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"On a quest for the best deal"

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Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

PO Box 6100

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I would strongly urge the committee to reject the proposition of banning cotton exports. This is clearly a knee jerk reaction to the current water deficiency which we are all suffering from, irrigators as well as general water users in NSW and SA, and the environment. Please consider the facts and the implications of such a move:

- 1) Water is not allocated to irrigators if there is no water to allocate, or beyond what they have been allocated from their existing licence conditions or managed by NSW State Water on temporary transfers, even when there is water available.
- 2) Water to irrigators is given a lower priority behind the environment and essential water for stock and domestic use.
- 3) The Australian cotton industry is one of the most water use efficient operators in the world. Great advances have been made in water use efficiency in the last decade.
- 4) Cutting Australian exports would open up opportunities for other countries who are less environmentally conscious and efficient.
- 5) Cotton provides a high value return for Australia for the water used.
- 6) Thousands of businesses are reliant on the cotton industry.
- 7) The Australian cotton industry is a world leader in quality cotton, technical expertise, water use efficiency and environmental considerations.

I ask, what else will the water be used for if it is not to be used for cotton production? Is it to go further downstream and for what will it be used for? Certainly, water will be lost in evaporation in moving it's use from the upper to the lower end of the Murray Darling and then it will be not be used for anything.

Regards,

Jayne Barker, director of Quest Commodities Pty Ltd

Independent Commodity Brokers