

CHAPTER 17 – Agricultural profile of Maroochy Shire**Introduction**

The following agricultural profile includes information on the agricultural commodities produced in Maroochy 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 seven SLAs included in Maroochy Shire; six are fully included in the region but only 51.7% of the Maroochy Balance SLA is included (See Figure 2 and Table 1.1).

An estimate of the number of agricultural holdings in the Maroochy Shire at June 2001 was 537. This estimate was derived from the Agricultural Census 2000-01.

Commodities**Pastures and grasses**

Native or naturalised pastures represented 85.9% of the pastures in the Maroochy Shire in 2000-01, sown pastures represented 14% and pastures cut for hay represented 0.1%. Pastures and grasses in the Maroochy Shire represented less than 1% of the total agricultural holdings for the South East Queensland NRM region.

Table 17.1: Volume and value of pastures and grasses, Maroochy 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	0.06	0.01	0%	12	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Sown pastures	N/A	1	0.04%	N/A	N/A	N/A	0%	N/A	
Native or naturalised pasture	N/A	4	0.25%	N/A	N/A	N/A	0%	N/A	

N/A – Not Applicable

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

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Crops

Fruit and nuts produced the highest value of production (\$10m) in the Maroochy Shire in 2000-01 while sugar cane produced the second highest value of production (\$4.5m). Vegetables (\$3.2m) produced the third highest value of production in the Maroochy Shire in 2000-01. The value of production for fruit and nut crops produced in the Maroochy Shire in 2000-01 represented 1% of the total agricultural value for the South East Queensland NRM region and 1% of the total value of fruit and nut crops in Queensland.

Table 17.2: Volume and value of crops, Maroochy 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	
Crops for hay	0.09	0.006	0%	N/A	N/A	0%	0%	N/A	
Soybeans	0.004	0	0%	2	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Sugar Cane	192	4	0.2%	4,468	0%	1%	1%	1%	
Fruit and nuts	N/A	0.76	0%	10,120	1%	N/A	1%	1%	
Vegetables	N/A	0.10	0%	3,175	0%	N/A	0%	0%	
Total	192.34	4.72		17,765					

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 Maroochy Shire in 2000-01 was from cattle and calves (\$2.2m), with the second highest value of production produced by meat poultry (\$0.07m). The value of production for livestock in the Maroochy Shire did not represent a significant percentage of the total agricultural value in the South East Queensland NRM region.

Table 17.3: Volume and value of livestock, Maroochy 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	9 ^a	2,169 ^b	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	
Sheep & lambs	0	0	0%	0%	0%	
Poultry	ND	69 ^b	0%	0%	0%	

ND – No data or insufficient data.

(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).

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Livestock products

Cow's milk production (\$3.4m) produced the highest value of production in the Maroochy Shire in 2000-01. The value of production for cow's milk in the Caboolture Shire in 2000-01 represented 1.5% of the total value of production for cow's milk in Queensland.

Table 17.4: Volume and value of livestock products, Maroochy 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)	0.0	1	0%	0%	0%		
Cow milk production (L)	9,827	3,485	0.4%	1.1%	1.5%		
Eggs (dz)	0.2	0.3	0%	0%	0%		

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

Agricultural practices

Cultivation techniques

In total 318ha of land in the Maroochy Shire in 2000-01 was prepared for cropping. One to two cultivations (67.3%) was the most common method of preparing land for cropping, other cultivation techniques (25.2%) were the second most common technique, while no cultivation (7.2%) was the least common technique used. The total area of land prepared for cropping in the Maroochy Shire in 2000-01 represented 1% of the total area of land prepared for cropping in the South East Queensland NRM region.

Table 17.5: Cultivation technique, Maroochy Shire, 2000-01

Cultivation Technique	Area cultivated		Cultivation technique as a percentage of Queensland total	
	ha '000	% of total area cultivated in region	Area	
No cultivation	0.02	0%	0%	
1 or 2 cultivations	0.2	0.7%	0%	
Other cultivation technique	0.1	0.3%	0%	

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

Treatment of stubble

There were two methods of treating crop stubble in the Maroochy Shire in 2000-01, mulching the stubble (72.7%) and removing the stubble by baling or heavy grazing (27.3%). The area of stubble treated in the Maroochy Shire in 2000-01 represented less than 1% of stubble treatment in the South East Queensland NRM region.

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Table 17.6: Treatment of stubble, Maroochy Shire, 2000-01

Treatment	Area treated		Stubble treatment as a percentage of Queensland total	
	ha '000	% of total area treated in region	Area	
Stubble mulched	0.1	0%	0%	
Stubble removed by baling or heavy grazing	0.02	0%	0%	

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

Fertiliser used

The volume of fertiliser used in the Maroochy Shire in 2000-01 represented 10.1% 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 17.7; 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 17.7: Fertiliser used, Maroochy Shire, 2000-01

Fertiliser	Quantity used		Area treated		Fertiliser use as a percentage of Queensland total	
	t	ha	Area	Vol		
Urea	893	1978	0%	0%		
Ammonium Sulphate	25	44	0%	0%		
Ammonium Nitrate	52	139	1%	1%		
Single Superphosphate	63	260	0%	0%		
Double Superphosphate	35	65	0%	2%		
Triple Superphosphate	5	15	0%	0%		
Muriate of Potash	58	286	0%	0%		
Potassium Sulphate	112	289	1%	1%		
Potassium Nitrate	38	91	1%	1%		
Mono Ammonium Phosphate	24	68	0%	0%		
Di Ammonium Phosphate	125	629	0%	1%		
Other	2392	5089	1%	1%		
Total	3822			1%		

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

Soil conditioner used

The most common soil conditioner used in the Maroochy Shire in 2000-01 was lime to stabilise acidity (71.8%). In total 81.2% of soil conditioner used in the Maroochy Shire in 2000-01 was to treat soil acidity. Gypsum (13.9%) was the most common soil conditioner used to correct physical soil problems. The volume of lime used in the Maroochy Shire in 2000-01 to treat acidity represented 2% of the total amount of lime used to treat acidity in Queensland.

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Table 17.8: Soil conditioner used, Maroochy 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	1.18	0.6	0.03%	2%	2%	
Dolomite - to correct or stabilise soil acidity	0.2	0.1	0%	1%	1%	
Dolomite - to correct physical soil problems	0.1	0.1	0%	1%	1%	
Gypsum - to correct physical soil problems	0	0	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 Maroochy Shire in 2000-01 was 18,490ha; of this area 1,196ha of land was irrigated; this represents 2.6% of the total area of land irrigated in the South East Queensland NRM region. The area of land irrigated in the Maroochy Shire in 2000-01 represented less than 1% of the total area of land irrigated in Queensland.

Table 17.9: Area irrigated, Maroochy 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	18	1%	0%
Irrigated - total area	1	2.6%	0%
Non-irrigated - total area	17	1.0%	0%

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

Natural resource management profile

Fencing to exclude grazing

The reasons for the construction of fencing to exclude grazing in the Maroochy Shire in 2000-01 included; the protection of planted trees and shrubs (23.3%), the protection of creeks and rivers (23.3%), the protection of remnant native vegetation (3.3%), and the protection of other undefined areas (50%). Fencing constructed to exclude grazing in 2000-01 in the Maroochy Shire accounted for 4% of total fencing constructed to exclude grazing in the South East Queensland NRM region.

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Table 17.10: Fencing to exclude grazing, Maroochy 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	1	0%	0%
To protect planted trees and shrubs	7	1%	2%
To protect creeks and rivers	7	1%	0%
To protect other areas	15	2%	0%
Total fencing for all reasons	30	4%	

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

Tree seedlings planted

Tree seedlings planted in the Maroochy Shire in 2000-01 were planted for timber and wood pulp (76%), for nature conservation (7.1%), to enhance production (1.7%), for the protection of land and water (12.6%), and for other undefined purposes (2.6%). The total number of seedlings planted in the Maroochy Shire in 2000-01 represented 3% of the seedlings planted in the South East Queensland NRM region in 2000-01.

Table 17.11: Tree seedlings planted, Maroochy 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	1	0%	6	0%	0%	0%
Seedlings planted for timber and wood pulp	7	3%	7	0%	1%	1%
Seedlings planted for enhanced production	0	0%	146	0%	0%	0%
Seedlings planted for protection of land and water	1	0%	5	0%	1%	1%
Seedlings planted for all other purposes	0	0%	1	0%	0%	0%

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