



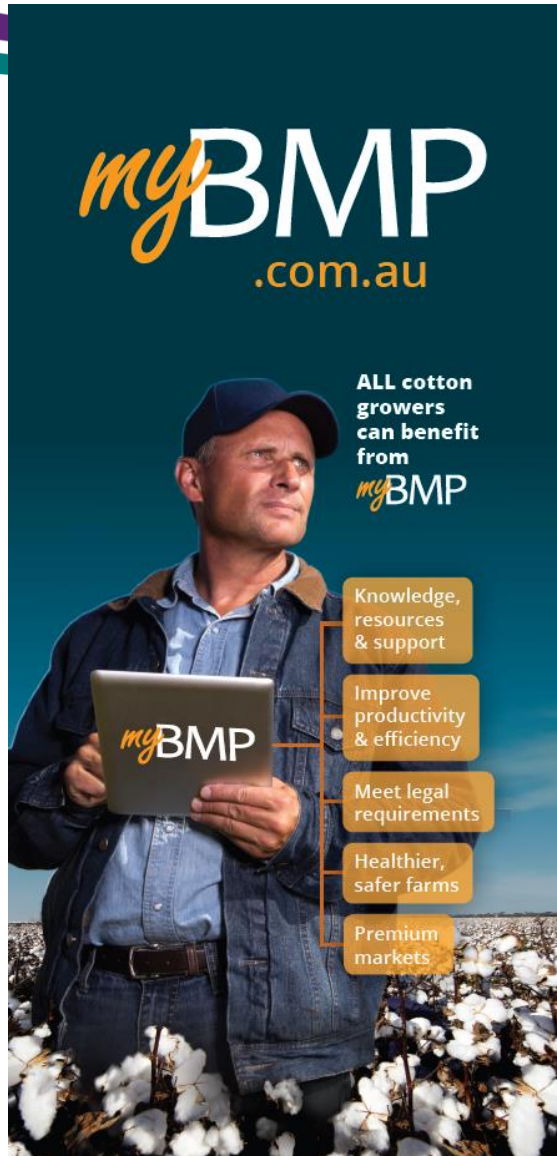
*my*BMP – The Cotton Story

**Michael Murray,
General Manager,
Cotton Australia**



1. Australian cotton industry's voluntary farm and environmental management system
2. Incorporates latest science and research and drives continuous improvement
3. Designed for all cotton growers; small to large businesses
4. Starts with an online self-assessment of best management practices by the grower – benchmark current practices against industry standards
5. Growers access information & resources to improve farm management practices – become more sustainable
6. Option for myBMP certification (3rd party farm audit), then access to sustainable cotton markets, BCI

How does it work?



myBMP
.com.au

ALL cotton growers can benefit from myBMP

- Knowledge, resources & support
- Improve productivity & efficiency
- Meet legal requirements
- Healthier, safer farms
- Premium markets

Levels:

1. Legal requirements
2. Industry best practice
3. Innovative practices

myBMP Certification:

- audit levels 1 & 2
- Eligible for BCI (Better Cotton Initiative)

myBMP - for growers, powered by research...

myBMP demonstrates to the community the Australian cotton industry's improved farming practices and careful management of our natural resources.

Get the latest scientific knowledge, resources and personal support to meet best practice standards along the entire cotton value chain right here.

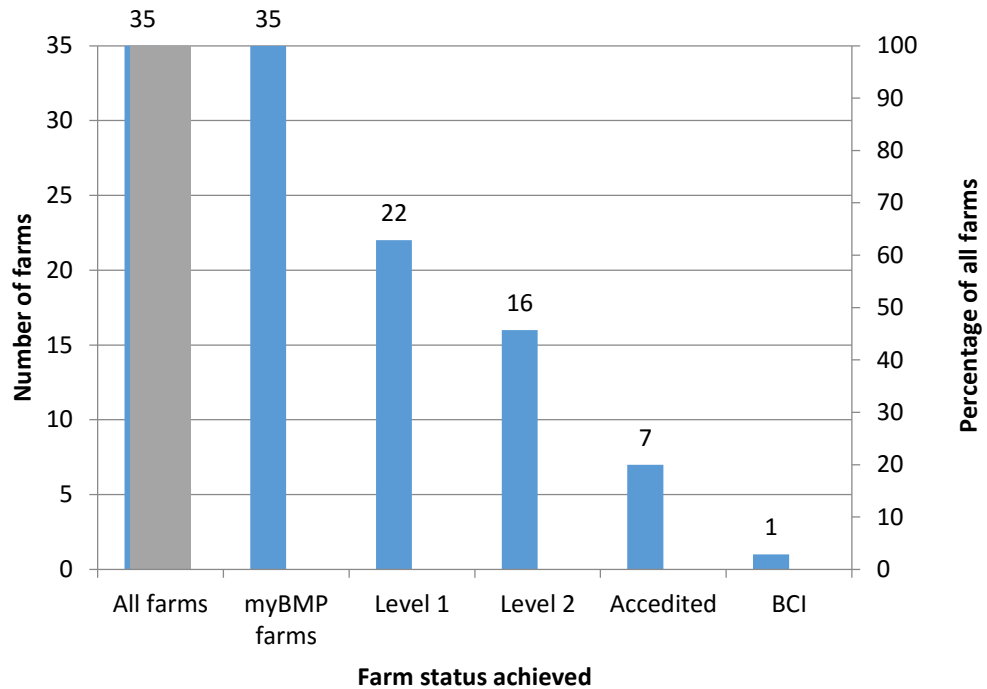
www.mybmp.com.au

REVIEW myBMP MODULES AND LINKS

BIOSECURITY	BIOTECHNOLOGY	ENERGY AND INPUT EFFICIENCY	FIBRE QUALITY	HR & WHS
IPM - INSECTS, WEEDS & DISEASES	NATURAL ASSETS	PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT	PETROCHEMICAL STORAGE & HANDLING	SOIL HEALTH
WATER MANAGEMENT	WHY MYBMP	MORE ABOUT MYBMP	DEMONSTRATIONS	FAQ

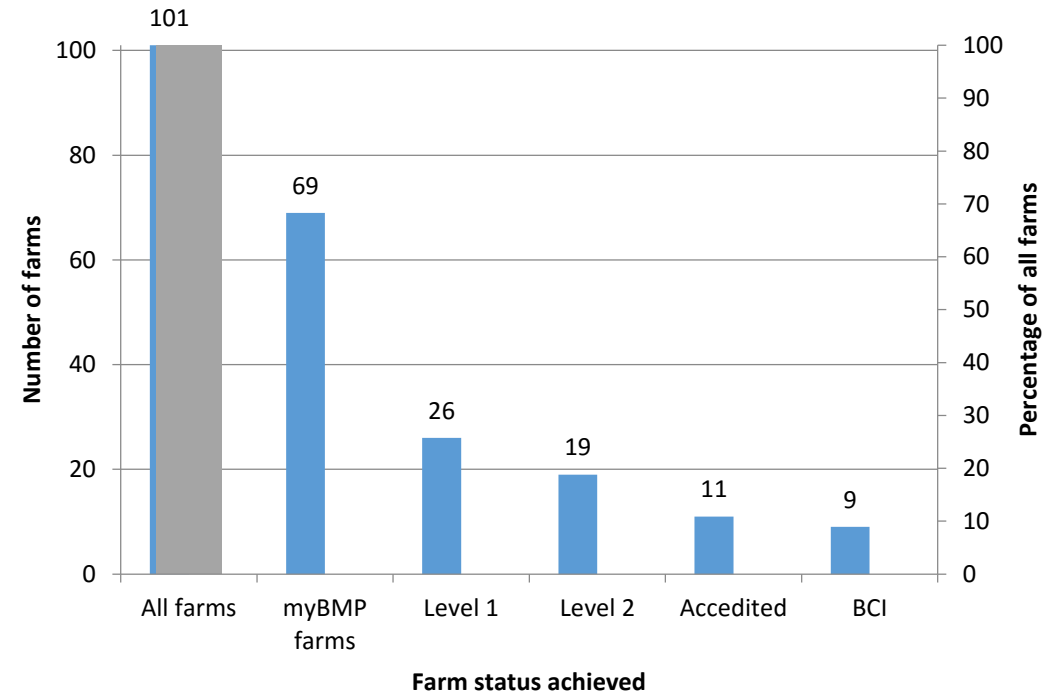
Farm participation in the Fitzroy Basin

Total number of myBMP farms, and the status achieved



Dawson and Callide Valleys

Total number of myBMP farms, and the status achieved



Central Highlands

Pesticide use down 92%



Camera spray

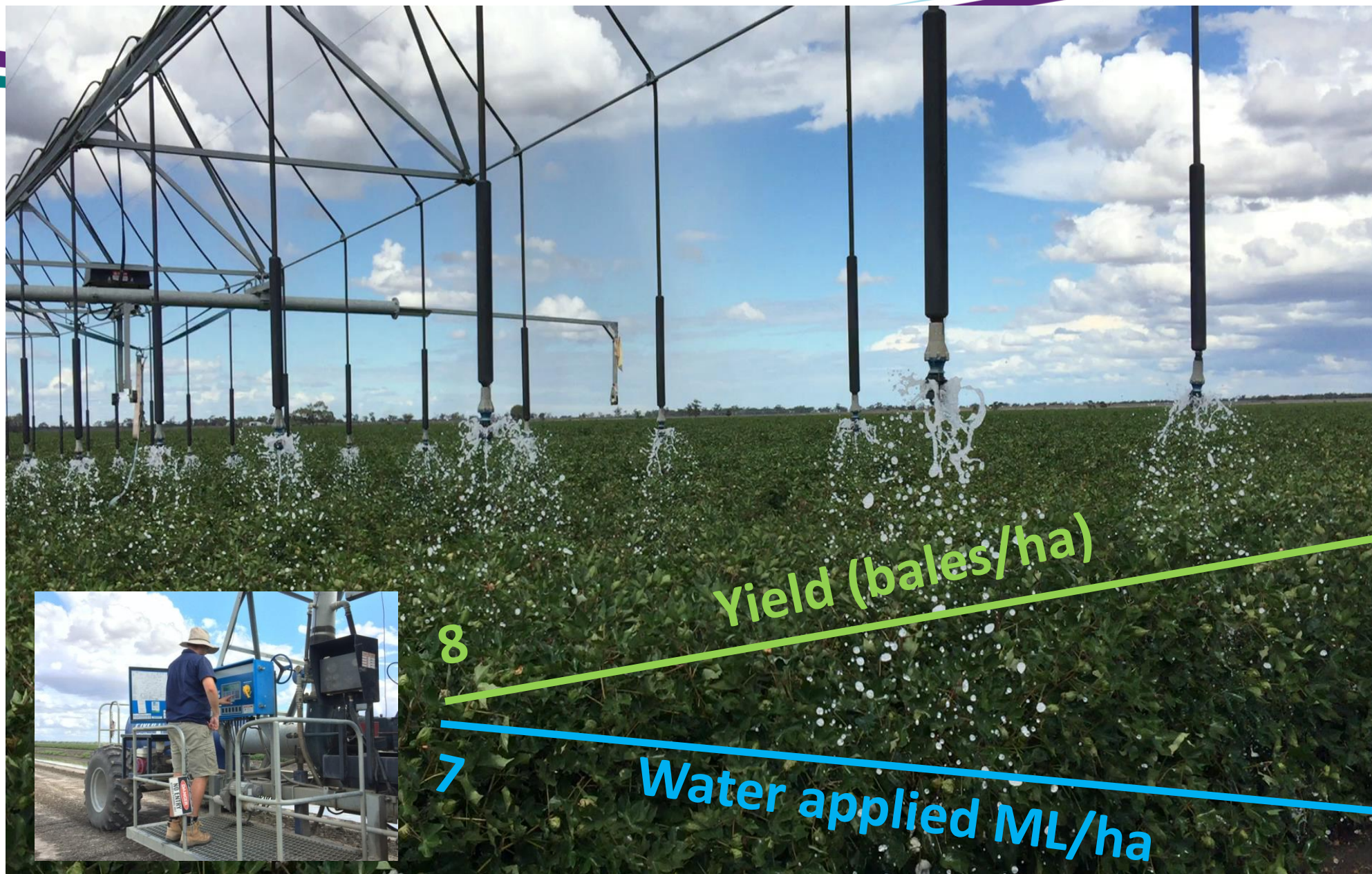
- BT cotton
- More targeted application
- Precision technology

Soil Health

- Improved ground cover
- Increased soil carbon
- Legume rotations
- Better nutrient efficiency



Water efficiency up 40% (2002 - 2013)



Yield (bales/ha)

8

10

Water applied ML/ha

7

5

Petrochemicals

myBMP

fitzroy
partnership
for river health

- Storage & Handling
- Health & Safety
- Environment



Natural Assets

Riparian areas – average 7.5km per farm
Native corridors, improved habitat condition
Improved species biodiversity – IPM
Improved water quality

Natural Assets/Healthy water – example checklists

Stabilise riverbanks and waterways to reduce erosion

Check List:

- Level 1** Obtain technical advice and relevant approvals before commencing any works in-stream or along banks including the removal of materials such as logs and gravel
- Level 2** Identify potential and existing erodible areas (eg pump sites) along riverbanks and reduce impacts such as those from stock and vehicles
- Level 2** Leave native vegetation, logs, woody debris and rocks along banks to provide bank stability
- Level 2** Stock access managed to minimise bank instability, damage to native vegetation and promote regeneration
- Level 3** Plant deep-rooted perennial native vegetation or allow natural regeneration along riverbanks to a minimum width of 20m out from the top of the bank
- Level 3** Exclude stock from natural riverbanks and waterways

Maintain or improve water quality

Check List:

- Level 2** All riparian land is identified on the farm map as a sensitive area
- Level 2** Minimise farm runoff contaminating natural waterways
- Level 2** Apply irrigation water efficiently and uniformly to help reduce the risk of salinity
- Level 3** Seasonally monitor and record groundwater levels and water quality for groundwater, rivers and creeks (e.g. EC, pH & SAR)

Take home messages

- *my*BMP allows the cotton industry to both drive and demonstrate practice change
- At first BMP was about protecting our “social licence” – before the term was invented
- It is a powerful policy tool – it gives our industry a high level of recognition and credibility
- Grower take-up still presents a challenge – “What is in it for me? (\$\$\$\$\$)