



FINAL REPORT

CRDC ID: VOGS 10071

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 Innovation Broker & Tech Lead)

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Signature of Research Provider Representative:



Date submitted: 30th June 2026

Part 2 - Monitoring & Evaluation

This data is for CRDC's internal M&E requirements. Please complete all fields and add additional rows into each table if required.

Achievement against milestones in the Full Research Proposal

Milestone	Achieved/ Partially Achieved/ Not Achieved	Explanation
1. Cotton NRM Technical Lead 1.5 days		
1.1 Lead CottonInfo's continuous improvement of the industry's best practice recommendations for biodiversity management	<i>Achieved</i>	<i>Please insert</i>
1.2 Identify opportunities for innovation in the development and implementation of campaigns and tools to assist the industry meet its environmental sustainability targets	<i>Achieved</i>	<i>Please insert</i>
1.3 Ensure cross-sectoral delivery of NRM R&D to cotton growers	<i>Achieved</i>	
2. Biodiversity Innovation Broker 1.5 days		
2.1 Identify opportunities and broker the procurement of research and development to support the achievement of CRDCs strategic RD&E plan outcomes for biodiversity.	<i>Achieved</i>	
2.2 Manage and Monitor the delivery of biodiversity R&D projects to meet established quality criteria and deadlines, identifying opportunities for enhancement and mitigating project risks.	<i>Achieved</i>	
2.3 Develop annual investment plans, EOI's and FRP's for the biodiversity outcomes under the Natural Capital Theme and provide to the Natural Capital Lead in time for CRDC board approval process.	<i>Achieved</i>	

2.4 Lead the identification and management of individual project IP and the associated reporting and communication processes to maximise impact and outcomes	<i>Achieved</i>	
2.5 Project communication	<i>Achieved</i>	

Outputs produced *(Please refer to examples document to assist in completing this section).*

Output	Description
Cotton NRM Technical Lead 1.5 days	
Spotlight Articles	In collaboration with the editor of spotlight magazine the following articles were developed: • 2024 Opportunities for carbon projects Country Road Climate Fund (Landcare Australia, AWI & CRDC collaboration). • 2024 Native Vegetation sustainability priorities CGA consultations • 2024 Coleambally irrigation nature projects story • 2024 New Namoi family joins The Biodiversity project – Country Road - Schwager family story • 2024 Information is available and growing with monitoring project – CottonInfo Biodiversity Management tool update • 2025 Sensing something in the bush – Uni SC project • 2025 Carbon & Biodiversity workshop Narromine • 2025 Growers on board with modern Fish screens: a win-win solution • 2025 New industry resources give growers impartial information and advice – natural capital markets & monitoring • 2025 Growers meet to talk weeds in non-farmed areas – Griffith Uni research project stakeholder consultations • 2026 Drought and flooding rains: what stories do birds tell in the long term • 2026 Updated guide offers insights into successful revegetation projects
CottonInfo e-newsletter	• 2024 Native vegetation draft sustainability targets & priorities and regional grower consultation meetings • 2024 Cottoninfo and Landcare Australia 6 easy steps to revegetation case studies • 2024 Bats in your Backyard monitoring program • 2024 researcher profile- Dr Rhiannon Smith UNE • 2024 Country Road Biodiversity project – Phase 2 Macquarie valley • 2025 Biodiversity monitoring tools information resources • 2025- Researcher profile – Professor Stuart Parsons UniSC • 2025 Modern fish screens ROI research project • 2026 Modern fish Screens podcast link

	2026 Macquarie Landscape Impact pilot
CottonInfo field days & grower meetings	2024 Camp cotton field day at Merced farming Wee Waa- Biodiversity 2024 NT Cotton Grower Association meeting and WA farm visits 2025 Carbon & Biodiversity grower and consultant workshop Narromine 2025 Riparian weed management workshop series (Goondi, Moree & Wee Waa) 2026 Camp Cotton field day at Federation Farm- Biodiversity
CottonInfo webinars & podcasts and media interviews/releases	2025 Participated in an interview with ABC New England on the USC research project – acoustic sensors for identifying insectivore bats and birds as indicators of biodiversity condition. Worked with Ella Smith and her team to develop a natural capital article which was run in the Queensland Land. 2025 tech & tell mini series podcast – Stacey Vogel 2026 Modern Fish screen collaborative podcast with NSW DPI Fisheries Cotton Australia 2025 Coordinated NRM content and speakers (Ethan Towns) and participated in the Cotton Australia video series to showcase Australian cotton. 2024 Landcare Australia (Angela Hammond) & CottonInfo (Stacey Vogel) video interview for landcare Week
CottonInfo Publications	- Biodiversity Monitoring Tools- Biodiversity: online tools for measuring biodiversity on farm; Natural capital: tools to track natural capital on your farm; Environmental markets: a grower's guide to environmental markets and how to measure what matters https://cottoninfo.com.au/publications/biodiversity-monitoring-tools - CottonInfo, NSW DPI & FRDC Modern Fish screen DRAFT case studies and Information sheet on the environmental and economic impacts of modern fish screens (to be released soon). - CottonInfo & Landcare Australia case studies developed for Namoi sites 6 easy steps for success for revegetation in cotton landscapes: 3 grower case studies CottonInfo
Cotton Production Manual and Cotton Pest Management Guide.	Annual review and updates of NRM chapter undertaken in collaboration with relevant researchers
MyBMP natural assets module updates	Annual reviews and supporting documentation updates undertaken

CottonInfo Annual Operating Plans	Development and implementation of CottonInfo Natural Resource Management Annual Operating plan for 2023-24, 2024-25 & 2025-2026
Cotton grower Surveys	Developed and reviewed evaluation questions for the 2024, 2025 and 2026 cotton grower survey to inform research projects, gauge progress against meeting AOP and CRDC's Clever Cotton strategic Plan 2023-2028.
Conference, workshops & forum presentations & attendance	• 2024 Australian Cotton conference "The Biodiversity project" presentation with Gemma Cahill (Country Road), Angela Hammond (Landcare Australia), Daniel Kahl (grower wee waa) & myself • 2024 & 2026 Australian Cotton Sustainability Framework updates – Biodiversity updates to the Australian Cotton Sustainability Reference Group. • 2024 Facilitated a Country Road and Landcare Australia staff tour of Macquarie Valley • Facilitated presenters for the 2025 SAI Platform Sustainability (Biodiversity & Carbon) Field Trip in SEQ. • Attended 2025 World Resources Institute: workshop in Brisbane <i>"Defining and monitoring Natural Ecosystems and their conversion in Australia"</i>. Workshop attended by ecologist, industry and finance sector to discuss Global terminology used by SBTn, TFND and Global Ecosystem • Attended the 2023 & 2025 Australian Cotton Scientists Conferences and organised presentations from CRDC funded researchers under the Natural capital R&D portfolio.
CottonInfo meetings	• Attendance at fortnightly Cottoninfo team meetings and bi-annual strategic Planning meetings • Supported new CottonInfo Manager develop draft 5 year CottonInfo Strategic Plan •
CottonInfo Biodiversity Management Tool	• In collaboration with government & Northern NRM groups updated the Biodiversity Management tool to include biodiversity asset and BMP information for Northern Australia. • Updated the CottonInfo Biodiversity management Tool as part of a updated to the CottonInfo website.
Collaborations with Regional NRM groups and Landcare	• Successful development & implementation of a second 3 year partnership with Country Road & Landcare Australia to restore biodiversity on cotton farms within the Macquarie valley • Led a collaborative innovative research pitch with Landcare Australia to the Australian Governments' Business Research and Innovation Challenge • Supported Landcare Australia led collaborative initiatives (Country Road Climate Fund project) • Collaborated with NRM Regions Australia on a successful Carbon outreach grant application • Collaborative project with NW Slopes and Plains Landcare to use acoustic sensors to engage farmers in improved native vegetation management.

	• Participated in the NSW Local land Services Natural capital farm profile program development and review. • Collaborated with Suvannah NRM to identify BMP for biodiversity within cotton growing regions • After extensive consultation with growers, consultants and NRM Regional groups developed and implemented in the Macquarie Valley a pilot Landscape Impact project to identify Natural capital value and market opportunities with a group of cotton growers.
Provide Biodiversity Innovation Broker support to CRDC	
Implementation of CRDC Strategic Plan	• Led procurement of research projects to assist the implementation of the Natural Capital R&D portfolio under CRDC's Clever Cotton 2023-2028 Strategic Plan • Annual M&E against strategic plan • Managed CRDC Funded Natural capital research projects providing progress reports, final report and journal articles reviews and feedback. • Contributed to the development and implementation of new Investment processes for delivering CRDC's strategic plan • Attended Cotton Australia Bi-annual R&D Priority setting meetings with Cotton grower Association representatives capturing key R&D priorities for investment under the natural capital portfolio.
Cotton industry Sustainability Framework	• In partnership with Cotton Australia undertook extensive industry (grower & consultant) consultation on the Draft Native Vegetation Sustainability Priorities and supporting metrics and key R&D priorities. • Continued collaborative work with regional NRM groups in the development of industry native vegetation Sustainability priorities and metrics and alignment with Regional NRM plans • Worked extensively with Cotton Australia to review and finalise the Native Vegetation sustainability priorities and supporting metrics for industry reporting. • Lead the application of cotton native vegetation sustainability metric methodology in the emerging cotton areas of Northern Australia and the Cotton Australia review of outputs. • 2025 CRDC led Sustainability Roundtable (biodiversity & carbon) attended by industry stakeholders, government agencies, banks, retail sector • In collaboration with cotton industries Sustainability Framework Lead, socialised the biodiversity sustainability priorities and supporting metrics with other RDC's (GRDC, MLA, Wool Sustainability Framework), NFF, Government, NRM groups and not for profits, Accounting for Nature etc
Supported emerging industry in Northern Australia	• In collaboration with Cotton Australia met with northern Australia growers and Cotton Grower Associations to identify priority NRM RD&E gaps & opportunities for the north. • Captured biodiversity asset information for Northern Australia and currently updating the Cottoninfo Biodiversity management tool to capture new information.

	• In collaboration with Northern NRM groups such as Savannah NRM identified priority BMP for inclusion in myBMP program and the updated Cottoninfo Biodiversity management Tool • Brokered collaborative partnership with NT Government and NT growers to test monitoring and market etc..... •
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Outcomes from project outputs *(Refer to examples document)*.

Outcome	Description
Cotton NRM Technical Lead 1.5 days	
Increased grower and consultant awareness and knowledge of on farm biodiversity, ecosystem services and managing habitat to maintain and increase natural services.	12 x Spotlight articles 10x CottonInfo e-newsletter articles 1x CottonInfo Podcast 1x Cotton grower magazine year book NRM chapters 2025 7 x workshops/field days 3x reviews/updates to Cotton production Manual 3x reviews/updates to Cotton pest Management Guide 3x reviews/updates to Sustainable landscape module myBMP
Improved regional collaboration between industry, researchers, community groups and regional NRM advisory services to deliver NRM BMP to growers	• Successful development & implementation of a second 3 year partnership with Country Road & Landcare Australia to restore biodiversity on cotton farms within the Macquarie valley • Supported Landcare Australia led collaborative initiatives (Country Road Climate Fund project which developed revegetation guidelines for carbon projects) • Participated in the NSW Local Land Services Natural capital farm profile program development and review. • New collaborative project with NW Slopes and Plains Landcare to use acoustic sensors to engage farmers in improved native vegetation management. • New collaboration with Savannah NRM to identify BMP for biodiversity within cotton growing regions of northern QLD • New partnership with NT government to improve BMP recommendations for biodiversity management and monitoring in NT
Development of innovative tools and publications for improved management of on-farm biodiversity	• CottonInfo Biodiversity asset and management tool developed for Northern Australia growers • Native Revegetation case studies for cotton growers aligned with the Cottoninfo revegetation guide. • Biodiversity monitoring tools factsheet series • Modern Fish Screen ROI case studies
Restoration of biodiversity on cotton farms	• 100ha of cotton farms revegetation as part of the Country Road, Landcare Australia and cotton partnership.

Improved BMP recommendations for cotton growers	In consultation with NRM researchers supporting best management practice products and tools have been developed that capture the latest research knowledge and made available to growers via CottonInfo website and the Cotton myBMP program.
Industry provided with strategic annual operating plan for improving industries environmental footprint	3 CottonInfo Annual Operating Plans developed, implemented and monitored. - Contributed to development of CottonInfo 5 year Strategic Plan 2026-2031
Established cotton Biodiversity Sustainability priorities and metrics for national reporting	- In collaboration with Jenny Brown Cotton Australia and Chris Cosgrove (Cotton Sustainability Framework consultant) undertook extensive consultation with industry stakeholders and cotton growers to finalise the biodiversity sustainability priorities and metrics. 2 cotton Industry sustainability annual reports containing biodiversity reports
Biodiversity Innovation broker 1.5 days a week	
Implementation of CRDC's Clever Cotton strategic Plan 2023-2028	- Implementation of CRDC's Annual operating plans (2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26) - CRDC's Annual progress and performance reports ((2023-24, 2024-25)
Cotton grower input into RD&E on emerging NRM issues	- Cotton Australia Bi-annual R&D Priority setting meetings with Cotton grower Association representatives capturing key R&D priorities for investment under the natural capital portfolio. 2023-24 Cotton Grower Association consultation meetings on the draft Native vegetation sustainability priorities 2025 Sustainability roundtable forum in Sydney (carbon & Biodiversity) 2024 NT & WA Cotton grower association meetings and tour on biodiversity RD&E gaps and opportunities.
Australian Cotton industry is reporting its biodiversity sustainability priorities	- National Biodiversity sustainability priorities and metrics established for the Australian cotton industry. 2024 & 2026 Sustainability reports capture industries progress against biodiversity priorities

Part 3 – Technical Report

As per R&D manager advice no technical report has been provided.

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:	VOGS10071
	CRDC goal:	<i>Click here to select a Goal</i>
	CRDC key focus area:	<i>Click here to select a KFA</i>
	Principal researcher:	<i>Stacey Vogel</i>
	Organisation:	<i>Vogel consulting</i>
	Start date:	<i>1/07/2023</i>
	End date:	<i>30/6/2026</i>
Objectives	• Lead CottonInfo's continuous improvement of the industry's best practice recommendations for biodiversity management • Identify opportunities for innovation in the development and implementation of campaigns and tools to assist the industry meet its environmental sustainability targets • Ensure cross-sectoral delivery of NRM R&D to cotton growers • Biodiversity Innovation Broker for CRDC	
Background	This project contracted Stacey Vogel 3 days a week between 2023-2026 to continue to provide the cotton industry with the technical NRM skills and knowledge required to assist CRDC meet the Natural Capital objectives outlined in the CRDC 2023-2028 Clever Cotton strategic plan and the NRM objectives outlined in the CottonInfo Strategic Plan and supporting annual operating plans.	
Research activities	This project provided an NRM Technical Lead 1.5 days a week and a Biodiversity Innovation Broker 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. The project delivered a number of outcomes & outputs which have assisted the Australian cotton industry meet its environmental sustainability priorities and support the emerging industry in northern Australia. The highlights include the establishment of national biodiversity sustainability priorities and metrics for industry sustainability reporting, the inclusion of biodiversity asset and management information for northern Australia into the CottonInfo Biodiversity management webtool , Native Revegetation case studies based on the very successful 6 year partnership between Country Road and Landcare Australia to retore biodiversity on cotton farms and the partnership	

	between CRDC, NSW DPI and FRDC to develop 5 case studies on the economic and environmental impacts of modern fish screens.
Outputs	• 3 new collaborative partnerships • 37 communication products and articles • 7 workshops/field days
Impacts	• 50 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 • 100ha of cotton farms revegetated • Improved tools for managing biodiversity on cotton farms • Industry Native vegetation Sustainability priorities and metrics established and reported for biodiversity
Key publications	CottonInfo Biodiversity management in cotton landscapes webtool-northern Australia https://www.cottoninfo.com.au/managing-biodiversity-cotton-landscapes 6 easy steps for successful revegetation in cotton landscapes- 3 grower case studies https://cottoninfo.com.au/publications/revegetation-grower-case-studies Biodiversity Monitoring Tools https://cottoninfo.com.au/publications/biodiversity-monitoring-tools