

Gwydir Valley Irrigators Association Inc.
making every drop count

How the MDBA Northern Review Affects You



Water is the lifeblood of this community it is critical for employment and productivity. The MDBA Northern Review has acknowledged these facts, and recognised that the Government has bought too much water from Gwydir Valley which has hurt our entire community.

Key findings from the Northern Review for the Gwydir Valley:

1. The social and economic impacts of water recovered in the Gwydir have been significant.
2. The Gwydir is a closed system, so water recovered in the Gwydir will have very little impact downstream.
3. A healthy river is **“More Than Flow.”** For example, the bulk release of 40GL of environmental water for fish recruitment was wasted due to cold water pollution and other in-stream problems.
4. The Gwydir Valley is over recovered as the Government has bought too much water. The return of excess water should be encouraged to increased economic activity and enable investment in measures to enhance river health. **A win-win for the community and the environment**
5. The MDBA are pursuing a constraints project to deliver more water to the Gwydir Wetlands. More detail will be requested regarding this project.



Impact on Employment

- At least 200 full time job losses because of water recovery which flows right through the community, with less families, fewer children and diminishing services.
- Population decrease in the Shire of 14% means fewer services for everyone.

“A 19% reduction in school aged children matches the 17% drop in education employment”

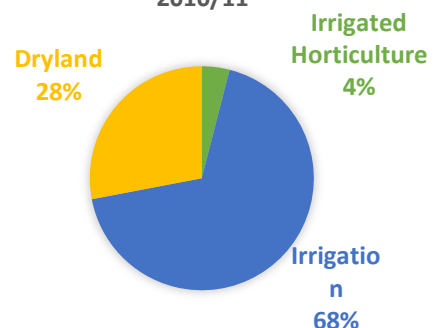
Census data 2001-2011 Moree Plains Shire region

Value of Agricultural Production in MPSC

- MPSC produced approximately 8% of NSW’s Gross Domestic Product valued at \$911 million in 2011.
- This is worth \$2 billion to the community (ABS economic multiplier).



VALUE OF AGRICULTURE IN MPSC 2010/11



“Irrigated agriculture in 2011 generated \$1.44 billion in economic revenue and activity in MPSC alone”

2011 Census data Moree Plain Shire region



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Importance of Irrigation

- In 2011 72% of Agricultural production came for the 10% of irrigated land.
- Buy-backs have reduced the irrigated area by 9% in Moree and 80% in Collarenebri – as a result the region’s production peak is lower and there is less time available to recover between low-water years.

How Much Water is Available for Irrigation:

- Irrigators have access to **only 19% of long-term average river flows** this includes rules that restrict access below 50% of supplementary events - supplementary events occur on river flows below Copeton Dam.
- Groundwater is allocated based on an estimate that 85% of the aquifers sustainable yield (extraction is lower than the estimate discharge to balance levels).
- Most irrigators have direct access to rivers and manage vast stretches of riparian land.

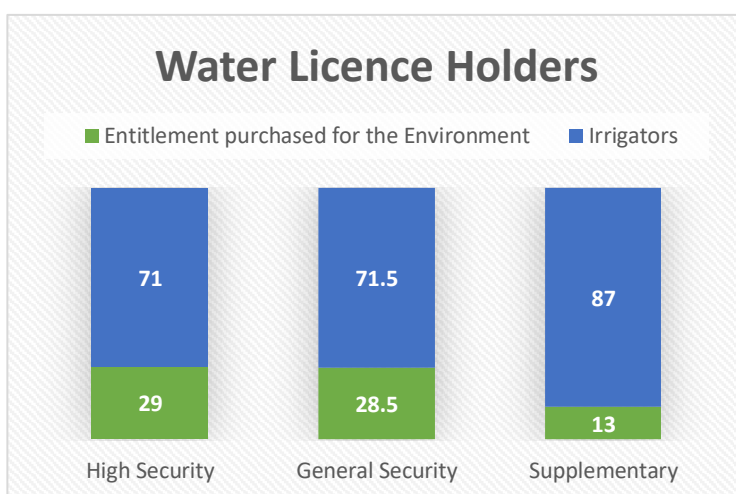


Table 1: Summary of census changes 2001 – 2011 moree plains

	2001	2006	2011	Percentage change
Population	15,680	14,124	13,429	-14.35%
Town Population	9,249	8,084	7,722	-16.51%
Number of ‘families’	3,906	3,447	3,321	-14.98%
Number of primary school aged children	2,445	2,252	1,978 (1263 registered as attending)	-19.10% (-8.34% on registered no.)
Main employment - agriculture	14.3 % (1,693)	17% with support services 20% (1,217)	15.8% with support services 19.22% (1,113)	-34.25%
Second employment - education	3.8% (450)	5.8% (353)	6.4% (373)	-17.1%

Sources:

Australia Bureau of Statistic Census information, 2001, 2016, 2011.

MDBA Catchment Profiles for the Socio-economic analysis to inform the Northern Review.