



Export Control Amendment (Banning Cotton Exports to Ensure Water Security) Bill 2019 Submission Response.

Cotton Growers Services Pty Ltd (CGS) based in Wee Waa NSW, operates twelve regional Branches throughout the cotton growing regions of NSW and QLD supplying agronomic services, irrigation monitoring equipment, precision agriculture technologies, crop inputs including seed, fertilisers, biotechnology and chemicals. CGS was established in 1979 and currently employs 60 full time employees and services predominately the cotton growing community.

CGS **does not** support the “Export Control Amendment (Banning Cotton Exports to Ensure Water Security) Bill 2019.

Reasons.

1. Production of Cotton from available irrigation water provides the best use of this valuable resource in terms of profit per megalitre of water consumed.
2. Cotton, being an annual crop is only grown when irrigation water is available, unlike perennial crops, which means water can be available for the environment during dry times.
3. Cotton production offers growers higher profitability than all other crops to the benefits of rural communities wherein they live and buy goods and services.
4. Cotton production is intensive and necessitates higher input costs than other crops supporting local input suppliers, contractors, consultants, processors and transport operators.
5. Cotton production supports a vigorous research community to the benefit of all agricultural enterprises.

Implications (of “Banning Cotton Exports”)

1. Growers will grow other less sustainable crops with more marginal financial outcomes.
2. Community wealth due to less jobs, less spending capacity and less input spend will drop significantly.
3. Australia’s international reputation as a “Free Enterprise” nation, a trading partner and an investment destination will be damaged due to the implementation of a perceived to be - illogical amendment.
4. There will be no reduction in irrigation water consumption, just less efficient use of available water.
5. A viable dryland (non-irrigated) cotton industry will be shut down for no scientific or logical reason.

Australians should be proud of their world leading cotton industry which is resilient and sustainable. Our industry greatly enhances rural communities. Banning cotton exports will not “Ensure Water Security” it will just harm hard working people and permanently damage or destroy the rural communities in which we live.

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