



Media Release

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Carrathool Bridge fix to relieve harvest pressure on local cotton industry

Cotton Australia has welcomed measures to allow the movement of heavy freight at Carrathool during the cotton harvest, which is ongoing.

Local growers and Cotton Australia had asked the NSW Government and Murrumbidgee and Carrathool Shire Councils for assistance in moving cotton from farms to gins.

In response, authorities have allowed heavier freight to temporarily use the Carrathool Bridge. Double road trains carrying up to 18 cotton modules may now apply for a special permit to use the bridge. The new system would allow 6 more modules per trip than a B-Double truck.

"Cotton Australia appreciates the support of the NSW Minister for Roads & Freight, Duncan Gay, and the Murrumbidgee and Carrathool Shire Councils for their support in enabling the temporary use of the bridge and approval for roads on either side," says Cotton Australia General Manager, Michael Murray.

"The news could not have come at a better time for the local cotton industry - recent rains have prevented the movement of modules on-farm and to the gins, and this new allowance will greatly assist the rapid movement of cotton for processing."

"The temporary use of Carrathool Bridge will allow the backlog of cotton on farms to be processed more efficiently and safely, and this greatly appreciated by cotton growers."

"While we anticipate the new \$15 million Carrathool Bridge will be ready for the 2016-17 season, we hope the Government and Councils will give consideration for the use of the existing Carrathool Bridge in similar fashion next year if the new bridge is not ready in time."

Cotton Australia is the peak representative body for Australia's cotton growing industry.

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