

Estimated cotton grown and water used in the 2020-21 year

Table 1: Cotton estimates and water usage 2020/2021

Valley	NSW Border Rivers	Gwydir	Namoi	Macquarie / Wambuil	Total
Cotton forecast (Bales) ¹	48,750	182,000	429,000	370,500	1,030,250
Estimated water requirements ² (ML)	48,750	182,000	429,000	370,500	1,030,250
Water allocated ³ (ML)	154,059	310,428	480,578	441,235	1,386,299
Water Usage ⁴ (ML)	20,656	107,687	79,853	123,569	331,765
Water shortage (ML)	28,094	74,313	414,118	303,043	698,485
Storage capacity ⁵ (ML)	179,000	553,000	312,000	167,000	1,211,000

Table 2: Water allocated and used in 2020-21

Valley	NSW Border Rivers	Gwydir	Namoi	Macquarie / Wambuil	Total
High & General security water allocated	18,666	100,172	129,405	284,569	532,811
High & General Security water used	16,701	42,800	20,905	103,333	183,739
Unused high & general security	1,965	57,372	108,500	181,236	349,072

¹ ABARES. (2021). *Natural fibres: March quarter 2021*. Canberra: ABARES. <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/research-topics/agricultural-outlook/natural-fibres>

² Based on 10 bales / ha and 10 megalitres / bale

³ WaterNSW. (2021). *NSW Water Register*. <https://waterregister.watarnsw.com.au/water-register-frame>

⁴ WaterNSW. (2021). *NSW Water Register*. <https://waterregister.watarnsw.com.au/water-register-frame>

⁵ DPIE. (2020). *1046 – Temporary water restrictions for floodplain harvesting (Northern Basin)* Sydney: NSW Parliament. https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lc/papers/Pages/qaprofiles/temporary-water-restriction-for-floodpla_244695.aspx

