



Gwydir Valley

The Gwydir Valley, in the north-west of NSW, stretches from Uralla in the east, through to Collarenebri in the west. Agriculture in the valley is as diverse as the landscape, with irrigation on the plains in the central and western parts of the catchment. Cotton is the primary irrigated commodity in the valley, while cereal production (wheat, barley sorghum and maize) is also important.

Irrigated agriculture covers just 1.7% of the area of the catchment but contributes 43.5% of the total agricultural production. Across the valley, agriculture is the biggest employer, providing jobs for more than 28% of the working population.

The Gwydir at a glance



Major Rivers: Gwydir, Horton, Mehi River, Rocky Creek, Moomin Creek
Major Aquifers: Lower Gwydir Groundwater

- Catchment Size = 26,500 sq km
- Catchment Population = 23,487
- Major Towns = Uralla, Guyra, Delungra, Bingara, Moree, Collarenebri
- Major Dams:
 - Copeton (near Inverell)
- Average annual cotton production is in the order of 600,000 bales, with an on-farm value of approximately \$270 million.
- Of the 1.1 million megalitres of total average valley flow about 35% is currently allocated for irrigation, town water, industrial and stock and domestic uses.

The Value of Irrigated Agriculture in the Gwydir Valley (2000/01)*

	Total Production that is irrigated (%)	Value of Irrigated Production (\$ millions)
Pastures for stock feed	59.3	4.2
Crops for Hay	24.0	0.86
Cereals for grain	5.7	6.0
Other Crops	76.2	5.4
Cotton	80.0	178.0
Vegetables	98.7	54.2
Fruit (excluding grapes)	57.6	1.0
Grapes	80.2	.35
Livestock slaughterings	2.4	1.6
Livestock products	7.6	2.3
TOTAL	43.5	200.3
NSW TOTAL	30.7	2713

*Australian Bureau of Statistics Agricultural Census 2000

Where can I get more info?

- Gwydir Valley Irrigators' Association Inc.
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- Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources
www.dipnr.nsw.gov.au

* Statistics from the Australian Bureau of Statistics Agricultural Census 2000 unless otherwise stated.