



Water for growth



Water for Growth – investment for the future

While many parts of Australia are still suffering through drought and reduced water resources, many of Queensland's regions now have an abundant supply. This offers a unique advantage to food producers and processors, which have high water requirements and the need to ensure water availability as part of their forward risk management strategy.

As well as availability of supply, Queensland is one of the few areas in Australia where significant water allocation is available for sale or lease in fertile production regions. Extensive irrigation areas such as the Burdekin, Mackay and Bundaberg are served by major SunWater storages, with capacity of more than three million ML. Extensive distribution networks of channels and pipelines supply agriculture, industry and urban areas in these burgeoning growth regions.

SunWater, Queensland's largest water supplier, owns and operates this infrastructure as part of a portfolio of assets worth more than \$6.7 billion, including:

- 19 major dams
- 63 weirs and barrages
- 80 major pumping stations
- more than 2,500 km of pipelines and channels.

In addition to this, the State Government has plans for new water infrastructure to support industry and agribusiness growth, including:

- 150,000 ML increased capacity by raising Burdekin Falls Dam
- supply of up to 60,000 ML per annum to rich horticultural areas in Bowen via a 218 km distribution system from the Burdekin River
- development of the Nathan Dam on the Dawson River, an 880,000 ML maximum capacity storage to serve the coal industry, agriculture and urban development in the Surat Basin and southern Bowen Basin
- development of the Connors River Dam, with 373,300 ML maximum capacity storage serving the coal industry, agriculture and urban development in the Bowen Basin coalfields.

With ample regional water resources, Queensland can offer you:

- room for expansion of agribusiness and processing in established rural areas and serviced industrial estates
- a strong regional workforce
- dynamic producers prepared to move into higher value or new food and energy crops

- regional State support for rural transformation to higher value/higher productivity agribusiness
- strategic transport and logistics support including ports and airports
- established supply chains
- direct access to Brisbane, regional cities in Queensland and the southern markets of Australia's east coast
- direct access to strategic ports in the Asia-Pacific region
- support from SunWater – the State's biggest water supplier
- support from Invest Queensland – the Queensland Government's investment promotion agency for industry expansion or relocation to Queensland.

The Burdekin region

The Burdekin, located in north eastern Queensland, covers an area of approximately 133,432 km² (around eight per cent of the state) and has a population of approximately 190,000. Townsville, the region's major city, is the second largest city in Queensland.

The region's assets include water, biodiversity, national parks, stock routes, grazing, cropping, fertile soil and the Great Barrier Reef.

The Burdekin's growth is supported by solid infrastructure that includes a reliable supply of water from the Ross River Dam (capacity of 214,000 ML), Paluma (capacity of 11,800 ML) and the Burdekin-Townsville pipeline in the east. The Burdekin Dam is the largest dam in Queensland, with a catchment area of 5,000km² and a capacity of around 1.86 million ML of water – four times that of Sydney Harbour.

Fertile agricultural land consisting of high quality delta and levee soils, and an average of 300 days of sunshine a year, result in a perfect agricultural production climate.

Agribusiness

The Burdekin is the largest sugar producing region in Australia with an annual production of 1.25 million tonnes of raw sugar. Sugar is the dominant crop, complemented by a wide variety of fruit and vegetable crops produced in the region. These include melons, mangoes, plums, bananas, tomatoes, capsicums, chillies, beans, pumpkins, eggplants and cucumbers. The Burdekin region:

- produces one-third of the national mango harvest
- has 3,400 hectares of land dedicated to agriculture
- contributes \$500 million annually to the local economy through agriculture

The Burdekin region is also highly suitable to aquaculture production including prawn, barramundi and redclaw. The region boasts more than half Queensland's entire prawn production at 3300 tonnes per annum.

Major food related companies in the Burdekin region include:

- Pacific Reef Fisheries – one of Australia's largest producers of the black tiger prawn
- CSR sugar – approximately 25 per cent of the total cane supplied to the Australian sugar industry and manages four sugar mills in the Burdekin region
- Mulgowie Farming Company – Australia's leading farming icon brand.

Transport infrastructure

The international airport and port of Townsville are only an hour drive north of the Burdekin region, providing North Queensland with a world-class gateway for commerce and trade. During the 2007-08 financial year almost 10 million tonnes of cargo were handled through the Port of Townsville – one of the State's fastest growing ports.

The region has rail and road links to Brisbane which are serviced regularly by established transport providers and has well-developed supply chains including options for cold storage, packaging and efficient distribution.

The Wide Bay Burnett region

The Wide Bay Burnett region extends from the northern edge of the Sunshine Coast to Agnes Waters, and inland to the orchards, horticulture and grazing areas of the Burnett. The region begins approximately two hours (by road) north of Brisbane and covers an area of approximately 50,000 km².

Major centres within the Wide Bay Burnett region include Bundaberg, Hervey Bay, Maryborough, Gympie and Fraser Island (a popular tourist destination and the world's largest sand island). The region is rich in sugar cane farms and mills, and supports a range of industries that have developed largely as a result of natural resources in the area, including:

- engineering
- manufacturing
- timber and sugar processing
- tourism
- agriculture
- horticultural production and processing.

Fred Haigh Dam (at 562,000 ML capacity), Paradise Dam (at 300,000 ML), and several weirs with a combined capacity of almost 87,000 ML capacity provide support to the region's industrial and agricultural community.

Agribusiness

Sub-tropical climates, a 48-week growing period and some 600 kms of irrigation infrastructure means the Wide Bay Burnett region benefits from extensive horticultural and agribusiness industries.

While the traditionally dominant crop in the Wide Bay Burnett area is sugar cane, a wide variety of fruit and vegetables crops

are rapidly changing the face of regional agribusiness. As well as being a major tomato producer for Australia, avocados, banana, citrus, lychee, macadamia nuts, peanuts, mangoes, passionfruit, pineapple, watermelon, rockmelon, beans, button squash, capsicum, chilli and sweet corn crops add to the region's rich produce. The region contributes around \$905 million annually to the local economy of which 43 per cent is derived from crops and the remainder from sugar.

Major agribusiness related companies in the Bundaberg and the Wide Bay Burnett region include:

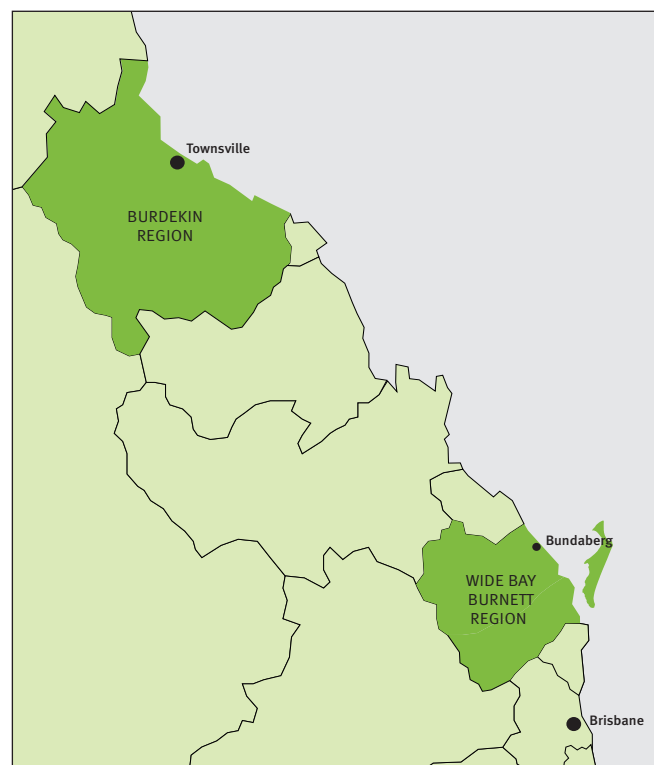
- Austchilli – the largest and most technologically advanced chilli producer in Australia
- Bundaberg Brewed Drinks – well known for their ginger beer products
- Bundaberg Rum Distillery
- Crop Tech – research operation based in Bundaberg
- SP Exports – one of Australia's largest national and international exporters of fresh tomatoes.

Transport infrastructure

The area has access to key commercial regional airports in Bundaberg and Hervey Bay and is located just an hour's flight from Brisbane.

The region's major port, the Port of Bundaberg, is well placed to accommodate future growth. During the 2007-08, the port handled total throughput of 473,041 tonnes of cargo.

The Bruce Highway links Wide Bay Burnett to Brisbane in the south and Cairns in the north. Queensland Rail operates both freight and daily high speed Tilt Train services from Brisbane to Gympie, Maryborough, Howard, Bundaberg and Miriamvale, with links to the hinterland.





About Us

SunWater

SunWater is a leading provider of water infrastructure and supply solutions to Queensland, Australian and international audiences.

SunWater provides direct water supply services to a large number of customers including irrigators, mines, power generators and local government. Strong experience over 80 years in the water industry also enables SunWater to provide professional consultancy services to customers.

With such a broad range of experience and skills, SunWater offers clients holistic business solutions tailored to their specific needs.

Invest Queensland

Invest Queensland works closely with national and international companies looking to relocate, expand or develop their businesses in Queensland.

As a single point of contact for Government interaction, Invest Queensland provides information and services to investors about Queensland's capabilities as an investment location.

Invest Queensland provides a range of services to make the decision and relocation processes as simple as possible. These services include but are not limited to:

- providing comparative information on business costs, skills availability and other business investment opportunities in Queensland
- arranging site visits to explore investment opportunities
- facilitating introductions with local companies and service providers
- involving other government agencies to assist in the establishment of new projects
- connecting investors with Queensland's advanced tertiary sector and encouraging the development of skills and capabilities needed by investors
- financial support, if and when required, to influence the location of important projects and the attraction of leading companies to the State