

## **Collaboration in Action**

by Jules Willis, Australian Cotton Shippers Association

The Australian Cotton Shippers Association (ACSA) has kicked off an exciting new chapter for the post farm-gate sector, launching four dedicated committees to drive collaboration and deliver solutions that matter.

The committees - Classing & Quality; Freight & Warehousing; Ginning; and Sustainability & Traceability - bring together expertise from across the post farm-gate sector to tackle shared challenges and deliver outcomes that strengthen the Australian cotton industry.

### **Classing & Quality**

Building on decades of valuable contribution and achievement from the Cotton Classers Association of Australia, this Committee is raising the bar through national best practice guidelines and by keeping pace with global developments and requirements. Their work will include creating resources to improve industry-wide understanding of classing processes and quality factors, as well as investigating opportunities to streamline data flows so cotton moves more efficiently through the supply chain.

### **Freight & Warehousing**

Focused on some of the sector's biggest supply chain pressures, this Committee is working to improve visibility of cotton movements, refresh bale handling and chain-of-responsibility guidelines, and address freight scheduling challenges head-on. Their goal is to make logistics safer, faster and more predictable.

### **Ginning**

This committee is putting people and sustainability at the forefront. Work is underway to secure formal recognition of ginners as trade-qualified professionals, strengthening workforce pathways and safeguarding the skills base for the future. The group is also exploring how sustainability data should be measured, the opportunities for benchmarking and comparison, and the potential for a carbon benchmarking framework tailored to ginning operations.

### **Sustainability & Traceability**

Supporting the Australian cotton industry in staying ahead of evolving market expectations, this committee is engaging with CRDC and KPMG to ensure post-farm gate needs are embedded in the industry's data platform. It is also progressing quality guidelines for module wrap and developing a communication strategy to deliver clear, consistent messaging on traceability and sustainability requirements.

Together, these committees represent a bold step forward for ACSA and the post farm-gate sector. They highlight the power of collaboration in action - turning challenges into practical outcomes that drive efficiency, deliver value across the supply chain and build a more connected and resilient Australian cotton industry.

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