

SECTION 1  
OVERVIEW

This section brought to you in association with



<10...A YEAR FOR CHANGE

- recognised with a vocational qualification (Diploma of Agriculture), without further study.
- Funding was secured for the delivery of “Cotton Seed” and “Cotton Basics” education and training packages through the NSW Government Strategic Skills Program.
  - Funding from the NSW Department of Education and Training to establish partnerships between industry, contractors and training providers to deliver machinery operator training in rural and regional areas.
  - The Year 10 “Cotton Seed” training for high school students included as part of a NSW state-wide education trial.

The success of the project was recognised with Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School, winning a Vocational Education and Training (VET) in Schools Excellence Award 2007 for “its role in helping develop the Cotton Industry Skills Development Pilot Project, in conjunction with Cotton Australia”.

**BMP mapping against catchment plan targets**

Through funding from the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality and the Natural Heritage Trust Extension, Cotton Australia completed a task to map out where and how each of the 80 objectives contained in the BMP manual contribute to the Management Action Targets of the nine Queensland and NSW Regional Groups and Catchment Management Authorities that cover cotton growing regions.

This information will allow Cotton Australia to better engage with each of these groups and demonstrate how a grower undertaking BMP contributes to catchment targets and objectives.

**Cotton looks to the north**

Following a number of years of research and commercial trials, 12 farmers planted about 1000 hectares of cotton in the Burdekin irrigation region, south of Townsville, in the 2007–08 season. The development of the industry in this new area has taken place over a number of years and with careful consideration and support.

Growers are taking on cotton growing mainly as part of a sugar cane rotation and come from a mixture of backgrounds including experienced local cane growers and cotton growers from southern areas who have bought into the region.

Cotton Australia was active in the region by visiting local growers and making assessments of their requirements in preparation for implementing the cotton Best Management Practices program as well as testing local capacity for instigating a growers’ association.

Cotton Australia also liaised with the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the Burdekin Dry tropics NRM body, local cane industry and council representatives in order to ensure that all parties understand the way in which cotton production occurs and the status of development in the region.

# Greg Kauter joins Cotton Australia

Cotton Australia has welcomed well known industry face, Greg Kauter, to a new role as NSW Policy Manager, with an emphasis on policy development, advocacy and NSW Government affairs.

Greg brings over 25 years experience working in the cotton industry in agronomy and research and development as well as living in regional communities in NSW and Queensland.

He says the new role is an exciting challenge, particularly in the current political climate.

“I’m particularly looking forward to advocating on behalf of Australia’s cotton growers and will use my experience to align Cotton Australia’s policies with the needs of growers and other industry bodies,” Greg said.

“Cotton Australia can really add value for growers by working in the political sphere on policy frameworks that are difficult to deal with from the farm level and issues of water and climate change will continue to dominate.

“I will help the team identify emerging issues, develop policy responses, build the cotton industry’s case based on sound research and data and then take these positions to government,” he said.



Greg Kauter, new NSW Policy Manager at Cotton Australia.