

841/3

MORNING PAPERS : TUESDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY, 1951.

EVENING PAPERS : TUESDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY, 1951

BROADCASTING STATIONS : MIDNIGHT, MONDAY, 19TH FEBRUARY, 1951.

AUSTRALIAN WHEAT HARVEST, 1950-51.

The following revised estimate of the Australian 1950-51 wheat harvest, prepared by the Commonwealth Statistician (Dr. Roland Wilson) is based on recent official estimates for each State.

It is now estimated that the area sown to wheat for grain in Australia in the 1950-51 season was 11,868,000 acres from which 183.4 million bushels have been harvested, representing an average yield of 15.46 bushels per acre. However, as a result of persistent and heavy winter and spring rains, approximately 14 million bushels in New South Wales and 3 million bushels in Queensland are estimated by the Australian Wheat Board to be below F.A.Q. standard.

The present estimate of the 1950-51 wheat crop is about 1.6 million bushels less than the forecast issued on 19th December, 1950.

The estimated area sown in 1950-51, viz. 11,868,000 acres is the smallest area sown to wheat for grain since 1945-46 and is 1,112,000 acres or 8.6 per cent. less than average sowings for the five years ended 1938-39. The estimated production of 183.4 million bushels is 36.7 million bushels (16.7 per cent.) less than the record 1947-48 harvest but 29.1 million bushels (18.9 per cent.) above average production for the five years ended 1938-39.

Details of the estimates for each State are shown below: -

WHEAT FOR GRAIN : ESTIMATED AREA SOWN, PRODUCTION
AND AVERAGE YIELD, 1950-51.

State	Estimated Area Sown		Estimated Production			
	Authority	Area ('000 acres)	Authority	Date	Pro-duction ('000 bus.)	Average Yield per Acre (bus.)
N.S.W.	Government Statistician	3,361	Govt. Statistician	24.1.51	44,000	13.09
Vic.	Government Statist (a)	2,800	Aust. Wheat Board	16.2.51	51,000	18.21
Qld.	Dept. of Agriculture and Stock	660	Aust. Wheat Board	16.2.51	9,000	13.64
S.A.	Government Statist	1,840	Govt. Statist	20.12.50	30,800	16.74
W.A.	Government Statistician	3,200	Govt. Statistician	18.1.51	48,500	15.16
Tas.	Commonwealth Statistician	5	C'wlth Statistician	16.2.51	110	22.00
A.C.T.	Commonwealth Statistician	2	C'wlth Statistician	16.2.51	35	17.50
Total	-	11,868	-	-	183,445	15.46

(a) Based on estimate of area sown for all purposes, compiled by Government Statist.

Fuller particulars will be published in the Summary of the Wheat Situation (Vol. 8, No. 2) to be issued shortly.

ROLAND WILSON
COMMONWEALTH STATISTICIAN

COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS.

CANBERRA. A.C.T.

19TH FEBRUARY, 1951.