

## CHAPTER 19 – Agricultural profile of Noosa Shire

### Introduction

The following agricultural profile includes information on the agricultural commodities produced in Noosa 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 four SLAs included in Noosa Shire; three are fully included in the region but only 61.5% of the Noosa - Balance SLA is included (See Figure 2 and Table 1.1).

An estimate of the number of agricultural holdings in the Noosa Shire at June 2001 was 91. This estimate was derived from the Agricultural Census 2000-01.

### Commodities

#### Pastures and grasses

Native or naturalised pastures represented 86.2% of the pastures in the Noosa Shire in 2000-01, sown pastures represented 13.6% and pastures cut for hay represented 0.1%. Pastures and grasses in the Noosa Shire represented less than 1% of the total agricultural holdings for the South East Queensland NRM region.

**Table 19.1: Volume and value of pastures and grasses, Noosa 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	0.01	0.004	0%	1	0%	0%	0%	0%	
Sown pastures	N/A	0.6	0.04%	N/A	N/A	N/A	0%	N/A	
Native or naturalised pasture	N/A	4	0.23%	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

Fruit and nuts produced the highest value of production (\$1.6m) in the Noosa Shire in 2000-01 while vegetables produced the second highest value of production (\$0.7m). Sugar cane (\$0.1m) produced the third highest value of production in the Noosa Shire in 2000-01. The value of production for crops produced in the Noosa Shire did not represent a significant percentage of the total value of agricultural production for the South East Queensland NRM region.

## Regional Agricultural Profile – South East Queensland NRM Region

**Table 19.2: Volume and value of crops, Noosa 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	0.16	0.07	0%	30	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sugar Cane	10	0	0%	129	0%	0%	0%	0%
Fruit and nuts	N/A	0.24	0%	1,648	0%	N/A	0%	0%
Vegetables	N/A	0.08	0%	714	0%	N/A	0%	0%
Total	10.36	0.61		2,522				

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 Noosa Shire in 2000-01 was from cattle and calves (\$2.5m), with the second highest value of production produced by pigs (\$0.003m). The value of production for cattle and calves in the Noosa Shire in 2000-01 represented 0.3% of the total agricultural value in the South East Queensland NRM region.

**Table 19.3: Volume and value of livestock, Noosa 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	6 <sup>a</sup>		2,557 <sup>b</sup>	0.3%	0.1%	0.1%
Pigs	0.01		3 <sup>b</sup>	0%	0%	0%
Poultry	ND		0.01 <sup>b</sup>	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).

### Livestock products

Cow's milk production (\$1.4m) produced the highest value of production for livestock products in the Noosa Shire in 2000-01. The value of production for cow's milk in the Noosa Shire in 2000-01 represented 0.6% of the total value of production for cow's milk in Queensland.

## Regional Agricultural Profile – South East Queensland NRM Region

**Table 19.4: Volume and value of livestock products, Noosa 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	
Cow milk production (L)	4,285	1,410	0.15%	0.5%	0.6%	
Eggs (dz)	0.2	0.2	0%	0%	0%	

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

### Agricultural practices

#### Cultivation techniques

In total 414ha of land in the Noosa Shire in 2000-01 was prepared for cropping. One to two cultivations (4.8%) was the least common method of preparing land for cropping, while other cultivation techniques (95.4%) were the most common treatment. The total area of land prepared for cropping in the Noosa Shire in 2000-01 represented 1.4% of the total area of land prepared for cropping in the South East Queensland NRM region.

**Table 19.5: Cultivation technique, Noosa Shire, 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	0.02	0.1%	0%
Other cultivation technique	0.4	1.3%	0%

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

#### Treatment of stubble

There was only one method of treating crop stubble in the Noosa Shire in 2000-01, ploughing the stubble into the soil. The area of stubble treated in the Noosa Shire in 2000-01 represented less than 1% of stubble treatment in the South East Queensland NRM region.

**Table 19.6: Treatment of stubble, Noosa 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	0.02	0.1%	0%

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

#### Fertiliser used

The volume of fertiliser used in Noosa Shire in 2000-01 represented 2.1% of the total amount of fertiliser used in the South East Queensland NRM region. Single superphosphate 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 19.7; 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.

## Regional Agricultural Profile – South East Queensland NRM Region

**Table 19.7: Fertiliser used, Noosa Shire, 2000-01**

Fertiliser	Quantity used t	Area treated ha	Fertiliser use as a percentage of Queensland total	
			Area	Vol
Urea	121	292	0%	0%
Ammonium Sulphate	10	27	0%	0%
Ammonium Nitrate	1	4	0%	0%
Single Superphosphate	234	1043	1%	2%
Double Superphosphate	4	16	0%	0%
Triple Superphosphate	1	5	0%	0%
Muriate of Potash	33	269	0%	0%
Potassium Sulphate	7	22	0%	0%
Potassium Nitrate	1	18	0%	0%
Mono Ammonium Phosphate	1	6	0%	0%
Di Ammonium Phosphate	31	124	0%	0%
Other	328	723	0%	0%
Total	771			0%

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

### Soil conditioner used

The most common soil conditioner used in the Noosa Shire in 2000-01 was lime to stabilise acidity (64.8%). In total 73.8% of soil conditioner used in the Noosa Shire in 2000-01 was to treat soil acidity. Gypsum (19.7%) was the most common soil conditioner used to correct physical soil problems. The volume of soil conditioner used in the Noosa Shire in 2000-01 did not account for a significant percentage of the soil conditioner used in Queensland.

**Table 19.8: Soil conditioner used, Noosa Shire, 2000-01**

Soil conditioner	Quantity used t'000	Area treated		Soil conditioner use as a percentage of Queensland total	
		ha'000	% of total ag. holdings in region	Area	Vol
Lime - to correct or stabilise soil acidity	0.19	0.12	0.01%	0.4%	0%
Dolomite - to correct or stabilise soil acidity	0.03	0.01	0%	0%	0%
Dolomite - to correct physical soil problems	0.02	0.02	0%	0%	0%
Gypsum - to correct physical soil problems	0.06	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 Noosa Shire in 2000-01 was 13,005ha; of this area 322ha of land was irrigated, this represents less than 1% of the total area of land irrigated in the South East Queensland NRM region. The area of land irrigated in the Noosa Shire in 2000-01 represented less than 1% of the total area of land irrigated in Queensland.

## Regional Agricultural Profile – South East Queensland NRM Region

**Table 19.9: Area irrigated, Noosa 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	13	1%	0%
Irrigated - total area	0.3	0.7%	0%
Non-irrigated - total area	12.7	0.8%	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 Noosa Shire in 2000-01 included; the protection of planted trees and shrubs (18.4%), the protection of creeks and rivers (31.6%), the protection of remnant native vegetation (21.1%), and the protection of other undefined areas (28.9%). Fencing constructed to exclude grazing in 2000-01 in the Noosa Shire accounted for 5% of total fencing constructed to exclude grazing in the South East Queensland NRM region.

**Table 19.10: Fencing to exclude grazing, Noosa 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	8	1%	1%
To protect planted trees and shrubs	7	1%	2%
To protect creeks and rivers	12	2%	1%
To protect other areas	11	1%	0%
Total fencing for all reasons	38	5%	

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

#### Tree seedlings planted

Tree seedlings planted in the Noosa Shire in 2000-01 were planted for timber and wood pulp (87.3%), for nature conservation (3.9%), to enhance production (1.7%), for the protection of land and water (6.6%), and for other undefined purposes (0.5%). The total number of seedlings planted in the Noosa Shire in 2000-01 represented a significant 28.6% of the seedlings planted in the South East Queensland NRM region in 2000-01.

## Regional Agricultural Profile – South East Queensland NRM Region

**Table 19.11: Tree seedlings planted, Noosa 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	3	1%	9	0%	1%	1%
Seedlings planted for timber and wood pulp	58	25%	22	0%	12%	4%
Seedlings planted for enhanced production	1	0.5%	1,126	0%	1%	1%
Seedlings planted for protection of land and water	4	2%	18	0%	3%	3%
Seedlings planted for all other purposes	0.3	0.1%	1	0%	0%	0%

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