



# Cotton industry organisations

## Who, What, Where

### Cotton Australia

Cotton Australia was established almost 40 years ago to support Australia's cotton growers and represent their interests. In 2008, the organisation merged with a key research partner, the Australian Cotton Growers Research Association (ACGRA). The timely consolidation of these two leadership bodies followed a long period of discussion and consultation around the best structure for the cotton industry moving into the next decade. With over 90% of members shared, a merger has reduced duplication and provided human resource and cost efficiencies. It has also provided a sole voice for grower representation and captured the synergies between research and policy.

Cotton Australia determines and drives the industry's strategic direction, retaining its strong focus on R&D, promoting the value of the industry, reporting on its environmental credibility, and implementing policy objectives in consultation with its stakeholders.

One of Cotton Australia's key roles is that of advocacy, positioning the industry within the political framework to reduce regulatory burdens on cotton growers and advancing their interests at all levels. Cotton Australia opens the doors to senior politicians and policy makers at Federal and State levels. The organisation lobbies hard on a huge range of political issues that confront growers and defends the industry from the impacts of new legislation.

For example, Cotton Australia has been at the heart of the water debate for over a decade, fighting hard on all fronts for growers' rights, and coordinating industry responses alongside other groups such as the National Farmers Federation.

Cotton Australia works to ensure an environment conducive to efficient and sustainable cotton production. In the past three years, Cotton Australia listened to growers and made major changes to the myBMP program so that it works better, is simpler and brings all the industry's resources together. Cotton Australia leads this program that allows us to establish our sustainability credentials with government and the community.

Cotton Australia pushes for better funding for rural R&D and provides grower-driven feedback to the CRDC on where they should invest their research dollars.

Cotton Australia helps to safeguard the industry by remaining vigilant and prepared for risks like biosecurity threats and exotic pest incursions.

Cotton Australia's Regional Managers attend to grower

issues at a local level, providing a local listening post so that policy is directed to the areas that matter most. Cotton Australia has two regional offices in Narrabri (NSW) and Toowoomba (QLD) from where staff provide direct and daily support to growers.

Cotton Australia has recently increased its resources to promote the cotton industry to the Australian community, and works hard to position the industry in a positive way to counter negative perceptions.

Cotton Australia is a more streamlined and cost-effective organisation following its merger with the ACGRA in 2008 – growers get more for their money now than ever before and can be confident of an efficient and truly grower-representative structure. Cotton Australia is funded by a voluntary levy of \$2.25 per bale of cotton, and cannot operate without this support.

Cotton Australia will continue to work with and on behalf of growers to Advance Australian Cotton.

[www.cottonaustralia.com.au/](http://www.cottonaustralia.com.au/)

### Cotton Catchment Communities CRC

The Cotton Catchment Communities CRC (Cotton CRC) exists to provide high quality collaborative research and education, and to facilitate the adoption of activities that benefit the Australian cotton industry and regional communities in Australia. Partners participating in the Cotton CRC are:

- Cotton Australia Ltd.
- Cotton Research and Development Corporation.
- Cotton Seed Distributors Ltd.
- CSIRO.
- Industry & Investment NSW.
- Queensland Department of Employment, Economic Development & Investment.
- Department of Agriculture and Food WA.
- The University of New England.
- The University of New South Wales.
- The University of Sydney.
- University of Technology – Sydney.

The Cotton Catchment Communities CRC Limited is a registered company formed through the collaboration of private sector, federal and state government agencies, industry associations and Universities. The Cotton CRC has entered into a formal agreement with the Commonwealth Government that outlines the agreed milestones to be achieved over a seven year term from 2005 to 2012. The Commonwealth provides a certain level of funding each year to assist in the undertaking of the agreed activities. The Commonwealth Agreement also identifies the contributions (including cash and in-kind) that will be made by the Cotton CRC participants. The Cotton CRC's partners have committed significant funding, resources and research expertise to the Cotton CRC's research, education and extension agenda.

Cotton CRC aims to facilitate the delivery of a cotton industry that:



- Secures international competitiveness using research to increase yield and fibre quality;
- Adopts world's best practice in production, environmental and catchment management; and,
- Generates improved social and economic conditions in cotton communities.

### **Our mission**

Cotton Catchment Communities CRC aims to provide high quality collaborative research, education and adoption activities which benefit the Australian cotton industry, regional communities and the nation.

### **Our outcomes**

- Internationally competitive cotton farming systems.
- Best Practice cotton enterprises delivering sustainable ecosystems and reduce impacts on catchments.
- Mutually beneficial interactions between industry and regional communities.
- High quality consumer preferred cotton.
- Increased adoption of new knowledge and enhanced decision-making capability of people working in or with the cotton industry, its catchments and communities.

[www.cottoncrc.org.au](http://www.cottoncrc.org.au)

## **Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CRDC) science underpins the success of the Australian cotton industry**

The role of the Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CRDC) is to enhance the performance of the Australian cotton industry and community through investing growers' R&D levies and Government funding in research, development and its application. In doing so, the CRDC's quest is for the Australian cotton industry to achieve sustainable competitive advantage.

The Rural RDC and supporting levy system was introduced nationally in 1990 and has enabled industries such as cotton to improve their performance and maintain market position in a highly competitive world. The international competitive advantage that Australian cotton producers enjoy in 2011 is in a large part based on the 20 years of research and development investments in which industry and government has partnered. Coupled with the application of science in the field is a resilient, responsible and committed industry that has a long-term vision for its future. It is this commitment to science that sees the Australian cotton industry among the most productive, efficient and sustainable agricultural production systems in the world.

All cotton farmers pay an R&D levy of \$2.25 for each 227 kilogram bale of cotton. This is collected by cotton ginners on behalf of the Australian Government. The Australian Government then provides CRDC with the resultant growers' levies and matching R&D funding.

CRDC plays a key leadership role in setting the strategic direction and managing research and development investments in the Australian cotton industry. In doing so it is accountable to the industry, through Cotton Australia and the Australian Government, through the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. For their part, growers influence the direction of industry R&D through their membership of Cotton Australia. This is a relationship that is formally recognised by Government.

CRDC invests in a portfolio of research, development and extension projects undertaken by the Cotton CRC and many other research and development organisations, consultancies and people.

All investments are selected on the basis of improved environmental, social and economic benefits to the industry and the nation.

CRDC coordinates the development of technical and non-technical documents, guides and other information tools and coordinates workshops, seminars and field days for a range of purposes including research review and progression, information sharing and technology transfer to industry.

CRDC produces a range of publications about corporate activities and operations and disseminates research outcomes. It acts as a formal and informal information source for stakeholders and client groups (facilitated by its location in a major cotton growing centre), through general industry media activities and the Corporation's website, [www.crdc.com.au](http://www.crdc.com.au).

CRDC's research partners are also actively involved in the dissemination of research results, working through a range of mechanisms including their own organisations and also through CRDC-supported National Cotton Development and Delivery Team (D&D Team).

### **Key research partners and co-investors**

**Cotton Catchment Communities CRC**

**Cotton growers**

**Rural Research and Development Corporations**

**CSIRO**

**Universities**

**Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs)**

**Industry and Investment NSW**

**Queensland Department of Employment, Economic, Development and Innovation**

**State Government Departments**

**Crop Consultants Australia**

**Cotton Australia**

**Agribusinesses**

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