

LANDMARK POSTCODE

2650



Thriving Wagga Wagga featuring Hampden Bridge over the Murrumbidgee River.
Image courtesy of Wagga Wagga Visitor Information Centre.

Story: Sheryl Allen

LOCATION: Wagga Wagga
4.75 hours southwest of Sydney

POPULATION: 62,900

INDUSTRIES: Retail, agriculture, health and community, defence and government, education

CLIMATE: Temperate
Summer: 16.2°C – 31.6°C
Winter: 2.7°C – 12.7 °C
Rainfall: 577mm

Renowned as the “Capital of the Riverina”, Wagga Wagga is NSW’s largest inland city and one of Australia’s most populated non-capital centres.

This vibrant, economically important regional centre services an estimated catchment exceeding 200,000 people.

And yet, Wagga (as it is known) maintains its rural appeal as a tree-change and retirement haven and a go-to agricultural region for producers.

“That’s because Wagga has everything,” said Landmark’s Bill Schulz. “A very solid economic base, a dynamic retail and services sector, a range of education choices and excellent health services.”

Wagga has weathered the global financial storm strongly. “It’s estimated that of the 60,000 people living in Wagga, around 15,000 are employed by the public sector. That’s a strong economic underpinning,” said Bill.

Facilities include the Army Recruit Training Centre at the Kapooka Military Base, the Forest Hill RAAF base, and federal, state and local government departments.

Approximately 4000 private businesses operate in and around Wagga.

The Wagga Wagga Livestock Marketing Centre operates the country’s largest sheep and NSW’s second largest cattle market. Yearly numbers approximate two million sheep, 150,000 head of cattle and a gross value exceeding \$220 million.

Nearby, Cargill Meats is Wagga’s single biggest employer with around 500 jobs.

Local business, Intellifleet is rapidly evolving with their In Vehicle Monitoring System (IVMS) that utilises GPS technology for live monitoring of heavy and light vehicles, earthmoving, mining and exploration fleets.

Principal Sam Turnbull has expanded Flipscreen (another local invention) into an international concern with the self-screening bucket that can be fitted to any form of loader to recycle, sort and recover aggregates on site.

“Our agricultural sector ranges from mid to high rainfall wheat/sheep enterprises to high rainfall cattle grazing, irrigation and apple orchards in Batlow’s 50 inch rainfall zone.” said Bill. “The productive diversity supports a robust year-round market environment.”

“Australian land values have been under pressure since 2007, however Wagga’s highly reliable, well located and historically sought-after properties continue to hold-up well.”

The Charles Sturt University (CSU) Wagga Wagga campus has a focus on agricultural-related learning areas such as equine studies, veterinary sciences and winemaking (reflecting its

regional location) but offers an expansive roster of course options from nursing and dentistry to arts and business.

Since 2000 the University of New South Wales has located a Clinical School campus within the Wagga Base Hospital, leading the rural education of medical students in Australia.

An array of private and public secondary and primary schools also offers enormous choice.

Top-class sporting facilities deliver opportunity and high standard competition, giving rise to the supposed “Wagga effect” – the disproportionately high number of elite sportspeople originating from the area.

Wagga is an exciting “everything” blend of metropolitan and regional living rolling out from the Murrumbidgee River into the rich and productive agricultural belt.

CONTACT:

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PROPERTY GUIDE:

Residential: family home \$300,000-plus
Lifestyle: 50 acre lifestyle property \$600,000-\$1 million

Rural: dryland farming within 100km of town \$700-\$2,500 per acre