

CHAPTER 12 – Agricultural profile of Gold Coast City

Introduction

The following agricultural profile includes information on the agricultural commodities produced in Gold Coast City (pastures and grasses, crops, livestock, and livestock products) and information on agricultural practices (cultivation techniques, treatment of stubble, fertiliser use, and soil conditioner use).

An estimate of the number of agricultural holdings in Gold Coast City at June 2001 was 263. This estimate was derived from the Agricultural Census 2000-01.

Commodities

Pastures and grasses

Native or naturalised pastures accounted for the majority of the pastures in Gold Coast City in 2000-01 (91.3%). Sown pastures accounted for 6.4% of all pastures in Gold Coast City and pastures cut for hay accounted for 2.3%.

Table 12.1: Volume and value of pastures and grasses, Gold Coast City, 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	1	0.1	0%	112	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Sown pastures	N/A	0.4	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	0%	N/A	
Native or naturalised pasture	N/A	5	0%	N/A	N/A	N/A	0%	N/A	

N/A – Not Applicable

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

Crops

Sugar cane (\$7.9m) produced the highest value of production for Gold Coast City in 2000-01, followed by fruit and nuts (\$4m), and then vegetables (\$0.9m). Sugar cane produced in Gold Coast City in 2000-01 represented 1% of the total value of agriculture in the South East Queensland NRM region.

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Table 12.2: Volume and value of crops, Gold Coast City, 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	
Crops for hay	1	0.2	0%	N/A	N/A	1%	0%	N/A	
Soybeans	0.2	0.2	0%	93	0%	1%	1%	1%	
Sugar Cane	343	4	0.2%	7,963	1%	1%	1%	1%	
Fruit and nuts	N/A	0.4	0%	4,006	0%	N/A	1%	1%	
Vegetables	N/A	0.04	0%	952	0%	N/A	0%	0%	
Total	344	5		13,014					

N/A – Not Applicable

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

Livestock

The livestock commodity producing the highest value of production in Gold Coast City in 2000-01 was poultry (\$5.4m), followed by cattle and calves (\$2.6m). The value of meat poultry produced in Gold Coast City in 2000-01 represented 3% of the total value of meat poultry in Queensland for 2000-01.

Table 12.3: Volume and value of livestock, Gold Coast City, 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	12 ^a	2,597 ^b	0%	0%	0%	
Poultry	470	5,377 ^b	0.6%	5%	3%	

(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

Cows' milk production was the major livestock product produced in Gold Coast City in 2000-01, with a value of production of \$4.1m. Egg production in Gold Coast City in 2000-01 produced the second highest value of production (\$0.3m). Cows' milk production in Gold Coast City in 2000-01 represented 2% of the total value of production of cows' milk across Queensland.

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Table 12.4: Volume and value of livestock products, Gold Coast City, 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	
Cow milk production (L)	13,659	4,145	0%	2%	2%	
Eggs (dz)	234	356	0%	1%	1%	

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

Agricultural practices

Cultivation techniques

In total only 291ha was prepared for cropping in Gold Coast City in 2000-01. One or two cultivations were used on 34% of the land prepared for cropping and other cultivation techniques were used on the other 66% of the land. The total area of land cultivated in Gold Coast City in 2000-01 represented only 0.9% of the total area of land cultivated in the South East Queensland NRM region.

Table 12.5: Cultivation technique, Gold Coast City, 2000-01

Cultivation Technique	Area cultivated		Cultivation technique as a percentage of Queensland total
	ha '000	% of total area cultivated in region	Area
1 or 2 cultivations	0.1	0.3%	0%
Other cultivation technique	0.2	0.6%	0%

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

Treatment of stubble

The most common method of crop stubble treatment in Gold Coast City in 2000-01 was to remove the stubble by cool burn (53.6%). Other methods of treatment included mulching stubble (23.9%), ploughing the stubble into the soil (14.7%), baling the stubble (4.3%), and other treatments (3.7%). The amount of stubble treated in Gold Coast City in 2000-01 accounted for only 1% of the total crop stubble treated in the South East Queensland NRM region, reflecting the very small area of cropping that took place in Gold Coast City in 2000-01.

Table 12.6: Treatment of stubble, Gold Coast City, 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	0.1	0%	0%
Stubble mulched	0.1	0%	0%
Stubble removed by cool burn	0.2	1%	0%
Stubble removed by baling or heavy grazing	0.01	0%	0%
All other methods	0.01	0%	0%

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

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Fertiliser used

The volume of fertiliser used in Gold Coast City in 2000-01 represented 8.5% 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 12.7; 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 12.7: Fertiliser used, Gold Coast City, 2000-01

Fertiliser	Quantity used		Fertiliser use as a percentage of Queensland total	
	t	ha	Area	Vol
Urea	1596	4095	0%	1%
Ammonium Nitrate	61	138	1%	1%
Anhydrous Ammonia	118	399	0.2%	1%
Single Superphosphate	35	98	0%	0%
Triple Superphosphate	35	187	1%	2%
Muriate of Potash	29	99	0%	0%
Potassium Sulphate	3	21	0%	0%
Potassium Nitrate	5	104	1%	0%
Mono Ammonium Phosphate	3	16	0%	0%
Di Ammonium Phosphate	99	590	0%	0%
Other	1249	1481	0%	1%
Total	3234			1%

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

Soil conditioner used

The majority of soil conditioner used in Gold Coast City in 2000-01 was to stabilise acidity (90.7%). Lime was the most common soil conditioner to treat acidity (85.7%). Almost equal amounts of dolomite (4.4%) and gypsum (5%) were used to treat physical soil problems. The volume of lime used in Gold Coast City in 2000-01 only represented a small amount of the total amount of lime use in the whole of Queensland (0.4%).

Table 12.8: Soil conditioner used, Gold Coast City, 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	0.31	0.13	0.01%	0.4%	0.4%	
Dolomite - to correct or stabilise soil acidity	0.02	0.01	0%	0.2%	0.1%	
Dolomite - to correct physical soil problems	0.02	0.02	0%	0.4%	0.2%	
Gypsum - to correct physical soil problems	0.02	0.01	0%	0.0%	0.0%	

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

Area irrigated

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The total area of agricultural holding for Gold Coast City in 2000-01 was 25,827ha; of this area 761ha of land was irrigated; this represents 1.6% of the total area of land irrigated in the South East Queensland NRM region. The area of land irrigated in Gold Coast City in 2000-01 represented less than 1% of the total area of land irrigated in Queensland.

Table 12.9: Area irrigated, Gold Coast City, 2000-01

	Area		Area irrigated as a percentage of Queensland total
	ha '000	% of total ag. holdings in region	Area
Total area of holding	25.8	2%	0%
Irrigated - total area	0.8	1.6%	0%
Non-irrigated - total area	25.1	1.5%	0%

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

Natural resource management profile

Fencing to exclude grazing

The main reason for the construction of fencing to exclude grazing in Gold Coast City in 2000-01 was to protect planted trees and shrubs (45.5%). Other reasons included; the protection of undefined areas (36.4%), the protection of saline areas (13.6%), and the protection of creeks and rivers (4.5%). The construction of fencing to exclude grazing in Gold Coast City in 2000-01 represented 3% of all fencing to exclude grazing constructed in 2000-01 in the South East Queensland NRM region.

Table 12.10: Fencing to exclude grazing, Gold Coast 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 planted trees and shrubs	10	1%	2%
To protect creeks and rivers	1	0%	0%
To protect saline areas	3	0%	2%
To protect other areas	8	1%	0%
Total fencing for all reasons	22	3%	

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

Tree seedlings planted

The majority of seedlings planted in Gold Coast City in 2000-01 were for timber and wood pulp (76.1%). Other reasons included; for nature conservation (7.9%), for enhanced production (6.4%), for the protection of land and water (1.7%), and for other reasons (8%). The total number of seedlings planted in Gold Coast City in 2000-01 represented 7% of the total number of seedlings planted in the South East Queensland NRM region in 2000-01.

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Table 12.11: Tree seedlings planted, Gold Coast City, 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	1	1%	7	0%	0%	1%
Seedlings planted for timber and wood pulp	12	5%	22	0%	2%	4%
Seedlings planted for enhanced production	1	0%	966	0%	1%	1%
Seedlings planted for protection of land and water	0.3	0%	3	0%	0%	1%
Seedlings planted for all other purposes	1	1%	2	0%	1%	1%

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