

Intensive Animal Industry

IN THE WESTERN DOWNS



Intensive animal farming accounts for nearly half of the Western Downs agricultural industry output and there is still huge potential for further opportunities in intensive farming throughout the region.

Did you know?

Image: Dan Proud

The median price per hectare in the Western Downs is around 54% cheaper than neighbouring regions according to the 2023 Australian Farmland Values update. With this in mind, savings on investment capital can be used to value-add. This means increased ability to incorporate innovative processes that strengthen business capacity, sustainability and continuity. (ruralbank.com.au/farmland-values-mid-year-2023.pdf)

Why Intensive Animal Industry on the Western Downs?

One of the secrets to our success is our location. The Western Downs provides intensive animal businesses with the following:

- Access to a central location strong in grain production
- On the doorstep of Queensland's meat processing hub
- Lower costs of input and operation
- Efficiency: around major infrastructure and lower transport costs with highway access inland and seaport via the bypass to Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport and the Port of Brisbane

- Increased profitability with 20% cheaper export costs via the Port of Brisbane to China and other Asian markets

We welcome innovation

Western Downs Regional Council has tailor-made conditions appropriate for intensive animal industry development. Our focus is on giving outcome-based conditions with flexibility and reduced compliance burdens that allow for innovation and improvement.



Experience Western Downs

It's the
people that
make it.



Council is committed to diversifying and growing the regional economy, attracting new business and investment in emerging markets and maximising air, land and rail connectivity opportunities. To learn more, view the Economic Development Strategy 2023-2028 at wdrc.gld.gov.au.

Western Downs Regional Council Economic Development team supports new businesses looking to:

- Facilitate and promote business and industry events to enhance growth in key industries
- Support business development opportunities through collaboration with key strategic partners
- Refer businesses to government agencies and economic development organisations providing business support and funding opportunities
- Provide information on developments and investment within the Western Downs Region
- Provide economic impact modelling and statistics to support grant and funding applications

Employment

Agriculture is the largest employer throughout the Western Downs region, with intensive animal industries driving this sector's economic growth.



Dalby Saleyards

As a result of the strength of the local intensive animal industry there is already a skilled workforce in the region. Agricultural and agribusiness educational programs are available through the University of Southern Queensland, Queensland TAFE Rural Centre of Excellence and at local high schools.

Within the region 12.4% of residential workers have a Bachelor or higher education qualification in agriculture, environment and related studies.

Value

Queensland's intensive animal industries are worth \$1.22 billion to the state's economy. This figure represents the combined value of the chicken meat, pork, dairy and egg industries.

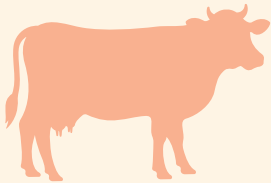
In the Western Downs 42% of the national feedlot occupancy is within a 200km radius of Dalby, with ongoing expansion across both the pork and beef industries.

Goat meat has joined lamb as an alternative source of protein with growing popularity in domestic and overseas markets.

The region's specialty in intensive animal farming is also primed to expand into quail and poultry meat markets.

The Western Downs continues to offer stable climate, land availability and central location which means reduced transport timeframes and costs.

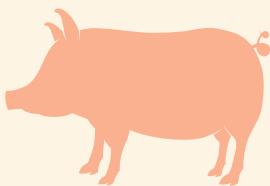
In addition, the climate creates ideal conditions for effluent catchment and other intensive farming practices.



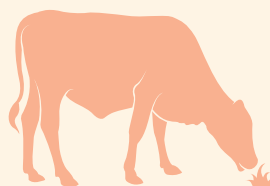
In excess of 200,000 head of cattle are sold annually at Dalby Regional Saleyards

42% of national feedlot occupancy is within 200km radius of Dalby

The Western Downs is home to



25 approved piggeries



60 approved feedlots



4,600 beef producing properties

References

www.economy.id.com.au/western-downs

www.dalbyregionalsaleyards.com.au



Image: Riverbend Pork

Designed For Better Business

Western Downs Regional Council is proud of its award-winning Planning Scheme that ensures development approvals for feedlots are issued in under eight weeks, on average, in comparison to 12 months by other councils.

We have removed red tape and work with the understanding that time equals money.

The statutory requirement for decision-making under the new Planning Act is 70 business days, with Western Downs Regional Council averaging the development assessment process in 14 business days.

Livestock Sales and Processing

When it comes to livestock sales, there are two options:

- Online e-commerce (auction) and
- Dalby's state-of-the-art regional saleyards facility

The Dalby Regional Saleyards are the largest same-day prime and store cattle yards in Australia and the second largest selling and auctioning centre nationally. In excess of 200,000 head of cattle are sold through these yards annually.

Southern Queensland meat processing facilities are located right on the doorstep of the Western Downs, with a kill capacity that makes up 70% of national totals.

Development approval has been granted for an abattoir located at Jimbour that will be capable of processing a maximum of 20,000 tonnes of beef and pork per annum.



Connectivity

One of the greatest benefits of Western Downs' geography is its connectivity and proximity to supply chains and relevant markets.

Road: The Toowoomba Bypass is an easy 2.5 hour drive north-west to Brisbane and just one hour from Toowoomba (depending on where in the Western Downs). Reduced transport times equal reduced costs and turnaround times for your business. Other highways with easy access include the Leichhardt, Moonie and Warrego Highways.

Air: Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport opens export opportunities through Queensland's only dedicated 747-8 International Freighter Service.

Rail: Rail networks such as the Western Rail Line increase connectivity and provide direct access to store cattle producers in the north-west, Southern Queensland abattoirs, Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport and Port of Brisbane.

Rail tunnel upgrades on the network allow for transportation of 'Hi Cube' containers. The Inland Rail national project will link the Port of Melbourne and the Port of Brisbane by rail, via central-west NSW and Toowoomba.

Keep Learning, Keep Networking

Western Downs Regional Council (WDRC), Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA), Australian Lot Feeders' Assoc (ALFA), Australian Pork Limited (APL) and Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprises (TSBE), among others, support and run events throughout the year to encourage environmental sustainability, promote animal welfare and innovation, and to advocate for the industry.

REGIONAL PROFILE

Rich in natural resources, natural beauty and natural history, the Western Downs is the place to be. These natural strengths are supported by strong industry foundations across the agriculture, energy, manufacturing, and construction sectors. Together with significant and continuing investment in infrastructure and tourism, these have positioned the Western Downs as one of the highest performing local government areas in Queensland, and Australia.

Known as the Energy Capital of Queensland, the Western Downs is experiencing high economic growth, investment, consistently high employment and includes some 38,000km² of land. The region boasts an impressive \$4 billion worth of approved renewables, including \$2.4 billion under construction.

One of the greatest benefits of the location of the Western Downs is the connectivity and proximity to the supply chain and relevant markets.

Another is a connected labour pool resulting in good workforce relations and retention rates and a diversity of industries with high workforce attraction.

Western Downs Regional Council's Gross Regional Product was \$3.68 billion in the year ending June 2022, growing 12.4% since the previous year (economy.id)

Home to a growing population of more than 34,500 residents, the Western Downs offers contemporary technology and opportunities in a friendly regional location.

Modern facilities such as aquatic and fitness centres, art galleries, museums, cinemas and civic centres bring a metropolitan feeling to regional communities.

The region also offers residents accessibility to public and privately run medical and health care services including access to hospitals, medical centres, dental and other health care professionals.

The roll-out of the National Broadband Network (NBN) and increasing mobile and internet coverage has positively impacted the global connectivity of businesses, lifting productivity and profitability. Dalby is classified as 'Business Fibre Zone' providing business grade fibre at reduced wholesale prices.

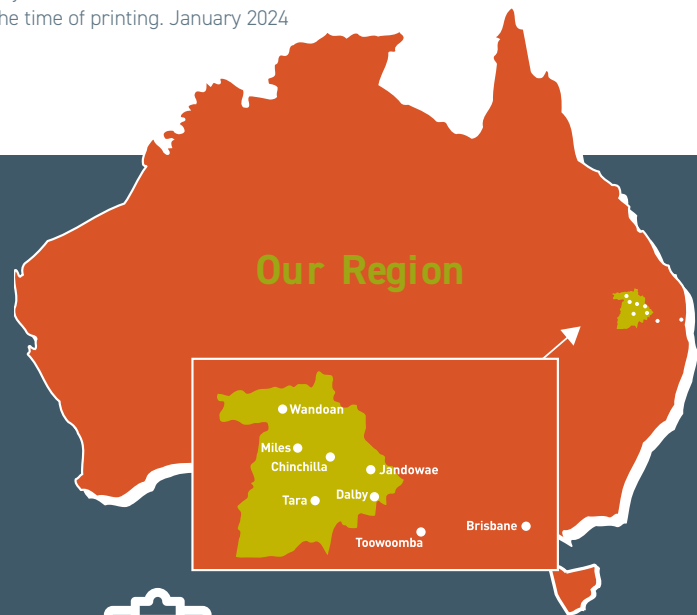
Residents enjoy a lower cost of living due to affordable housing (less than half of QLD average), ease of access to schools, work and retail outlets, with the NBN providing the network connectivity required for families and businesses to flourish.

It also offers a growing, diverse regional economy across agriculture, intensive agriculture, manufacturing, resources and renewable energy.

INNOVATION

Digital technologies create opportunity for growth and transformation. Technology is a continually evolving field and the Western Downs offers local businesses contemporary communication solutions via NBN access to stay connected and current.

The information and statistics included in this document are reliant on the accuracy of sources as listed and were accurate as at the time of printing. January 2024



A SNAPSHOT



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE TRENDING LOWER THAN QLD AVERAGE



A SKILLED AND EXPERIENCED WORKFORCE



GRP: DOUBLED OVER 15 YEARS

Energy Capital of Queensland: Resources & Renewables



DEVELOPMENT & DEVELOPERS SUPPORTED AND WELCOMED WITH WDRC PLANNING SCHEME



COMPARATIVELY STRONG INDUSTRY SUPPLY CHAINS PER CAPITA OF POPULATION

NBN

INNOVATION: NBN ROLLOUT = DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY & SPEED FOR YOUR BUSINESS

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AVERAGE DISPOSABLE INCOME \$3K HIGHER THAN QLD AVERAGE

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