



TRAVEL, CONFERENCE or SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE REPORT 2016

Part 1 - Summary Details

Please use your TAB key to complete Parts 1 & 2.

CRDC Project Number: CRDC1501 - CRDC1717

Project Title: Cotton Resilience Workshop

Project Commencement Date: 1/7/2014 Project Completion Date: 30/5/2017

CRDC Research Program: Industry

Part 2 - Contact Details

Administrator: Stacey Vogel
Organisation: Stacey Vogel Consulting
Postal Address: PO Box 318
Ph: **Fax:** **E-mail:** staceyvogel.consulting@gmail.com

Principal Researcher: Stacey Vogel
Organisation: Stacey Vogel Consulting
Postal Address: PO Box 318
Ph: **Fax:** **E-mail:** staceyvogel.consulting@gmail.com

Signature of Research Provider Representative:

Date Submitted:

4/10/16

Part 3 – Travel, Conference or Scientific Exchange Report

(Maximum two pages)

1. A brief description of the purpose of the travel.

In early September I was asked by CRDC to attend the CRDC resilience workshop in Sydney. The workshop was an opportunity for cotton industry stakeholders to gain an understanding of resilience thinking and hear about the results from the CRDC cotton resilience project in particular the important thresholds and tipping points that the industry should be considering.

2. What were the:

a) major findings and outcomes

b) other highlights

Of interest was the

- Definition of resilience at different scales (panarchy) of field, farm, region, industry and global.
- The differing opinions within the room to which of the above were the most important drivers of the industries resilience (eg profitability of farm verse attractiveness of communities for living – social services availability)
- The resilience of the cotton industry to date (response to previous shocks) is much greater than other industries
- The importance of networking/connectedness and innovation to resilience, (innovative people are often not strongly socially connected but do have good information networks).
- The significant negative impact government policy can have on cotton rural communities
- Being an annual crop and having access to surface and groundwater increases its resilience when compared to other agricultural industries.

3. Detail the persons and institutions visited, giving full title, position details, location, duration of visit and purpose of visit to these people/places. (NB:- Please provide full names of institutions, not just acronyms.)

The workshop was held at the Cotton Australia Building at Mascott Sydney. The workshop was led by project lead for the CRDC project CRDC1717.

4. a) Are there any potential areas worth following up as a result of the travel?

b) Any relevance or possible impact on the Australian Cotton Industry?

Where to now?

- I was struck by how similar the themes within this workshop were to those that evolved as the key discussion points in the Cotton Responsible Landscape Management Forum (May 2016). Eg Inclusivity and Connectedness.
- Can we using a panarchy approach and turn liabilities or threats into assets?
- Inclusivity appears to be a key to long term resilience, Inclusivity takes a long time to achieve 10-30 years and over that time governments, CEO's etc. change. But if the industry and community have real ownership of targets and are working together towards achieving those targets very difficult for a government to derail that. How can we as an industry better lead internal and external stakeholder discussions on local and regional issues (threats and tipping points)?

5. How do you intend to share the knowledge you have gained with other people in the cotton industry?

The outcomes and messages were shared with the CottonInfo team at our monthly teleconference following the workshop.