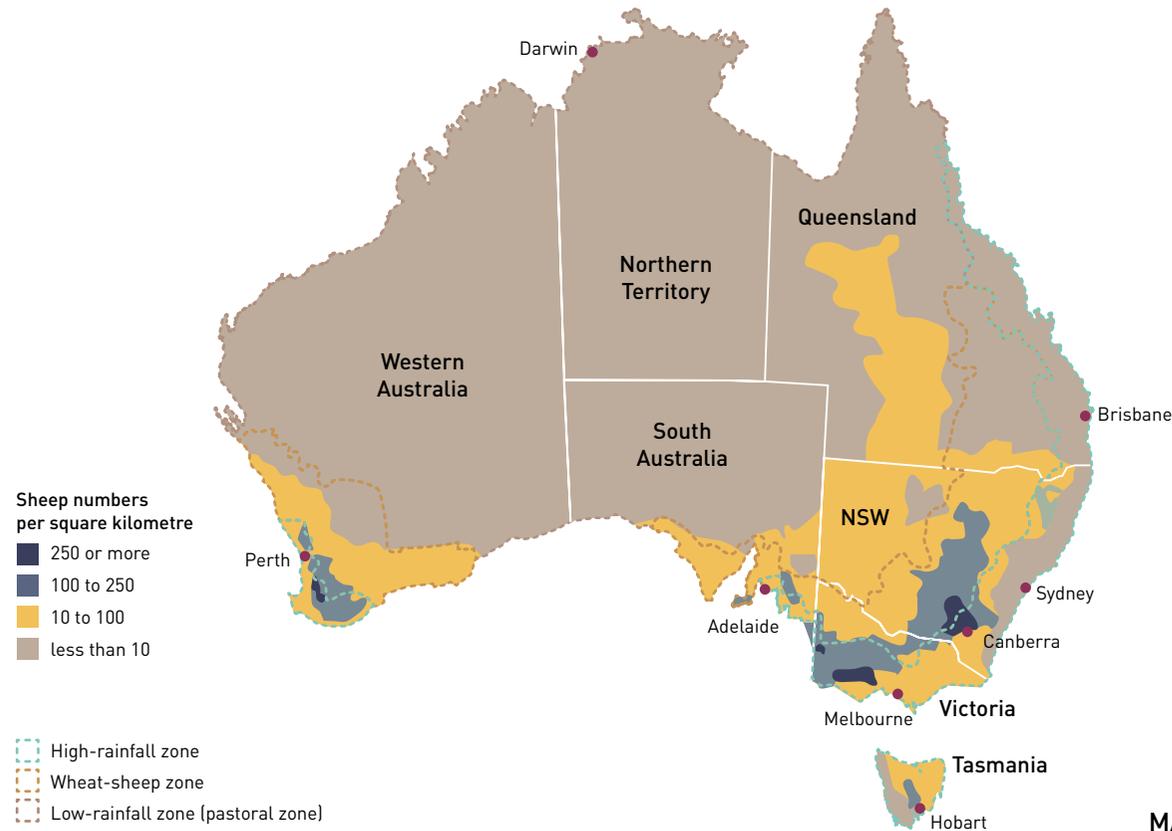


WOOL PRODUCTION IN AUSTRALIA



MAIN WOOL-PRODUCING AREAS IN AUSTRALIA



Wool production in Australia



Sheep are found in most states and territories of Australia, grazing more than 85 million hectares across the country. Most wool production is located in the sheep-wheat belt of the southern states.

There are two main wool production systems in Australia — high rainfall and low rainfall.

High-rainfall wool production

Woolgrowers in high-rainfall areas can grow high-quality **pastures** with nutritious grasses and **legumes**, such as **lucerne and clover**.

Low-rainfall wool production

Producers in areas that receive less rainfall rely on lower-quality **pastures** and graze their sheep on native grasses and shrubs.

Stocking rates

The number of sheep grazing a paddock is called the stocking rate.

Woolgrowers in high-rainfall areas have more **pasture**, so can run more sheep on one **hectare** of land (a higher stocking rate) than a producer in a low-rainfall area (lower stocking rate).



Managing the environment: Woolgrowers manage their sheep and land carefully to protect the animals and the environment.

Did you know?

- In a drought when there has been little or no rain, woolgrowers feed their sheep with hay and grain or sell some of their sheep.
- Farms in low-rainfall areas tend to be very large, while farms in high-rainfall areas tend to be smaller.
- Woolgrowers in high-rainfall areas often use a type of grazing called rotational grazing, where there are lots of small paddocks. Sheep are moved between paddocks according to how much and how fast the pasture is growing.
- Woolgrowers in low-rainfall areas have much bigger paddocks and leave their sheep in the same paddock for longer.

Glossary

Hectare — a unit of measurement used to describe the area of a piece of land, such as a paddock or farm.

Legumes — nutritious plants that contain lots of protein.

Lucerne and clover — common types of legumes used to feed sheep in high-rainfall areas.

Pasture — plants grown specifically to feed animals such as sheep and cattle.

More information

To find out more about wool production in Australia, take a look at:

- learnaboutwool.com
- Beyond the Bale magazine: beyondthebale.wool.com

FUN FACTS ABOUT WOOL PRODUCTION

- One hectare equals 10,000 square metres.
- An average paddock size in a high-rainfall system can be as small as 10 **hectares** (about five football fields).
- Paddock sizes in low-rainfall areas range from 2,000 to 20,000 **hectares** (which equates to more than 10,000 football fields.)

