



## The Barwon - Darling Valley

The Barwon-Darling system in the far north-west of NSW, stretches from Mungindi in the northeast through to Menindee in the southwest. The river runs from the Queensland border to Menindee Lakes, sustaining the major communities of Mungindi, Collarenebri, Walgett, Brewarrina, Bourke, Wilcannia, Menindee and Broken Hill.

Irrigated agriculture is concentrated around Mungindi, Collarenebri, Walgett & Bourke where cotton is the main irrigated crop. The Bourke region has also diversified into higher value horticultural crops such as citrus, table grapes, melons, jojoba and stonefruit. Menindee is also a centre for cotton, citrus and other fruits and vegetables. Water is also important for town water supplies, stock & domestic use on station properties and lucerne production for stock feed.

The Value of Irrigated Agriculture in the Barwon - Darling Valley (1996/97)*		
	Total Production that is irrigated (%)	Value of Irrigated Production (\$ millions)
Pastures for stock feed	57.8	0.009
Crops for Hay	24.0	0.022
Cereals for grain	6.2	0.913
Cotton	80.0	58.98
Other Crops	67.7	0.645
Vegetables	100	0.411
Fruit (excluding grapes)	93.6	0.545
Grapes	97.8	5.035
Meat and Livestock products	7.3	7.792
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36.7</b>	<b>74.35</b>
<b>NSW TOTAL</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>2647</b>

\*Australian Bureau of Statistics Agricultural Census 1997

### The Barwon Darling at a glance



Major Tributaries of the Barwon-Darling system: Mcintyre, Gwydir, Namoi, Macquarie, Bogan, Culgoa, Bokhara, Warrego and Paroo Rivers.

- Catchment size = 230 000 sq km  
Catchment Population = 37,816
- Major Towns = Lightning Ridge, Walgett, Brewarrina, Bourke, Louth, Tilpa, Wilcannia, Menindee.
- The Barwon Darling is an unregulated river system, with no major dams.
- The Barwon Darling system in NSW is about 1,600 kilometres long<sup>1</sup>
- Natural annual flows in the Barwon Darling average about 3,500,00ML<sup>1</sup>
- Across the valley, agriculture is the second largest employer, providing jobs for 1,636 people, nearly 11% of the working population.

<sup>1</sup> Department of Land and Water Conservation

### Where can I get more info?

- Barwon-Darling Water  
[irc@darlingfarms.com.au](mailto:irc@darlingfarms.com.au)
- NSW Office of Water  
<http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/>
- Department of Environment and Heritage  
<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/>