



Toowoomba Queensland, Australia

Rich traditions, bold ambitions

Located within Queensland's Darling Downs, 125km west of Brisbane, Toowoomba and the surrounding region are recognised as Australia's second-largest agricultural production area.

Toowoomba and the Darling Downs have a temperate climate with spring and summer rainfall. This fertile region, with a population of over 163,000 and growing, has a reputation for producing and supplying a diverse range of agricultural products, including:

- Horticulture
- Intensive livestock and meat production
- Grains and pulses

Toowoomba historically has been a service centre for the wider South West regions and has developed capabilities in:

- Education
- Professional services
- Food processing and manufacturing.

More recently, Toowoomba has become the service centre for Coal Seam Gas projects located in the nearby Surat Basin, defining the region as an emerging resource and energy hub.

Key sectors



Food and agribusiness

Agriculture is a fundamental part of the economy, producing 11.3% of Queensland's vegetables and 8% of Queensland's fruit. As there is a seasonal advantage, leading vegetable products include broccoli, carrots, beans, beetroot, salad lettuce varieties, celery, capsicum, pumpkin, onions, silverbeet, cabbage and cauliflower.

The adjoining region of Stanthorpe is a major centre for stone fruit, grape and strawberry production.

Toowoomba and the Darling Downs have approximately 22% of Queensland's cattle and produce a similar proportion of the state's total value of beef. Cattle breeds include high-value Waygu, Angus and mixed Bos Taurus as well as Bos Indicus feeder cattle drawn from the North Queensland/Northern Territory cattle supply chain.

The region is home to Australia's largest concentration of feedlots. West of Toowoomba is one of the largest sheep production areas. Goat meat is in strong demand for export and feral and domestic goat exports from the region are growing rapidly.

The Toowoomba and Darling Downs region is a leading grain and pulse production area producing premium hard wheats, sorghum, barley, sunflowers, maize/corn, chickpeas, mungbeans and soybeans.

A diverse food processing sector is developing, which includes flour millers, dairy manufacturers, bakery and small goods manufacturers, and meat processors.

As a service centre to the agricultural sector, the region has export capabilities in agricultural technologies, services and equipment manufacturing.



Aviation services

Australia's newest airport, Brisbane West Wellcamp Airport (BWWA) offers a unique opportunity for aircraft operators, logistics operators, exporters and importers to service growing markets in Asia and the Middle East. With unparalleled aviation and road transport access, BWWA and Wellcamp Business Park are situated amongst Australia's most valuable food producing regions.

Flying time is shorter from the Northern Hemisphere to Brisbane West Wellcamp Airport than to Sydney and Melbourne, and the airport is ready to take the lead in international air cargo business and trade development. In addition, as of November 2016, BWWA commenced regular Cathay Pacific freight flights to Hong Kong.

BWWA also operates over 70 domestic regular passenger transport services in and out of the region every week.



Education and training

The Toowoomba and Darling Downs region is home to world-class education institutions, including the University of Southern Queensland, the University of Queensland (Gatton) and TAFE South West.

A world leader in agricultural engineering, the University of Southern Queensland has an extensive international student component and is renowned for its Distance Education Programs. TAFE South West is a globally recognised vocational education centre and China is a growing market for their meat processing course. The University of Queensland (Gatton) offers a range of agricultural research and collaborative education programs for international students including animal husbandry, veterinary science, equine science, agribusiness, horticulture and crop management and dairy.



Construction and infrastructure

Construction and infrastructure is a growing sector with increased activity in mining and infrastructure development around transport and logistics. Wagners is an Australian family-owned infrastructure, construction and materials company with interests across the globe. It is the owner and developer of Brisbane West Wellcamp Airport and Wellcamp Business Park, and has developed innovative technology in fibre composite construction and concrete manufacturing.

Connect. Be connected.

Trade and Investment Queensland, Toowoomba Office

128 Margaret St, TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350
PO Box 825, TOOWOOMBA QLD 4350

 tiq.qld.gov.au

 TradeandInvestmentQld

 @tradeinvestqld

 Trade & Investment Queensland

Julie McKerrow, Principal Trade and Investment Officer (TradeStart Advisor)

 +61 7 4591 7501

 julie.mckerrow@tiq.qld.gov.au