

CCHQ 2022

STRONG ECONOMY. STRONGER FUTURE.

18 May 2022

Mr Adam Kay
CEO, Cotton Australia
Email: michaelm@cotton.org.au

Dear Mr Kay,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide the views of the Coalition on important issues facing your members. A response to your questions is attached.

The last two years have been tough for our country.

Despite the setbacks, Australia's economic recovery is leading the world.

Unemployment is at 4%, the equal lowest in 48 years. And the recent Budget included the biggest turnaround in our finances in over 70 years.

There's much more to be done. To build a stronger future, our plan will:

1. Deliver more jobs and working towards unemployment below 4%.
2. Deliver tax relief for workers and small businesses.
3. Invest in roads, rail, water infrastructure and renewable energy technology.
4. Make record investments in health and other essential services.
5. Invest in stronger defence, security and borders.

This election provides a clear choice, with real consequences for Australia.

The alternative at this election is Anthony Albanese and Labor. Labor would weaken our economy and put Australia's recovery at risk. Now is not the time to change course.

Thank you for communicating our response to your members.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Hirst
Federal Director

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NATIONALS
for Regional Australia

MORRISON GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO COTTON AUSTRALIA

The Morrison Government thanks Cotton Australia for providing their election platform.

In addition to the responses below, please find attached our response to the National Farmers' Federation and [Our Plan for Agriculture and Fisheries](#).

WATER

No water buy-backs because of the damage to regional communities (all water recovery through efficiency and complementary measures).

The Coalition Government will continue to provide the necessary leadership to deliver the Basin Plan in full which means working with the states to deliver the 605 Gigalitre (GL) Sustainable Diversion Limit commitments which provide confidence for our regional communities. All 36 projects have been contracted and we will continue to work with Basin communities and states and territories to ensure these projects are delivered.

The Coalition Government will also work towards the additional 450 GL of water for the environment by 2024, but not in a way that puts at risk the future of our regional Basin communities. Buybacks are off the table and will not return under the Coalition Government unlike the Labor and Greens water recovery commitments.

As part of implementing the program, all state and territory governments that bring forward projects must have a neutral or positive socio-economic impact. Criteria for assessing the impacts has been agreed by the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council.

Improved measuring and monitoring of environmental water

On 19 January 2022, the Coalition Government announced \$66 million to upgrade Basin river models to improve water information which assists Murray-Darling Basin water managers make more timely and more reliable water management decisions. This investment will also enable improved transparency surrounding Basin models to ensure the public have improved confidence in water management decisions.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Unlock innovation through a commitment to upholding the rural R&D model – where growers provide input on R&D priorities, facilitated via their representative organisations

The Coalition Government has recently developed new guidelines for rural Research and Development Corporations (RDCs) for their statutory funding agreements and best practice guides for stakeholder consultation and commercialisation. These guidance documents will help ensure the RDCs are accountable and demonstrate value to the levy payer and taxpayer, have transparent consultation, no duplication and drive commercialisation.

The Guidelines for Statutory Funding Agreements outlines key performance indicators for each of the five performance principles relating to stakeholder engagement, research, development and extension activities, collaboration, governance, and monitoring and evaluation.

The Best Practice Guide to Stakeholder Consultation will inform a consultation plan for each RDC that is easily accessible by levy payers, and written feedback can be provided from industry

representative bodies ahead of the RDC annual performance discussions and tri-partite meetings between the RDC, industry and government.

The RDC Knowledge Transfer and Commercialisation Guide provides guidance for the management of technology commercialisation to assist driving commercialisation and bring in extra funding from private sources.

Ensuring access to existing and new technologies (crop protection products, biotechnology traits) which are independently proven safe for use by a robust, science-based regulatory system.

Maintain funding to ensure the strength and confidence in Australia's independent, science-based regulation and reviewing system of products.

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) is an internationally respected independent regulator for agvet chemicals and is a vital part of the Australian agvet chemicals regulatory system.

APVMA's independence is important to ensure that it can continue as a globally recognised independent agency, well tasked to undertake its regulatory and scientific assessments.

The regulatory frameworks and processes of the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator and Food Standards Australia New Zealand adhere to international standards.

TAX AND INVESTMENT INCENTIVES

Maintenance and expansion beyond 2023 of the accelerated depreciation provisions that has allowed farmers to invest in robust viable farm businesses.

The Coalition Government continues to look for opportunities to reform the tax system and deliver more investment, more jobs and a stronger economy. The expanded Instant Asset Write Off remains in place until 30 June 2023.