



FINAL REPORT – Executive Summary

CRDC ID: CRDC2102

Project Title: NRM R&D Manager and Technical Lead

Confidential or for public release? For Public Release

Recognition of support: The Research Provider Stacey Vogel acknowledges the financial assistance of the Cotton Research and Development Corporation in order to undertake this project.

Part 1 – Contact Details & Submission Checklist

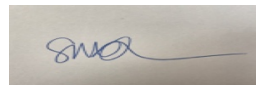
Principal Researcher: Stacey Vogel (NRM R&D Manager & Tech Lead)

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Signature of Research Provider Representative:



Part 4 – Summary for public release

This summary is designed to provide a short overview of the project for all interested parties. It will be published on Inside Cotton, CRDC's digital repository, along with the full final report (if suitable for public release). The summary may also be published on grow^{AG}, a collaborative platform that showcases Australian agrifood research, development, and extension projects that are current or have been completed since 1 July 2018. Please complete all fields, ensuring that this exceeds no more than two pages.

Project title:	Type Title here	
Project details:	CRDC project ID:	CRDC2102
	CRDC goal:	<i>4. Strengthening partnerships and adoption (ES1)</i>
	CRDC key focus area:	<i>4.1 Partnerships and collaboration</i>
	Principal researcher:	<i>Stacey Vogel</i>
	Organisation:	Stacey Vogel Consulting
	Start date:	<i>01/07/2020</i>
	End date:	<i>30/06/2023</i>
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aware of all relevant NRM research and emerging issues; Takes a leadership role among relevant researchers • Leads the development of NRM extension programs, products, tools & activities • Leads the development, implementation & monitoring and evaluation of CottonInfo's AOP for NRM • Reviews industry's best practice recommendations for NRM • CottonInfo networking 	
Background	<p>This project contracted Stacey Vogel 3 days a week between 2020-2023 to continue to provide the cotton industry with the technical NRM skills and knowledge required to assist CRDC meet the cotton farming sustainability targets outlined in the CRDC 2018-2023 strategic plan and the NRM objectives outlined in the 2018-2023 CottonInfo Strategic Plan and supporting annual operating plans.</p> <p>A key role of the position was to manage the Cotton Landcare Tech-Innovations project, a collaborative grant between CRDC, QUT & UNE funded by the National Landcare Programs Smart Framing partnership Initiative round 1. The 3.5 year project completed in June 3023.</p>	
Research activities	<p>This project provided an NRM Technical Lead 1.5 days a week and a Biodiversity R&D Manager 1.5days a week. The NRM Technical Lead role assisted the industry continuously improve its BMP recommendations for NRM on cotton farms. This was achieved through the development and implementation of annual CottonInfo Operating Plans, annual reviews and updates to myBMP and industry BMP guides and the development and implementation of tools, products & activities and collaborations.</p> <p>This project, despite challenges with drought, COVID and flooding, led the successful implementation of all research and extension activities under the 3.5yr collaborative grant project 'Cotton Landcare Tech Innovations'. In 2022</p>	

	<p>the success of the project was acknowledged with project team becoming a finalist in the 2022 Australian Cotton Industry Researcher of the Year Award.</p> <p>The project delivered a number of products and tools which have assisted the industry meet its environmental sustainability targets such as the CottonInfo Biodiversity management in cotton landscapes webtool , Native Revegetation guide and the QUT social science research which identify strategies that would help growers strengthen biodiversity management actions on farm.</p> <p>In addition a collaborative partnerships was formed with NRM Regions Australia and the 7 regional NRM bodies in cotton growing areas which led to the establishment of the Draft Native vegetation Sustainability Targets and priorities and a methodology for reporting change overtime.</p>
Outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 new tools and products • 3 new collaborative partnerships • 36 communication products articles • 4 workshops/field days
Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 growers & consultants recording improved NRM awareness and knowledge as a result of attending a workshop/field day. • 1500 growers and consultants with increased awareness of NRM BMP as a result of viewing NRM extension material • 175ha of cotton farms revegetated • Improved tools for managing biodiversity on cotton farms • Draft Native vegetation Sustainability targets and priorities established • 2022 grower survey showed that 61% growers were aware of the tools and research developed under the Cotton Landcare Tech Innovations project.
Key publications	<p>CottonInfo Biodiversity management in cotton landscapes webtool https://www.cottoninfo.com.au/managing-biodiversity-cotton-landscapes</p> <p>Revision of the Birds on Cotton Farm Guidebook Birds on cotton farms guidebook –</p> <p>Native Revegetation guide for cotton farmers. (NLP, CottonInfo & UNE) Native Revegetation Guide for Australian Cotton Growers</p> <p>Managing riparian ecosystems of ecosystem services and biodiversity – a handbook for the cotton industry (CRDC & Griffith University) https://cottoninfo.com.au/sites/default/files/2020-12/RES_LMHB%20Final.pdf</p> <p>Perceptions of strategies to strengthen biodiversity management – perspectives from the cotton industry (NLP, CRDC & QUT)</p>