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Management

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
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28 March, 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to formally submit my opposition to the Export Control Amendment (Banning Cotton Exports to Ensure Water Security) Bill 2019.

I have been involved in the cotton industry since 1990, working firstly for a producer of cotton and then moving into the marketing industry. I believe our industry is a particularly innovative one with Australia consistently producing the highest quality cotton in the world. Cotton producers have increased their water use efficiency by 40% in the past 20 years and with the adoption of technology have dramatically reduced the industry's use of pesticides. This has all been done without any direct government assistance, a fact that is well recognised by producers around the world. If cotton was not an economically viable crop producers would utilise the available water for other crops. Should this Bill be successful all dryland/raingrown cotton production would also cease without access to an export market as there is no domestic cotton processing industry.

We own a small business based in Toowoomba providing marketing advice and services to Australian cotton producers. We employ 7 people in our business which represents 6 families. If the exporting of cotton was banned it would have a significant impact on our business' profitability and future.

Many small businesses across the cotton industry like ours would find it difficult to operate or be forced to close if this Bill was enacted. I trust that this is given due consideration during your process.

Yours faithfully,

Matthew Leeson