

Media release

Monday, 29 June 2015

Southern Cotton gin named as finalists in Telstra Business Awards

[Southern Cotton](#) has today been named as one of four **New South Wales finalists** in the 2015 [Telstra Business Awards](#), Regional Award category.

The Awards are designed to acknowledge the achievements of Australia's brilliant businesses and celebrate the entrepreneurial spirit of our regional businesses.

According to **Southern Cotton Chairman Scott Hogan**, being acknowledged at such a high level so early on in production, means a lot to the entire Southern Cotton team.

"In just four years, we have built the business from the ground up, so it also speaks volumes for our future," he said. "As a result, cotton production continues to grow in the region, with next year's forecast of **50,000 hectares** to be sown, up from 36,000 hectares this year, representing a big win for the local industry."

"The award presents Southern Cotton with an opportunity to encourage others to strive for greater success. "Being a finalist is a really good chance for us to **inspire others** in the regional sector to push the boundaries within their business", he added.

Southern Cotton will be up against three other prestigious businesses in the regional sector, including Highlands Drive Safe, RTC Group Holdings Pty Ltd and Southern Cross Resorts. Each business has been equally recognised for making an important contribution to **local communities** and their **economies**.

For **General Manager Kate O'Callaghan**, the award is proof that Southern Cotton is going above and beyond the usual measures of a successful business. "The judging process was very thorough. It included close inspection into every detail of the business."

"They have looked into everything, from the way we manage our finances and customer relations, to our marketing strategies and safety procedures. The whole process has also been extremely beneficial to our **future business and practices**," she added.

The award will be presented to the business displaying outstanding leadership, innovation and a vision for the future. Winners of the 2015 Telstra New South Wales Business Awards will be announced at a gala dinner on **Tuesday 21 July** at Westin, Grand Ballroom, Sydney.

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Facts and figures

- In its first year in operation, Southern Cotton turned over \$26 million, following the transformation of a subdivided paddock into a state-of-the-art cotton ginning facility.
- In the 2015 season, Southern Cotton has contracted 185,000 bales (with a total average value of \$100 million), up from 166,234 bales in 2012.
- Seed sales out of Southern Cotton have returned an average of \$350 per tonne this year, and returned over \$15 million to the region.
- Southern Cotton is one of the only gins in the world using the data out of the cotton picker – and tracing this module through the process to the finished bale- This data includes everything about the cotton module: farmer, property, field, date, time, latitude and longitude of the module's production. By tracing this module number right through the process, production reports can be provided to growers on a per module basis.
- Other award wins include:
 - Excellence in Business, Export and Visitor Services – 2015 Leeton Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Business Awards
 - Excellence in Innovation – 2014 Regional Chamber of Commerce Awards
 - Excellence in Visitor Services, Work, Health and Safety, Employee of Choice – 2014 Leeton Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Business Awards
 - Excellence in Export – 2013 Leeton Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Business Awards