

SUBMISSION AGAINST;

- **Inquiry into the Water Amendment (Purchase Limit Repeal) Bill 2019**

Mungindi Cotton Growers Association

26 February 2019



MUNGINDI COTTON

growers association

Mungindi Cotton Growers Association
PO Box 68
Mungindi
NSW 2406

The Chief Executive
Attn: Senate Environment and Communications Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

The Chief Executive,

SUBMISSION AGAINST;

- **Water Amendment (Purchase Limit Repeal) Bill 2019**

Please find enclosed a submission from the Mungindi Cotton Growers Association on the issues and concerns in the Inquiry into the Water Amendment (Purchase Limit Repeal) Bill 2019.

Regards,

Tristram Hertslet

Chairman

The Mungindi Cotton Growers and Water Users Association

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1. Purpose of the Submission

This document has been developed by the Mungindi Cotton Growers Association (CGA) on behalf of its members as a formal submission for consideration by the Chief Executive during their submission process Inquiry into the Water Amendment (Purchase Limit Repeal) Bill 2019.

This document represents the views and concerns expressed by the Mungindi CGA members. While every effort is made to represent the group as a whole, each individual of the committee is entitled to their own opinion may not agree with all the points made in this submission.

2. Introduction

Mungindi has had a Cotton Growers Association since the late 1980's and is not-for-profit group. The CGA is made up of a committee that represents the cotton and irrigation farming enterprises in the wider area. We are positioned in one of the smaller cotton growing areas, growing around 250,000 bales of cotton (roughly 5% of the Australia's total cotton) in a big year.

The Mungindi CGA advocates on behalf of all growers, irrigators and support businesses in our local community, liaises with other valleys on issues that matter to our industry and strongly supports local charities. We hold an annual charity golf day to raise money for donation towards many groups including the Mungindi Community Preschool, Mungindi Golf Club, Mungindi Hospital, Mungindi Fishing Club, Mungindi Home and Community Care, Mungindi Junior Rugby League and Mungindi Junior Netball, Mungindi Little Athletics, Mungindi St Joseph's School, Mungindi Central School, the St Joseph Parish Church and the Mungindi Anglican Church.

3. Areas of Concern with the Water Amendment Bill 2019

The areas of concern we have with the Water Amendments are outlined below.

As the entire Mungindi and surrounding communities rely on the production and profitability of the irrigation industry it is extremely important that the economic and social impacts are assessed correctly.

A reduction in water access or removal of water directly relates to a reduction in productivity which then relates directly to a reduction in expenditure.

As shown in MDBA socio economic research the impacts of decreased water access or “buy backs” are extremely devastating to local communities and support services resulting in school numbers decreasing, medical services decreasing, support service businesses closing down and the viability of entire communities being put into jeopardy.

Even this proposed bill has created uncertainty in the industry which will have an impact on our community as the producers of the area will have no confidence to expand and re-invest money into their businesses until they have some certainty. This will then filter down to less money getting spent in the support businesses of the town.

We are in no way seeking increased water use and are committed to continuing to meet all Basin Plan objectives however we would like the government to fully consider the impacts of its devastating proposed water amendments before damaging local communities as was done in the past. We are against the proposed bill as the potential consequences for our community are frightful and non-repairable.

Please consider our submission before hurting already struggling communities.