

# Cotton shippers conference puts accent on quality

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The Australian Cotton Shippers' Association (ACSA) is keen for as many growers as possible to attend their biennial conference to be held at Royal Pines Resort on the Gold Coast on September 3–5. The conference will cover a wide range of issues 'beyond the cotton farm gate' but many of the quality issues have direct relevance for growers.

In fact, the theme of this year's conference is 'Accent on quality.'

"The ACSA has a unique position in the industry," says ACSA Chairman Dorcen Walters. "Our members are vital links in the marketing chain between producers and end-users. Part of our role is to communicate market signals both ways and this conference is an ideal way to do it by bringing growers together with other sectors of the industry such as merchants, shipping lines, spinners and textile users here and overseas."

The opening address will be given by Trade Minister Mark Vaile, while the keynote speakers will be Nick Earlem, (managing director of Plexus Cotton and president of the Liverpool Cotton Association) and Saul Eastlake, chief economist with the ANZ bank.

Topics covered during the conference will include:

Plant breeding and research: Dr Greg Constable, CSIRO Plant Industry;

Fibre quality assessment: Dr Stuart Gordon, CSIRO Textile and Fibre Technology;

Quality and best management practice: Alan Williams, ACGRA.

## Growers' perspective

Several growers will be asked to give their views on quality issues including:

- Peter Cottle, Clyde Agriculture;
- Jeff Bidstrup, Darling Downs; and,
- John Seery, Moree, who will also bring a ginner's perspective as a principal of Brighann Ginning.

## Spinners' perspective

Speakers will include:

- Mr T Sriyuksiri, MD, K Cotton and Gauze Co, Thailand;
- Graham Burden, Cotton Specialist, Marks and Spencer, UK; and,
- Gordon Cherry, Dunavant Enterprises.

Other topics and speakers will include:

- Australia and world cotton trade — Christopher Ward;
- Shipping and transport issues — Tracee White, P & O Ports; and,
- Cotton controlling — Bruno Widner, SGS Geneva.

The conference won't all be serious business, with golfing opportunities available on both Wednesday, September 3 and Friday, September 5.

The official dinner will be held on the Friday evening.

For registration details, please refer to the ACSA web site: [www.austcottonshippers.com.au](http://www.austcottonshippers.com.au)