



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture

Sustainable agriculture and natural resource management



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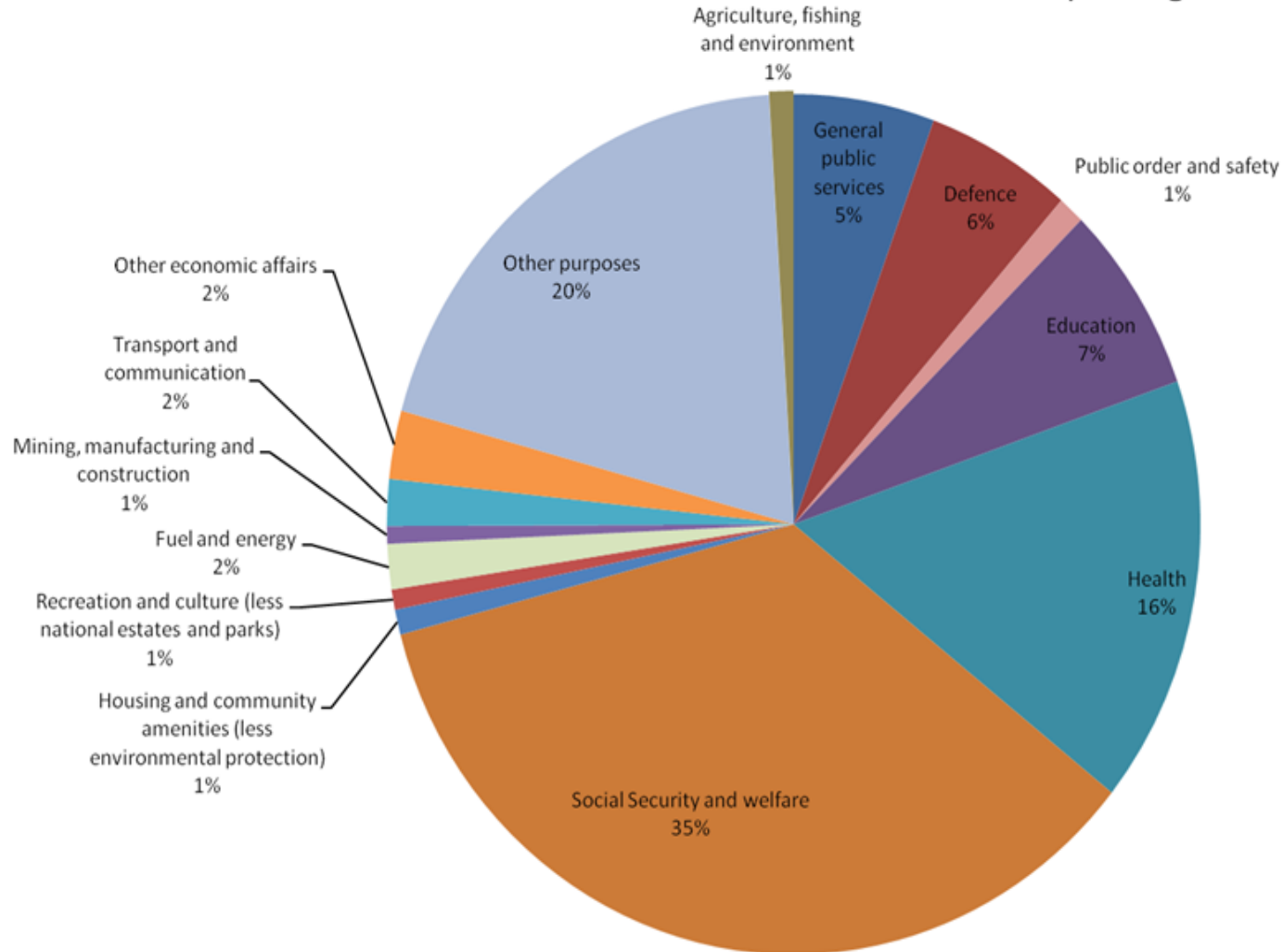
Policy drivers for NRM and agriculture

- White Paper on the Reform of the Federation
- White Paper on Developing Northern Australia
- White Paper on Agricultural Competitiveness
- The 2015 Intergeneration Report
- Biosecurity Bill 2014
- National and international environmental obligations

Information on all documents is available on the internet.

The fiscal climate

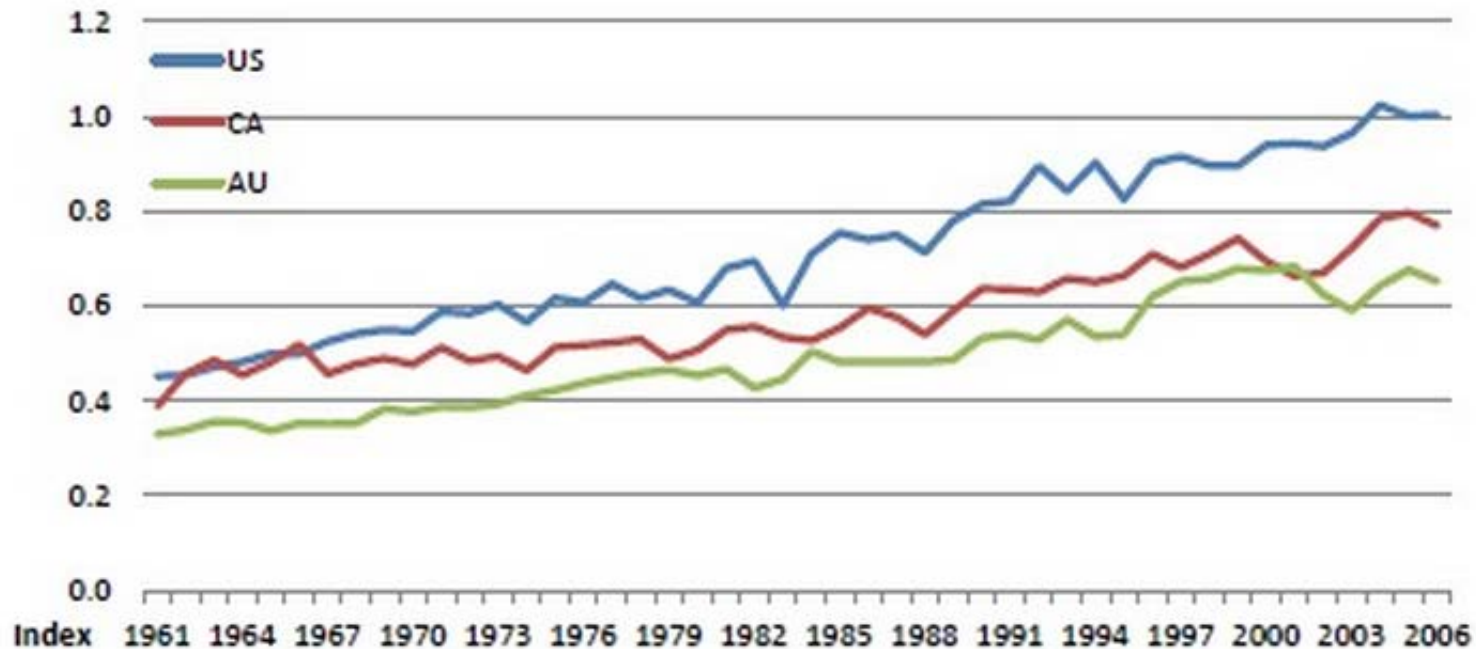
Government function 2014-15 expenses based on international standard classifications in the Government Finance Statistics reporting framework



National trends in agriculture

- Declining rate of agricultural productivity
- Competitiveness decline since late 1980s

Figure 1 Comparable agricultural TFP levels: Australia, Canada and the United States, 1961 to 2006



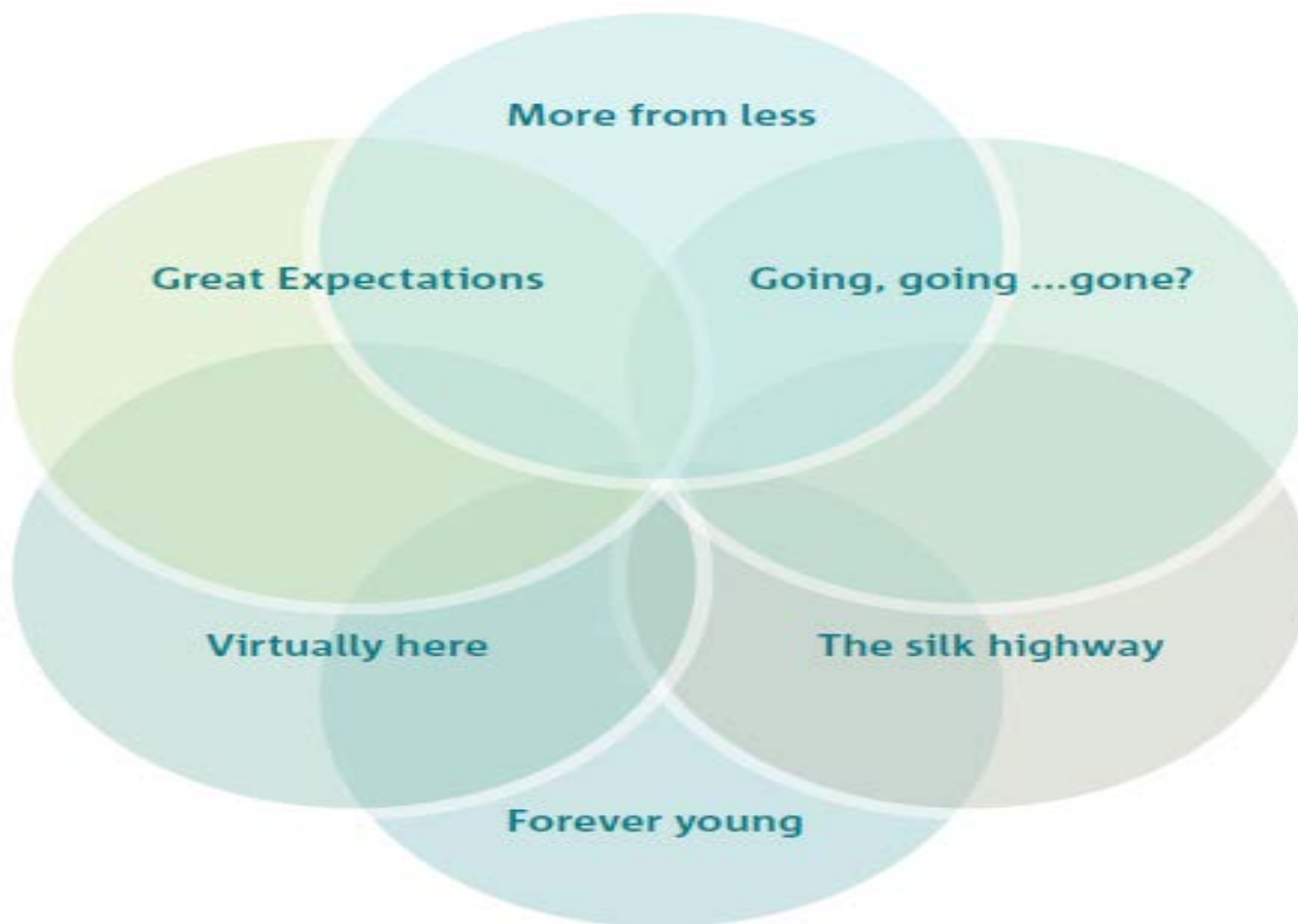
Mick Keogh - 2013

National trends - investment outcomes

Data shows improvements in:

- Protecting soil from erosion and acidification
- Improved tillage and residue management practices
- Monitoring of ground cover levels
- Protecting native vegetation

Looking forward – megatrends in agriculture



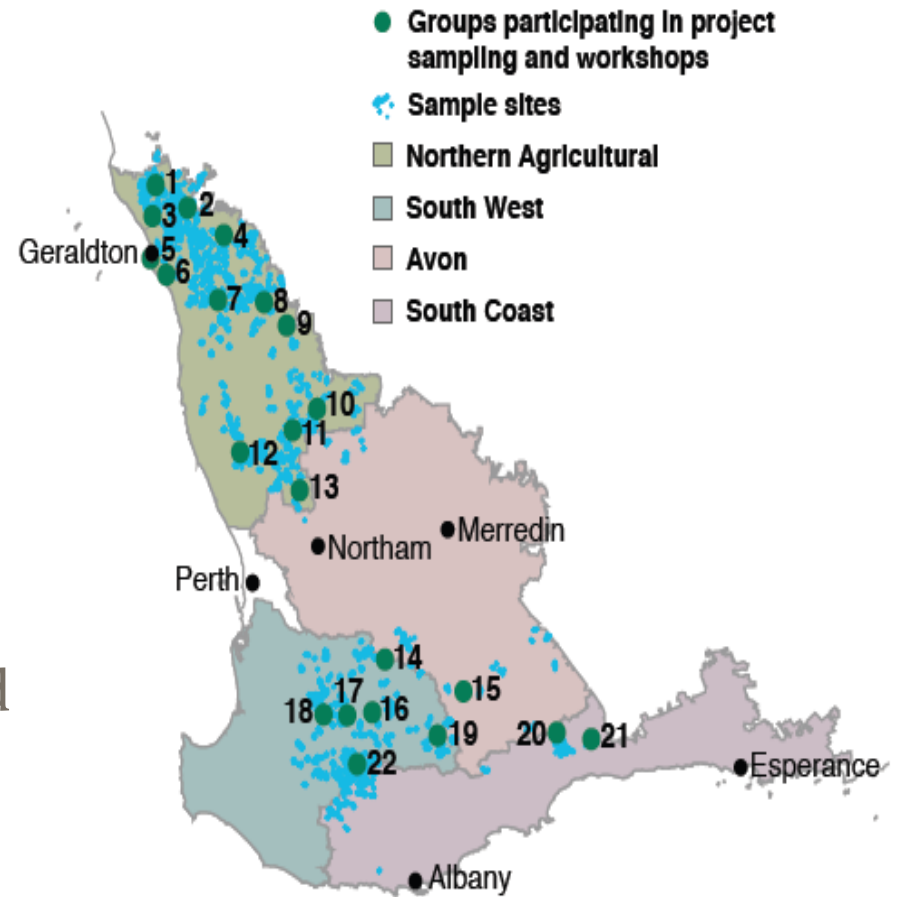
Hajkowicz et al. 2012

Demonstrating value

- Case studies are a valuable tool

Managing soil acidity in Western Australian wheatbelt

- 1860 farmers from 22 farmer groups participated to improve acid soil management
- Results of which have improved condition and yield



Department of Agriculture future directions

- One key objective: better returns at the farm gate
- Multiple investments:
 - RD&E
 - Biosecurity
 - Drought preparedness and services
 - NRM