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Responsible Director: John Blood/Ralph Schulzé**Code: 4.1**

- Title:** Commissioned Research Proposal - Fibre quality, Spinability of Transgenic Cotton.
- Funding:** 1996/97 - \$75,000
- Summary:** Instrument fibre tests indicate that there is no difference between the fibre from transgenic Bt cotton and non transgenic. However there is assumed concern from the spinning and textile sector.
- To overcome any doubts, and to improve confidence in the Australian transgenic varieties, a full commercial evaluation needs to be undertaken.
- Similar work with non transgenics has been supervised by the 'Fibre Research Management Group' (TexSkill, Rocklea, Bonds, University NSW, CRDC - plus occasionally CSD, CSIRO and Dr Stuart Gordon). In the past this group has organised parallel assessment by Schlafhorst (Germany) and further testing by Zellweger (Switzerland) to add international confirmation.
- Research:** Half bale size samples would be taken from side by side plots of the transgenic and non transgenic versions of each significant variety.
- The fibre would be spun by TexSkill with comprehensive testing of fibre and yarn performed by TexSkill and University of NSW. The spinning etc would be overseen by Rocklea/Bonds to ensure 'commerciality'. The yarn would be taken through to knitting and/or weaving for further assessment.
- The co-operation of Schlafhorst and Zellweger would be sought to undertake complimentary evaluation.
- Costs:** Similar work in the past has cost CRDC \$50,000 to \$60,000. To this is added considerable 'in kind' input from spinners and overseas collaborators (the total value of the work is possibly over \$150,000). As there should be some increase in the volume of material it is suggested that \$75,000 for one year be allocated.