

Submission

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

I am a member of a family farming business growing irrigated and dryland cotton and other crops.

I do not support this Bill.

The Explanatory Memorandum states the Bill is necessary to protect and restore environmental health to the Murray-Darling Basin River System.

I submit banning cotton exports will not achieve that outcome.

It is a fact cotton is grown in Australia in areas other than the Murray-Darling Basin.

It is a fact cotton is grown in Australia without using irrigation water. Up to 50% of the cotton we grow each year does not use irrigation water.

The Bill bans cotton from export even though it is grown without extracting water from the Murray-Darling Basin River System.

Should cotton exports be banned:

- The same amount of irrigation water will be used by us, to grow other crops suitable to our soil type and climate. This Bill will not reduce the amount of water we use.
- Those replacement crops will generate less gross income and less net profit per megalitre of water used, they are less water efficient than cotton.
- Our income generated from using irrigation water will be significantly reduced.
- We will be unable to grow non-irrigated cotton, further reducing our income.
- The reduction in our income and profit will flow directly through the local & national economy, resulting in less employment; less taxation revenue; and less export dollars for Australia.
- We will retrench two employees, permanently.
- We will cease to engage two agronomists, permanently.
- We will expect significant monetary compensation from the Government to reimburse us for equipment specific to the cotton industry that we have invested in and can no longer use.
- There will be no change to the environmental health of the Murray-Darling Basin River System.

If successful, the *Export Control Amendment (Banning Cotton Exports to Ensure Water Security) Bill 2019* will shrink the Australian Economy without any environmental benefit. This is an unreasonable outcome which is not in the public interest.