OLDEST LIVING CULTURE ON EARTH

• Aboriginal people have inhabited Australia for >50,000 years
• Diversity of language and social and cultural organisation across groups
• Land is intrinsic to identity, language, law, relationships and mythology
• Some groups maintain unfragmented cultural traditions - own language is first
• Traditionally hunter gatherer societies with extensive trade networks
• Evidence of early agriculture, including grain harvesting and storage. eg *Panicum decompositum* – Native Millet
• Impacts of colonisation still – wealth and health deprivations
• Modern aboriginal-run agricultural enterprises & business relationships
• Surviving and here to stay – population growing (3.3% nationally, 30% NT, 5% Qld.)
TRUE OR FALSE?

- One of the most diverse populations in the world – 45% have one parent born overseas
- Australian Alps get more snow than the Swiss Alps
- Australia has a larger population of camels than Egypt
- Australia is home of the only species of penguins that can fly
- The wine cask was an Australian invention
- The origins of our accent
- Tasmania has the cleanest air in the world / massive per capita polluters
- Wombat poo is shaped like a triangle
- Home to 20% of the world’s poker machines, but have 0.33% of the world populations
- Australia is home to an active volcano that is predicted to erupt by 2024
HISTORY

Livestock diversity includes a pool of 38 species of domesticated birds and mammals, with more than 8,800 breeds currently used for food and agriculture.
70% of agricultural production exported, with a value of nearly $60bn

Exports: Cattle $9.48 bn, Wool $4.16 bn and wheat $3.76 bn

National beef cattle herd, 24 million head, national sheep flock 67.7 million head

1.2 million tonnes of chicken meat annual production

Approximately 18 million hectares cropped

Winter crop receivals in major bulk handling sites ~16.85 million tonnes

Australian Ag reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 63% between 1996 – 2013

2/3 of Australian farmers are male with an average age of 57
OUTLOOK

STRENGTHS
Diverse
Clean green image
Geographic Isolation - biosecurity
Proximity to growing population and increasing demand from SE Asia
Limited Regulation - freedom to operate and innovate

CHALLENGES
Changing climate - greater extremes
Social license - consumer sentiment/education
Cost of production can be higher relative to competitors
Limited domestic market

FUTURE
Increased regulation
Adaptation to climate change
Technology fueling efficiency and productivity gains and improved cost control