

# Central Queensland ...Your Opportunity

The strength of its agricultural production and agribusiness manufacturing sectors makes Central Queensland a natural choice for a diverse range of agricultural investments.



# Reasons to invest

Central Queensland is an agricultural powerhouse and the second largest contributor by value of agricultural commodities in Queensland. The region is dominated by beef cattle production and also supports rain-fed and irrigated cropping, horticulture and forestry. Meat processing facilities located in Central Queensland are substantial in scale and contribute significantly to the regional economy and State exports.

Australia is a politically stable country and the Australian and Queensland governments prioritise creating a business friendly environment. The agriculture industry is stable, united and productive and operates under best management practice.

New investment is being sought to extend the capacity and productivity of Central Queensland's agricultural sector in response to increased global demand for its commodities. Central Queensland has strong capability in food production with highly productive livestock and cropping and efficient processing infrastructure, underpinning opportunities for expansion, particularly in intensive agriculture, horticulture and also for growth and diversification of water resources.



## Natural attributes and water security

Central Queensland's climate, soil quality and general environmental attributes are highly suited to broad acre and intensive agriculture.

The Fitzroy Basin is the largest catchment flowing to Australia's eastern seaboard and underpins the region's agricultural production. The Fitzroy, Dawson, Nogoa, Mackenzie and Isaac-Connors river systems provide excellent water security.

Central Queensland has existing water resources and guaranteed allocation on medium and high priority water under the Fitzroy Resource Operations Plan. Irrigated agriculture on soils in Central Queensland can produce a gross value of production of between AUD\$0.5 million and AUD\$1.2 million per gigalitre of water used for broad acre crops. High value crops can generate over AUD\$10 million.

The Fitzroy Water Resource Plan has identified an additional 500 gigalitres of water for consumptive use (urban, industrial, agricultural) which could potentially be available subject to development of water storages proposed for the Basin, while still maintaining its environmental health.

## Robust economy

Central Queensland's economy continues to perform more strongly than that of Australia or Queensland.

In the ten years to 2010-11, Central Queensland's Gross Regional Product grew at an average annual compound growth rate of 10.3 per cent, compared to 8.8 per cent for Queensland.

## Established infrastructure

The region's transport networks and infrastructure play a pivotal role in the productivity of the agricultural sector with freight transported by road, rail, sea and air. The Port of Gladstone and Port Alma facilitate international export trade and provide closer access to international markets than many other agricultural hubs in Australia.

The region has three strategic airports at Rockhampton, Gladstone and Emerald for freighting of high value commodities and the State's capital Brisbane is a one hour flight to the south. Central Queensland is experienced in utilising infrastructure to leverage agricultural growth.

## Cost advantages

The region provides a number of cost advantages including competitively priced land, energy and construction costs.

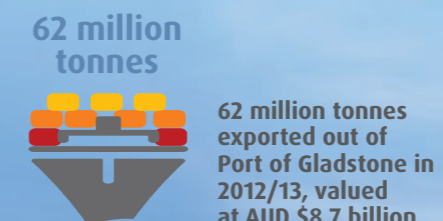
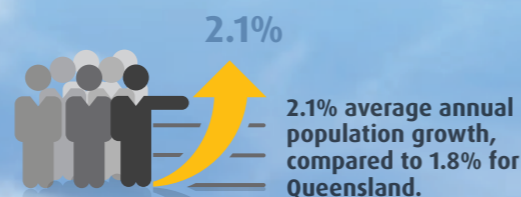
Queensland has a low business cost environment and the Queensland Government works to maintain a competitive tax environment for business.

## Lifestyle

Central Queensland is a vibrant and unique area of Australia with an enviable quality of life, sunny climate and low cost of living, making it an ideal place to live, work and invest.



## Central Queensland Fast Facts



## Further information



**Regional  
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**Queensland  
Government**

