



COTTON AUSTRALIA'S NATIONAL POLICY PRIORITIES



POLICY PRIORITIES

WATER SECURITY

Smart water policy that improves the health of our waterways, makes our farms more productive, and our regional communities more resilient.

- › Delivery of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan, as written in 2012 and agreed to at the December 2018 Ministerial Council Meeting.
- › Enhanced investment in complementary measures to leverage greater environmental outcomes from the available water.
- › Support for states and irrigators to develop and implement a world-class system of transparent water measurement, management and compliance.
- › Improved measuring and monitoring of environmental water.



RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Policy to protect the assets, systems and technologies we have now and innovating for the future.

- › Commitment to maintaining matched-government funding of rural RD&E.
- › Unlock innovation through a commitment to upholding the rural R&D model - where growers provide input on R&D priorities, facilitated via their representative organisation.
- › 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.





ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Vibrant cotton communities sustained by a diverse economy with access to services and technology that foster innovation.



ENERGY

Advancing productivity and profitability by supporting access to reliable and affordable energy through:

- > Government policies that help the cotton industry transition to affordable and renewable energy.
- > Continuation of the Diesel Fuel Rebate.



TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Mobile phone and internet connectivity with adequate speeds and data allowances to every Australian farm at a reasonable price.

- > Ongoing commitment to the Mobile Blackspot Program.
- > Complete connectivity to enable agriculture to have full access to the Internet-of-Things.



TRANSPORT

Address transport challenges to improve our competitiveness.

- > Prioritised transport infrastructure upgrades to ease agricultural supply chain choke points.

WORKFORCE, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Capable people supported by a skilled, cohesive and diverse workforce.

- > Commitment to ensure agriculture is strongly positioned in the education system.
- > Establish strategic programs to attract more Australians to a career in agriculture.
- > Establish effective visa incentives that encourage regional settlement.
- > Introduce an Agricultural Visa to specifically address skills shortages.



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