

# Transport and Logistics

## IN THE WESTERN DOWNS



The Western Down's strategic positioning means exponential growth for the transport and logistics industry, providing the region with connection and employment to more than 750 people

*Images: Dan Proud*



**The region saw a growth of 5.8%** in the number of businesses opening in our region in the last 12 months

### Road Transport

The Western Downs, a significant rural and remote region in Australia, is primarily connected and serviced by road transport. This region is strategically located, with key highways facilitating connectivity from the north, west, and south. The Leichardt, Moonie, and Warrego Highways form crucial transportation arteries leading to and from the Western Downs.

The Toowoomba Second Range Crossing is a critical infrastructure development, which plays a pivotal role in linking the Western Downs to the Port of Brisbane.

The Western Downs region also benefits from easy access to Toowoomba's Wellcamp Airport, which serves as a crucial hub facilitating air transportation and contributing to the region's economic growth.

**Transport and logistics industry contributes \$82m per year to the regional economy**

### Economic Impact

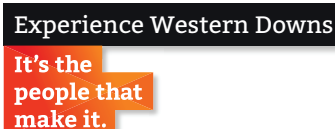
The improved transportation infrastructure, including highways and airport access, has had a significantly positive impact on the economic landscape of the Western Downs.

Enhanced connectivity has not only facilitated the movement of goods but has also attracted investments and bolstered economic development.

### Trade and Export Opportunities

The Toowoomba Second Range Crossing has established a vital link between the Western Downs and the Port of Brisbane. This strategic connection has opened up avenues for seamless transportation of goods, enhancing trade prospects for the region.

With convenient access to Toowoomba's Wellcamp Airport, the Western Downs region has witnessed a considerable expansion in export opportunities. The airport's facilitation of air cargo services contributes to the region's global trade capabilities.



## Decarbonising our heavy transport industry

In March 2022, the Queensland, New South Wales and Victorian state governments announced a tri-state collaboration on the renewable hydrogen refuelling network for heavy transport and logistics along Australia's eastern seaboard.

The governments have signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) for the refuelling corridors of the nation's most critical roads and highways, starting with the Hume Highway, the Pacific Highway and the Newell Highway. ([epw.qld.gov.au/hydrogen/hydrogen-super-highway](https://epw.qld.gov.au/hydrogen/hydrogen-super-highway))

## Well connected

With the Western Downs accessible via road, rail and air, residents find themselves more connected than ever to the rest of Australia and the world. Within a few hours drive of most of the region, drivers can make their way to multimillion dollar shopping centres in Toowoomba, dinosaur fossil exhibits in far western Queensland at the Eromanga Natural History Museum or a number of picturesque coastal towns along the Sunshine Coast.

The Westlander passenger rail takes passengers to Charleville twice weekly stopping in Dalby, Chinchilla and Miles. The Western Downs is certainly no isolated region in fact, thanks to Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport and its direct passenger flights to hubs such as Sydney, Melbourne and Townsville, residents can literally be transported anywhere in the world from an

airport less than an hour from Dalby.

For those heading to or from Brisbane for work or play, your journey will be more efficient thanks to the \$1.6 billion Toowoomba Second Range Crossing.

This is good news especially for our commercial road users taking crucial equipment to the mines and agricultural product to the Port of Brisbane.

Proposed projects including updates and repairs to Dalby-Kogan road and Warrego and Moonie Highways, mean better accessibility for residents travelling to work and or larger cities.



Contributed to the regional economy each year in support services, warehousing and other storage services.



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.qld.gov.au](https://wdrc.qld.gov.au).

Western Downs Regional Council's 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





### Opportunities for businesses

With such vibrant and strong agriculture and energy industries within the Western Downs, there's opportunity for transport and logistics companies to connect consumers with suppliers across multiple industries like cropping, livestock, quarries and energy.

Affordable industrial and residential real estate, in comparison to major centres, also means the Western Downs promises business relocation and establishment opportunities.

### Employment

In 2021/22 the transport sector alone in the Western Downs contributed to 0.5% of all employment in QLD (economy id.), with forecasted growth due to better road and air connections between the region and larger cities. Of this employment, 87% of all workers in the industry chose to also call the region home permanently.

### Supply chain transport and logistics



**28,300 +**

**Annual trailers/wagons and trucks running to and from the Region**

**\$7million**

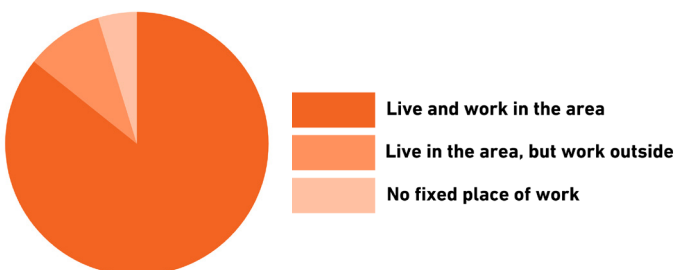
**Total transport costs annually**

**\$870million**

**Total freight value**



There are over 28,000 freight trips to and from the Western Downs every year with over 630,000 annual tonnes. The region is perfectly positioned for agriculture, mining and resource commodity transport all forecasted to continue to grow providing regional jobs in the freight and logistics sectors.



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing 2021.

## 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 38,000km<sup>2</sup> 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 a '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. April 2024.

## A SNAPSHOT



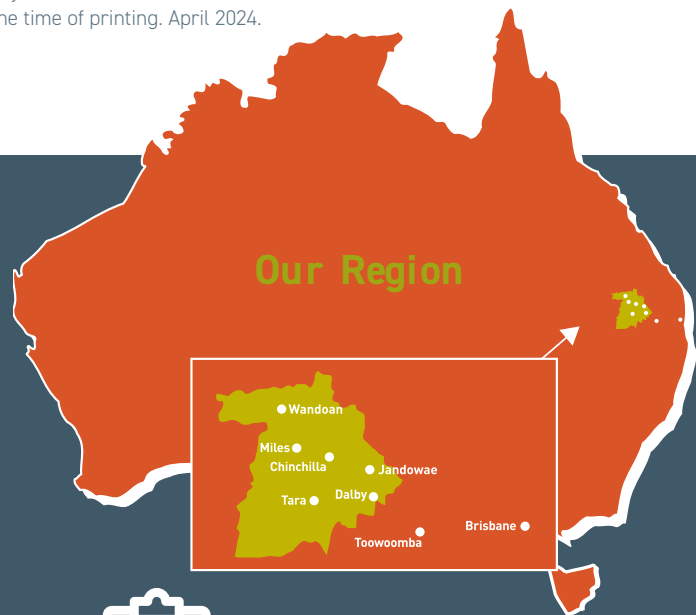
UNEMPLOYMENT  
RATE TRENDING  
LOWER THAN QLD  
AVERAGE



A SKILLED AND  
EXPERIENCED  
WORKFORCE



GRP: DOUBLED OVER  
15 YEARS



DEVELOPMENT & DEVELOPERS  
SUPPORTED AND WELCOMED  
WITH WDRC PLANNING SCHEME



COMPARATIVELY STRONG  
INDUSTRY SUPPLY CHAINS PER  
CAPITA OF POPULATION

Energy Capital of Queensland:  
Resources & Renewables



# NBN

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

# \$\$\$

AVERAGE DISPOSABLE  
INCOME \$3K HIGHER  
THAN QLD AVERAGE

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