

Review of the water charge rules  
Australian Competition and Consumer Commission  
GPO Box 520  
Melbourne Vic 3001  
3-3-2016  
[waterchargerules@accc.gov.au](mailto:waterchargerules@accc.gov.au)

Dear Commissioners,

**Re: Review of the Water Charge Rules**

Cotton Australia is the peak body representing Australia's 1200 cotton growers, the vast majority of whom have a very high dependence on irrigation water.

Cotton Australia is also an active member of the National Farmer's Federation (NFF), National Irrigators Council (NIC), New South Wales Irrigators Council (NSWIC) and Queensland Farmers Federation (QFF).

Having discussed in detailed the draft Advice with the above organisation, and reviewed their draft submissions, it is clear to Cotton Australia that the ACCC process has been flawed from the start and its draft advice has failed to develop a workable suite of Water Charge Rules amendments.

Cotton Australia will not be providing a detailed response to you on the draft, but directs you to the submissions that will be provided by the above organisations.

Cotton Australia is aware that there are some inconsistencies in the detailed responses on specific proposed rule changes, between the various submissions referred to above. However, there is no doubt that none of the organisations referenced above are supportive of the majority of changes.

Cotton Australia strongly recommends to the Commission, and will be forwarding this recommendation to the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, that the proposed changes are rejected, and the review be re-established and carried out in a manner that recognises and reflects the views of the irrigation industry.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Murray,  
General Manager

Cced: Office of the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources