



Macquarie Valley

The Macquarie Valley, in the central west of NSW, stretches from east of Bathurst and Oberon through to Nyngan, Brewarrina and Coonamble. Agriculture in the valley is as diverse as the landscape. Irrigation is concentrated in the regulated sections of the valley.

Viticulture and Horticulture dominate in the slopes region around Mudgee, Orange and Wellington, citrus is grown in Narromine, and cotton and other summer crops are grown on the lower valley floodplains west of Dubbo.

Irrigated agriculture covers just 1.1% of the area of the catchment but contributes 24% of the total production. Across the valley, agriculture is the biggest employer, providing jobs for 11,435 people, more than 14% of the working population.

The Value of Irrigated Agriculture in the Macquarie Valley (2000/01)*		
	Total Production that is irrigated (%)	Value of Irrigated Production (\$ millions)
Pastures for stock feed	55.3	9.1
Crops for Hay	24.0	0.86
Cereals for grain	5.4	16.4
Other Crops	75.4	40.4
Cotton	80.0	115.4
Vegetables	93.4	11.7
Fruit (excluding grapes)	83.6	27.2
Grapes	80.1	13.8
Livestock slaughterings	5.4	16.8
Livestock products	9.6	22.7
TOTAL	23.9	274.6
NSW TOTAL	30.7	2713

*Australian Bureau of Statistics Agricultural Census 2000

The Macquarie at a glance



Major Rivers: Macquarie, Bogan, Fish, Castlereagh, and Cudgegong
Major Aquifers: Lower Macquarie Groundwater Source

- Catchment Size = 92,200 sq km
- Regulated river length = 971km
- Catchment Population = 201,240
- Major Towns = Bathurst, Orange, Mudgee, Wellington, Dubbo, Narromine and Warren
- Major Dams:
 - Burrendong (near Wellington)
 - Windamere (near Mudgee)
- The average annual flow in the regulated sections of the Macquarie is approximately 1,500,000 ML (measured downstream of Dubbo)¹
- About 390,000 ML (26%) of this annual flow is extracted for town water, industry and irrigation supplies¹.

¹ Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Draft Water Sharing Plan

Where can I get more info?

- Macquarie River Food and Fibre jessica.brown@mrff.com.au
- 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.