Bothkamp Australia Farm

- Family farm
- Since 1985
- 1000 ha
- Flood irrigated
- Permanent beds
- Self-mulching Cununurra clay
Crops

• Melons
• Pumpkins
• Chia
• Chickpeas
• Borlotti Beans
• Maize
• Hybrid seed sorghum production
Markets

• Horticulture
  – Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney

• Chickpeas and Borlotti Beans
  – Australia wide

• Chia
  – 50% domestic, 50% international

• Maize
  – Across Northern Australia, Perth
Farming the Ord: Opportunities

• Unlimited water*
• Plentiful sunlight
• Rich soils
Challenges

• Distance
• Weather
• Wildlife
• Uniqueness
Farmer characteristics

• Pioneering spirit
• Innovative
• Self-reliant
• Hard-working
• Adaptable
Research

• Need the Kununurra Research Station
• Inadequate funding and support
• Crucial to further development
• Unique conditions
• Private – public partnerships
Kununurra Research Station
Chia Research Field Day
Role of Government

1. “What do you want? You can’t do that!”

2. “Hi. What can we do to help and support you?”
Limitations

• Lack of area – economies of scale
• No water rights
• High cost of production
• Lack of understanding
Farming the Ord: The Future

- Sugar Cane industry
- Large areas undeveloped
- More farmers
- Kununurra - the service hub
The Ord:
Best place to farm in WA