



Australian Government
**Cotton Research and
Development Corporation**

2 Lloyd Street (PO Box 282)
Narrabri NSW 2390
Tel: 02 6792 4088
Email: crdc@crdc.com.au

Committee Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

8 April 2016

Dear Mr Watling

Inquiry into the Primary Industries Levies and Charges Collection Amendment Bill 2016

The Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CRDC) is appreciative of the opportunity to make a submission to the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee regarding its inquiry into the Primary Industries Levies and Charges Collection Amendment Bill 2016.

CRDC values the importance of a close working relationship with cotton farmers and supports the proposed legislative changes as they will enable further improvement to communication and engagement on RD&E matters. We have advised the industry through Cotton Australia, the peak representative organisation, and Department of Agriculture and Water Resources of CRDC's interest in establishing a cotton R&D levy payer register.

A cotton R&D levy payer register would strengthen CRDC's capacity to consult with cotton farmers on their R&D priorities, improve the distribution and extension of research results as well as receiving feedback on CRDC's performance.

More broadly we support the creation of levy payer registers as a means to improve Australian Government information about agriculture. In addition to making information available to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the Committee may wish to consider the merits of enabling the appropriate availability of production information to the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences to support their functions.

If you have any questions regarding this submission, please contact me.

Yours sincerely

Bruce Finney
Executive Director