

Expression of Interest EOI

Part 1 – General Details

EOI ID	983
EOI Title	Understanding the movement of pesticides and nitrogen in cotton catchments
Type of Research	Knowledge Creation
Expected Start Date	05/01/2026
Expected End Date	30/06/2029
CRDC Pillar	3. Planet
CRDC Theme	3.1 Natural Capital
CRDC Outcome	3.1.4 By 2028, industry has improved management of pesticides and nitrogen movement
EOI Close Date	28/11/2025

Part 2 – Expression of Interest Requirements

Issue to be addressed and project description:

Issue to be addressed

There is strong momentum within the Australian cotton industry to proactively manage environmental impacts, supported by significant investments in anticipation, avoidance, management, monitoring, and reporting against key sustainability metrics.

CRDC aims to address its strategic priority of improving the management of pesticide and nitrogen movement in cotton catchments to minimise the environmental impact of farming practices.

An improved understanding of pesticides and nitrogen movement in water across cotton catchments will build industry confidence to engage in discussions and build partnerships to deliver catchment-level initiatives that enhance water quality.

Project description

This project builds on the findings of previous CRDC-funded research to deepen our understanding of the risks and drivers of nitrogen and pesticide movement across various water catchment areas. It aims to guide RD&E investment to support informed decision-making and deliver collaborative, impactful solutions for regional water management.

The project will include:

1. Project design: identify, prioritise, then recommend at least two focus cotton catchment areas for further investigation. Catchment selection for technical investigation should be based on existing knowledge, methodological and environmental constraints, and potential for delivering social, economic

and/or environmental impact. The design must include strategies for managing project-related sensitivities or concerns held by the local cotton community.

2. Technical investigation: describe and quantify the movement of nitrogen and pesticide in the selected catchment areas including (but not limited to);

- a. the connectivity between surface, ground, and river water;
- b. the risks and drivers (including spatial and temporal considerations) for exceeding water quality guidelines/thresholds; and
- c. potential, unrealised, or future impacts.

3. Recommendations: provide catchment-specific recommendations for risk mitigation, future research, and strategies for working with the local community and other stakeholders.

4. Communications: share project findings with the local cotton community and industry. This should be done in collaboration with industry stakeholders, including CottonInfo.

Expected project outputs and outcomes:

Outputs

- 1. Risk matrix for potential and selected focus catchment areas.
- 2. Communications and extension materials.
- 3. Final report including findings from the technical investigations and recommendations.

Outcome

The Australian cotton industry has improved management of pesticides and nitrogen movement.

Project Investment:

Year	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	TOTAL
Indicative budget (up to)	\$250,000.00	\$575,000.00	\$575,000.00	\$350,000.00	\$1,750,000.00

Additional guidance:

Part 3 – Selection Criteria

The following selection criteria will be used by the CRDC to assess the full research proposals (FRPs) received for each Expression of Interest.

The rationale of the project, how it will support CRDC’s Strategic Plan and the potential impacts for the Australian cotton industry and the Australian community.

This criterion will be assessed on the soundness of the proposal’s understanding of the issues, and the extent to which the project outcomes will address the issues and support CRDC to achieve its measures of success.

Project methodology.

This criterion will be assessed on the soundness and clarity of the proposed R&D methods to achieve project deliverables and outcomes.

The skills and capacity of the research team to undertake the project.

This criterion will be assessed on the track record, technical knowledge and experience of all key personnel in the research area and the demonstrated capacity of the nominated researcher/s to provide project coordination, management, monitoring and evaluation for the timely delivery of high quality outputs.

The proposed ‘Pathway to Impact’.

This criterion will be assessed on the appropriateness of the proposed ‘Pathway to Impact’ and the demonstrated capacity of the project personnel to effectively translate research/project outcomes to on ground actions. Please include the target audience and process for extension/ communication/ commercialisation (as appropriate), as well as any collaboration partners and potential risks. Note that successful FRPs may be requested to develop specific milestones for delivery of project outcomes in collaboration with CottonInfo or CRDC Commercialisation Manager at the outset of the project.

Proposed collaborations for the project and / or the collaborative networks of the project team.

This criterion will be assessed on the demonstrated ability of the project personnel to form productive networks to build on national and international research already undertaken in related areas.

How this project is cost effective for the Australian cotton industry, including details of the resources being brought to the project.

This criterion will be assessed on the cost effectiveness of this project including cash and in-kind commitments from the applicants and leverage through domestic or international linkages. Budget including descriptive text will also be assessed as part of this criterion.

To apply, [follow this process](#). For further information, contact the CRDC Innovation Administration team on 02 6792 4088 or via research@crdc.com.au.

This EOI is not a guarantee of funding.