

Export Control Amendment (Banning Cotton Exports to Ensure Water Security) Bill 2019  
Submission 15

**From:**  
**To:** [RRAT Committee \(SEN\)](#)  
**Subject:** Export Control Amendment (Banning Cotton Exports to Ensure Water Security) Bill 2019  
**Date:** Friday, 29 March 2019 14:06:07

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Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Rural Affairs and Transport

PO

Box 6100

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Sharlee Webster

Dear Sir / Madam,

My family own and operate a mixed broad acre cropping, grazing and irrigation farm on the border of Queensland and New South Wales, 450 kilometres west of Brisbane. We love living where we live and managing our land the way we do. We feel extraordinarily proud of what our family does and contributes to not just with respect to ourselves, but to our community, our employee's and their families, our schools and community centres and our country's GDP. This contribution is moral, financial and emotional.

Like most businesses, we manage and operate our farm, its resources and infrastructure in a way that ensures profitability for both the short and long term. Committing to this strategy means we can guarantee our employee's their jobs, contribute economically to our local businesses in our towns and grow produce for both domestic and international markets.

The nature of Agricultural Production means we are at the mercy of Mother Nature, just as our Environment is. Floods, drought, fire, a good season or bad, impact us, our farm, our production, our income, our employee's, our communities, our towns and our environment simultaneously. We evolve with these circumstances and manage our resources accordingly.

One such resource is our Water Licences and Entitlements of which we own. These Water Licences, their allocations and entitlements are governed by Law and Government Agencies. Our water entitlements are regulated in such a way, that when there is a significant rain event or flood, we get allocated water according to our Water Licence. Likewise, when there is no rain, no flooding and drought conditions, we do not get allocated water as our Water Licence conditions are not met. Essentially, water that is available is prioritised for critical human needs and the environment first.

We, as the owner and manager of our land and its resources, make a business decision, as to what we grow or produce. That, I feel strongly is our right. We grow and produce Agricultural products that provide the most profit, within the obvious boundaries of infrastructure and resource limitations. If the growing of Cotton was banned, under this proposed Bill, due to Cotton Exports being banned, our farm would not have the current profitability that it currently has. Whilst, our Water Entitlements will not have changed.

The Economic fallout of this Export Ban, will have significant financial effects to our farming business's profitability, our employee's livelihoods, and our community and towns' economic prosperity. From a mental wellbeing perspective, the hardship that this ban would insure will have a negative impact. By our very nature, we are generous people who love to see our Agricultural Communities thrive and be prosperous.

We love our Country, our people and our Environment. This proposed Export Ban on Cotton is unfair and unjust. In my opinion, it will devastate some families and communities, whilst not return any more water to our River Systems. We need RAIN to do that!

Yours Sincerely,

Sharlee Webster.