
[EXTERNAL] Request to provide supplementary information to the environment protection reforms inquiry

From Jennifer Brown [REDACTED]
Date Thu 30/07/2026 3:10 PM
To QPC <enquiry@qpc.qld.gov.au>
Cc Michael Murray [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Good afternoon,

I am emailing to provide some supplementary information regarding Cotton Australia's submission to the *Impact of the Australian Government's 2025 environment protection reforms on Queensland*.

In both the written and verbal testimony shared with the Commission, Cotton Australia along with member and local irrigator Lucas Finlay, provided commentary about how the enhanced EPB&C Act would impact development the Gulf,

I wanted to flag the Queensland Government's recent announcement that demonstrates the increasing interest and investment in developing cultivated agriculture (both rainfed and irrigated) across portions of the floodplains in the Gulf. In this case a joint financial commitment with the cotton and grains research and development corporations

<https://www.crdc.com.au/53m-partnership-crdc-and-grdc-unlocks-farming-queenslands-north-and-north-west>

As the project summary below indicates, this development would contribute enormously to the economic diversity and climate resilience of these communities.

This initiative will form a strategic partnership between CRDC, DPI and GRDC, that will drive productive, profitable, and resilient cropping farming systems in Northern Queensland (NQ). It will implement an RDE program that integrates cotton and grains, focusing on developing agronomic practices, efficient resource management, technology adoption and capacity building to establish sustainable farming systems that will underpin future NQ cropping enterprises. Central to the initiative is the delivery of participatory place-based science integrating research that will build farming system insights, enable producer learning and co design innovations to advance the industries. This initiative ambitiously targets achieving 100K bales of cotton production and \$100M GVP of grain production in NQ by 2035. It comprises of 6 key investment themes:

1. Exploratory analysis & governance. A holistic understanding of current knowledge, influencing factors, stakeholders, gaps and opportunities for further RDE and potential funding partners will be conducted during first year of project to inform activities across all themes. Establishment and support of fit for purpose governance and monitoring and evaluation plan.
2. Advancing cotton dominant farming systems.
3. Advancing grain dominant farming systems.
Theme 2 & 3 will deploy a series of participatory RDE activities focused on refining agronomic practices, improving natural resource management, technology adoption, and the development of a sustainable farming systems.
4. Developing new farming frontiers. New farming regions will be explored by understanding the climate, geography, land suitability and water resources.
5. Modelling, economic & risk analysis. This will play a critical role in understanding the complexities of NQ farming systems, predicting outcomes, and supporting evidence-based decision-making across the various themes.
6. Emerging issues.

However, in light of the EPBC reforms and absence of a bilateral agreement between the Commonwealth and Queensland Governments, it is uncertain. Cotton Australia therefore reiterates that these impacts, not costed by the Commonwealth, are worthy of investigation by the Commission particularly in the Gulf precinct.

Thank you for your consideration,



Jennifer Brown

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