

## **Stakeholder Consultation Plan** for engaging on Research, Development and Extension priorities

### **Introduction**

The Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CRDC) leads investment in cotton research, development and extension (RD&E) for the Australian cotton industry. A partnership between the Australian Government and cotton growers, CRDC exists to invest in, and deliver outcomes from, world-leading RD&E to benefit Australia's dynamic cotton industry and the wider community.

We invest in innovation and transformative technologies to deliver impact, and as an organisation we are ambitious, agile, and adaptive.

Cotton is a major contributor to the economic, environmental and social fabric of rural Australia. The industry's national exports generate an average of \$1.9 billion in annual revenue, and the industry is a major employer in rural and regional communities.

The industry continues to expand from its predominant growing base in New South Wales (NSW) and Queensland (QLD) into northern Victoria (VIC), the Northern Territory (NT) and Western Australia (WA).

RD&E and its resulting innovations are a key driving force behind our industry's continued success, and CRDC's purpose is to power the success of Australian cotton through this world-leading RD&E.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this Stakeholder Consultation Plan is to outline the approach that CRDC will take for identifying the research development and extension needs of industry for the annual investment round. This includes the options available for participating in the identification of RD&E priorities, and for understanding how the information received by CRDC has been taken into account.

While CRDC generally operates on an annual investment cycle with new investments starting in July each year, feedback and advice on RD&E needs and priorities is welcome at any time.

### **How to participate – An overview**

Levy payers interested in providing direct feedback to CRDC on RD&E priorities have a number of options. These are:

1. Through the CRDC website: [www.crdc.com.au/growers/identifying-rde-priorities](http://www.crdc.com.au/growers/identifying-rde-priorities)
2. Through discussion with their local CottonInfo Regional Extension Officer: [www.cottoninfo.com.au/about-us](http://www.cottoninfo.com.au/about-us)
3. Through discussion with CRDC R&D Managers, contactable in the first instance by phoning CRDC on 02 6792 4088 or emailing [research@crdc.com.au](mailto:research@crdc.com.au)

Levy payers and industry stakeholders may also participate through attending research prioritisation meetings held jointly by CRDC and Cotton Australia. Please note that participation in these meetings requires you to be nominated by your local Cotton Grower Association. Please contact your local Cotton Grower Association or Cotton Australia if interested.

### Consultation and Project Investment Timeline

| Activity  | Details  | Timing              |
|---|--|---------------------|
| Provision of feedback directly to CRDC  | Via CRDC website, CottonInfo and R&D Managers directly.  | Ongoing             |
| Survey of growers   | Survey distributed by Cotton Australia by email to all growers. Results are collated and provided to CRDC prior to the May RD&E priority workshop  | March - April       |
| R&D Priority Workshop [for investment round commencing July of following year]    | Cotton Australia research representatives meet with CRDC to discuss and prioritise RD&E needs  | May                 |
| Development of Expressions of Interest to undertake research                      | CRDC R&D Managers develop EOIs based on feedback and information on RD&E needs   | June - August       |
| Publication of Expressions of Interest and receipt of research proposals          | EOIs published on CRDC website and interested research organisations respond   | September - October |
| Research workshop   | Cotton Australia research representatives meet with CRDC to review the research proposals received   | November            |
| Finalisation of research projects for recommendation to CRDC Board for investment | R&D Managers identify preferred projects and finalise project details based on feedback received from Research Workshop and industry Committees  | December - March    |
| Board consideration of recommended projects                                       | CRDC Board considers investment recommendations and approves investment to commence 1 July   | April               |
| Survey of growers   | Survey distributed by Cotton Australia by email. Results are collated and provided to CRDC prior to the May priority workshop  | March - April       |
| R&D priority workshop [for investment round commencing July of following year]    | Cotton Australia research representatives meet with CRDC to discuss and prioritise RD&E needs for following year Investment round. Feedback provided by CRDC on how advice received was incorporated into successful project proposals, and published on the CRDC website. | May                 |

#### Further information:

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