The water cycle and responsible water use

By Renee Anderson
How water is used on my cotton farm and by other farmers in the community
What do we use water for?

• Our home
• Our farm
• Our crops
• And for fun
Where does our water come from?

• The rain
Where does our water come from?

- The dam
Where does our water come from?

• and onto our farm via channels
For some farmers their water comes from under the ground.
It is sometimes stored on farm in dams like this.
This is how we water our crops
Parts of an irrigation system

Example of a cotton farm layout
What do you do in your school to save water?
and what do cotton farmers do?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Cotton Farmers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Turn off dripping taps</td>
<td>Make sure there are no leaking bores, storage tanks or channels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t have the taps turned on for too long</td>
<td>We make sure that the plants only get as much water as they need. Not too much. Not too little. We do this with things called moisture probes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t turn the taps on too hard</td>
<td>We do this with water controls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recycle water</td>
<td>We do this too. Any water that comes out the end of an irrigation channel is caught in a tail water drain and returned to the water storage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capture water from roofs into tanks when there are downpours</td>
<td>We do this. When there is a flood and too much water we are allowed to pump water into our storage dams for later.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Only water the school garden plants and the lawn where it needs it</td>
<td>We do this too y using watering systems that deliver the water straight to the crop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When there is no water don’t plant things that need a lot of water</td>
<td>Cotton farmers only plant cotton when there is water available</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Don’t have the taps turned on too hard
Don’t have the taps turned on for too long
Recycle water

Recycling system
Deliver the water straight to the plant
Capture and store water when there is too much rain
Water is precious to us and we are always looking for ways to use it better.

To find out more visit cottonaustralia.com.au
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