2020 | Categories: May 2020, Updates

Dear Readers, Further to update of April 27th 2020 here in which OBA described the Australian Government's response to Covid-19 as 'insuring' part of the financial impact(s), for which it could be said again [...]

[Read More >](#)



Livestock Drought Insurance – Blood Lines & March 2020
Rainfall Report

March 17th, 2020 | Categories: March 2020, Updates

Dear Readers, People often conclude the answer for pastoralists in times of Drought is to simply 'sell off stock'. Consider however that in addition to, in some cases, getting \$10 per head at the saleyards, farmers spend years creating [...]

[Read More >](#)

Whilst at OBA we see the announcement of the NRRRA as a step in the right direction questions have been raised about how effective it will be noting a raft of contentious views around its geneses agency the NQLIRA & its effectiveness or otherwise since inception, with examples as follows, yet not limited to:

March 1st 2019 [here](#) – The NQLIRA is referenced [The OBA Journey](#) noting it was announced shortly after OBA MD Brett O'Brien wrote to PM Scott Morrison 26th February 2019 [here](#)



ABC Rural

Flood-ravaged north Queensland cattle industry to get help from new recovery agency

December 19th 2019 [here](#)



ABC Rural

Can Liberal bureaucrat Shane Stone help farmers and rural towns survive their worst ever drought?

Farmers have mixed views on the Federal Government's new Drought Agency boss.

But some farmers caught in the worst drought they have ever known, are sceptical as to whether a Liberal Party man earning \$534,000 a year is qualified for the job.

"I've been involved in agripolitics for 30 years and I've never heard of him," said cherry grower, Guy Gaitor, of Orange in central-west New South Wales.

February 9th 2021 [here](#)



ABC Rural

Millions in flood recovery grants for Queensland farmers still on offer

February 13th 2021 [here](#)



ABC Rural

Low take-up of north Queensland flood relief prompts questions about offering debt to get out of crisis



Professor Bruce Chapman says governments should rethink offering farmers more debt



Re-iterating at OBA we feel the Government is on the right track with the announcement of the NRRA at least in principle, as things to have to 'change' & we welcome the exigency into such [as stated here](#)

Interesting [comments](#) from Mick Keogh, Executive Director of the Australian Farm Institute & Agriculture commissioner for the ACCC, speaking at the Southern Australia Livestock Research Council last year, reported in [farmonline](#) 25th September 2020 full article [here](#):



The screenshot shows a video player with the Australian Government logo and '2020 OUTLOOK' branding. The video title is 'Mick Keogh, Australian Compe...'. To the right is the logo for the Southern Australia Livestock Research Council, which features a green silhouette of a cow and a sheep. A red box highlights a quote from the video: 'Asked about whether Australia might ever have insurance products to cover the risk of climate variability with the government playing a role, Mr Keogh said current risk management in Australian ag was predominantly managed [at an individual level.](#)'

From above 'at an individual level', the below left [article](#) from Sky News 4th October 2019 features an individual pastoralist, Jim Wedge of Ascot Cattle Co., calling for Government intervention, whilst this [video](#) from Adam Marshall references that:

'the Commonwealth Government has changed its position & is now open to supporting this (agriculture insurance products) scheme'



The screenshot shows a news article from Sky News 2GB (873AM) dated 4/10/2019 at 1:15:00 AM. The headline is 'Farmers push for Industry-funded Insurance Scheme - 2600 | Sky News Australia'. The sub-headline reads: 'Farmers battling one of the worst droughts in living memory have called on the Coalition to create an insurance scheme to stop regional communities from dying.' The image shows three men in suits, with Adam Marshall on the left and David Littleproud in the center.

Adam Marshall on David Littleproud on 2GB radio [here](#)

Mick Keogh continuing from 25th September 2020, went on to say:

'Considerable advocacy would be required to bring about industry-wide institutional change for there to be risk management provided at a national level.'

Additionally, the following statements we noted:

'equity to manage risk will be slow to change'

'The inertia we have around our system will be difficult to change.'

Fortunately, as announced in July 2019 Australia's largest national farmer lobby group the [NFF](#) are working on this matter in concert with the NSW DPI:



The banner features the NFF logo on the left and the NSW Government logo on the right. The text in the center reads: 'The National Farmers' Federation is partnering with the NSW Government on a project aimed at improving the financial risk management options available to Australian farmers to help them manage drought and other natural disasters. The project is multi-commodity and national in focus.' On the right, there is a section for 'INSURANCE & RISK' with a search bar and the text 'NATIONWIDE INCOME PROTECTION FOR FARMERS'.

The NFF/NSWDPI project referenced in Insurance & Risk [here](#) & [here](#) above July 2019 & June 2020 respectively.



OBA stated our view of the work done by the NFF & NSW DPI in [issue 2](#) of Chewing The Cud as follows:

'OBA Consulting unreservedly supports this initiative & commends the NSW DPI & NFF for our this [exceptionally meritorious work.](#)'

At OBA we support the formation of a Rinsurance Working Group & ultimate Government agency for Agriculture:



Nuffield Australia
 PO Box 495, Kyogin, NSW 2474
 Ph: 0402 453 209
 Email: enquiries@nuffield.com.au
 Website: www.nuffield.com.au
 ABN 53 062 527 398

22 September 2020
 To Brett O'Brien, Southbank VIC
 Email: admin@obaconulting.com.au

Re. Nuffield Scholarship State Selection Interview

Thank you for your application for a 2021 Nuffield Australia Farming Scholarship. Based on your written application and eligibility we are pleased to offer you an interview. Your application and details have been forwarded to the relevant State Selection panel and your interview details have been set.

Your interview details are:
 Date: Thursday 1 October
 Interview Time: 3:00pm
 Venue: Online virtually, via the Zoom platform

You must login exactly 15 minutes prior to your interview time. This will allow time for a short briefing on the Nuffield Australia program. Your interview will take approximately 20 minutes and your punctuality would be appreciated.

Successful applicants will be notified of the final, national interview selection date following the State Selections, in due course.

Upon receipt of this letter please sign and return it by email to Nuffield Australia to confirm your ability to attend an interview via Zoom.

Yours sincerely,

 Jodie Redcliffe
 2013 Scholar and Chief Executive Officer




Online [here](#)

Online [here](#)



Testimonial

At Ascot Cattle Co. we welcome OBA Consulting's voice of support in assisting farmers to change the status quo on Livestock Drought Insurance in Australia.

Brett's Fellow status within the Insurance sector combined with direct experience in the Cattle industry as a former registered breeder with Angus Australia ideally positions him as a voice of knowledge and prominence on Livestock Drought Insurance.

Livestock Drought Insurance for farmers and graziers has long been an omission in Government policy in Australia, unlike our international Agricultural counterparts.

Brett's passion for the matter is evident by the many hours of his own personal time & expense spent lobbying Governments and industry bodies to adopt an Insurance scheme in Australia to de-risk the rural industry, something that is sorely needed.

Jim wedge owner of Ascot Cattle Co. with properties at Warwick QLD & Glen Innes NSW



Further Testimonials:

Professor Joe Sircusa

Australian Security Academy CEO – Mike Evans

Associate Professor – Salvatore Babones

Iconic Australian journalist, 6 times walkly award winner – Kerry O'Brien

Former CEO of ME Bank & former Australian u/19 Cricket captain– Jamie McPhee

Founding Director of Latevo Farmers Mutual – Andrew Trotter

Admidddted to the high court of NSW & Supreme court of Australia – [Mark Sheller](#)

CEO of The Australian & NZ Institute of Insurance & Finance – Prue Willsford

National Geographic presenter, musician & actor – Henry Rollins





Whilst many Australian's within the non-rural community, *understandably* tire of hearing of Farmers woes, the reality is that what decimates our Agriculture sector, including however not limited to Drought, is economically felt nation-wide by the vast majority of Australian's.

It's worth bearing in mind also that whether you are vegan, vegetarian, carnivore or other its highly likely somewhere in your nutrition supply chain that you will have had much less than 6 degrees of separation from the people (Australian Farmers) who grow the fresh fruit & vegetables, wheat, barley, herbs, poultry, dairy and meat most of 'us' enjoy and require from within 'our' world class Agriculture sector.

Brett O'Brien – Managing Director OBA Consulting

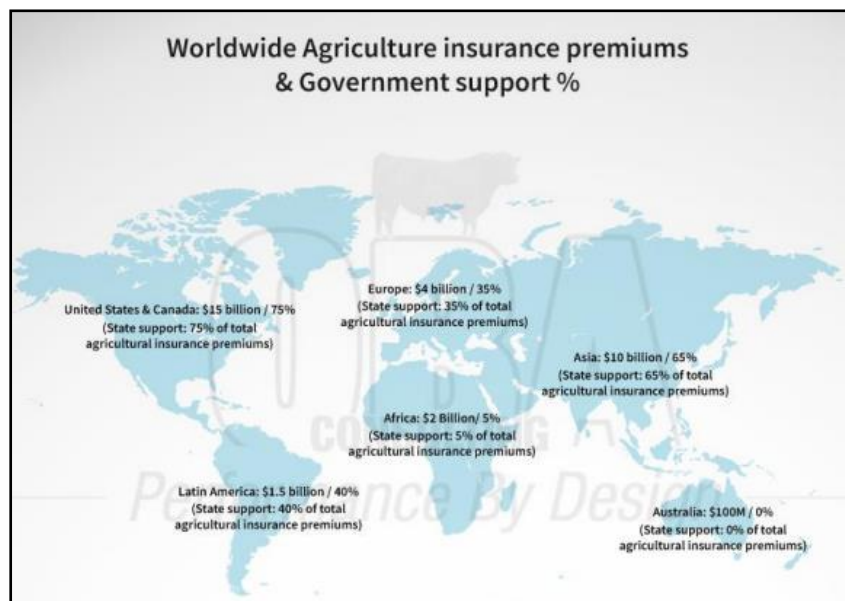


From our [YouTube Channel](#) the below video which is less than 4:25 seconds long:











You know, they're calling this one the 'one in a hundred year' drought

YouTube

From [issue 1](#) of Chewing The Cud, released 26th of May 2020 with assistance from The World Bank, reference is drawn as to how Australia's world class Agriculture sector compares for Government supported insurance premiums with other nations, in other regions, often competing nations to ours:



Below is a high-level summary of specialist Rural insurers within the mainstream Australian Insurance market highlighting 3 major peril weather related cover options for [Livestock](#):

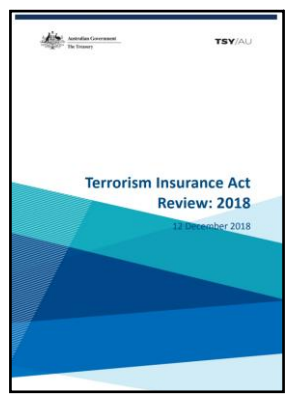
Insurer	Product	Fire	Flood	Drought*
				
 achmea	Farm Insurance	✓	✓	✗
 Allianz	Farm Insurance	✓	✓	✗
 Elders	Farm Insurance	✓	✓	✗
 wfi	Farm Insurance	✓	✓	✗
 Nutrien	Farm Insurance	✓	✓	✗

Similar to Business Pack & other classes of insurance a Farm Pack policy could follow a similar triage for 'Drought', which for the purpose of this hypothetical scenario / illustration the Agriculture Reinsurance Pool (AGRP*) would be inserted for the ARPC, similarly 'Drought' for 'Terrorism':

Operation and coverage

The Act operates by overriding terrorism exclusion clauses in eligible insurance contracts.¹ An eligible insurance contract is a contract that provides insurance coverage for:

- loss of, or damage to, eligible property owned by the insured;
- business interruption and consequential loss arising from loss of, or damage to, eligible property that is owned or occupied by the insured or an inability to use all or part of such property; or
- liability of the insured that arises from the insured being the owner or occupier of eligible property.²



When can a claim on the scheme be made?

A claim on the scheme may be made for eligible terrorism losses arising from any declared terrorist incident covered by an eligible insurance contract where the insurer has a reinsurance agreement with the ARPC. The scheme will not be triggered unless the Minister who has administrative responsibility for the Act declares that a terrorist incident has occurred for the purpose of the Act.⁷

Above excerpts taken from pictured document above right, online [here](#)

*NB: 'AGRP' is not a recognised acronym nor actual entity / agency – it is what OBA proposes is required & could be named





[Online here](#)



Apart from Antarctica, Australia is the driest continent in the world. About 35 per cent of the continent receives so little rain, it is effectively desert. In total, 70 per cent of the mainland receives less than 500 millimetres of rain annually, which classes it as arid, or semi-arid.

Actions such as de-stocking are not always the answer to this problem as referenced in OBA [update](#) of 17th March 2020 additionally [RIC](#) has received no shortage of criticisms as referenced in [issue 5](#) of Chewing The Cud & there is a raft of voices suggesting offering debt as a solution to disaster recovery [is perilous](#):

Professor Bruce Chapman says governments should rethink offering farmers more debt




ABC Rural


It would appear [our Government financially supports a Livestock Insurance program in Kenya](#) yet that is for more adept investigative minds than OBA's to confirm or otherwise including perhaps the entirely valid reasons for doing so when we do not have such a Government supported market here.

OBA advocates for supporting responsible Famers who are prepared to take accountable, responsible steps to outsource their risk, noting they do need to be enabled to do so via an effective, readily accessible, risk transfer market – ideally operating locally:

Australian Farmers ***do not plan to fail***, nonetheless not insuring Livestock for the financial impacts of Extreme Weather is ultimately ***failing to adequately plan***.

Brett O'Brien – Fourth generation Australian Farmer and Fellow of the Australian & New Zealand Institute of Insurance & Finance









Colac, Corangamite, Victoria, Australia - Jim, John & Brett O'Brien - 1957 & 1986

"It is said in life it is important to leave things, including your life, in a better state than you inherited them.

Currently Australian Farmers cannot readily insure their precious Livestock against the peril of Drought as the mainstream Australian insurance market does not offer such cover.

*Introducing insurance to the mainstream Australian insurance market against Drought for Farmers who lose stock consequent to Drought would improve the **livelihood of farmers** & the farming landscape in this great country of ours for the current farming generation and those to follow"*

Brett O'Brien - [Managing Director](#) - OBA Consulting



Performance By Design

'OBA Consulting - Supporting Rural Australia'

Brett O'Brien
Managing Director at OBA Consulting



OBA Consulting - supporting rural Australia

OBA Ethos online [here](#)





ABC Quiz: How much do you really know about the Australian beef industry?

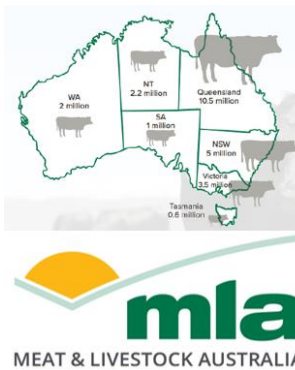


Take the quiz [here](#)

From OBA a little help with question 1 below courtesy of [MLA](#):

Which region in Australia has the most cattle?

- A Northern Territory
- B Central West, NSW
- C Fitzroy Basin, Qld
- D Northern Gulf, Qld



At OBA our clubhouse leader, not surprisingly is Brett, yet if you can beat his score below, please let us know and we will send you an OBA adhesive patch, pictured below:

Final score 9 / 10
... (or 90%) which is 49% better than average.





See our 2nd anniversary April 2021 Quick Bite [here](#)



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