



Murray – Lower Darling Valley

The Murray-Lower Darling Valley, in the southern NSW, stretches from Albury in the east, through to the South Australian Border in the west, south to the Victorian Border and north to Finley. The valley incorporates the Lower Darling River, south of Menindee lakes. Rice, viticulture, horticulture and dairying are the major irrigation enterprises in the region.

Irrigated agriculture covers just 4% of the area of the catchment but contributes 37% of the total production.

Across the valley, agriculture is the biggest employer, providing jobs for 8561 people, about 18.6% of the working population.

The Value of Irrigated Agriculture in the Murray Lower Darling (2000/01)*		
	Total Production that is irrigated (%)	Value of Irrigated Production (\$ millions)
Pastures for stock feed	47.6	11.65
Crops for Hay	24.0	1.7
Cereals for grain	39.2	18.7
Rice	100	184.0
Other Crops	64.7	58.2
Vegetables	99.5	39.2
Fruit (excluding grapes)	84.1	47.2
Grapes	84.6	63.8
Livestock slaughterings	3.2	9.3
Livestock products	22.8	42.0
TOTAL	37.0	475.9
NSW TOTAL	30.7	2713

*Australian Bureau of Statistics Agricultural Census 2000

The Murray at a glance



Major Rivers: Murray, Edward, Wakool
Aquifers: Lower Murray
Groundwater source

- Catchment Size = 35,170 sq km
- Catchment Population = 101,000
- Major Towns = Albury, Corowa, Finley, Deniliquin, Wakool, Wentworth
- Major Dams:
 - Hume (near Albury)
 - Dartmouth Dam (in Victoria)
- The Murray River traverses 2,500km from the eastern highlands of the Great Divide to the Southern Ocean in South Australia
- Diversions from the Murray and Lower Darling account for approximately one-third of total flows¹.

¹ NSW Murray – Lower Darling Draft Water Sharing Plan

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

Where can I get more info?

- Murray Irrigation Limited
www.murrayirrigation.com.au
- Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources
www.dipnr.nsw.gov.au