



SMALL GRANT REPORT

CRDC ID:	UNCGA 12215
Project Title:	Grassroot Grants: 2026 Camp Cotton – Grower Networking Lunch & Transportation - an opportunity for the local cotton community to meet with global and Australian customers
Start Date:	01/02/2026
End Date:	10/04/2026
Principal Researcher:	Andrew Watson
Organisation:	Upper Namoi Cotton Growers Association

Project Summary

The Upper Namoi Camp Cotton networking lunch was delivered as part of the broader Camp Cotton program coordinated by [Cotton Australia](#). The purpose of the project was to strengthen connections between Australian cotton growers and global supply chain stakeholders through a farm-based networking event during the cotton harvest season.

The project successfully delivered a networking lunch attended by Camp Cotton delegates, Cotton Australia staff, and local growers in the Upper Namoi region. The event provided an opportunity for delegates to experience Australian cotton production firsthand, hear directly from growers, and gain a stronger understanding of sustainability, innovation, water storage and allocation, plus regional family farming communities. Funding also supported transportation for delegates to the Pursehouse Farm.

Outcomes & Impact for Industry

The project successfully delivered a coordinated networking lunch and transport support that enabled meaningful engagement between growers, brands, retailers, and industry representatives. The event strengthened understanding of Australian cotton farming practices, sustainability initiatives, how water is allocated in the system, and the importance of regional communities within the global textile supply chain. The lunch aligned strongly with CRDC objectives by supporting industry transparency, knowledge-sharing, and stronger supply chain relationships. Delegates valued the opportunity to engage directly with growers and learn more about the cotton production systems in the Upper Namoi region. There were no significant variations from the original application plan. Catering, equipment hire, and transportation support were delivered as proposed and contributed to the success of the broader Camp Cotton program.

M&E Outcomes: Number of outcomes achieved.
5
People Connections
•Itinerary: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cIWewhzjPMb3qP60VxpOLc7SK8CYL2o-/view?usp=drive_link •Delegate & Staff listing: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cXH61teYFp3dLBrHvrJ51qk_il7Cm-rV/view?usp=drive_link
M&E People: Number of connections achieved.
70
Learnings
•Direct, face-to-face engagement and opportunity to have conversations with growers had the greatest impact on delegates’ understanding of the Australian cotton industry, along with the transparent nature of the farmers in answering any type of question. •On-farm experience such as the visit to Breeza Station, and the CGA lunch significantly improved delegates’ understanding of water management and sustainability practices. •Delegates valued learning about innovation across the industry and research partnerships. •Hearing directly from growers and regional communities helped build trust, transparency, and stronger emotional connection to Australian cotton. •Practical demonstrations and open discussions helped address misconceptions around Australian cotton production and sustainability.
M&E Learnings: Number of learnings and planned actions for the project.
5
Do you have recommendations for CRDC (eg RD&E gaps?)
•Further explore opportunities for regional community engagement initiatives that showcase the social, environmental, and economic contribution of cotton-growing regions to customers. •Consider ongoing support for industry immersion programs such as Camp Cotton, which play an important role in strengthening trust, transparency, and long-term demand for Australian cotton across the global supply chain.