



Media Release

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Call for unity on the Murray Darling Basin Plan on World Water Day

Cotton Australia has called on stakeholders in the Murray Darling Basin to use this World Water Day (*today, 22/3/18*) to constructively reset the debate on water use and move the Plan forward.

Cotton Australia General Manager, Michael Murray, says: "World Water Day is an opportunity to take stock of the issues facing rural communities and irrigating farmers and, together, work towards a path forward for the Murray Darling Basin Plan."

"Water use in the Murray Darling Basin is the topic of heated debate at the moment, but I urge everyone with an interest in water management to remember the progress we have made and pledge to pursue more of it in the future."

"Australia's cotton industry is certainly proud of its own progress in this arena, and the commitment it has made to continuous improvement. Cotton growers now are 40% more water efficient than they were just over a decade ago. In fact, we are the most water-efficient cotton farmers in the world, growing more crop per drop than any other nation, with yields three times the world average despite inconsistent access to water."

Mr Murray says the Murray Darling Basin Plan was a bold compromise designed to achieve many environmental and social objectives, but its future was in jeopardy.

"The only sustainable path forward for agriculture and the communities of the Basin is for everyone to work together. If we fail to do this, we risk undoing all that we have achieved and negating the hoped-for environmental outcomes planned for the future," he says.

"The cotton industry stands by its record of continuous improvement in water use efficiency, and it remains committed to the implementation of the Murray Darling Basin Plan. World Water Day is the perfect time for all groups with an interest in the Basin to state they will put aside their differences and, instead, work together to improve the outcomes for affected communities, farmers and other stakeholders."

Cotton Australia is the peak representative body for Australia's cotton growing industry.

Cotton Australia media contacts:

Michael Murray
General Manager, Cotton Australia
0427 707 868

Chris Larsen
Communications Manager, Cotton Australia
0488 189 502
ChrisL@cotton.org.au