

AUSTRALIAN COTTON FORUM 2025

3rd June 2025 Commonwealth Bank Head Quarters Auditorium 11 Harbour St, Sydney 9:30am - 4:30pm		
TIME	TOPIC	PRESENTER
9.30am	Arrival, tea and coffee will be served Be greeted by a friendly Cotton Australia team member who will assist you with collecting your registration tag.	
10.00am - 10.15am	Welcome Welcome, Acknowledgement of Country & overview of agenda. Welcome from our sponsor, the Commonwealth Bank.	Brooke Summers Cotton to Market Lead, Cotton Australia Thomas Perrett Director Institutional Banking & Markets/Food, Beverage & Agriculture, Commonwealth Bank
10.15am - 10.20am	Introductory Video	
10.20am - 10.35am	How Well Do You Know Your Aussie Cotton? A fun and interactive pop quiz (no study required!) that will help you learn (or brush up on) the basics about the Australian cotton industry.	Adam Kay Chief Executive Officer, Cotton Australia
10.35am - 11.00am	Intergenerational Family Farming (panel) Panel discussion led by Cotton Australia CEO Adam Kay - hear from our farmers about their personal views and experiences and what it takes to be a leading cotton farmer in Australia.	Adam Kay (moderator) Chief Executive Officer, Cotton Australia Brendan Griffiths Haydon Frith Grace Griffiths
11.00am - 11.20am	Sustainability Snapshot: Milestones, Metrics, and Momentum What's the data telling us about Australian cotton's sustainability progress? And what are the challenges that lie ahead. A sneak peek at our next Sustainability Report.	Allan Williams Executive Director, CRDC
11.20am - 11.35am	Cotton and Water: A Hands-On Look at Australia's Allocation Puzzle There's no doubt about it, understanding the way water allocations work is complex and confusing. In this session we'll take the mystery out with a hands-on demonstration, led by a leading water expert.	Zara Łowień CEO, National Irrigators Council Jenny Hughes Cotton Australia, Education Manager
11.35am - 11.55am	Water Myth Busting: Your Chance to Grill the Experts This is your chance to ask those burning questions about water and cotton, no matter how tough! Come ready with your questions to our expert panel including a farmer, a water efficiency specialist and a policy expert.	Dr Janelle Montgomery, Cotton Info Program Manager, CRDC Zara Łowień CEO, National Irrigators Council



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11.55am - 12.15pm	Cottoning On to Carbon: Cutting GHGs at the Farm Gate How are we measuring and mitigating GHG emissions at farm level, what's our biggest impact and how are farmers taking climate action? How is the industry plan to cut emissions by 70% using existing technology?	Dr Nicola Cottee, Innovation Broker (Carbon) - CRDC
12.15pm - 1.05pm	Lunch	
1.05pm - 1.20pm	Digital Cotton: Turning Farm Data into Fashion Insights A quick update on the CRDC Data Platform and how it will deliver insights for brands.	Dr Meredith Conaty General Manager, CRDC
1.20pm - 1.35pm	Tracing Our Fibres An update on Cotton Australia's traceability research, what it's telling us and what's next for Australian cotton traceability.	Rick Lambell CEO, Beyond Sustainable Retail
1.35pm - 2.15pm	Innovation Showcase - from the Field and Beyond (panel) Think robots, genetically modified traceability and DNA sampling to monitor biodiversity - this session will bring some of the cotton industry's greatest innovations to the stage.	Moderator: Darrin Davies, Communications Manager, Cotton Australia Dr Xiaoqing Li Cotton Research Scientist, CSIRO Dr Guy Roth Director Agriculture Narrabri, Uni of Syd Jason McNeice Operations Manager, SwarmFarm Robotics
2.15pm - 2.40pm	Afternoon Tea	
2.40pm - 3.10pm	Circularity Across the Clothing Lifecycle (panel) Led by Seamless, this panel will take a look at the projects and innovations providing practical circularity solutions for textiles. We'll look at what's new, what's coming and the challenges being faced by innovators including an industrial scale worm farm, and the Salvo's Boomerang Project.	Ainsley Simpson CEO, Seamless (Moderator) Thomas Dewing CEO, Wormtech Meriel Chamberlin, Business Development Manager: Project Boomerang by Salvos Stores Megan Priest Strategy Manager, RM Williams
3.10pm - 3.30pm	The Power of Story-telling A fireside chat with CEO of RB Sellars, Jim Gall about this iconic workwear brand's journey with Australian cotton, and how this growing business has connected rural people with product that sells.	Jim Gall CEO, RB Sellars Ashley Hollis Brand Relationships Manager, Cotton Australia

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3.30pm - 4.00pm	Women in Cotton (panel) Hear from a panel of leading women in the cotton industry - their personal stories, leadership journeys and how they've navigated life in rural Australia and careers in cotton.	Matt Linnegar, Chief Executive, ARLF (Moderator) Grace Griffiths Cotton Farmer & Agronomist, DataAg Janelle Montgomery, Cotton Info Program Manager, CRDC Colleen McMillan Scientist & Diversity Advocate, CSIRO
4.00pm - 4.15pm	Read All About It! We'll wrap up the day with a series of shout outs about how you can work with us, engage in our initiatives, support our farmers and learn more about the topics that interested you most.	Ashley Hollis Brand Relationships Manager, Cotton Australia
4.15pm - 4.30pm	Wrap Up and Close	