



Manufacturing

**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.

The Western Downs' renowned manufacturing sector is well-established and showcases strength, innovation and return on investment. Currently, the industry presents a myriad of potential growth possibilities for investment in the sector to value-add.

Our Strengths and Opportunities



Land availability - the Industrial Land Use Strategy identifies suitable land and Council's Planning Scheme allows for high impact industrial zoned land within the region, while the acquisition cost of industrial land is significantly less in the Western Downs region compared to metropolitan areas per hectare



Training opportunities - the Western Downs is proudly home to excellent schools and tertiary training providers offering nationally recognised qualifications



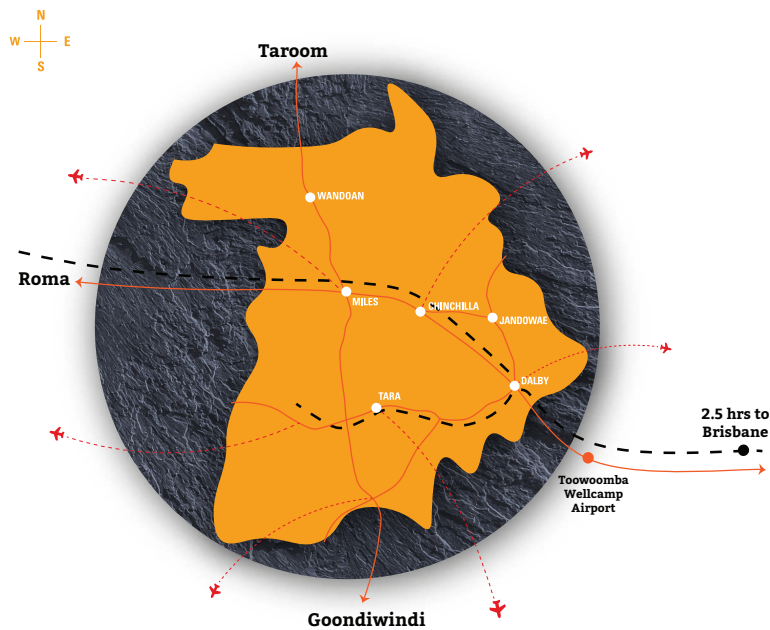
Skilled and engaged workforce - the Western Downs has a significant labour force with 1,130 people employed in the manufacturing industry (in 2022/23*) and 33.1% of resident workers held engineering or related technology education (compared to the Queensland average of 26.3%*) in 2021***



Global export connections- in 2022/23, the manufacturing sector totalled over \$53.1M in international exports and \$98.5M domestic exports from the region*



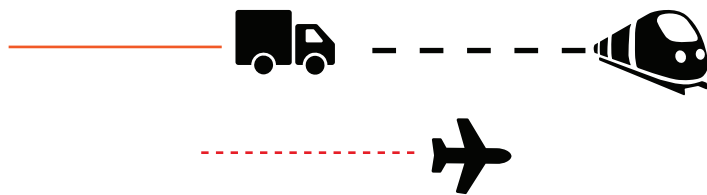
CONNECTIVITY IN THE WESTERN DOWNS



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.



QUEENSLAND AUS



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.

Manufacturing Strength

Machinery & Equipment*

	2022/23	2017/18
<i>Output/Total Sales</i>	\$133.9M	\$85.9M
<i>Local Sales</i>	\$56.4M	\$63.5M
<i>Exports</i>	\$77.5M	\$22.4M
<i>Value-Add</i>	\$56.9M	\$36.7M

Food Product*

	2022/23	2017/18
<i>Output/Total Sales</i>	\$87.6M	\$66.3M
<i>Local Sales</i>	\$63.9M	\$46M
<i>Exports</i>	\$23.7M	\$20.3M
<i>Value-Add</i>	\$20M	\$15.4M

Primary Metal & Metal Product*

	2022/23	2017/18
<i>Output/Total Sales</i>	\$50.1M	\$32.5M
<i>Local Sales</i>	\$12.1M	\$0.2M
<i>Exports</i>	\$38M	\$34.4M
<i>Value-Add</i>	\$4.5M	\$4.1M

The manufacturing industry in the Western Downs is recognised as “high value, low volume”, which is supported by industry figures

Currently, there are 135 manufacturing businesses located in the Western Downs. Food production, petroleum and coal product manufacturing is the largest sector, followed by primary metal and fabricated metal products, machinery and equipment manufacturing.*

In 2022/23, the total manufacturing output was \$349.5M, demonstrating a 10% growth over the past five years. Exports have vastly expanded by 43% over the same period and contributed \$151.6M to the region in 2022/23.*

Strength in the manufacturing industry is demonstrated by the increase in local jobs, which has led to a total of 1,130 jobs in 2022/23 in the sector.*

Employment Skills & Development

Skills in the manufacturing industry are supported by Trade Training Centres in Chinchilla, Dalby and Miles. The centres enable high school students a skills link with the region’s industries.

TAFE Queensland has an industry-standard facility in Chinchilla and a campus in Dalby offering nationally recognised courses and access to learn required industrial skills.

Certificate qualifications can also be completed at the Dalby TAFE facility with courses in structural steel fabricating, boilermaking and welding available.

With a regional demand in mechanical trade skills, engineering career opportunities are also available to become a fitter or turner.

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

**Source: Fraser Valuers, 2022

***Australian Bureau of Statistics Census (2016, 2021)

The information and statistics included in this document are reliant on the accuracy of sources listed at time of printing (August, 2024)

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The strength of the construction, agriculture and energy sectors make the Western Downs a prime location for a variety of manufacturing specialities including:

Renewable energy components

Custom manufacturing (fabrication)

Food product manufacturing

Research & development facilities

Machinery & equipment manufacturing

Mining equipment



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

