1. A review of the National Drought Program (NDP) has been underway since 2008. The Commonwealth and State and Territory Ministers for agricultures’ Standing Council on Primary Industries (SCoPI) are leading the reform process.
2. SCoPI has endorsed policy principles to guide the development of a new program to help farmers move from ‘crisis’ management to ‘risk’ management. A new NDP aims to improve farm business preparedness and resilience in managing drought risk.
3. The Inter-Governmental Agreement will provide common agreement on the policy intent of a new National Drought Program and define the various responsibilities of the Commonwealth and State and Territory jurisdictions.
4. Under the Inter-Governmental Agreement the Commonwealth will provide Farm Household Support payments to farm families experiencing hardship as a result of drought or any other adverse events, without first requiring a drought ‘declaration’. State and Territory jurisdictions will provide farmers with access to farm preparedness workshops.
5. Cabinet approved that the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry negotiate and sign an Inter‑Governmental Agreement on National Drought Program Reform between the Australian and State and Territory jurisdictions.
6. *Attachments*
* [Intergovernmental Agreement on National Drought Program Reform](Attachments/Attachment%20-%20Intergovernmental%20Agreement%20on%20National%20Drought%20Program%20Reform.PDF)