

Lockyer Valley regional profile

The salad bowl of Australia

The Lockyer Valley is located in south east Queensland, about one hour west of the Brisbane CBD and covers an area of approximately 2,200 square kilometres.

Situated in the western growth corridor between Toowoomba and Brisbane, the Lockyer Valley is renowned as the “salad bowl” of the nation and is ideally poised to provide the perfect work/life balance.

The main centres in the Lockyer Valley Regional Council area are:

- Gatton
- Plainland
- Grantham
- Laidley
- Withcott
- Helidon

Economy

The Lockyer Valley Regional Council's Gross Regional Product was \$1,406 million as of 30 June 2016 and the region's population is expected to grow to 57,443 by 2031.

In 2014/15, the total value of agricultural output in Lockyer Valley Regional Council was \$374 million, compared with \$187 million in 2005/06.

The largest commodity produced was vegetables, which accounted for 79.5% of Lockyer Valley Regional Council's total agricultural output in value terms.



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Key sectors



Agriculture

The Lockyer Valley is one the top 10 most fertile farming areas in the world and grows the most diverse commercial range of fruit and vegetables in Australia.

The Lockyer Valley is one of the most important food bowl areas in Australia, supplying the majority of Australia's vegetable requirements during the winter months and typically accounting for 28% of Queensland's total horticultural production.

Significant industry opportunities continue to emerge in the region including specialist food processing, food packaging, transport and storage, construction and new agri-tourism developments.

A diverse food processing sector is developing, which includes dairy manufacturers, small goods manufacturers and meat processors. The region has export capabilities in agricultural technologies, services and equipment manufacturing.



Education

The University of Queensland, Gatton campus combines 120 years of rural history with state-of-the art research and teaching facilities in agriculture, animals, veterinary science and the environment.

Facilities such as the Queensland Animal Science Precinct and Gatton Farms provide leading research and development which contributes to making the campus the top university in Australia for agriculture and environmental sciences.

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