



Kimberley Cotton Company Ltd

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MEDIA STATEMENT

15 September 2021

ORD COTTON GIN RECEIVES FINANCE APPROVAL

Kununurra's farmers have received welcome news with the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF) Board approving an up to \$32m loan to construct stage 1 of a cotton gin in the Kimberley town.

Following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ord River District Cooperative, Kimberley Agricultural Investment and the Miriuwung Gajerrong Corporation in 2020, efforts to secure a cotton gin and underpin regional agricultural growth have ramped up.

The three organisations formed the Kimberley Cotton Company (KCC) in April 2021 and have secured investment commitments from farmers and industry.

In June this year, KCC and Namoi Cotton agreed to work closely on the design and operational planning for Stage 1 of the cotton gin, which can process cotton grown on up to 15,000 hectares in the region.

Kimberley Cotton Chairperson Dr Gabi Bloecker said the cotton gin is the critical infrastructure required for the continued development of agriculture in the Ord and surrounding areas.

“Our farmers have known the potential of this industry for a long time. The new cotton varieties have yielded very well in research and commercial trials in the Ord.”

“Building a Cotton gin in Kununurra will remove the need to transport unprocessed cotton interstate. It will mean that the cotton seed which is removed during ginning can be used in cattle feed in WA, providing a much-needed protein source”.

“Cotton integrates very well into our agricultural system. We expect stage 1 of the cotton gin to add \$268m to the gross value of agricultural production in the region”.

“That includes the cotton lint itself, but also increased beef production on pastoral stations when cattle are fed cotton seed, maize and hay, all grown locally in the Ord.”

“The WA Government has supported the gin proposal with the provision of part of the old sugar mill site for the ginnery. Horizon Power is upgrading electricity supplies to ensure our gin can be powered by green energy from the Ord hydro power station”.

“The NAIF loan will mean that we can proceed in expanding agriculture in the north. It has been talked about for a long time, and the construction of local cotton processing facilities will be the trigger for much broader investment”.

The NAIF loan is subject to conditions which include the supply of enough cotton to make the gin viable, which requires approvals to continue developing farmland.

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