

Review of the Textile, Clothing and Footwear Industry  
**Submission**

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I have had a professional career since 1970. I am now 60 years old. In the early '70s I could confidently buy good quality clothing at reasonable prices. I grew up with farmers growing wool and have always preferred natural fibres, mainly wool and cotton.

Now, I never go to any shop or store to buy clothes because of the poor quality, in cut, fabric, and excessive price. I find I can source better quality garments from trawling secondhand stores, and buying garments which may well be 20 years old, but still present better quality than new. (Woollen jumpers, corduroy pants).

In 2002 I traveled through the cotton growing region between Broken Hill and western NSW. I was horrified by what I saw and learned about the extent of cotton growing in that area. I was concerned about the degradation of the land, the use of pesticides, the propaganda about the 'roundup ready cotton' and the use of water.

I have researched the properties of growing hemp instead of cotton. I have seen many accounts, all available in the literature, about the prohibition of hemp by people like Randolph Hearst, who had vested interest in the manufacture of synthetic fabric. I also accept that there may have been other cultural factors about hemp falling out of favour, such as a change in emphasis on the fabrics available.

I am writing this submission to support the phasing out of cotton growing in Australia, and this crop being replaced by hemp, for the following reasons.

- Hemp requires no/minimal herbicide or pesticide because of its natural properties
- Hemp requires very little water, certainly much less than cotton
- Hemp matures quickly as a crop, in 90 days
- Hemp fibres can replace all the current uses of cotton as fabric
- Hemp can be used for paper making of all qualities
- Hemp fibres can provide other materials of industrial strength for use in industry

I advocate that cotton growing cease in Australia in a phase-out stage of five years, because of the lack of water. South Australia needs the water flow, as do the Macquarie marshes in NSW. All cotton crops must be replaced by hemp, a far superior fibre.

