

Darley Farming

Committee Secretary,  
Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

Dear Sir/ Madam

Our family own and irrigated property in the upper Namoi Valley, between Gunnedah and Boggabri. We grow 150Ha of cotton, water permitting. Some wheat may also be grown, however not this year as water is restrictive. Our water source is bore water. We had our bore water allocation reduced by 65%, to not exceed the modelled "sustainable yield".

To ban cotton exports would, this year reduce our income by 100%. Our son has returned to the farm from university and our daughter is currently working on the farm. My wife and myself rely on the farm income for debt repayments.

The community benefit from our operation, with the purchase of variable costs, by also fixed costs for example, the purchase of;

- PVC pipe to connect bores
- Excavator for pipe laying
- Scraper for dam construction
- Cultipacker
- Shed (steel, concrete, fittings)
- Pipe and pump for water recirculation

Other crops are not economical to grow because of;

- Soybeans- American farmers, went to Brazil and cleared great tracks of forest and grew soybeans there reducing the price.
- Corn- Some food corn is sourced from Argentina (grits) and South Africa (corn flour).
- Other grains- prices are low due to black sea exports competing with traditional production areas
- Costs- our input costs in Australia are high due to our high wages and high cost of living, etc.

If you need any further information, then it's appropriate to arrange a visit and you can see first hand how this industry operates. Picking will commence next month.

Regards,

Errol Darley