



Namoi Valley

The Namoi Valley, in the north west of NSW stretches from Quirindi and Tamworth in the east, to Wee Waa and Walgett in the west. Agriculture in the valley is as diverse as the landscape. Irrigation is concentrated in the regulated sections of the valley, with water also being sourced from under ground. Irrigated agriculture covers just 1.5% of the area of the catchment but contributes 32.3% of total production.

Major irrigated commodities in the Namoi valley are cotton, pastures for stock feed and cereals.

Across the valley, agriculture is the largest employer, providing jobs for 6,634 people, about 17.3% of the working population.

The Namoi at a glance



Major Rivers: Namoi, Cockburn, Peel, Mooki, Manilla
Major Aquifers: Upper and Lower Namoi Groundwater Sources

- Catchment Size = 41,998 sq km
- Catchment Population = 96, 144
- Major Towns = Tamworth, Quirindi, Gunnedah, Barraba, Manilla, Wee Waa, Narrabri, Walgett
- Major Dams:
 - Chaffey (near Tamworth)
 - Keepit (near Gunnedah)
 - Split Rock (near Manilla)
- Regulated Namoi River length = 800km¹
- Average yearly extractions in the Regulated Namoi River are about 180,000ML, about 22.8%¹
- The estimated end flow at Walgett is 1,000,000ML²
- Cotton was first grown in the Namoi valley in Wee Waa in 1922.

¹ Department of Land and Water Conservation

² Department of Land and Water Hydrographer

The Value of Irrigated Agriculture in the Namoi Valley (2000/01)*		
	Total Production that is irrigated (%)	Value of Irrigated Production (\$ millions)
Pastures for stock feed	58.7	5.5
Crops for Hay	24.0	0.3
Cereals for grain	7.1	16.9
Other Crops	75.8	253.8
Vegetables	99.3	2.1
Fruit (excluding grapes)	63.7	0.44
Grapes	80.0	0.41
Livestock slaughterings	1.8	4.4
Livestock products	3.5	8.4
TOTAL	32.3	292.5
NSW TOTAL	30.7	2713

*Australian Bureau of Statistics Agricultural Census 2000

Where can I get more info?

- Namoi Water Users Association
Namoi.our.future@northnet.com.au
www.northnet.com.au/~namoicom
- Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources
www.dipnr.nsw.gov.au