



Health

**It's the
people that
make it.**


WESTERN DOWNS INVESTMENT PROSPECTUS


The Western Downs is a fast growing regional economy with a GRP of \$5.91B in 2023 and a total of \$7.5B in the investment pipeline across industries and stages of development. Combining country lifestyle with modern living and high end conveniences, the Western Downs is flourishing in well-rounded and diverse industries, with strengths in the nation's top sectors including construction, agriculture, energy and manufacturing.


With a growing population of more than 34,000 residents, the Western Downs has a lot to offer in meeting health care needs. Western Downs Regional Council has identified dynamic work environments for the development of health care hubs in the region, which provide outreach opportunities for smaller communities.

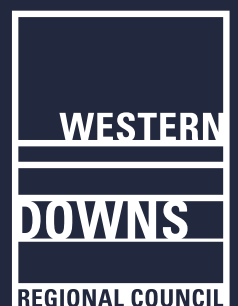
Our Strengths and Opportunities

 **Strong prospects in health projects** - with upcoming development of Jandowae Hospital upgrade and Tara Hospital rebuild, the availability for the community to access vital health services has never been better

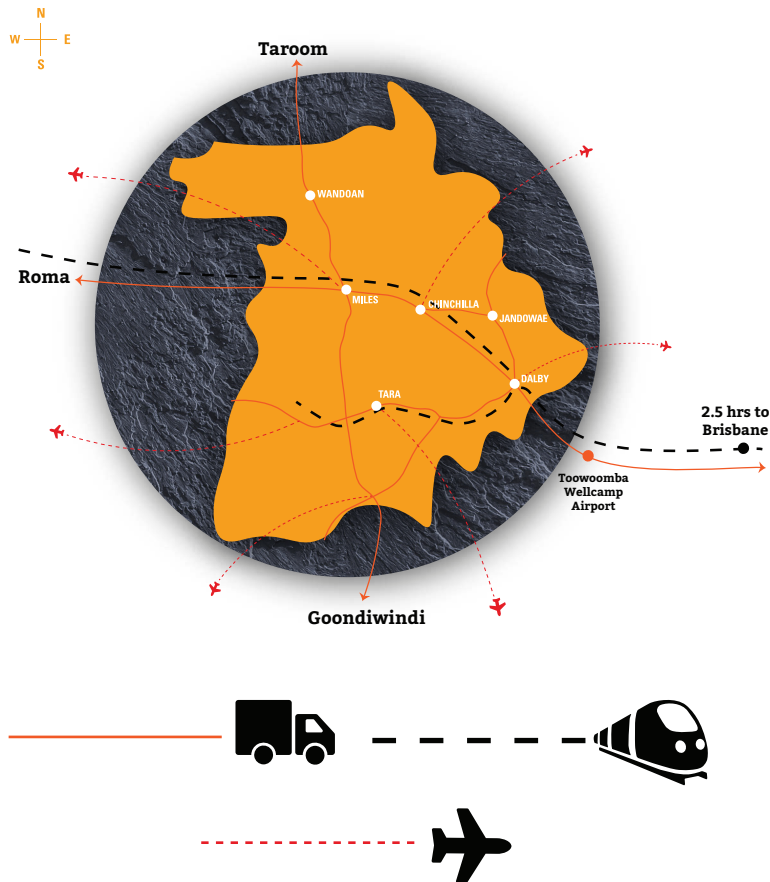
 **Skilled and engaged workforce** - the Western Downs has a significant labour workforce with 1,492 people employed in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry in 2022/23, creating almost 150 jobs since 2019/20

 **Workforce training** - the Western Downs is proudly home to training providers, offering health care and social assistance courses to better enhance our healthcare workforce

 **Planning scheme** - here at the Western Downs Regional Council, we take a proactive approach towards development and with developers in our region. We are averaging our DA assessment process in 13 days, which is what makes investments into the health industry much easier.



CONNECTIVITY IN THE WESTERN DOWNS



This region is located 207km north-west of Brisbane and 83km north-west of Toowoomba. It is connected by major road and rail networks including the Leichhardt, Moonie and Warrego Highways and the West Moreton rail system. Aerodromes are located in Chinchilla, Dalby, Miles, Tara, Meandarra and Moonie.



The Western Downs has a strong rail connection with the Westlander (by Queensland Rail Travel) connecting the region to Brisbane, Roma and beyond. Proposed connections include the ARTC Inland Rail project which will reduce transport costs for producers and improve connectivity to Brisbane and Melbourne. Council also advocates for additional connections between Goondiwindi and Gladstone.



The region is located strategically with easy connectivity to national and international export markets via The Port of Brisbane and Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport. Access to Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport provides producers a dedicated 747-8F International Freight service to Hong Kong, Singapore and chartered cargo flights.



There are 106 mobile towers positioned across the region. NBN fibre optic runs along the Warrego Highway and connects Dalby (business grade), Chinchilla and Miles. Other localities are serviced by fixed wireless and satellite services.



Rural land acquisition costs in the Western Downs are significantly less than neighbouring regions. This provides opportunities for large volume movements of goods and produce in and out of the region.

QUEENSLAND AUS



The total output in the health care and social assistance sector was \$157.7M in 2022/23, an increase of 14.03% over the past six years.*

The health care and social assistance sector is growing, and currently employs 1492 people in the Western Downs. Nearly 150 jobs were created since 2019/20. The majority of this employment was in social assistance services, followed closely by hospitals, then medical and other health care services.

The construction of recent buildings and infrastructure associated with health services in the Western Downs region include the new \$22.6 million Tara Hospital. Funded by the Queensland Government Building Rural and Remote Health Program, the hospital is an investment towards providing vital healthcare services in regional and remote communities.

In 2021, Southern Cross Care Queensland (SCCQ) received \$14M from the Federal Government to deliver the Chinchilla Aged Care Master Plan, which will rebuild and expand the Illoura Aged Care Facility. As of April 2024, the construction phase is still underway, with the next phase of roofing proceeding. This new development will ensure care is provided to the Chinchilla communities while creating greater employment opportunities.

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HOSPITALS IN
THE REGION

7

RESIDENTIAL AGED
CARE FACILITIES

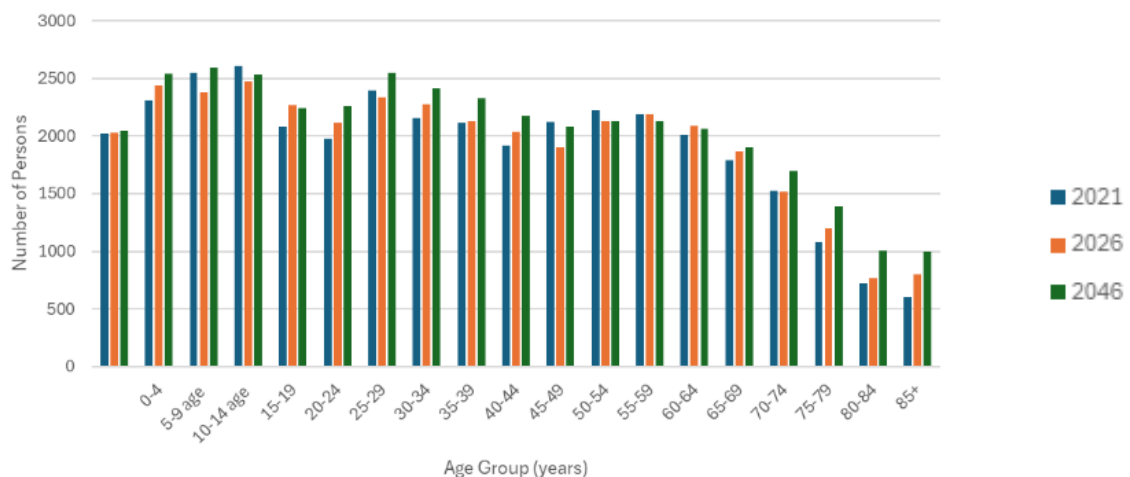
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REGULATED EARLY
CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
& CARE SERVICES

20+

NDIS & COMMUNITY
CARE PROVIDERS

Projected population by age group in Western Downs by 2046**



Why invest in the Western Downs

The 2021 census for the Western Downs reported that the population was 33,843 with a median age of 38. The 2024 estimated population is 34,991** with a forecasted increase of 2,636 persons by 2046, at an average annual growth rate of 0.3%. With the projected 39% increase in the population aged 80-84 from 2021 to 2046, there is a clear and urgent need for enhanced health services in the region. This demographic shift represents a significant opportunity for investment in the healthcare sector, particularly in areas that cater to the needs of an aging population.

*Source: National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR) Economy ID

**Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office (QGSO): Projected Population Western Downs & Queensland Regional Resident profiles

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Western Downs is open for business and has identified the following opportunities worthy of investment:

**After hours
GP services**

**Radiology &
medical imaging**

**Dental & audiology
services**

**Exercise
physiology**

**Mental health
& psychology
services**

**Medical
laboratory &
super clinic**

Western Downs Regional Council has a concise and innovative 5-year Economic Development Strategy which includes one of Queensland's most progressive Planning Schemes, and we remain committed to attracting and enabling development.

Planning
scheme makes
investment
simple

Pragmatic
approach to
assessment

Highly
competitive
application
fees

Support
through the
process

This Prospectus offers only a glimpse into what our great region has to offer. For more information on Western Downs Regional Council visit www.wdrc.qld.gov.au or contact the Economic Development Team. Ph. +61 7 4679 4000 | E. info@wdrc.qld.gov.au

Western Downs Regional Council partners with...

Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise (TSBE)
TSBE is the go-to organisation linking business with opportunity to create sustainable growth and diversity for the region.
Find out more via www.tsbe.com.au

Active Chambers of Commerce located in Chinchilla, Dalby, Jandowae, Miles, Tara and Wandoan foster a business network and community.
Find out more via www.wdrc.qld.gov.au

