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## PRESS STATEMENT

### Carroll Cotton Co Secures Cotton Future in Region

Local family owned and operated business, Carroll Cotton Co, is embarking on a major upgrade project which will increase cotton ginning production and increase the speed of the ginning process - maximising return on investment for growers in the region.

Owners of Carroll Cotton Co, Scott and Trudy Davies, met with Gunnedah Shire Council last week to discuss the final details of a Development Application that will result in a major infrastructure upgrade to their Carroll based gin in 2017.

"Our team at Carroll Cotton Co have been working on this upgrade project for the past twelve months and we are excited to finally announce our future plans," Carroll Cotton Co General Manager, Scott Davies said.

"We have invested considerable resources into research and development modelled on global best practice methods and world class technologies, and expect that the upgrade to Carroll Cotton Co will result in the capacity to produce 175,000 ginned cotton bales onsite annually. This is an improvement in our production – meaning greater capacity to move more cotton through our facility, faster."

Carroll Cotton Co has been operating in the Upper Namoi Cotton region for over 20 years, and is anticipating another prosperous year for cotton in 2017.

"Our 2017 ginning season is expected to be one of our biggest seasons to date – and the upgrade will have little to no impact on our processing practices during the 2017 season. Our clients can rest assured that we will continue to deliver the high-quality turnouts that they know and expect from Carroll Cotton Co."

The upgrade to Carroll Cotton Co is a solid investment in the Gunnedah Shire economy with the financial value of cotton processed in the shire flowing throughout the entire economy from local primary producers to manufacturing industries and beyond.

"The increase in our production will significantly drive the Gunnedah Shire economy as the annual market value of cotton able to be processed by Carroll Cotton Co will grow from \$65M to \$110M," Mr Davies said.

"We believe in the future of the cotton industry in our district and believe this infrastructure investment will continue to secure our districts reputation as a developing cotton producing region."

President of the Gunnedah Chamber of Commerce, Michael Brockman, welcomed the announcement.

"Carroll Cotton Co has been a stalwart in the Gunnedah Shire business community since 1995, first with gin founder Sam Davies and now under the stewardship of Sam's son Scott, Trudy and their young family. The confidence that Scott and Trudy have shown in further investing in the Gunnedah economy and the farming practices of cotton producers is to be applauded and I wish the Carroll Cotton Co team every success with the roll out of their venture."

The Development Application will be submitted to Gunnedah Shire Council in the first quarter of 2017, with community feedback encouraged as part of the Public Exhibition period.

The infrastructure upgrade to Carroll Cotton Co is due for completion in time for the 2018 cotton season.

For more information please contact Carroll Cotton Co's General Manager Scott Davies on 6744 5282 or email [admin@carrollcotton.com.au](mailto:admin@carrollcotton.com.au) .