



Energy

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 region is proudly trademarked 'Energy Capital of Queensland', offering suitable topography and environmental conditions for energy projects. Due to strong investment over the past 15 years by the traditional resource sector, the Western Downs region has had significant power infrastructure constructed. Legacy infrastructure and a skilled workforce make the region a favourable place for renewable energy developments.

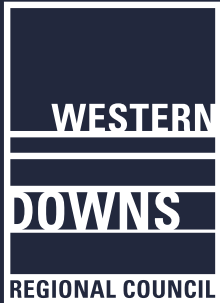
Our Strengths and Opportunities

\$ Strong investment in renewable energy - Currently, there are \$4B worth of approved projects and \$2.4B worth of projects under construction in the renewable energy sector, which has allowed for the Western Downs to house nearly a quarter of Australia's investment in renewables, shaping the way for growing communities and benefiting the economy.*

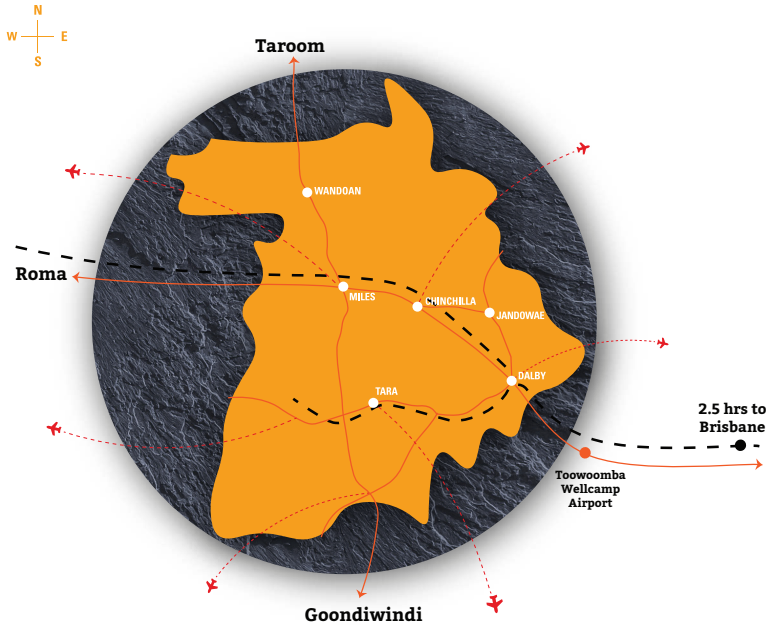
📝 Progressive planning scheme - Western Downs Regional Council takes a proactive approach with developers in our region. Our development application assessment process is 13 days on average, with solar farms being approved in under three months.

🏠 Powering homes in Queensland - Western Downs has a mixture of energy supplies, including coal, solar, wind and hydrogen. Located at the heart of the Southern Queensland renewable energy zone, Western Downs is also home to the biggest battery storage facility in Queensland**, The Western Downs Power Hub. Our region powers over 2 million homes in Queensland.

👥 Job opportunities - The energy sector has opened a variety of job opportunities, including designer, engineer, installers, technicians, machine operators, sales staff and general labourers, contributing to the growth and economic development of the region.



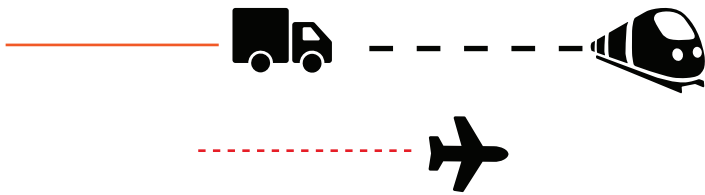
CONNECTIVITY IN THE WESTERN DOWNS



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.

Strong investment in the energy sector fuels production of power stations throughout the Western Downs. With six power stations in the region*, each provides energy production into the grid, to support both the Western Downs and Queensland.

The mining industry had an output and total sales of \$3.54B in 2022/23, which contributed 3.1% to the mining industry for Queensland.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

2022/23

Western Downs as % of QLD: 10.28%***
Renewable energy sources contribute 27.3% of all electricity generated in Queensland****

SOLAR

There are currently four fully operational solar farms throughout the region with the capacity to generate 709.9MW of energy. On top of this, Western Downs Regional Council has approved 24 solar farms since 2016 with 10 currently under construction. The region is home to the Western Downs Green Power Hub (460MW), which was one of Australia's largest solar farms.

WIND

AGL's Coopers Gap Wind Farm (123 wind turbines) is one of Australia's largest wind farms with the ability to generate 453MW of energy, to power around 264,000 homes.

Wambo Wind Farm's first stage of production is currently complete with 110 wind turbines. Stage two is currently under construction with a total of 42 towers and a battery storage facility. Once operational, the wind farm will generate 500MW of electricity which is enough to power 170,500 homes.

Octopus Australia's Dulacca Wind Farm (43 wind turbines) is fully operational, with a 181MW capacity to power around 124,00 homes.

COAL MINING

2022/23*****

Output/Total Sales: \$559.90M

Western Downs as % of Queensland: 0.9%

OIL AND GAS EXTRACTION

2022/23*****

Output/Total Sales: \$2.72B

Western Downs as % of Queensland: 18.9%

HYDROGEN

Kogan Clean Energy Hub

Kogan Clean Energy Hub is co-located in the Western Downs with the Kogan Creek Power Station, and currently has two hydrogen projects.

- **Brigalow Power Plant**

CS Brigalow Peaking Power Plant is developing Queensland's first hydrogen-ready, natural gas power station, to operate in 2026 and to generate up to 400MW.*****

- **Kogan Renewable Hydrogen Demonstration Plant**

CS Energy's Kogan Renewable Hydrogen Demonstration Plant includes a solar farm, battery, hydrogen electrolyser, hydrogen fuel cell, storage and loading facility.

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Western Downs is Open for Business and has identified the following opportunities worthy of investment:

ARENA funding support for research & demonstration

Battery storage

Biogas & biofuel projects

Gas exploration & expansion

Renewable energy

Hydrogen production & value chain

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

