



Lachlan Valley

The Lachlan Valley, in the central western NSW, stretches from Crookwell in the East to Ivanhoe and Oxley in the west, north to Parkes and Condobolin and south as far as West Wyalong. Agriculture in the valley is as diverse as the landscape. Cherries and other stone fruits are grown in the upper (unregulated) parts of the catchment around Young, Cowra is renowned for its vineyards while crops such as cotton and summer crops are irrigated along the broad floodplains of the lower valley.

Irrigated agriculture covers just 1.6% of the area of the catchment but contributes 20.8% of the total production. Across the valley, agriculture is the biggest employer, providing jobs for 8650 people (28.3% of the working population).

The Value of Irrigated Agriculture in the Lachlan Valley (2000/01)*		
	Total Production that is irrigated (%)	Value of Irrigated Production (\$ millions)
Pastures for stock feed	54.5	11.8
Crops for Hay	24.0	0.9
Cereals for grain	9.5	51.1
Other Crops	66.0	104.7
Vegetables	99.9	36.5
Fruit (excluding grapes)	63.7	23.1
Grapes	80.0	11.8
Livestock slaughterings	5.5	15.5
Livestock products	8.6	19.2
TOTAL	20.8	274.9
NSW TOTAL	30.7	2713

* Australian Bureau of Statistics Agricultural Census 2000

The Lachlan at a glance



Major Rivers: Lachlan, Boorowa, Belubula, and Abercrombie
Major Aquifers: Lachlan groundwater source

- Catchment Size = 84,700 sq km
- Catchment Population = 100,000
- Major Towns = Boorowa, Young, Cowra, Parkes, Forbes, Condobolin, Hillston, Booligal.
- Major Dams:
 - Carcoar (near Blayney)
 - Wyangala (near Cowra)
 - Lake Brewster (near Hillston)
 - Lake Cargelligo
- Regulated River Length = 1500 km
- Average annual natural flows = 1,300,000ML¹
- Average annual yearly diversion = 360,000ML (27.7%)¹

¹ Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources

Where can I get more info?

- Lachlan Valley Water ewing@westserv.net.au
- [Lachlan Daily River Report](#)