

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**1.1 The Project - Review Australian Cotton Classing Standards**

1.1.1 The review was initiated by the Australian Cotton Industry Council in response to grower concerns and in part dissatisfaction with aspects of the present classing system.

1.1.2 The project was managed by a project sub-committee which included representatives of growers, researchers, classers and shippers.

1.1.3 A meeting (the first at which I was involved) of the Cotton Classing Standards Sub-committee was held August 5, 1997 at Dalby. During this meeting the Committee agreed that the review remit must be changed to Australian 'Cotton Evaluation Standards', the use of the word 'classing' being normally associated with the manual grading of cotton, whereas mechanical testing (HVI) now accounts for the greater part of quality assessment of raw cotton.

1.1.4 The review exercise and its attendant itinerary of meetings and travel were co-ordinated through the good offices of the CRDC, Narrabri and are to be commended for their efforts.

1.1.5 The emphasis of basically all meetings, with growers, merchants, ginners, researchers, local spinners, seed producers etc. was from my perspective, to view the current situation, to attempt to gain a consensus of opinion as to the pluses and the shortfalls, what changes if any were needed and from discussion, questions, answers and opinions expressed formulate ideas and make objective recommendations hopefully to the benefit of the Australian cotton industry generally.

1.1.6 Within the time scale of my visit meetings were held with the representatives of major Associations directly involved in cotton production, marketing and research in Australia. I was also privileged to be invited to attend and on one or two occasions address some of the industry meetings.