

CHAPTER 9 – Agricultural profile of Crows Nest Shire**Introduction**

The following agricultural profile includes information on the agricultural commodities produced in Crows Nest Shire sitting within the South East Queensland NRM region (pastures and grasses, crops, livestock, and livestock products) and information on agricultural practices (cultivation techniques, treatment of stubble, fertiliser use, and soil conditioner use). There are two SLAs in Crows Nest Shire partially included in the region: Crows Nest Pt A and Crows Nest Pt B. Only 23.9% of the Crows Nest Pt A SLA and 87.7% of the Crows Nest Pt B SLA is included (See Figure 2 and Table 1.1).

An estimate of the number of agricultural holdings in the Crows Nest Shire at June 2001 was 383. This estimate was derived from the Agricultural Census 2000-01.

Commodities**Pastures and grasses**

Native or naturalised pastures represented 97.6% of the pastures in the Crows Nest Shire in 2000-01, sown pastures represented 2.1% and pastures cut for hay represented 0.3%. Pastures and grasses in the Crows Nest Shire represented 3.1% of the total agricultural holdings for the South East Queensland NRM region.

Table 9.1: Volume and value of pastures and grasses, Crows Nest Shire, 2000-01

Pastures and grasses	Volume		Area		Value		Production of commodity as a percentage of Queensland total		
	t '000	ha '000	% of total ag. holdings in region	\$ '000	% of total ag. value in region	Vol	Area	Value	
Pastures cut for hay	0.43	0.161	0.01%	81	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Sown pastures	N/A	1.137	0.07%	N/A	N/A	N/A	0%	N/A	
Native or naturalised pasture	N/A	52	3.02%	N/A	N/A	N/A	0%	N/A	

Source: ABS data, Agricultural Census, 2000-01 (as reported in QRBIS).

Crops

Fruit and nut crops (\$4.2m) in the Crows Nest Shire in 2000-01 produced the highest value of production for all crops, followed by vegetable crops (\$0.7m). The value of fruit and nuts produced in the Shire in 2000-01 represented 1% of the total value of fruit and nuts in Queensland.

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Table 9.2: Volume and value of crops, Crows Nest Shire, 2000-01

Crops	Volume		Area	Value		Production of commodity as a percentage of Queensland total		
	t '000	ha '000	% of total ag. holdings in region	\$ '000	% of total ag. value in region	Vol	Area	Value
Cereals for grain	0.803	0.44	0%	117	0%	0%	0%	0%
Crops for hay	0.93	0.258	0%	N/A	N/A	1%	0%	N/A
Fruit and nuts	N/A	0.38	0%	4,213	0%	N/A	1%	1%
Vegetables	N/A	0.02	0%	751	0%	N/A	0%	0%
Total	1.73	1.10		5,081				

N/A – Not Applicable.

Source: ABS data, Agricultural Census, 2000-01 (as reported in QRBIS).

Livestock

The highest value of production for livestock in the Crows Nest Shire in 2000-01, and the highest value of production for all agricultural commodities in the Shire, came from cattle and calves (\$11.5m). The second highest value of production for livestock came from pigs (\$0.8m). The value of production for cattle and calves in the Crows Nest Shire in 2000-01 represented 1.3% of the total agricultural value in the South East Queensland NRM region.

Table 9.3: Volume and value of livestock, Crows Nest Shire, 2000-01

Livestock	Number		Value		Production of commodity as a percentage of Queensland total	
	No. of stock '000	\$ '000	% of total ag. value in region	No.	Value	
Cattle & calves	39 ^a	11,573 ^b	1.3%	0.3%	0.4%	
Sheep & lambs	0.2	1 ^b	0%	0%	0%	
Pigs	3.3	811 ^b	0.1%	0.5%	0.5%	
Poultry	4	23 ^b	0%	0%	0%	

(a) The number of stock for cattle and calves includes the number of meat cattle and dairy cattle combined.

(b) These values represent the value of all slaughtered animals not the value of total livestock.

Source: ABS data, Agricultural Census, 2000-01 (as reported in QRBIS).

Livestock products

The highest value of production from livestock products in the Crows Nest Shire in 2000-01 was from cow's milk (\$5.4m). The second highest value of production from livestock products in the Shire in 2000-01 came from egg production (\$0.6m). The value of cow's milk production in the Crows Nest Shire in 2000-01 represented 2.4% of the total value of cow's milk production in Queensland.

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Table 9.4: Volume and value of livestock products, Crows Nest Shire, 2000-01

Livestock Products	Volume		Value		Production of commodity as a percentage of Queensland total	
	Vol '000	\$ '000	% of total ag. value in region	Vol	Value	
Wool (t)	0.001	4	0%	0%	0%	
Cow milk production (L)	14,499	5,486	0.6%	1.7%	2.4%	
Eggs (dz)	399	606	0.07%	1%	1%	

Source: ABS data, Agricultural Census, 2000-01 (as reported in QRBIS).

Agricultural practices

Cultivation techniques

In total 1606ha of land in the Crows Nest Shire in 2000-01 was prepared for cropping, this represents 5.4% of the land prepared for cropping in the South East Queensland NRM region. Most of the land prepared for cropping was cultivated (91.3%), 43.9% with 1 or 2 cultivations and 47.4% with other cultivation techniques. Only 8.7% of the land prepared for cropping was prepared without cultivation.

Table 9.5: Cultivation technique, Crows Nest Shire, 2000-01

Cultivation Technique	Area cultivated		Cultivation technique as a percentage of Queensland total Area
	ha '000	% of total area cultivated in region	
No cultivation	0.1	0.5%	0%
1 or 2 cultivations	0.7	2.4%	0%
Other cultivation technique	0.8	2.6%	0%

Source: ABS data, Agricultural Census, 2000-01 (as reported in QRBIS).

Treatment of stubble

The most common method of treating crop stubble in the Crow's Nest Shire in 2000-01 was ploughing the stubble into the soil (68.1%). The second most common treatment was baling or heavy grazing (20.5%), followed by cool burn (4.5%), hot burn (2%), mulching (0.5%), and other methods (1.3%). The area of stubble treated in the Crows Nest Shire in 2000-01 represented 5.7% of the total area of stubble treated in the South East Queensland NRM region in 2000-01.

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Table 9.6: Treatment of stubble, Crows Nest Shire, 2000-01

Treatment	Area treated		Stubble treatment as a percentage of Queensland total
	ha '000	% of total area treated in region	Area
Stubble ploughed into soil	1.1	4%	0%
Stubble mulched	0.01	0%	0%
Stubble left intact	0.05	0.2%	0%
Stubble removed by hot burn	0.03	0.1%	0%
Stubble removed by cool burn	0.07	0.3%	0%
Stubble removed by baling or heavy grazing	0.3	1%	0%
All other methods	0.02	0.1%	0%

Source: ABS data, Agricultural Census, 2000-01 (as reported in QRBIS).

Fertiliser used

The volume of fertiliser used in the Crows Nest Shire in 2000-01 represented 1.6% of the total amount of fertiliser used in the South East Queensland NRM region. Urea was the most common fertiliser used in the region in terms of both volume used and area treated.

Totals for hectares treated have not been included in Table 9.7; if more than one fertiliser was used on one hectare that hectare was counted twice in the agricultural census 2000-01, the total for hectares treated would therefore overestimate the number of hectares treated with fertiliser in the region.

Table 9.7: Fertiliser used, Crows Nest Shire, 2000-01

Fertiliser	Quantity used	Area treated	Fertiliser use as a percentage of Queensland total	
	t	ha	Area	Vol
Urea	282	2084	0%	0%
Ammonium Sulphate	41	26	0%	0%
Anhydrous Ammonia	2	8	0%	0%
Single Superphosphate	38	344	0%	0%
Double Superphosphate	3	16	0%	0%
Muriate of Potash	8	102	0%	0%
Potassium Sulphate	9	64	0%	0%
Potassium Nitrate	23	239	1%	1%
Mono Ammonium Phosphate	40	390	0%	0%
Di Ammonium Phosphate	58	617	0%	0%
Other	115	678	0%	0%
Total	619			0%

Source: ABS data, Agricultural Census, 2000-01 (as reported in QRBIS).

Soil conditioner used

Most of the soil conditioner used in the Crows Nest Shire in 2000-01 was to treat soil acidity (74%). Lime was the most common soil conditioner used (73.8%) followed by gypsum (25.9%) which was used to treat physical soil problems. Soil conditioner use in the Crows Nest Shire in 2000-01 did not represent a significant percentage of total soil conditioner use in Queensland.

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Table 9.8: Soil conditioner used, Crows Nest Shire, 2000-01

Soil conditioner	Quantity used		Area treated		Soil conditioner use as a percentage of Queensland total	
	t'000	ha'000	% of total ag. holdings in region	Area	Vol	
Lime - to correct or stabilise soil acidity	0.339	0.19	0.01%	0.6%	0%	
Dolomite - to correct or stabilise soil acidity	0.001	0.001	0%	0%	0%	
Dolomite - to correct physical soil problems	0.0003	0.0003	0%	0%	0%	
Gypsum - to correct physical soil problems	0.119	0.1	0.01%	0%	0%	

Source: ABS data, Agricultural Census, 2000-01 (as reported in QRBIS).

Area irrigated

The total area of agricultural holding for the Crows Nest Shire in 2000-01 was 112,978ha; of this area 721ha was irrigated, this represents 1.6% of the total area of land irrigated in the South East Queensland NRM region. The total area of agricultural holding in the Crows Nest Shire in 2000-01 represented 7% of the total area of agricultural holding in the South East Queensland NRM region in 2000-01.

Table 9.9: Area irrigated, Crows Nest Shire, 2000-01

	Area		Area irrigated as a percentage of Queensland total
	ha '000	% of total ag. holdings in region	Area
Total area of holding	113	7%	0%
Irrigated - total area	1	1.6%	0%
Non-irrigated - total area	112	6.7%	0%

Source: ABS data, Agricultural Census, 2000-01 (as reported in QRBIS).

Natural resource management profile

Fencing to exclude grazing

Reasons for the construction of fencing to exclude grazing in the Crow's Nest Shire in 2000-01 included the protection of creeks and rivers (25.8%), the protection of remnant vegetation (12.9%), the protection of saline areas (9.7%), the protection of planted trees and shrubs (6.5%), and the protection of other degraded areas (6.5%). Fencing constructed in the Shire in 2000-01 to exclude grazing represented 4% of the total length of fencing constructed to exclude grazing in 2000-01 in the South East Queensland NRM region.

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Table 9.10: Fencing to exclude grazing, Crows Nest Shire, 2000-01

Reason	Length		Fencing to exclude grazing as a percentage of Queensland total
	km	% of total length of fencing constructed in region in 2000-01	Length
To protect remnant native vegetation	4	0%	1%
To protect planted trees and shrubs	2	0%	0%
To protect creeks and rivers	8	1%	0%
To protect saline areas	3	0%	2%
To protect other degraded areas	2	0%	0%
To protect other areas	12	2%	0%
Total fencing for all reasons	31	4%	

Source: ABS data, Agricultural Census, 2000-01 (as reported in QRBIS).

Tree seedlings planted

The main reason for planting tree seedlings in the Crows Nest Shire in 2000-01 was for timber and wood pulp (96%). Land and water protection was the second most common reason (2.2%) followed by other undefined purposes (0.9%), the enhancement of production (0.8%), and nature conservation (0.1%). Seedlings planted for timber and wood pulp in the Crows Nest Shire in 2000-01 represented 7% of all tree seedlings planted in the South East Queensland NRM region in 2000-01 and 3% of all tree seedlings planted for the purpose of timber and wood pulp in 2000-01 in Queensland.

Table 9.11: Tree seedlings planted, Crows Nest Shire, 2000-01

Purpose of Planting	Number planted		Area planted		Seedlings and trees planted as a percentage of Queensland total	
	No. '000	% of seedlings planted in region in 2000-01	ha	% of total ag. holdings in region	No.	Area
Seedlings planted for nature conservation	0.02	0%	1	0%	0%	0%
Seedlings planted for timber and wood pulp	16.5	7%	19	0%	3%	4%
Seedlings planted for enhanced production	0.1	0.1%	146	0%	0%	0%
Seedlings planted for protection of land and water	0.4	0.2%	4	0%	0%	1%
Seedlings planted for all other purposes	0.2	0.1%	1	0%	0%	0%

Source: ABS data, Agricultural Census, 2000-01 (as reported in QRBIS).