



Advancing Australian Cotton

20 March 2018

Damian Colclough
Executive Director
Freight Industry
Freight, Strategy and Planning
Transport for NSW

Submitted via Submission Portal

Draft NSW Freight and Ports Plan

Dear Mr Colclough,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft *NSW Freight and Ports Plan*

Cotton Australia is the key representative body for Australia's cotton growing industry, supporting about 1,200 cotton farming families in NSW, Queensland and now into Victoria. These 152 Australian regional communities produce around 2.4 million bales from across the 472,941 hectares of growing area. In 2016/17 the Australian cotton crop was worth \$2.3 billion.

The Australian Cotton Shippers Association represents merchants that trade and export more than 90% of Australia's cotton. These businesses are engaged in the entire cotton supply chain from field to processing at the gin, warehousing, shipping and delivery to final export consumer.

Every bale of Australian cotton has to make its way from individual farms, to be locally processed in our growing regions the onto a capital city port – some by rail and some by road, to export markets. This makes access to reliable and timely road and rail corridors that seamless connect to ports an imperative.

Cotton Australia and Australian Cotton Shippers Association seek a coordinated and integrated plan that links freight needs to port capacity and access. We consider it vital for promoting and enhancing the export of Australian raw cotton and cotton by-products such as cottonseed.

We note that the draft plan by necessity is high level but makes reference to the inland rail project the Australian Government is overseeing. Cotton Australia encourages Transport NSW to ensure the options to be canvassed by the draft NSW plan will as a minimum complement if not enhance this important rail project.

Cotton Australia wishes to be appraised of further developments of the draft *NSW Freight and Ports Plan*. For further information please do not hesitate to contact me on 02 9669 5222 or jenniferb@cotton.org.au.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer Brown
Policy Officer
Cotton Australia

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