

Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper – Submission IP66
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Submitted 6 February 2014 via website's contact form

The most important ingredient on any farm is water , The moment water is short , Production stops , The financial losses start shortly after until a property the size of France can be in shut down mode . My opinion on broad acre farming is that all of the cultivated land must be available so that areas that get good rain can be planted and yield a crop , Australia can have good rains in one area one season and the next season it can be the most marginal land that delivers the goods , As we know the US has 75,000 dams and so much water infrastructure the bind boggles and they are struggling , Australia is a much drier country and has precious little water infrastructure , If Australia's north is to be viable it will need reliable water during the dry growing season , I feel that the reason why The Ord River scheme has never really shone is that in and of itself It's not big enough to prosper in isolation ,A number of the same sized projects and you reach critical masses , One area might not do well but a few of the others will fill the ships , Just like in the south , If the southern region depended on one area , Even a large area most years it would not produce.