



MEDIA RELEASE 7 June 2022

New Agriculture Minister chooses a cotton farm for his first farm visit in Queensland

The Albanese government's newly appointed Agriculture Minister Murray Watt has chosen a cotton farm in Emerald for his first farm visit in his new role.

The Minister travelled to Central Queensland to visit the farm of Ross Burnett who is harvesting more than 1400 hectares of cotton this year on his property.

Mr Burnett, a CRDC Director, said to welcome Senator Watt onto a cotton farm in his first week as Minister, indicates his commitment to be on the ground and understand grass roots issues.

"It was a great opportunity to have the Minister on farm and in a cotton picker so he can appreciate cotton production and harvesting and talk through what's important to growers.

"Based on what I saw today, he appreciates the technology, the production standards, and the sustainability of our cotton.

"He also knows the pressure growers are under with increasing input costs and labour shortages while acknowledging that Australian cotton growers are leading the world with our sustainability outcomes."

Senator Watt met with Cotton Australia Chair Nigel Burnett and CEO Adam Kay as well as representatives from the National Farmers Federation and local farmers.

The Minister spoke about the focus on renewable energy and the cost advantages globally that may benefit Australian agriculture. Senator Watt also acknowledged the importance of overseas workers to ease workforce pressures on the land.

Cotton Australia Board Chair Nigel Burnett said he was looking forward to working with the Minister on issues of importance to growers.

"The Minister has shown he is willing to engage directly with stakeholders, and he said himself he wants to listen, learn and collaborate – and that's great news for farmers everywhere," Mr Burnett said.

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

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