



Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association Inc.
making every drop count

Cotton; Growing the Ag Revolution

Cotton in the Gwydir

Australia prides itself on being one of the largest, and most efficient, producers of cotton in the world. Irrigated cotton contributed over \$763 million to the NSW economy in 2016, 29% or \$218.5 million, of which came from the Border Rivers Gwydir¹.

There is an average of 79,649Ha of dryland cotton (63% of the NSW production) and a further 74,570Ha of irrigated cotton (40% of NSW) planted when irrigation water is available.

Irrigated Cotton

The irrigated cotton industry is an intensive industry with high investment and high returns. Growers in the industry are intent on maximising their production per megalitre of water. Significant investment in new and innovative technology is being made in all production aspects. As a result, there are significant career opportunities.



On-Farm Positions

Options are diverse, and range from farm mechanics, to irrigation and earthworks managers or farm managers.

Machinery Technicians

The cotton industry uses a wide range of technology to monitor application, location, steering and yield. Support services are vital in ensuring usefulness of information.

Irrigation Specialists

Measuring and monitoring water movements and use is critical. This provides opportunities for meter and pump technicians, as well as specialists supporting the use of overhead or drip irrigation equipment.

Decision Support Technicians

Monitoring crop and paddock performance through interpretation of data collected by drones, satellites or agronomic consultants is a growth sector. Digital agriculture is also pushing the boundaries of automated irrigation, and robotics.

Design and Management

A key part of maximising productivity is design and planning. Engineers, Hydrologists and NRM specialists all work in planning and design.



¹ 171210DO003_201415 Agricultural Commodities, Australia-2015-16

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Ginning, Classing and Marketing

All cotton produced in Australia is ginned locally. There are a number of ginning organisations which employ ginners, electricians and support staff. Cotton is then classed using an international standard, before being shipped internationally for processing.

Business Support Specialists

Financial and legal support is essential in the agricultural industry, especially for the larger family or corporate business.

<https://www.gvia.org.au>

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A Regional Growth
Marketing and
Promotional Fund
supported by NSW
Government

