



Intensive Animal Industry in the Western Downs

OPPORTUNITY:

The well-established and economically strong intensive animal industry in the Western Downs demonstrates huge potential for further intensive farming opportunities within the region.

Agriculture is the largest employer in the region with intensive animal farming accounting for nearly half of industry output.

Input and operation costs are lower in the Western Downs.

The location of the Western Downs provides intensive animal businesses easy access to:

- Store cattle producers in the state
- A central location strong in grain production
- The doorstep of Queensland's meat processing hub
- Efficiencies around major infrastructure and lower transport costs with highway access to inland and seaport via the Toowoomba Second Range crossing 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



Feedlot

Abattoir



Retail



Export



Wholesale

RURAL LAND ACQUISITION COST

Rural land acquisition costs in the Western Downs are comparatively less than neighbouring regions¹

This means investment capital saved can be used to value-add or for incorporation of innovative processes to strengthen business capacity, sustainability and continuity.

“Intensive agricultural industries play a key part in our diversified economic growth, and position the Western Downs as a key region for the supply of the highest quality protein to global markets”

Paul McVeigh, Mayor
Western Downs
Regional Council.

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.

The region's specialty in intensive animal farming is primed to expand into quail and poultry meat markets, with the stability of climate, land availability and central location equalling reduced transport timeframes and costs.



INTENSIVE ANIMALS IN THE WESTERN DOWNS REGION:

Agriculture is the largest employer throughout the Western Downs region, with intensive animal industries driving this sector's economic growth.²

As a result of the strength of the local intensive animal industry there is a readily available skilled workforce in the region. Agricultural and agribusiness educational programs are available through the University of Southern Queensland, local high schools, and a QLD TAFE Agricultural Centre of Excellence which will be operational by 2020.

Within the region 5% of residential workers have qualifications in agriculture, environment and related studies: that's more than 3.5 % higher than the Queensland average.³

It is fair to say that intensive agriculture features heavily throughout the region with a total of 68 feedlots with approvals for 265,340 standard cattle units and 23 piggeries with approval for 229,179 standard pig units in operation.⁴

The Western Downs is home to nearly one-quarter of Queensland's beef producing properties with ongoing expansion across both the pork and beef industries.

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.⁵

The stability of the local climate and lower rainfall create ideal conditions for effluent catchment and other intensive farming practices.

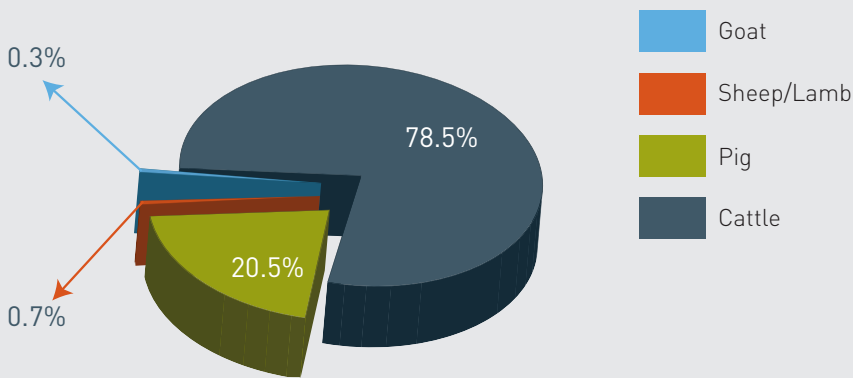


Fig 1. "Intensive livestock accounts for 47.7 per cent of output in value terms" of the region's largest employer, Agriculture.²

APPLICATION PROCESSING:

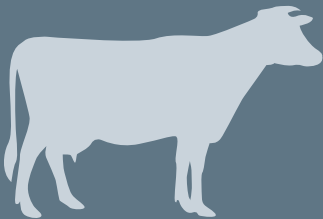
The award-winning Western Downs Regional Council Planning Scheme means that development approvals for feedlots are being issued on average in under eight weeks, in comparison to 12 months by other councils.²

Western Downs Regional Council has removed red tape and understand 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 13.5 days.

Western Downs Regional Council has tailor-made conditions appropriate for intensive animal industry development. With a focus on giving outcome-based conditions rather than prescriptive conditions which offer no flexibility and lock applicants into one outcome. This reduces compliance burdens and allows for innovation and improvement.⁴

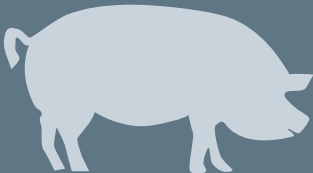
Dalby Regional Saleyards averaged in excess of 200,000 head of cattle in 2018/2019



The Western Downs is home to 4,600 beef producing properties



The region has 68 feedlots with 265,340 cattle on feed



The Western Downs region has 23 piggeries with 229,179 pigs on feed

CONNECTIVITY:

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

Once the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing is open it will be an easy two - three hours drive north-west of Brisbane and less than one - two hours from Toowoomba, depending on where the business is located within the Western Downs. Reduced transport times equal reduced costs and turnaround times for your business.

Ease of highway access including the Leichhardt, Moonie and Warrego Highways, the construction of the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing and 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, the Toowoomba Wellcamp Airport and the Port of Brisbane.

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

The rail network transports containerised freight to the Port of Brisbane for export, with imminent rail tunnel upgrades allowing for transport 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.

PROCESSING:

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. ⁶

There are two options available to sell cattle within the Western Downs region:

- Online e-commerce (auction) and
- A state of the art regional saleyards facility located in Dalby.

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. For the year 2018-2019, in excess of 200,000 head of cattle will be sold through the Dalby Saleyards. ⁴

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. This new facility will need to be completed by November 2020 under the current approval.

References

¹ - Fraser Valuers

² - TSBE Western Downs Development Status Report

³ - Economy.id

⁴ - Western Downs Intensive Animal Conference

⁵ - Queensland Farmers Federation (QFF)

⁶ - Red Meat Advisory Council (RMAC)

⁷ - Regional Development Australia



REGIONAL PROFILE:

Known as the Energy Capital of Queensland, the Western Downs is experiencing high economic growth, investment, consistently high employment and includes some 38,000 km of land. The region boasts an impressive \$6 billion worth of approved renewables, with another \$1.2 billion under construction.⁶

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

The Gross Regional Product (GRP) of the Western Downs region has increased by 139.25% (\$2,327m) over 15 years to reach nearly \$4 billion.⁴

Home to a growing population of more than 34,000 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 rural 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.

Residents enjoy a lower cost of living due to affordable housing (\$217K average house price), ease of access to schools, work and retail outlets, with the NBN providing the network connectivity required for families and businesses to flourish.²

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. June 2019.

A SNAPSHOT



UNEMPLOYMENT
RATE TRENDING
LOWER THAN QLD
AVERAGE



A SKILLED AND
EXPERIENCED
WORKFORCE



GRP: 139.25%
INCREASE 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



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