



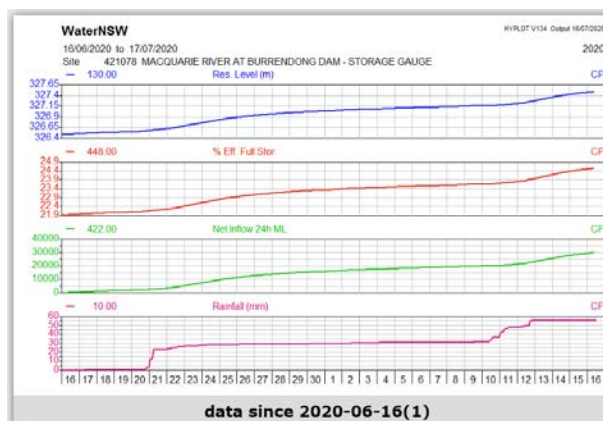
# Macquarie bale up

## JUNE 2020

### Update from MRFF

Burrendong Dam currently sits at 24.6 % with some low inflows running in from rain on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July for the latest figures [click here](#).

**Fig 1: Latest inflow data 16<sup>th</sup> June to the 17<sup>th</sup> of July 2020**



Source: <https://realtime.data.watersnsw.com.au/>

General Security allocation remains at 0%, however 40% of the drought suspended account carryover water has been released back into irrigators' active accounts (up from 30%) and so can be ordered for use or traded. High Security, stock and domestic and town supplies are all reset to 100 percent for 20/21.

Thanks to Tony Quigley for the update on behalf of MRFF

It will be great to welcome our Bourke growers back into play next season more than 5000ha is estimated to be planted.

### Ginning Report

The ginning reports are certainly pointing towards the early picked cotton being better on most fronts. The early picked cotton (which was still late for this valley) did see good quality and made base grade in most cases.

Low Mic is starting to slip into some later fields classing results (2.6-3.2 range) along with Low strength (25.9-27.9), however this is a low number of bales overall. Reports have been made of a moderate number of bales with low Mic from the southern valleys. The later picked cotton tends to have a higher leaf/trash content and have higher variability in moisture readings (as to be expected). Turnout range on irrigated cotton has been between 38.5% - 43.17%.

The range of yields has been quite large and put the average for the valley somewhere around 9.5 bales per ha. However, it is still too early to make an informed call on that yet.

Thanks to Anna Dawson and Sinclair Steele (Auscott) Jess Straunch (Namoi Cotton) and Jacinta Condon (QLD Cotton) for contributions to this report.

## WEATHER SUMMARY

When reflecting on the 19/20 season it is important to remember that this was one of the most challenging years we have experienced in the last decade of production. If we speak broadly and look at total Day Degree accumulation, we were above average but when we look at how that was accumulated there is a tale of two extremes this impacted the peak flowering, micronaire and boll fill periods.

CSD has provided the climate summaries for our regions and it is clear to see that the Micronaire period was not ideal. You can see it went from very hot to cooler cloudy conditions when we received rainfall in early February.

The other telling factor was the solar radiation, not only did we finish the season with cloudy cool conditions we also had very high temps and constant dust on the leaf surface during the peak flowering periods. This has no doubt impacted the plants ability to cool itself and perform respiration to adequate levels and thus impacted the yield potential.

### TEMPERATURE DURING MICRONAIRE PERIOD

1st January - 31st March

	2019-20	2018-19	Avg	% of Avg
Days > 35°C	27	48	18	149%
Days > 40°C	15	15	3	500%
Nights > 25°C	6	12	0	
Avg Max °C	32.1	34.9	32.3	99%
Avg Min °C	19.1	20.3	17.4	110%
Avg Mean °C	25.6	27.6	24.9	103%

Fig 2: Narramine Micronaire summary (source CSD CMT online presentation)

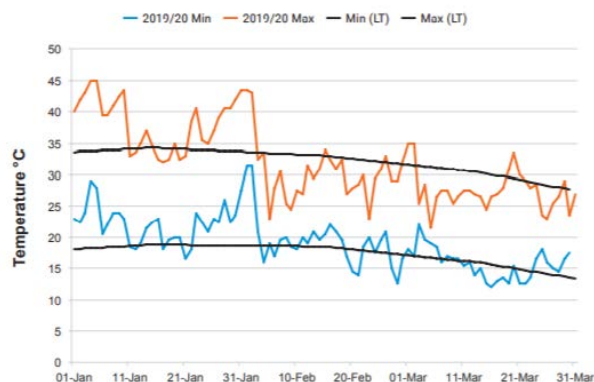


Fig 3: Narramine Micronaire temp summary (source CSD CMT online presentation)

### SOLAR RADIATION

1st October - 20th April

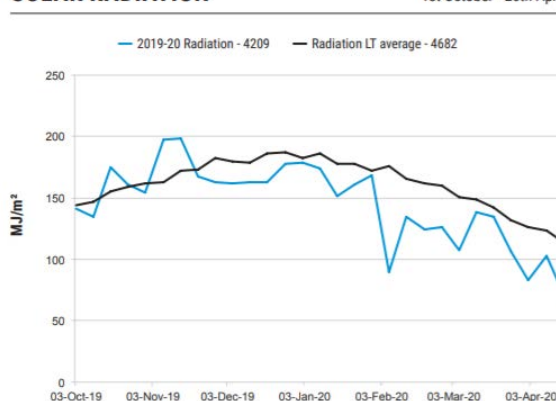


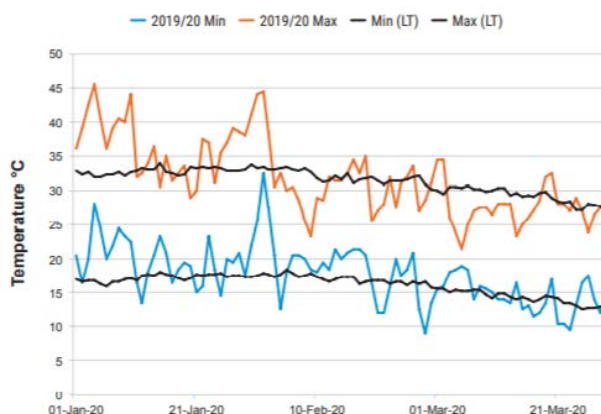
Fig 4: Narramine weather summary (source CSD CMT online presentation)

### TEMPERATURE DURING MICRONAIRE PERIOD

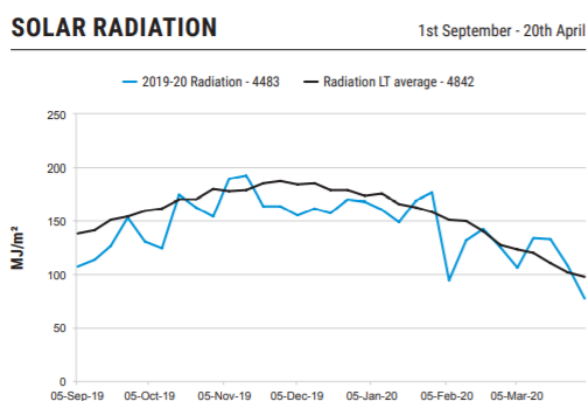
1st January - 31st March

	2019-20	2018-19	Avg	% of Avg
Days > 35°C	24	40	23	104%
Days > 40°C	9	13	4	209%
Nights > 25°C	4	10	0	
Avg Max °C	31.7	33.9	31.3	101%
Avg Min °C	17.8	18.9	16.1	110%
Avg Mean °C	24.8	26.4	23.7	104%

Fig 5: Forbes Micronaire summary (source CSD CMT online presentation)



**Fig 6: Forbes Micronaire temp summary (source CSD CMT online presentation)**



**Fig 7: Forbes solar radiation summary (source CSD CMT online presentation)**

For a full report on the trial results as well as updates from CSD please make sure you join up (see below) to get access to the latest information. To renew, or apply for membership, visit:

[www.csd.net.au/membership](http://www.csd.net.au/membership) or contact (02) 67 950 000 for assistance.

## MAJOR PEST RESISTANCE UPDATE

As many of you would know from my emails from the 19/20 season, I was out and about looking for pest populations to send to our researchers for resistance monitoring. With budgets very tight in the low water years and Covid-19 travel restrictions CottonInfo is doing all the resistance sampling in this valley. I would love to work with consultants to make this more effective in the coming seasons so

stay tuned for more information from me once the season begins. If we want local information this is the best way to ensure it happens.

Here is a short video summary from Dr Lisa Bird around resistance information from the past season. On some of our major pests.

[Resistance surveillance in major insect pests of cotton](#)

Dr Jamie Hopkinson has also prepared a video update on [Silverleaf whitefly insecticide resistance](#)

## DISEASE UPDATES

This short presentation from Duy Le on the national cotton disease surveys (NSW) was created for the Cotton Seed Distributors 2020 Cotton Management Tour. It provides an update as to the latest research in this field, supported through investment by the Cotton Research and Development Corporation

[NSW REPORT](#)

This short presentation from Linda Smith on the national cotton disease surveys (QLD) was created for the Cotton Seed Distributors 2020 Cotton Management Tour. It provides an update as to the latest research in this field, supported through investment by the Cotton Research and Development Corporation

[QLD REPORT](#)

## CMT ONLINE THIS YEAR

Due to current circumstances with the unfolding COVID-19 health pandemic, Cotton Seed Distributors are unfortunately unable to host the Cotton Management Tour this year.

They plan to host the CMT again in 2021, however for this season the summaries that would normally be delivered at the meetings

that are relevant to the upper Lachlan and Macquarie regions will all be online.

By now I'm sure you would have heard that CSD has made a significant investment on its online information and tools. To make sure it is the Australian cotton growers that benefit they have decided to make this information only available to current members. If you have not already followed the steps to join (see below)

**Step 1.** Go to <https://www.csd.net.au> Click the "CSD Membership application and renewal form" button on this page and complete your personal or corporate details and submit your credit/debit card details to make your recurring payment of \$20p.a.

**Step 2.** Select your communication preferences - what information you would like to receive from us, and your preferred format/s.

**Step 3.** After you have submitted your details, CSD will run a quick membership eligibility assessment and email you to confirm that your membership has been approved, along with a copy of your tax invoice.

If you have any issues submitting your application, please call us on (02) 6795 0000 or email [membership@csd.net.au](mailto:membership@csd.net.au) for support.

## **WHATS ON ..... Or if it's not on, what's cool to look at from home?**

### **SLW MONITORING UPDATE (SEE ATTACHED)**

Join Richard Sequeira, Principal Scientist, Crop Protection Systems with Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for an update on the new sampling and management system developed to replace the existing SLW matrix. The new system is a comprehensive SLW management system underpinned by comprehensive data and understanding of whitefly population

dynamics in all the cotton producing regions of southern QLD and northern/central NSW where SLW is endemic and presents an economic problem. These meetings will potentially be live streamed for those who cannot attend, I am looking to go in person and could take a few consultants if they were interested.

### **WHAT CAN WE FIND OUT ABOUT OUR SOILS FROM HOME?**

Here is a great tool that is free that can tell us lots about the soil types on our farm. Find out more in a blog created by Oliver Knox, features our own Dr Pat Hulme in his natural environment (down a soil pit).

<https://blog.une.edu.au/cottonhub/2020/01/01/how-to-remotely-look-at-your-soils-for-free/>

### **LoRaWAN VIDEO SERIES**

Some of you may remember that we did some work on the 'smart farm tools' and were trialling the effectiveness of the LoRaWAN networks to transfer small packets of data in relatively cheap way around our farms. There is now a video series on a LoRaWAN demonstration farm that hosted a project organised by the St George Cotton Growers Association, via funding they received in a grant from the Cotton Research and Development Corporation. This project involved the installation of a range of sensors that operate on the LoRaWAN network.

There are lots of topics to choose from in this series so [click on this link](#) and find out how the technology was used and what were pros and cons and how useful was it on farm.



## AUSSIE COTTON FARMERS GROW COMMUNITIES 2020 is now open...

Supported by the Bayer Fund and in partnership with the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR), the program will again deliver 30 grants valued at \$5000 across 15 Cotton Growing Areas (CGAs) in Queensland, Victoria, New South Wales, and Northern Australia.

Cotton farmers are invited to nominate a group or project to receive funding under the program. Recipients could include not-for-profit and community organisations across education, rural mental health, nursing, the arts, disability and emergency services and other local charitable projects.

Now in its 7<sup>th</sup> year, this program has already awarded \$900,000 in grants to more than 180 local community projects in the past six years. The support makes a tangible and meaningful impact as these examples from [Pittsworth](#) and [Jandowae](#) show.

Entries close on Monday 31 August 2020 and successful entrants will be announced on National Agriculture Day on Friday 20 November 2020.

To enter nominations or for more information, growers can visit the [FRRR](https://www.frrr.org.au/grants/Cotton-Farmers-Grow-Communities) website:  
<https://www.frrr.org.au/grants/Cotton-Farmers-Grow-Communities>.

## PAST RAINFALL CHANGES OVER AUSTRALIA AND IMPLICATIONS FOR AGRICULTURE

MLA has a great webinar with Dr Katharina Waha who leads the MCV funded research project on past and future rainfall changes over Australia and implications for agriculture. Jon Welsh will facilitate this webinar so jump on the link to register.  
[https://unimelb.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_yUTydZZRQ0qA9n6BJD9JLg](https://unimelb.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yUTydZZRQ0qA9n6BJD9JLg)

## PROCEEDS FROM THE DROUGHT BUSTER CLASSIC GOLF DAY

We are happy to report that we finally got around to delivering a welcome cash injection to three local golf clubs. The proceeds from our Drought buster golf day had a big flow on effect in our drought-stricken communities, not only did we raise \$4600 for our golf clubs we also spent \$6000 in our three towns. Here are some snaps of MCGA Chairman Sinclair Steele with his massive novelty cheque spreading the joy to the golf clubs.



Andrew Cooper (president of Warren Golf club) and Sinclair Steele.



Kale Bock and Mitch Smith of the Narromine Golf Club with Sinclair Steele.



Rob McCutcheon (Trangie Golf Club president) with Sinclair Steele.