



Media Release

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Senate result a win for Murray Darling Basin communities and common sense

Cotton Australia has welcomed last night's vote in the Australian Senate's against a motion to overturn a key recommendation by the Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA).

The Greens had moved a Disallowance Motion to overturn recommendations by the Authority to replace 605 gigalitres (GL) of water buybacks with alternative measures. However the Motion was resoundingly overturned, with only the Greens and the Centre Alliance voting in its favour.

"Last night's vote puts the full implementation of the Murray Darling Basin Plan back on track, and restores the bipartisan approach of the Plan, which had been in place until the unfortunate decision by Labor in February to support a Greens Motion to Disallow the Northern Basin Review amendments," says Cotton Australian General Manager, Michael Murray.

"A subsequent agreement between the Government and Labor not only ensured support for the 605GL Sustainable Adjustment Limit Mechanism in last night's vote, but also ensured future support for restoring the Northern Basin Review amendments, which will be introduced as separate legislation into the Australian Parliament shortly."

"We thank the Labor Party and the cross-benchers for ultimately putting partisan politics aside in order to vote against the Disallowance Motion."

"The Murray-Darling Basin has been under intense scrutiny over the past 10 months, and both federal and state governments have demonstrated that they are serious about significant reform, particularly in the area of compliance."

"Cotton Australia and irrigators absolutely support robust and transparent compliance, in a manner that protects the rights of the environment, irrigators and other water users."

"With the full implementation of the Plan back on track, it is important that everyone now focuses on optimising environmental outcomes, while minimising the social and economic impacts of the Plan."

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

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