



# Western Downs Regional Futures Summit

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# DATA

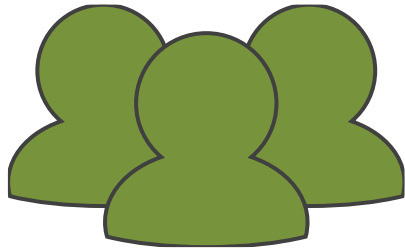
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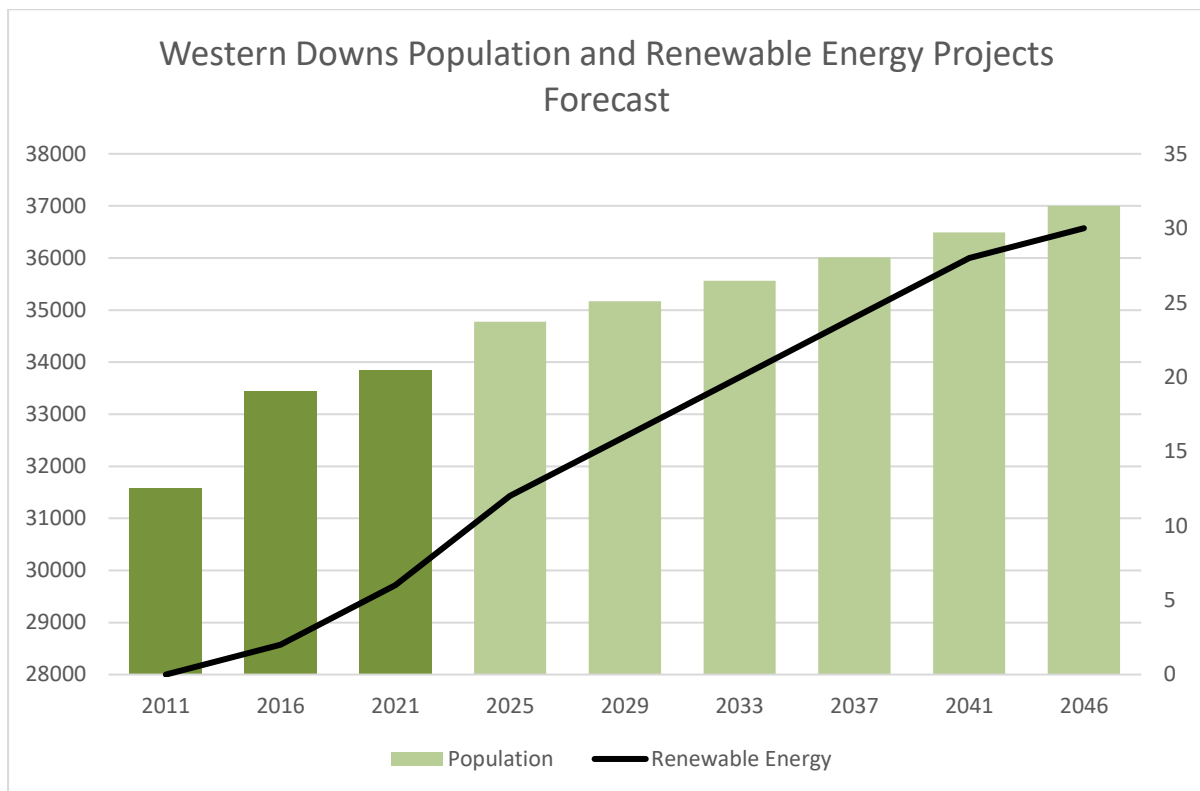
# 1. Population

**Estimated resident population in 2023:**



# 34,659

**Overview of population growth over time:**



Forecasted growth in population between 2023-46 is 6.75%.

In addition to this, the Western Downs has the largest non-resident population of the Surat Basin, estimated to be 2,640 in 2021.

## ***"The energy capital of Queensland"***

24 Solar farms approved in the region since 2016

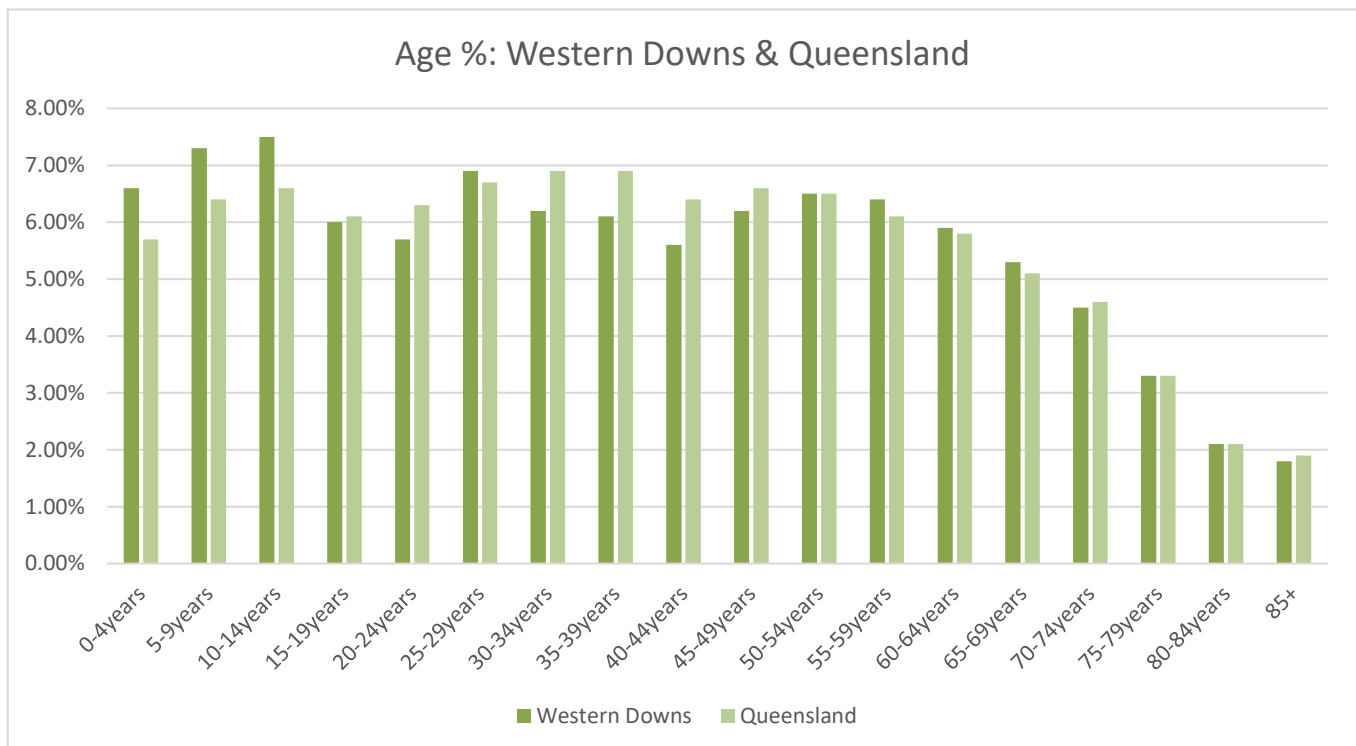
3 wind farms approved in our region since 2016

2 battery projects

1 green-hydrogen project

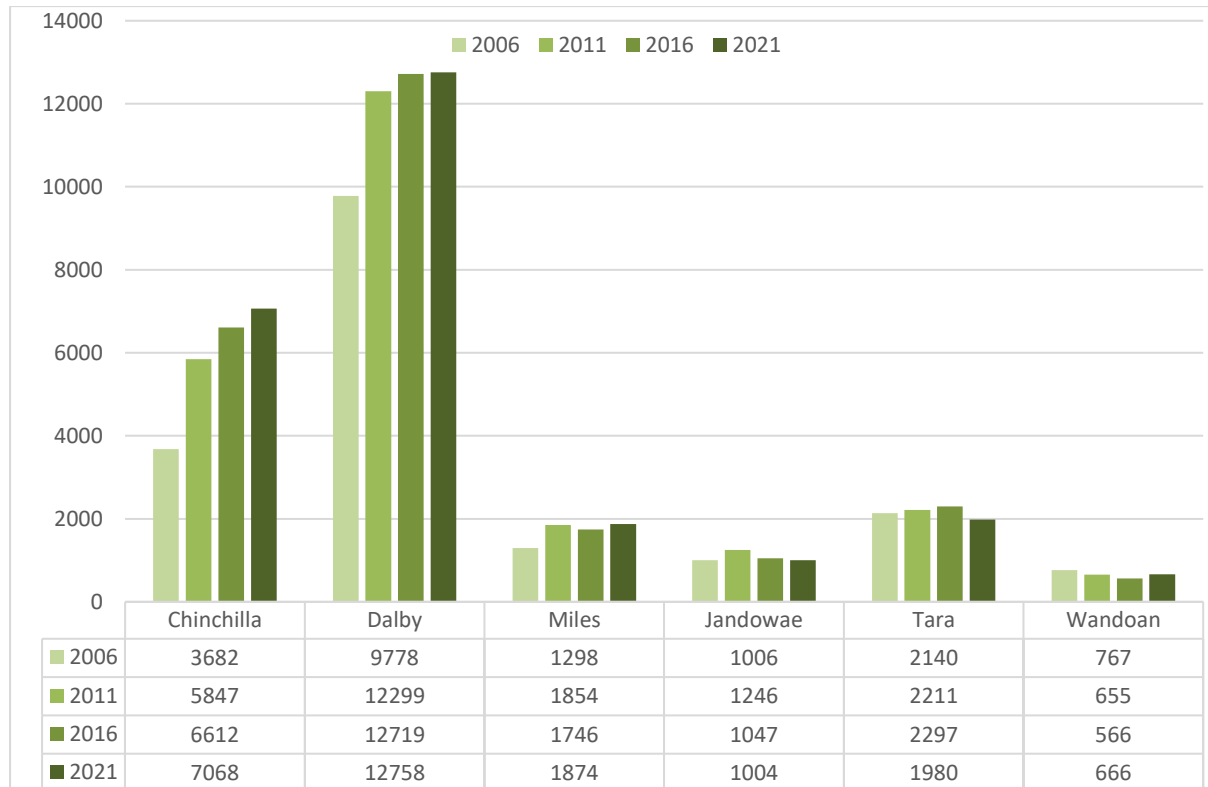
8 of these renewables' projects are currently operating or finalising development. Our linear projection in the table above is based on current approved projects.

## Age distribution (2021):



Median age in Western Downs is 38; which is the same as Queensland and Australia.

## Population by town 2006-2023:



Population significantly increased between 2006 and 2011. The township of Chinchilla increased by 49%, followed by Miles 42%, and Dalby 26%.

## 2. Housing

**Total private dwellings:**



# 14,496

**Weekly income, rent and mortgage costs:**

ABS Data (2021)	Queensland	Western Downs	% difference
Median Weekly Household Income	\$1,675	\$1,374	18%
Median Weekly Rent	\$365	\$240	35%
Median Monthly Mortgage Repayments	\$1,733	\$1,300	25%

Average household income has increased by 28% since 2011, resulting in further consumption effects in the local economy.

### **Rural Residential Subdivisions**

There are approximately 1,664 rural residential estates which were subdivided during various periods up to and including the 1980's. (source: *Tara Shire Planning Scheme, December 2005*).

It is understood that some of these subdivisions were indeed welcomed at the time for the resultant population growth.

These developments were often marketed in a non-conventional way, on a *rent to buy* type arrangement. It is understood that in some instances, those arrangements are still in place.

The former Tara Shire completely tightened up the planning frameworks for the area in their December 2005 *Integrated Planning Act Planning Scheme*, which attempted to prohibit further subdivisions in the area. However, these lots were already subdivided and developed, and the scheme was not able to force the amalgamation of those lots.

This means that in addition to the properties that are occupied, there are many more lots that are already subdivided and established - and despite them being vacant at present, many more lots could presumably be sold and/or could be occupied.

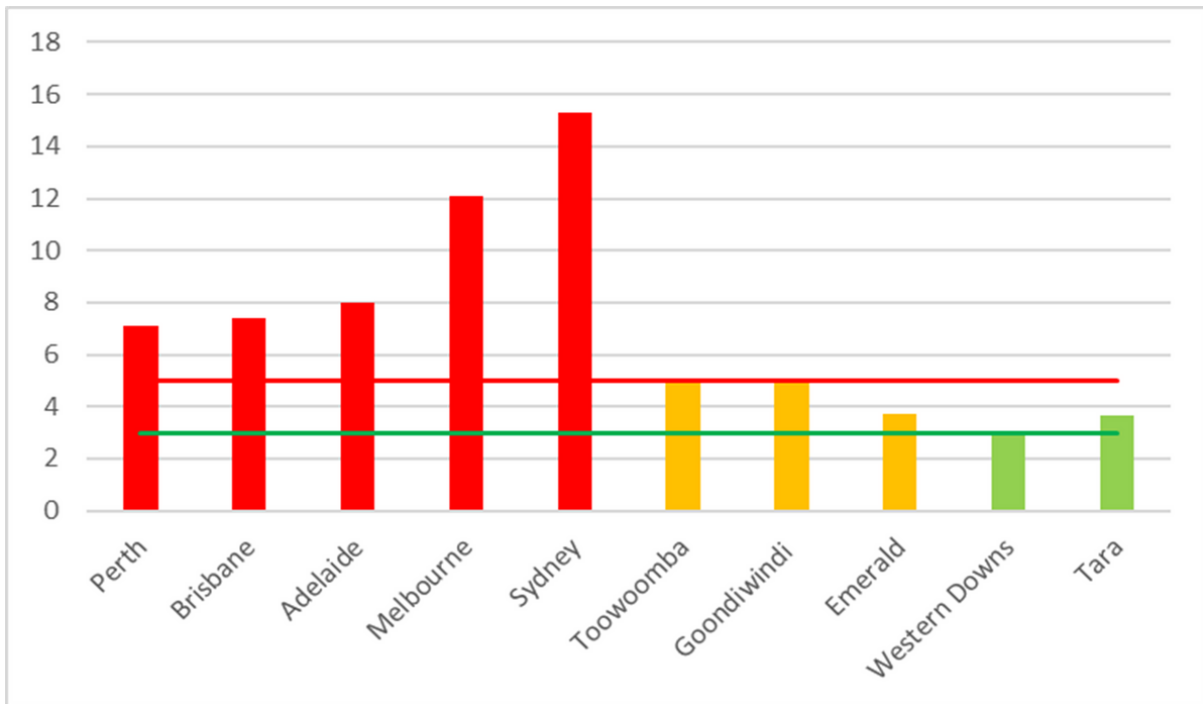
The following is an example of a rural residential subdivision where many more lots are unoccupied:





The current Western Downs Planning Scheme includes these areas in the *Rural zone*, which has a large minimum lot size of 1000 ha.

## Housing affordability:



Severely unaffordable >5 ; Affordable < 3

Western Downs housing affordability is 3.02

Brisbane's housing affordability is 7.2

Challenges include housing supply, building wait times, cost of materials and services, and high insurance ratings.

## Tenure type:



### 3. Employment

**Working age population (aged 15-64 years):**



**61.6%**

Queensland: 64.3%

**Unemployment (2022, Quarter 4):**

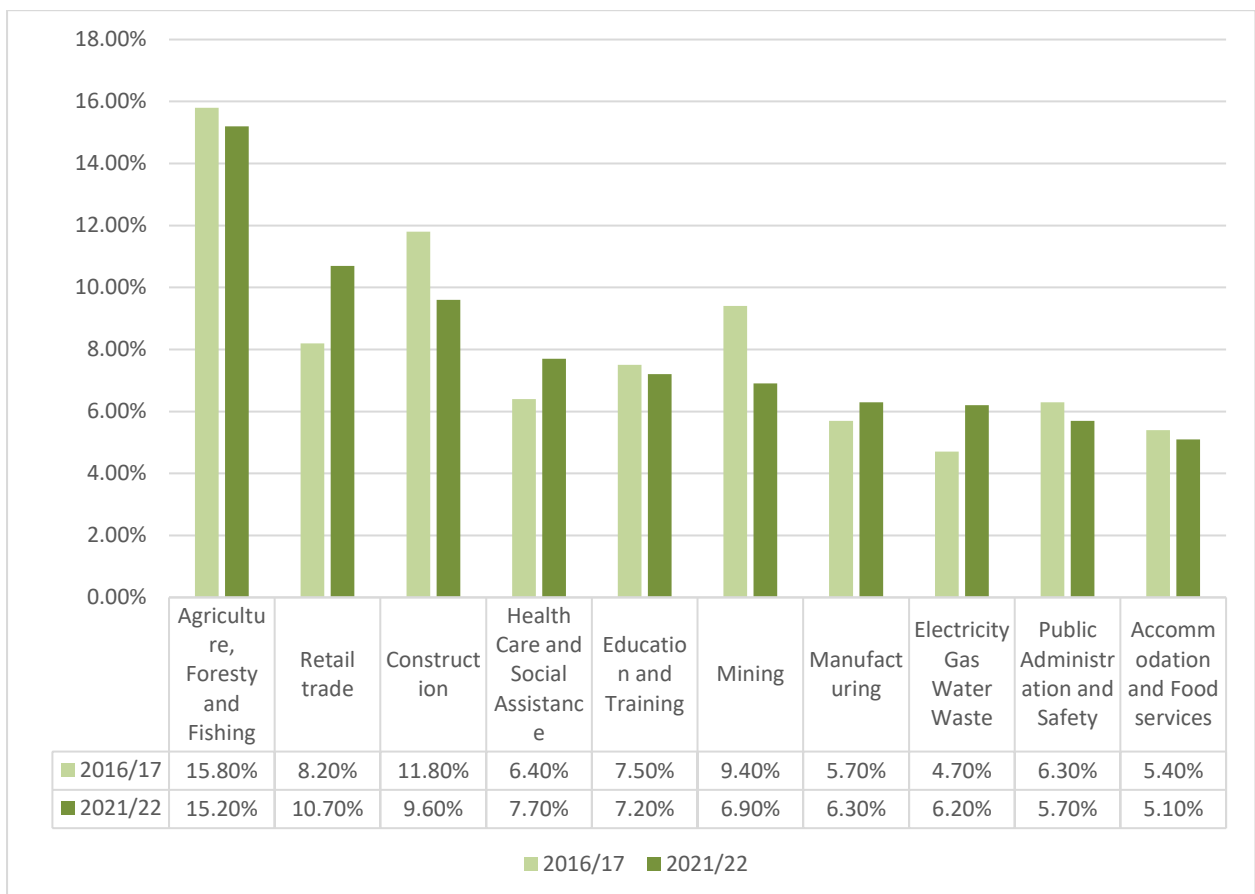


**5.6%**

Queensland: 3.9%

Regional Queensland: 3.6%

**Western Downs Employment by top 10 industries (% 2016-22):**



Agriculture is still our largest employer (despite reduction in number of jobs in the sector). Interestingly, retail has taken over construction and is now the second largest employer (+314 jobs created in the sector over the past year alone).



**Commute to Work:**

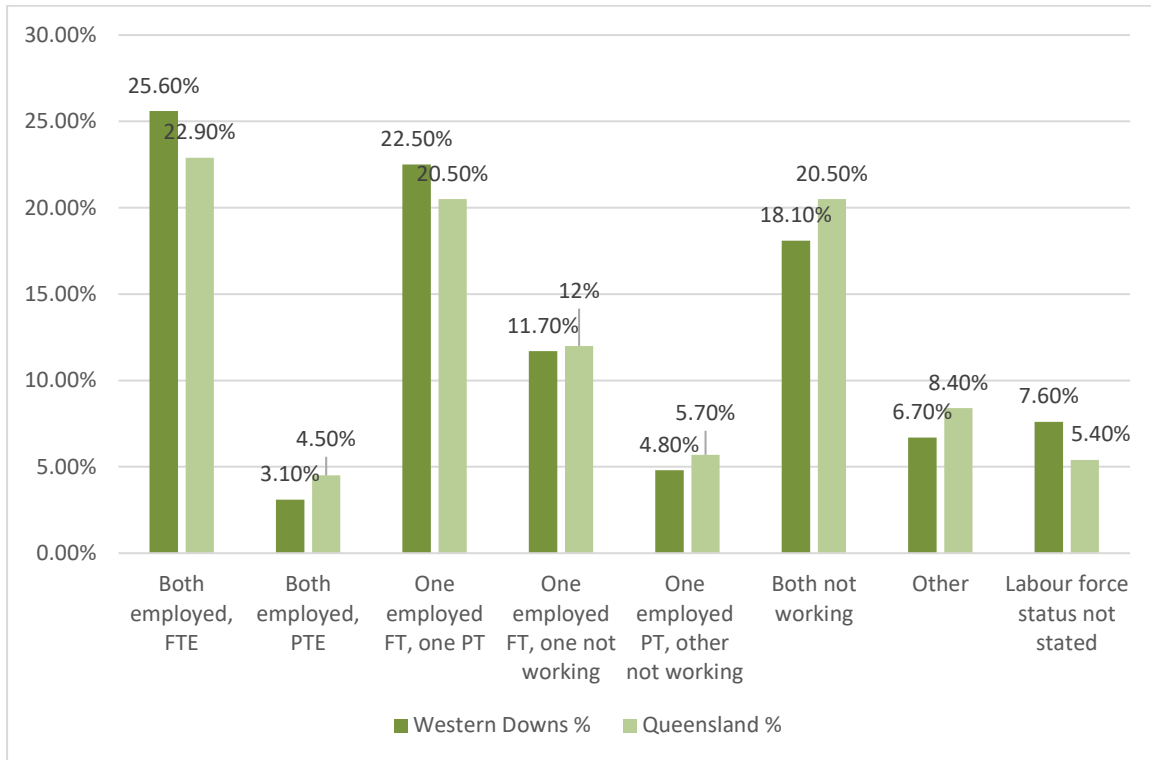


**82.6%**

of residents in the Western Downs live and work in the area.

17.4% of people work in the area but usually reside outside.

**Employment status of couple families:**



**Total jobs in region:**



**18,526**

jobs in 2022 in region (+282 over the past year)

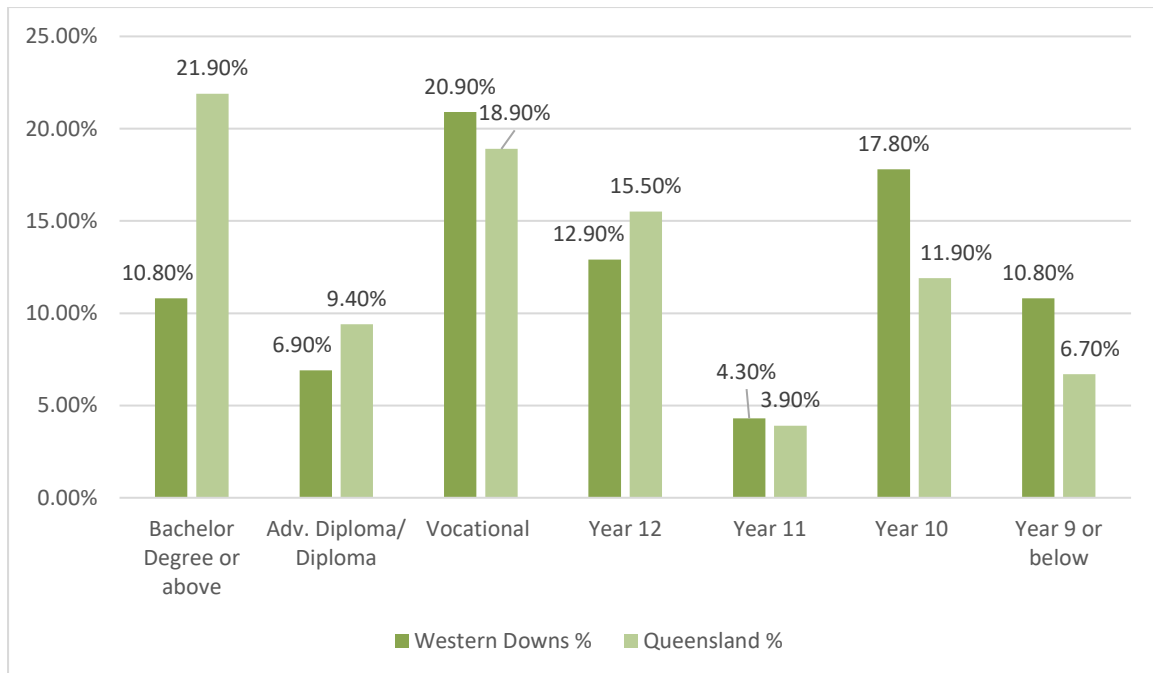
Employed residents: 16,350 (+300 over the past year)

**Workforce 'gap':**

The difference between total jobs and employed residents creates a 'gap' of 2,176 jobs which are typically filled by persons who live outside of the local government area. On a positive note when discussing the 'skills gap', this has slightly decreased from 2,195 position to 2,176.

## 4. Education

### ***Level of highest educational attainment:***



Census data for the Western Downs shows that 20.9% of the population's highest educational attainment is a Vocational Certificate IV or Certificate III qualification.

Tertiary education levels in the Western Downs have increased by 14.3%, however are still low 10.8% compared to Queensland 21.9%.

The data on the following page shows a complete list of schools in the Western Downs regions, along with their enrolment numbers, and their ICSEA score for 2022.

The Index for Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) provides an indication of the socio-educational backgrounds of students. It does not account for staff, school facilities, or teaching programs at the school. The ICSEA is calculated by student factors such as parents' occupation and parents' education; and also school factors such as geographical location and proportion of Indigenous students.

ICSEA is set at an average of 1000. The lower the level of educational advantage of students, the score is lower than the average. The higher the level of educational advantage of students, the higher the score is than the average.

The lowest scoring school in the Western Downs is Kogan State School at 839. However, Guluguba and Burra Burri's ICSEA is not listed. The highest scoring school in the Western Downs is Kaimkillenbun State School at 1068.

### ***Schools in the Western Downs:***

<b>School Name</b>	<b>Enrolments</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>ICSEA 2022</b>
Burra Burri State School (closed)	N/A	Primary	N/A
Guluguba State School	5	Primary	N/A
Kogan State School	34	Primary	839
Tara Shire State College	370	Combined	861
Miles State School	187	Primary	900
Chinchilla State School	439	Primary	901
Jandowae State School P-10	139	Combined	914
Miles State High School	163	Secondary	916
The Gums State Primary School	41	Primary	917
Warra State School	6	Primary	920
Westmar State School	29	Primary	927
Dalby State School	552	Primary	928
Dulacca State School	34	Primary	929
Brigalow State School	30	Primary	932
Wandoan State School P-10	91	Combined	937
Chinchilla State High School	561	Secondary	939
Dalby State High School	1015	Secondary	941
Glenmorgan State School	7	Primary	941
Dalby South State School	560	Primary	953
Bell State School P-10	101	Combined	972
Meandarra State School	26	Primary	977
Jimbour State School	11	Primary	984
Chinchilla Christian College	456	Combined	998
St Joseph's School	266	Primary	1015
Our Lady of the Southern Cross College	645	Combined	1017
Condamine State School	23	Primary	1023
Dalby Christian College	392	Combined	1035
Drillham State School	41	Primary	1055
Moonie State School	27	Primary	1066
Kaimkillenbun State School	11	Primary	1068

## 5. Economy

### **International export**

Increased by over \$3 billion since 2016, which is nearly all driven by our coal and gas mining industry.

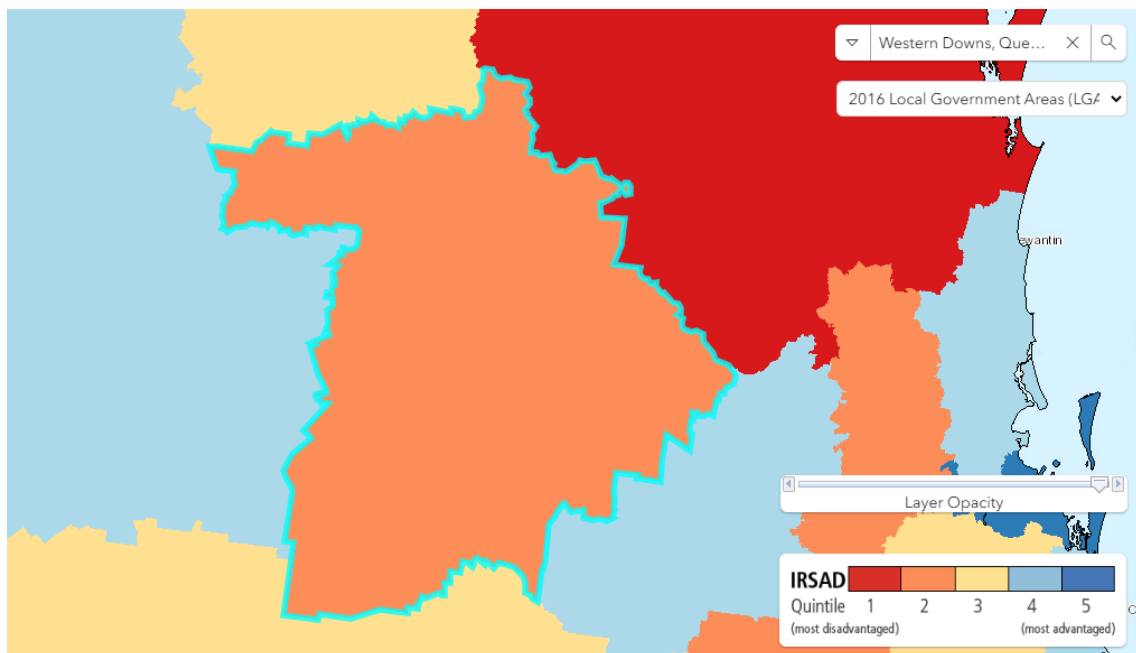
### **Western Downs Development Status Report (June 2022)**

Lists a total of \$6.57billion of investment in the region  
\$4.3 billion of this accounting for energy industry

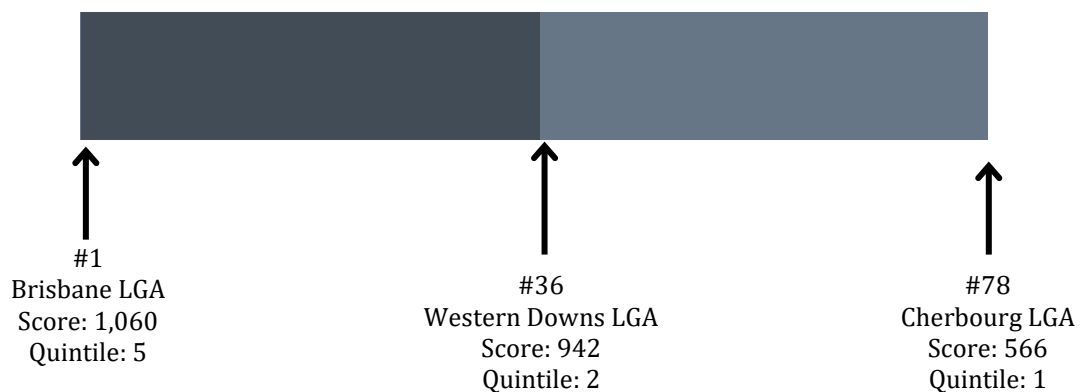
### **Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA):**

Index of Socio-Economic Advantage and Disadvantage 2016

Western Downs LGA Score: 942  
Western Downs LGA Quintile: 2  
Western Downs LGA Percentile: 37



Ranking against other Queensland Local Government Associations, Western Downs would be #36 of 78 Queensland Councils in relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage. We acknowledge that several suburbs within our region score in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quintile, including Tara, Kogan, Beelbee, Weranga, Ducklo, Warra, Tuckerang, Jandowae, Jinghi, and Miles.



## **Gross Regional Product (2023):**



# \$3.68 billion

Please be mindful that when a new GRP is released, previous years are adjusted for inflation to ensure that data can be compared. As such, the June 2021 GRP figure is adjusted to \$3.26 B, meaning that there has been a growth of 12.7% over the past year.

### **Agriculture:**



Second largest employer in the Western Downs

The percentage of workers with an agricultural qualification is three times as high in the Western Downs, compared to the Queensland average.

### **Intensive Agriculture:**



Livestock industries contribute nearly half of the agricultural output.

42% of the national feedlot occupancy is located within a 200km radius of Dalby.

The Dalby Regional Saleyards is the largest same-day prime and store cattle yards in Australia and the second largest selling and auctioning centre.

More than 200,000 cattle are sold through the Dalby Saleyards annually.

### **Manufacturing:**



123 local manufacturing businesses employ over 1,600 people and even more impressively, they have managed to create over 600 jobs in the past five years, despite challenging times.

Our region is recognised as a leader in manufacturing, producing some world-renowned products including machinery, headers, seeders, turbo chargers and a host of high-grade products for national and international markets. The productivity of the industry is also remarkable - total sales volume reached an impressive \$696

million in 2021, a figure which has doubled in the last 5 years.

### **Energy:**



We are home to a coal-fired power station, Kogan Creek, which generates up to 750 MW. It provides power to 750,000 Australians and is one of Australia's newest and greenest stations. Kogan Creek is Australia's most water-efficient power station and will transition to an Energy Hub, including a renewables-based hydrogen demonstration plant.

Council has approved 24 solar farms, 6 operating or under development.

NEOEN's Western Downs Green Power Hub is Australia's largest solar farm.

We have one operating wind farm, Coopers Gap, as well as Dulacca Wind Farm finalising construction now and Wambo Wind Farm commencing construction later this year.

In Wandoan, we have Queensland's largest battery energy storage system (same size as the Tesla battery in South Australia) ... with others approved across the region.

## 6. Health

### *Type of long-term health conditions:*

Health condition	Western Downs %	Queensland %
Arthritis	9.5%	8.8%
Asthma	10.2%	8.5%
Cancer (including remission)	3.0%	3.1%
Dementia (including Alzheimer's)	0.6%	0.7%
Diabetes (excl gestational)	5.4%	4.5%
Heart Disease	4.4%	4.2%
Kidney Disease	1.1%	0.9%
Lung condition (including COPD or emphysema)	2.1%	2.1%
Mental health condition (including depression or anxiety)	9.8%	9.6%
Stroke	1.1%	1.0%
Any other long-term health condition(s)	7.2%	8.4%
No long-term health condition(s)	54.1%	58.2%

### *Hospitals*

Darling Downs Health	Services
<b>Chinchilla Hospital</b>	Emergency care, specialist surgical services, several visiting allied health, community health, and outreach services
<b>Dalby Hospital</b>	Emergency care, maternity, medical, surgical, outpatient and other specialist clinics
<b>Jandowae Multipurpose Health Service</b>	Acute care, emergency care, outpatient services, visiting services, residential respite, residential aged care
<b>Miles Hospital</b>	Surgery, women's health, endoscopy, outpatients, emergency, palliative care, aged care, carer respite, allied health
<b>Tara Hospital</b>	Emergency care, medical, palliative care, clinics including outpatients services
<b>Wandoan Outpatients Clinic</b>	Clinical nurse on-site Monday-Friday. Visiting doctor every Tuesday and Thursday



## 7. Crime

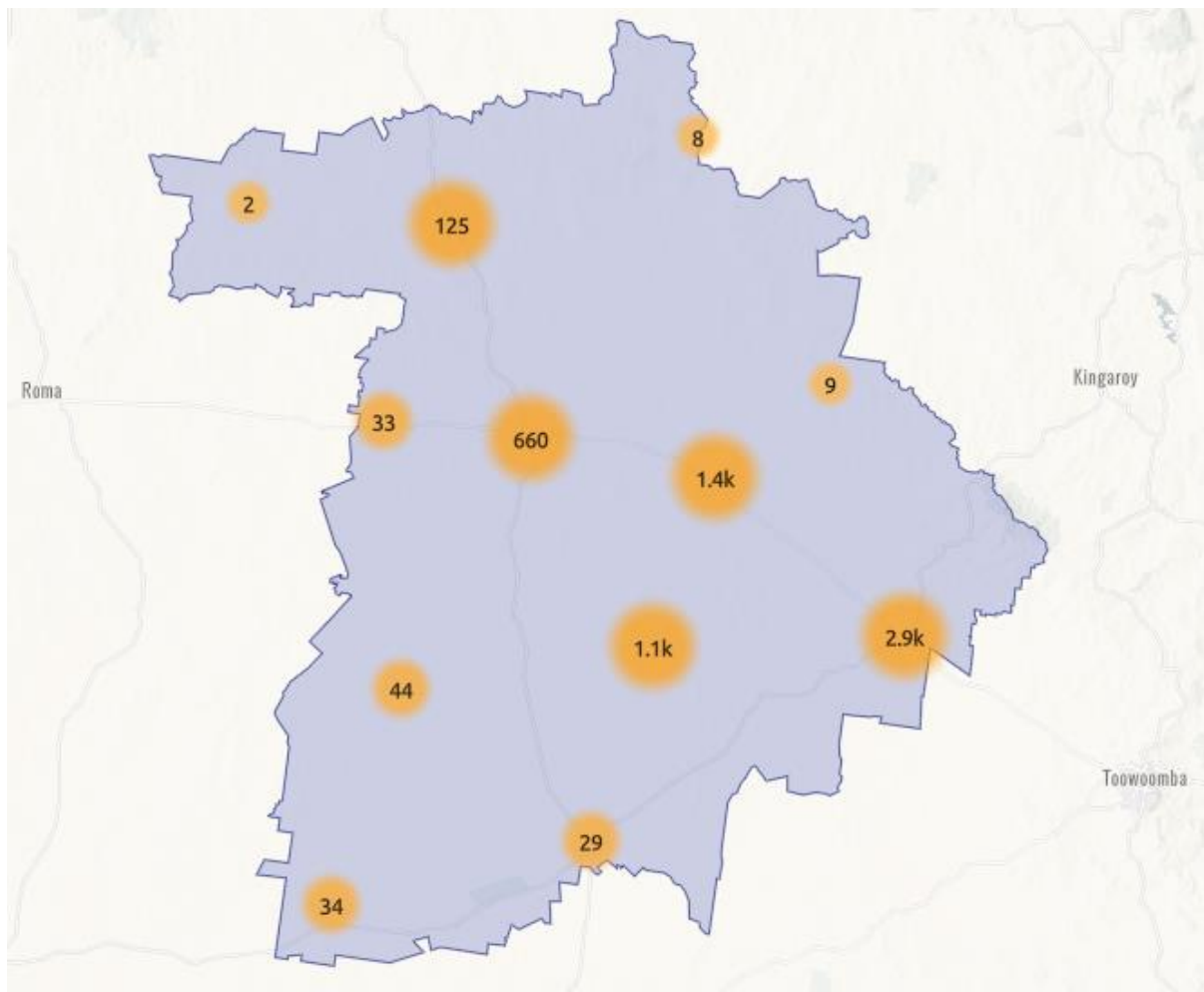
The following broad-based data, dated 1/1/2022 - 26/04/2023, was provided by the Queensland Police Service.

### **Total Reported Offences:**

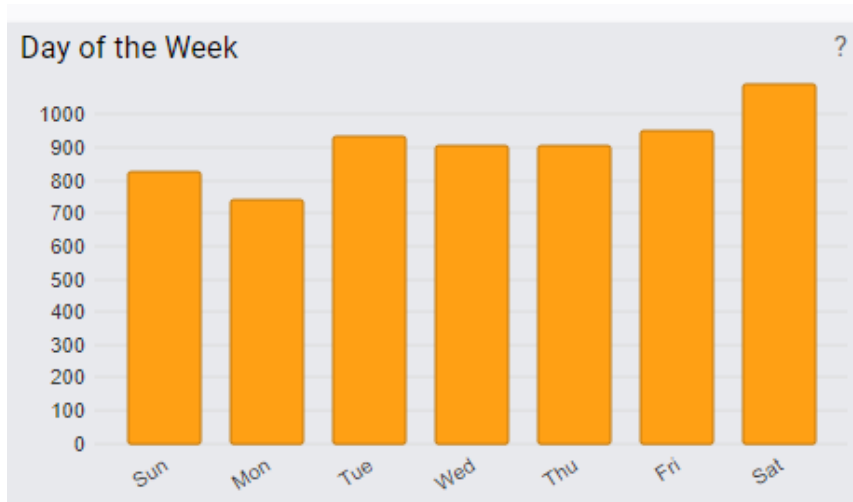


# 6,351

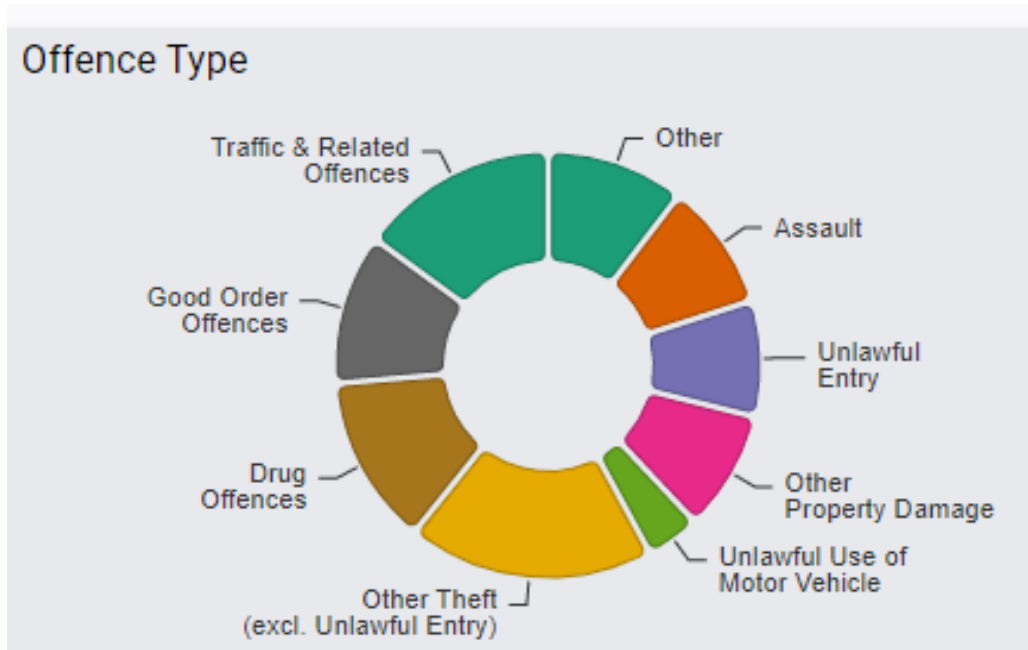
### **Geographic Location:**



### Day of the Week:



### Offence Type:



## 8. References

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National Institute of Economic and Industry Research (NIEIR). Compiled and presented in economy.id by .id (informed decisions). Economic Statistics for the Western Downs. (2023)