



Construction

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.

Construction is the second largest employer and the top local sales industry in the region, and it is set to fuel healthy growth across a number of industry sectors over many years to come.

Our Strengths and Opportunities



Pipeline of projects - the large pipeline of projects in the renewable energy and intensive agriculture sector result in considerable construction value, while heavy and civil engineering construction had a total output of \$327.7M in 2022/23* (with an 18.5% increase to the 2020/21 output figure of \$309.2M)



Local sales value - the construction sector in the Western Downs generated \$841M of local sales in 2022/23 which is the top industry of local sales value in the region



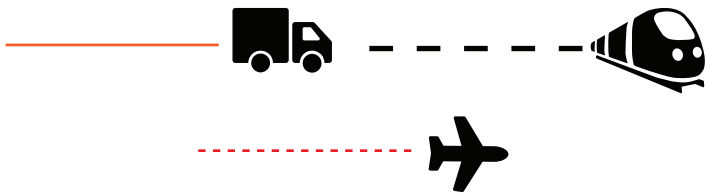
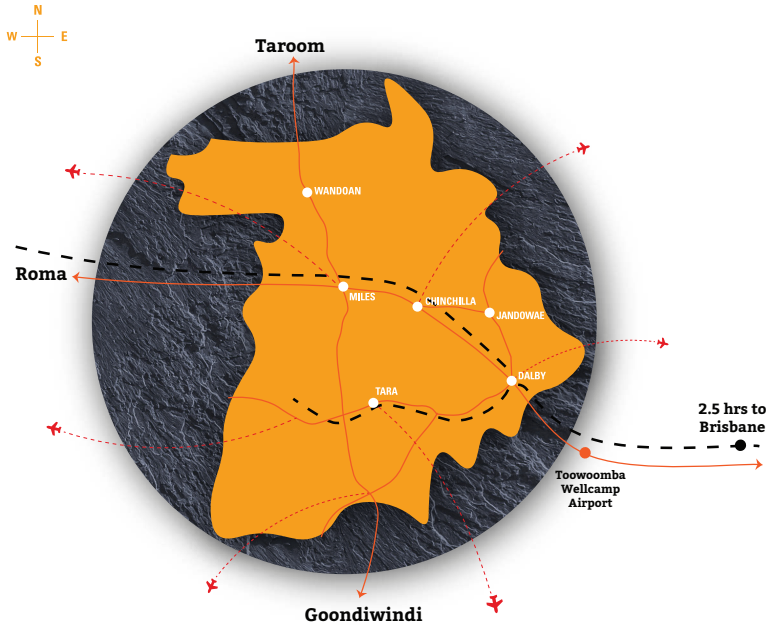
Growing workforce - the Western Downs has a significant labour force with 2,117 people employed in the construction industry (in 2022/23*) which has increased significantly from 1,772 in 2020/21



Local businesses - with just over 500 registered construction businesses throughout the Western Downs, the construction industry provides locals with greater opportunities for employment



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.

QUEENSLAND AUS



Currently, there are 528 construction businesses located in the Western Downs which shares 10.6% of business in the region.

In 2022/23, the total construction output was \$841M, demonstrating 64.7% growth when compared to 2020/21. Value add by industry has significantly increased by 23.7% over the same period and contributed \$260.1M to the region in 2022/23*.

Value of Western Downs Construction

Heavy/Civil Engineering Construction			
	2020/21	2022/23	Increase
Employment Total	498	571	+73
Local Sales	\$309.2M	\$327.7M	+18.5%
Value-add	\$111.4M	\$117.7M	+6.3%
Outputs	\$309.2M	\$327.7M	+18.5%

Construction Services			
	2020/21	2022/23	Increase
Employment Total	1,061	1,247	+187
Local Sales	\$356.6M	\$380.7M	+24.1%
Value-add	\$103.3M	\$115.5M	+12.2%
Outputs	\$356.6M	\$380.7M	+24.1%

Building Construction			
	2020/21	2022/23	Increase
Employment Total	213	299	+86
Local Sales	\$110.4M	\$132.6M	+22.2%
Value-add	\$21.7M	\$26.9M	+5.2%
Outputs	\$110.4M	\$132.6M	+22.2%

Employment Total and Skills Development

Strong investment in the energy and resource sector has contributed to the construction industry employing 2177 persons in 2022/23 compared to 1772 persons in 2020/21, creating 345 jobs. Compared to all other industries in the region, construction has the highest number of jobs made available since 2020/21.

Skills in the construction industry are supported by Trade Training Centres in Dalby and Miles. Recently, the new state-of-the-art Trade Training Centre has been built and is operating in Chinchilla, enabling high school students a skills link with the region's industries.

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

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

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

**Gas exploration
& expansion**

**Solar panel
installation**

**Housing
construction,
cabinet making &
floor installations**

**Plumbing,
electrical sales
& services**

**Concrete & tile
manufacturing**

**Earthmoving
services**

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

