



# Wagga Wagga Economic Profile

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Wagga Wagga City Council



ECONOMICS > FINANCE > MARKET RESEARCH > PROPERTY ADVISORY  
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## Executive Summary

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The City of Wagga Wagga is part of the Murrumbidgee region in the heartland of the New South Wales Riverina. Wagga Wagga is the administration centre for the wider region and provides a range of community services. It enjoys first class transport connections and is located at the intersection of the Sturt and Olympic Highways on the Sydney and Melbourne trade route.

Key points to note for the regional economy are:

- Over the past five years, the population of Wagga Wagga has grown at a faster rate than the New South Wales average and is projected to increase by a further 7,731 persons over the period to 2026.
- In 2006, the average age for Wagga Wagga was 35.3 years, two years lower than the average for New South Wales.
- Wagga Wagga is a key industry centre in the region, generating a GRP of approximately \$2.6 billion and accounting for over one third of the Murrumbidgee SD economic output from 7% of the land area.
- The economy of Wagga Wagga has strengths in the property & business services, manufacturing and government administration and defence sectors.
- Strong labour force growth and a declining unemployment rate reflect a positive labour market and job prospects in the region.
- The region has a long association with the armed forces. This was strengthened by the recent investment of \$60 million in defence training facilities at the Wagga Wagga army and airforce base.
- The sheep, cattle (beef & dairy) and grain farming sectors have historically been the backbone of the local economy. This sector is supported by the agriculture services sector, export infrastructure and an established supply chain.
- Wagga Wagga is a popular and expanding tourism destination with increasing visitor demand and rising accommodation takings.
- Food product & beverage manufacturing is a key growth sector in the region supported by an established beef, sheep & dairy industry and emerging viticulture and niche gourmet foods markets.
- Motor vehicle & motor vehicle parts manufacturing is a key employment sector in the region, servicing the established transport and agriculture industry markets.
- In 2007-08, Wagga Wagga experienced growth in the value and number of residential building, reversing the downward trend of the previous two years.
- Wagga Wagga has an above average proportion of households purchasing homes or renting, reflecting the relative affordability of the area to the younger age demographic of the region.
- Wagga Wagga has lower average property prices than the New South Wales average, highlighting the relative affordability of the region.
- In line with median property price trends, Wagga Wagga records lower average home loan repayments than the State, however over the past five years it has experienced a higher than average level of growth.
- Wagga Wagga has access to an integrated transport network that supports population growth, industry activity and accessibility to the region and provides multimodal connectivity between regions and States.
- The area has extensive utilities infrastructure, including energy, gas, water and waste services, with the capacity to support ongoing population and industry growth.

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# 1. Regional Overview

***The City of Wagga Wagga is part of the Murrumbidgee region in the heartland of the New South Wales Riverina. Wagga Wagga is the administration centre for the wider region and provides a range of community services ...***

The Wagga Wagga Local Government Area (Wagga Wagga) has a resident population of 60,591 (ABS 2007) and covers a total of 4,824 hectares. It is one of fourteen LGAs located within the Murrumbidgee Statistical Division (SD) and covers 7.1% of the region's land area and has almost 40% of its population.

***First class transport links with major road and rail networks, cities and trade destinations...***

Wagga Wagga is a major service and economic activity centre situated at the intersection of the Sturt and Olympic Highways. Wagga Wagga is ideally located on the New South Wales and Victorian trade route, equidistant from Melbourne and Sydney and within less than five hours drive time of two-thirds of Australia's population. There is also a direct rail connection to the Port of Melbourne and direct passenger flights to Sydney and Melbourne.

Figure 1.1. Murrumbidgee Statistical Division (SD)



Source: ABS (2001); AECgroup (2008).

***Community & culturally diverse offering a range of experience for visitors and residents...***

Located on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River, Wagga Wagga caters for a range of diverse lifestyles and provides a balance between country living and the ultimate arts and community experience. Abundant high quality community infrastructure, picturesque rivers and valleys, festivals and cultural events enhance the support the ambience of the region. Wagga Wagga is also known for its parks and gardens, world class art galleries and museums (including the National Art Glass Gallery) and the Murrumbidgee River.

***Strength in agriculture and defence and moving towards food manufacturing & tourism industry growth...***

Wagga Wagga is an important contributor to the regional and State economies. It has historically been strongly linked to the agriculture and defence industries as well as acting as a service and administrative centre for the surrounding areas. Over the past 10 years, the regional economy has diversified, with expansion in the food and beverage manufacturing and tourism sectors, leveraging the opportunities created by the natural environment, flourishing viticulture industry and the appeal of the region's built and natural environment.

## 2. Population & Key Demographics

### 2.1 Historical & Projected Population

*Over the past five years, the population of Wagga Wagga has grown at a faster rate than the New South Wales average and is projected to increase by an further 7,731 persons over the period to 2026...*

Table 2.1 shows recent trends in the Wagga Wagga population and the equivalent results for the whole of New South Wales. In 2007, Wagga Wagga recorded an estimated resident population of 60,591 persons, an increase of 1.6% from the previous year. Between 2002 and 2007 annual population growth averaged approximately 1.2% per annum, 0.4% higher than the state average over the same period (0.8% per annum).

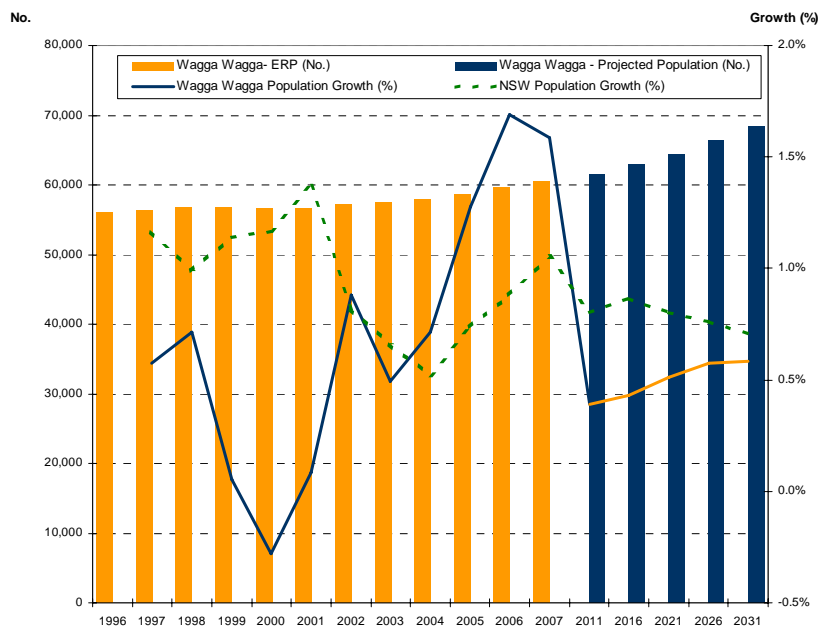
**Table 2.1. Population Trends, Wagga Wagga LGA & NSW**

Area	ERP 2006	ERP 2007	Growth 2006-2007	Average Annual Growth 2002-2007
Wagga Wagga LGA	59,646	60,591	1.6%	1.2%
New South Wales	6,816,087	6,887,965	1.1%	0.8%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2008a)

Figure 2.1 shows historical (light shading) and forecast (dark shading) population trends for Wagga Wagga and New South Wales. Over the period to 2031, the Wagga Wagga population is forecast to increase to 68,322 (an average population growth of 0.5% per annum) equivalent to an increase of 323 persons per annum. In contrast to recent trends, population growth is projected to be below that of the State average.

**Figure 2.1. Historical & Projected Population Wagga Wagga LGA**



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2008a); NSW Government Department of Planning (2005).

## 2.2 Age Distribution

*In 2006, the average age for Wagga Wagga was 35.3 years, two years lower than the average for New South Wales...*

The following table shows that Wagga Wagga has a younger age demographic with a higher proportion of persons aged zero to 24 years and a lower proportion of persons aged over 55 years than the State average. Between 2001 and 2006, the average age increased by 1.4 years to 35.3, faster than the New South Wales average, which increased by 1.0 years to 37.5 in the same period.

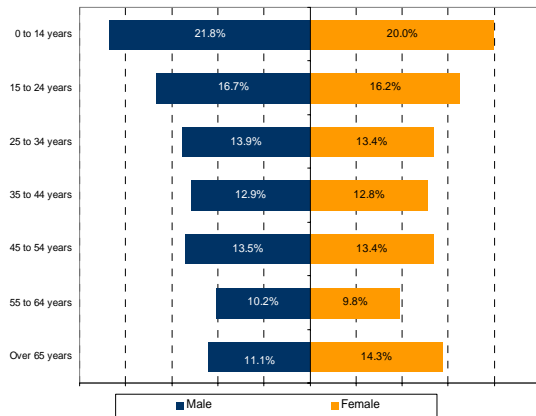
**Table 2.2. Age Distribution, Wagga Wagga & NSW- 2001 & 2006**

Age	Wagga Wagga LGA		New South Wales	
	2001	2006	2001	2006
0 to 14 years	22.6%	22.1%	20.8%	19.8%
15 to 24 years	18.0%	17.2%	13.4%	13.3%
25 to 34 years	13.6%	12.6%	14.5%	13.6%
35 to 44 years	14.0%	13.1%	15.3%	14.6%
45 to 54 years	12.7%	13.2%	13.5%	13.8%
55 to 64 years	8.0%	9.6%	9.4%	11.0%
Over 65 years	11.1%	12.3%	13.1%	13.8%
<b>Average Age</b>	<b>33.9</b>	<b>35.3</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>37.5</b>

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2007)

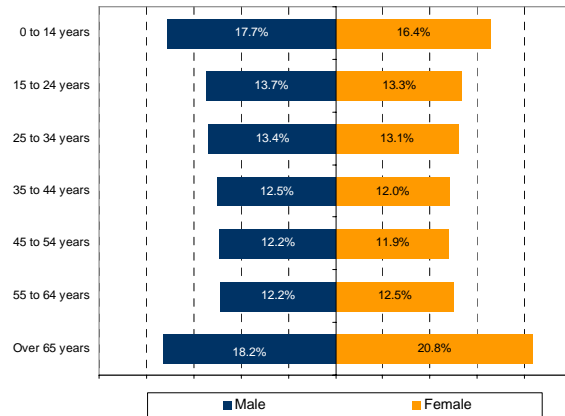
The following figures show the Wagga Wagga age-sex structure in 2006 and the forecast structure for 2026. The structure is expected to change significantly in this period, with the average age projected to increase by 6.4 years to 41.7 years.

**Figure 2.2. Age & Sex Distribution, Wagga Wagga, 2006**



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2007)

**Figure 2.3. Age & Sex Distribution, Wagga Wagga, 2026**



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2007)

## 3. Size & Structure of the Economy

### 3.1 Gross Regional Product & Economic Structure

#### 3.1.1 Size of the Economy

***Wagga Wagga is a key industry centre in the region, generating a GRP of approximately \$2.6 billion and accounting for over one third of the Murrumbidgee SD economic output from 7% of the land area...***

The Wagga Wagga regional economy is estimated to have contributed approximately \$2.6 billion in GRP at Factor Cost in 2006-07<sup>1</sup>, accounting for 0.8% of total New South Wales Gross State Product (GSP) at Factor Cost of approximately \$324.3 billion. In the context of the Murrumbidgee region, Wagga Wagga is estimated to have accounted for 36.4% of the total Murrumbidgee Statistical Division (SD) GRP at Factor Cost of approximately \$7.0 billion in 2006-07.

Between 2001-02 and 2006-07, Wagga Wagga's indicative GRP growth rate has been static. In the same period, the New South Wales GSP increased by an average of 2.4% per annum.

**Table 3.1. Indicative Estimate of the Size of the Regional Economy**

Region	GRP/GSP 2001-02 (\$ M)	GRP/GSP 2006-07 (\$ M)	Average Annual Growth (2001-02 to 2006-07)
Wagga Wagga LGA	\$2,578	\$2,564	-0.1%
Murrumbidgee SD	\$6,932	\$7,037	0.3%
<i>New South Wales</i>	\$289,013	\$321,325	2.1%

Source: AECgroup (2008)

#### 3.1.2 Structure of the Economy

***The economy of Wagga Wagga has strengths in the property & business services, manufacturing and government administration and defence sectors...***

In 2006-07, property & business services and manufacturing contributed approximately \$278.2 million and \$243.9 million of total industry Gross Value Added (GVA). Other significant sectors included health & community services, government administration & defence and education. Table 3.2 compares the structure of the Wagga Wagga, Murrumbidgee and New South Wales economies in 2006-07.

<sup>1</sup> Indicative estimates of Gross Regional Product (GRP) at Factor Cost for the Wagga Wagga LGA and Murrumbidgee Statistical Division (SD) have been prepared based on the share of employment within each industry in New South Wales.

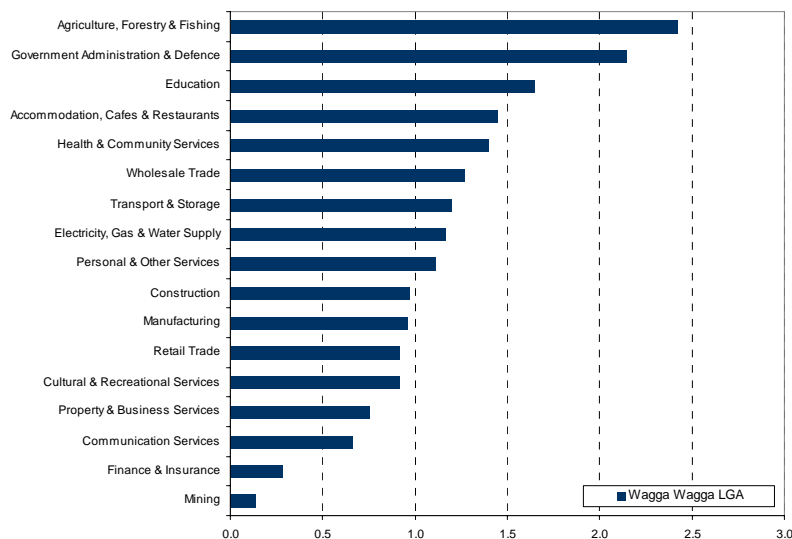
Table 3.2. Structure of the Regional Economy, 2006-07

Industry	Wagga Wagga LGA (\$M)	Murrumbidgee SD (\$M)	New South Wales (\$M)
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	\$82.7	\$643.2	\$4,278.0
Mining	\$8.5	\$40.0	\$7,489.0
Manufacturing	\$243.9	\$834.1	\$31,975.0
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	\$55.6	\$229.4	\$5,965.0
Construction	\$153.7	\$394.5	\$19,795.0
Wholesale Trade	\$160.1	\$486.9	\$15,793.0
Retail Trade	\$129.0	\$538.3	\$17,617.0
Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurants	\$86.9	\$93.9	\$7,499.0
Transport and Storage	\$129.6	\$311.5	\$13,502.0
Communication Services	\$43.9	\$97.6	\$8,274.0
Finance and Insurance	\$75.0	\$156.9	\$32,920.0
Property and Business Services	\$278.2	\$613.0	\$45,987.0
Government Administration and Defence	\$202.0	\$351.2	\$11,764.0
Education	\$174.3	\$379.0	\$13,223.0
Health and Community Services	\$204.6	\$446.4	\$18,281.0
Cultural and Recreational Services	\$38.6	\$79.8	\$5,284.0
Personal and Other Services	\$50.2	\$114.3	\$5,634.0
<i>Sub-Total</i>	\$2,116.8	\$5,809.9	\$265,280.0
Ownership of Dwellings	\$222.0	\$609.2	\$27,817.0
<b>Industry Gross Value Added</b>	<b>\$2,338.7</b>	<b>\$6,419.2</b>	<b>\$293,097.0</b>
Taxes Less Subsidies and Imports	\$228.6	\$627.4	\$28,645.0
Statistical Discrepancy	-\$3.3	-\$9.1	-\$417.0
<b>Gross Regional Product</b>	<b>\$2,564.0</b>	<b>\$7,037.4</b>	<b>\$321,325.0</b>

Source: AECgroup (2008)

The following figure compares the relative proportion of Wagga Wagga's economic output from each industry sector against the New South Wales data (NSW=1). The analysis highlights the relative reliance on agriculture, forestry & fishing (2.4) and government administration & defence (2.2). Wagga Wagga has a lower relative reliance on eight of the 17 sectors.

Figure 3.1. Location Quotients – Contribution to GRP Versus New South Wales



Note: All New South Wales Industry Location Quotients = 1.

Source: AECgroup (2008).

### 3.2 Industry Output Generation

In 2006-07<sup>2</sup>, Wagga Wagga recorded a total industry turnover of approximately \$5.4 billion. The three industries with the highest output were wholesale trade (\$1.2 billion), manufacturing (\$866.3 million) and retail trade (\$684.0 million). Across the 17 industry sectors presented below, the three largest accounted for over 50% of total output of the Wagga Wagga LGA.

**Table 3.3. Indicative Industry Output Generation (Turnover in \$M)**

Industry	Wagga Wagga LGA	
	Industry Turnover (\$M)	Proportion (%)
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	\$206.3	3.8%
Mining	\$13.2	0.2%
Manufacturing	\$886.8	16.3%
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	\$160.0	2.9%
Construction	\$494.5	9.1%
Wholesale Trade	\$1,245.3	22.9%
Retail Trade	\$684.0	12.6%
Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurants	\$266.8	4.9%
Transport and Storage	\$338.9	6.2%
Communication Services	\$123.8	2.3%
Finance and Insurance	\$82.0	1.5%
Property and Business Services	\$302.6	5.6%
Government Administration and Defence	\$261.0	4.8%
Education	\$44.5	0.8%
Health and Community Services	\$162.5	3.0%
Cultural and Recreational Services	\$65.0	1.2%
Personal and Other Services	\$102.0	1.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,439.1</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: AECgroup (2008)

<sup>2</sup> Note gross industry output (turnover) has been calculated from indicative GVA estimates and converted to industry gross output values using the Australian national accounts (total factor income Cat. No. 522.0) and the Australian industry performance indicators (sales & service income: Cat. No. 81550). These are indicative calculations only and may differ from the actual industry activity for the period.

## 4. Labour Market

### 4.1 Labour Force & Employment

***Strong labour force growth and a declining unemployment rate reflect a positive labour market and job prospects in the region...***

In the June Quarter 2008, Wagga Wagga had a total available labour force of 33,358 persons, 1.8% higher than in the June Quarter 2007. Over the same period, the number of employed persons has grown by 2.0% to 32,046 employees. The increase in employment opportunities at a faster rate than the labour force has resulted in a fall in the unemployment rate to 3.9% in June Quarter 2008. This is significantly lower than the New South Wales rate of 4.6% and is reflective of the positive employment prospects and industry growth that is occurring in the region.

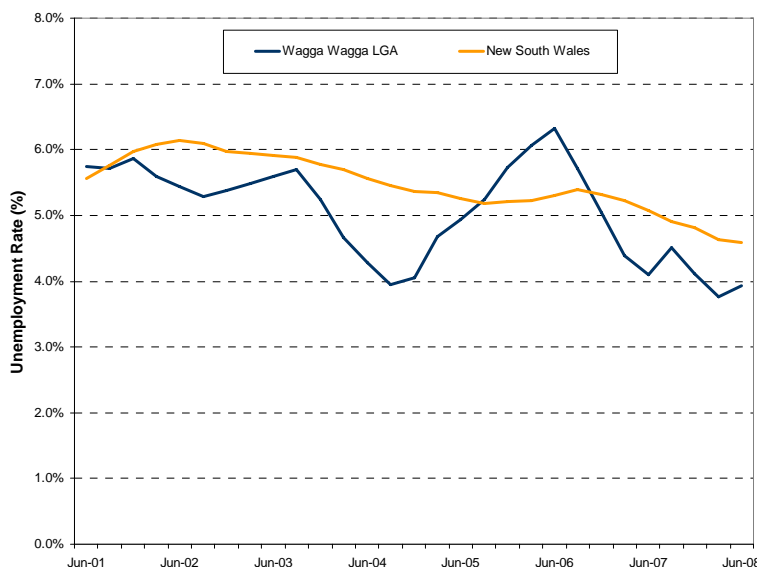
**Table 4.1. Labour Market Statistics, 2003-2008**

Statistic	No.	Annual Change (2007-08)	Average Annual Change (2003-2008)
<b>Wagga Wagga LGA</b>			
Labour Force	33,358	1.8%	0.8%
Employment	32,046	2.0%	1.2%
Unemployment	1,312	-2.2%	-6.4%
Unemployment Rate	3.9%	-0.2%	-0.4%
<b>New South Wales</b>			
Labour Force	3,562,700	1.9%	1.3%
Employment	3,399,300	2.4%	1.6%
Unemployment	163,400	-7.9%	-3.7%
Unemployment Rate	4.6%	-0.5%	-0.3%

Source: DEWR (2008)

The following figure shows that over the past five years, the unemployment rate in Wagga Wagga has fluctuated between a high of 6.3% and a low of 3.9%. In the last two years, unemployment rates have trended downwards and remain well below the average New South Wales figure.

**Figure 4.1. Unemployment Rates, Wagga Wagga LGA & NSW**



Source: DEWR (2008)

## 4.2 Employment by Industry

**Employment in Wagga Wagga is dominated by the service sector including retail, health and education...**

The three largest employment sectors in Wagga Wagga are largely service sector based and account for over 40% of total employment, equating to approximately 10,787 employees.

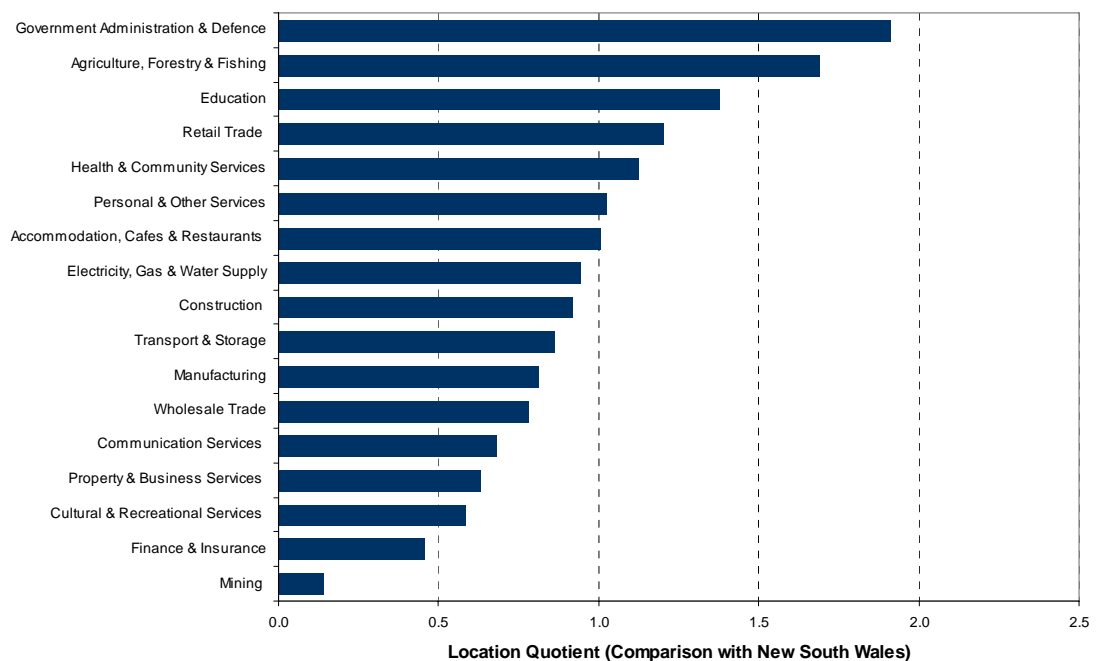
**Table 4.2. Employment by Industry, 2006**

Industry	Wagga Wagga LGA	New South Wales
Retail Trade	17.4%	14.4%
Health & Community Services	12.3%	11.0%
Education	10.4%	7.5%
Government Administration & Defence	9.2%	4.8%
Manufacturing	8.6%	10.5%
Property & Business Services	7.5%	11.9%
Construction	6.9%	7.5%
Accommodation, Cafes & Restaurants	5.2%	5.2%
Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	4.8%	2.8%
Transport & Storage	4.2%	4.9%
Wholesale Trade	4.1%	5.2%
Personal & Other Services	3.8%	3.7%
Finance & Insurance	2.3%	5.1%
Cultural & Recreational Services	1.4%	2.4%
Communication Services	1.1%	1.6%
Electricity, Gas & Water Supply	0.8%	0.8%
Mining	0.1%	0.7%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2007)

The following figure compares the proportion of New South Wales and Wagga Wagga employees in each industry (NSW=1). Wagga Wagga has a high relative reliance (compared to New South Wales) on employment in government administration & defence, agriculture, forestry & fishing, education and retail trade.

**Figure 4.2. Location Quotients – Percentage Industry Employment Wagga Wagga vs NSW, 2006**



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2007)

### 4.3 Employment by Occupation

***Wagga Wagga has a higher proportion of labourers, trades persons and clerical sales & service workers when compared to the State...***

Compared to state averages, Wagga Wagga includes a relatively high proportion of trades persons & related workers (15.5%), labourers & related workers (9.1%) and elementary clerical sales & service workers (11.1%). Wagga Wagga has a comparatively low proportion of persons employed as professionals (17.7%) and managers & administrators (8.2%).

**Table 4.3. Employment by Occupation, 2006**

Occupation	Wagga Wagga LGA	New South Wales
Professionals	17.7%	20.7%
Intermediate Clerical, Sales & Service Workers	16.5%	17.3%
Tradespersons & Related Workers	15.5%	11.7%
Associate Professionals	12.1%	12.1%
Elementary Clerical, Sales & Service Workers	11.1%	9.5%
Labourers & Related Workers	9.1%	7.8%
Managers & Administrators	8.2%	9.6%
Intermediate Production & Transport Workers	7.0%	7.9%
Advanced Clerical & Service Workers	2.7%	3.5%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2007)

### 4.4 Industry Incomes

***Wagga Wagga has lower average weekly incomes across most industries when compared to New South Wales averages...***

The following table shows average individual incomes in Wagga Wagga in 2006 were lower than the New South Wales average in all but one sector. Administrative & support services recorded higher average incomes than the State (\$810 compared to \$750). The highest earning industries in Wagga Wagga are mining (\$940), electricity, gas water & waste services (\$870), administrative & support services (\$810) and financial & insurance services (\$761).

**Table 4.4. Individual Weekly Incomes by Industry of Employment, 2006**

Industry	Wagga Wagga	New South Wales	Difference
Mining	\$940	\$1,500	-\$560
Electricity, gas, water & waste services	\$870	\$1,191	-\$320
Administrative & support services	\$810	\$750	\$60
Financial & insurance services	\$761	\$1,229	-\$468
Transport, postal & warehousing	\$756	\$921	-\$165
Information media & telecommunications	\$735	\$1,113	-\$379
Professional, scientific & technical services	\$687	\$1,155	-\$468
Rental, hiring & real estate services	\$665	\$930	-\$265
Public administration & safety	\$656	\$1,074	-\$418
Construction	\$649	\$880	-\$231
Wholesale trade	\$642	\$947	-\$304
Manufacturing	\$638	\$900	-\$262
Health care & social assistance	\$634	\$826	-\$191
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	\$555	\$620	-\$65
Education & training	\$530	\$955	-\$425
Arts & recreation services	\$449	\$720	-\$271
Other services	\$417	\$681	-\$264
Retail trade	\$409	\$558	-\$149
Accommodation & food services	\$408	\$482	-\$74

Notes: In some cases these results are from a small proportion of the total workforce  
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2007)

## 5. Industry Profiling

### 5.1 Agriculture

*The sheep, cattle (beef & dairy) and grain farming sectors have historically been the backbone of the local economy. This sector is supported by the agriculture services sector, export infrastructure and an established supply chain...*

#### Output

The following table shows that in 2006-07, the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry sectors in the Murrumbidgee SD recorded an annual gross valued added of approximately \$82.7 million, 3.9% of total New South Wales for the sector and a gross output of approximately \$206.3 million.

**Table 5.1 Agriculture Production Murrumbidgee SD, 2006-07**

Agricultural Industry	Murrumbidgee SD	% of NSW
<b>Value (\$'M)</b>		
Agriculture	\$1,173.9	15.2%
Crops	\$678.7	18.4%
Pasture and cereal and other crops cut for hay	\$53.4	15.4%
Crops (excluding hay)	\$625.3	18.8%
Nurseries, cut flowers and cultivated turf	\$16.0	4.5%
Vegetables	\$106.0	24.7%
Fruit	\$237.2	28.7%
Livestock slaughterings	\$377.4	13.4%
Livestock products	\$117.8	9.6%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2008d)

#### Employment

In 2006, 1,264 persons were employed in the Wagga Wagga agriculture sector, 7.1% of the resident workforce. The Wagga Wagga agricultural sector is dominated by the historically strong sheep, beef cattle and grain farming industries, which had 974 employees in 2006, equivalent to over 70% of the total employment in the agriculture, forestry & fishing sector. The agriculture and forestry service sector is also an important source of employment.

**Table 5.2 Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing Employment, 2006**

Agricultural Industry	Wagga Wagga	% of Murrumbidgee	% NSW
<b>Agriculture</b>			
Nursery & Floriculture Production	23	44.2%	1.0%
Mushroom & Vegetable Growing	7	3.7%	0.2%
Fruit & Nut Tree Growing	11	0.9%	0.2%
Sheep, Beef Cattle & Grain Farming	974	17.0%	2.2%
Other Crop Growing	3	4.3%	0.1%
Dairy Cattle Farming	60	70.6%	1.9%
Poultry Farming	0	0.0%	0.0%
Deer Farming	4	100.0%	19.0%
Other Livestock Farming	19	12.1%	0.6%
<b>Agriculture sub-total</b>	<b>1,101</b>	<b>14.2%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>
<b>Aquaculture</b>			
Aquaculture	7	33.3%	1.0%
<b>Forestry &amp; Logging</b>			
Forestry & Logging	12	5.6%	0.7%
<b>Fishing, Hunting &amp; Trapping</b>			
Fishing	0	0.0%	0.0%
Hunting & Trapping	0	0.0%	0.0%

Agricultural Industry	Wagga Wagga	% of Murrumbidgee	% NSW
<b>Agriculture, Forestry &amp; Fishing Support Services</b>			
Forestry Support Services	3	7.3%	0.4%
Agriculture & Fishing Support Services	73	19.4%	2.1%
<b>Other Agriculture, Forestry &amp; Fishing (Not Defined)</b>	68	18.5%	2.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,264</b>	<b>14.4%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2007)

### Supporting Facilities & Characteristics

The agriculture sector is well supported by industry facilities in the region including:

- **Wagga Wagga Livestock Marketing Centre (WULMC):** The Wagga Wagga Livestock Market Centre is a premier Livestock facility in Australia. It operates on an average annual throughput of 130,000 head of cattle and half a million head of sheep. The centre is also a leading livestock facility in terms of implementation of best practice standards and was one of the first to implement National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) technology in regional New South Wales.
- **Wagga Wagga Agricultural Institute (WWAI):** The institute is the NSW Department of Primary Industries Centre of Excellence for Southern Farming Systems and Viticulture. The Institute is dedicated to improving the sustainability and profitability of agriculture in New South Wales and is linked to research activities across New South Wales.
- **Charles Sturt University:** The Charles Stuart University campus located in Wagga Wagga has a number of agriculturally focussed bachelor's degrees focussing on agriculture, agronomy, livestock production, irrigation, agricultural biotechnology and viticulture and wine sciences. This facility provides opportunities for university-industry linkages in the Wagga Wagga regional economy.

These facilities and the broader agriculture industry are supported by:

- **An Established Supply Chain:** Including an established transport industry to facilitate road and rail transport needs in exporting products from the region. The well-established food processing and manufacturing operations in Wagga Wagga allow for local produce to be manufactured into value added product for export. Wagga Wagga has a large agricultural service sector, which helps support many of the activities in the region.
- **Access to Export Infrastructure:** The strategic location of Wagga Wagga 4.5 hours between Sydney and Melbourne and the direct linkage of Wagga Wagga rail freight services to the Melbourne port provides access to markets and reduced travel times and costs. This is particularly important in the shipment of livestock from the region.

## 5.2 Defence

***The region has a long association with the armed forces. This was strengthened by the recent investment of \$60 million in defence training facilities at the Wagga Wagga army and airforce base...***

Wagga Wagga is home to one of Australia's most significant defence force bases, which comprises the Kapooka army recruit training base and Royal Australian Air force training base. In 2007, the Wagga Wagga RAAF base training facility underwent a major facilities upgrade of state of the art training and accommodation facilities valued at approximately \$60 million.

Wagga Wagga defence employment accounts for 8.7% of total defence employment in New South Wales with 1,590 defence industry employees in the region.

**Table 5.3 Defence Employment Wagga Wagga, Murrumbidgee & New South Wales, 2006**

Defence Industry	Employed Persons	% NSW
<b>Employed in Defence</b>		
Wagga Wagga LGA	1,583	8.7%
Murrumbidgee SD	1,590	8.8%
New South Wales	18,144	100.0%
<b>Total Employed</b>		
Wagga Wagga LGA	26,438	1.0%
Murrumbidgee SD	61,406	2.2%
New South Wales	2,748,394	100.0%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2007)

## 5.3 Tourism

***Wagga Wagga is a popular and expanding tourism destination with increasing visitor demand and rising accommodation takings...***

Wagga Wagga is part of the Riverina Tourism Region, which is well known for its gourmet food and wine, colonial hotels, national parks, art galleries, festivals, agricultural shows, museums, producers markets and aboriginal cultural heritage.

In the year ended June 2008, Wagga Wagga accounted for 46.6% (341,308 guest nights) of all accommodation visitor nights spent in the Riverina Tourism Region. This was an increase of 8.4% on the same quarter in 2007, above the level of growth experienced by the Riverina region (5.3%) and New South Wales (1.9%). Accommodation takings in Wagga Wagga were estimated at \$24.5 million, an increase of 17.5% on the previous year and higher than the growth experienced by the Riverina Tourism region (12.1%) and New South Wales (8.2%). The Wagga Wagga region accounted for over half (54.7%) of the Riverina Tourism Region's accommodation takings for the YE June 2008.

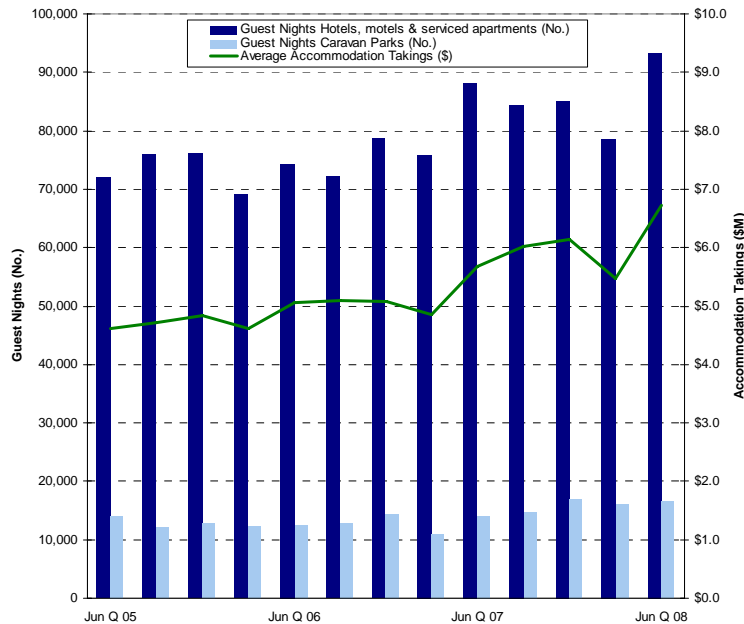
**Table 5.4. Accommodation Demand Indicators, Hotels, Motels & Serviced Apartments**

Accommodation Demand Indicator	YE June 2008	% Change YE June 2007
<b>Wagga Wagga LGA</b>		
Occupancy	73.0%	8.9%
Guest Nights	341,308	8.4%
Takings (\$'000)	\$24,354	17.5%
<b>Riverina TR</b>		
Occupancy	58.0%	1.1%
Guest Nights	731,670	5.3%
Takings (\$'000)	\$44,546	12.1%
<b>New South Wales</b>		
Occupancy	58.7	0.3
Guest Nights	29,393,675	1.9%
Takings (\$'000)	\$2,611,181	8.2%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2008c)

Over the past three years, the Wagga Wagga LGA has generally experienced increases in visitor demand for guest nights for hotels, motels & serviced apartments and caravan parks. Takings from these establishments have also increased over this period to a total of \$6.7 million in the June Quarter 2008.

Figure 5.1. Guest Nights & Accommodation Takings, Wagga Wagga LGA



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2008c)

Key tourism features and attractions in the Wagga Wagga region include:

- Gourmet food & wines:** Wagga Wagga and the wider Riverina region has a diverse range of gourmet food and wine attractions and is the biggest wine producing region in New South Wales (Riverina Regional Tourism, 2008). On a local level, Wagga Wagga is home to eight wineries.
- Historical attractions:** Wagga Wagga has a number of historical galleries and museums including the National Art Glass Gallery, the Australian Pen Museum, the Steam and Vintage Museum and the Museum of the Riverina. Wagga Wagga also has a number high quality and historically significant art galleries.
- Festivals & events:** Wagga Wagga has the facilities to hold significant events including the Capital Entertainment Centre and the Wagga Wagga Civic Centre. Wagga Wagga is host to a number of sporting, music and cultural events in the region including the Wagga Wagga Jazz and Blues festival, the Gold Cup Festival and the Wagga Wagga Gourmet Food & Wine Festival.

## 5.4 Manufacturing

In 2006, the manufacturing sector employed an estimated 2,208 persons in Wagga Wagga and recorded an indicative industry gross value added of approximately \$243.9 million in 2006-07.

The manufacturing sector is one of the leading contributors to gross output in the region. Key industries within the manufacturing sector include the food product manufacturing and transport, machinery & equipment manufacturing sectors.

### 5.4.1 Food Product & Beverage Manufacturing

*Food product & beverage manufacturing is a key growth sector in the region supported by an established beef, sheep & dairy industry and emerging viticulture and niche gourmet foods markets...*

In 2006, there were 535 employees in the meat and meat processing sector, representing 30.2% of industry employment the Murrumbidgee SD and 4.2% of the New South Wales industry total. This highlights the region's importance as a centre for meat production, using the competitive advantage of its significant agricultural base as a regional strength in the production of value added product.

Dairy manufacturing is another significant employer of the region, with 80 employees (49.7% of the Murrumbidgee industry and 2.4% of the New South Wales industry).

**Figure 5.2. Food & Beverage Manufacturing Employment by Sub-sector, 2006**

Agricultural Industry	Wagga Wagga	Murrumbidgee SD	NSW
Meat & Meat Product Manufacturing	535	30.2%	4.2%
Seafood Processing	0	0.0%	0.0%
Dairy Product Manufacturing	80	49.7%	2.4%
Fruit & Vegetable Processing	81	32.8%	2.5%
Oil & Fat Manufacturing	3	12.5%	0.6%
Grain Mill & Cereal Processing	3	0.7%	0.1%
Bakery Product Manufacturing	99	40.1%	0.8%
Sugar & Confectionary Manufacturing	3	25.0%	0.1%
Other Food Product Manufacturing	36	25.2%	0.4%
Beverage Manufacturing	19	1.8%	0.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>21.0%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2007)

### 5.4.2 Transport, Machinery & Equipment Manufacturing

*Motor vehicle & motor vehicle parts manufacturing is a key employment sector in the region, servicing the established transport and agriculture industry markets...*

The transport, machinery & equipment manufacturing sector is a significant employer in the Wagga Wagga region. This is largely due to the high level of agriculture, transport and defence activity, which this sector supports. In 2006, the motor vehicle and motor vehicle part manufacturing industry recorded a total of 189 employees, the highest (60%) within the transport, equipment & manufacturing sector.

**Figure 5.3. Transport, Machinery & Equipment Manufacturing Employment, 2006**

Transport, Machinery & Equipment Manufacturing	Wagga Wagga	% Murrumbidgee SD	% NSW
<b>Transport Equipment</b>			
Motor Vehicle & Motor Vehicle Part	189	87.1%	2.8%
Other Transport Equipment	32	39.5%	0.4%
<b>Machinery &amp; Equipment</b>			
Professional & Scientific Equipment	13	41.9%	0.2%
Computer & Electronic Equipment	10	55.6%	0.1%
Electrical Equipment	5	71.4%	0.1%
Domestic Appliance	3	37.5%	0.1%
Pump, Compressor, Heating and Ventilation Equipment	8	19.5%	0.3%
Specialized Machinery & Equipment	43	23.2%	0.5%
Other Machinery & Equipment	16	47.1%	0.4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>51.3%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2007)

## 6. Housing & Investment Overview

### 6.1 Dwelling Approvals

*In 2007-08, Wagga Wagga experienced growth in the value and number of residential building, reversing the downward trend of the previous two years...*

In 2007-08, Wagga Wagga LGA recorded 269 dwelling approvals, 14.0% more than in the previous year. Growth in dwelling building activity was above that of New South Wales, which recorded a 0.7% decline in building approvals. The total value of dwelling approvals was \$75.1 million, an increase of 16.0% from 2006-07. This growth in approval value was also above that of the State, which recorded a growth of 1.2% in the same period.

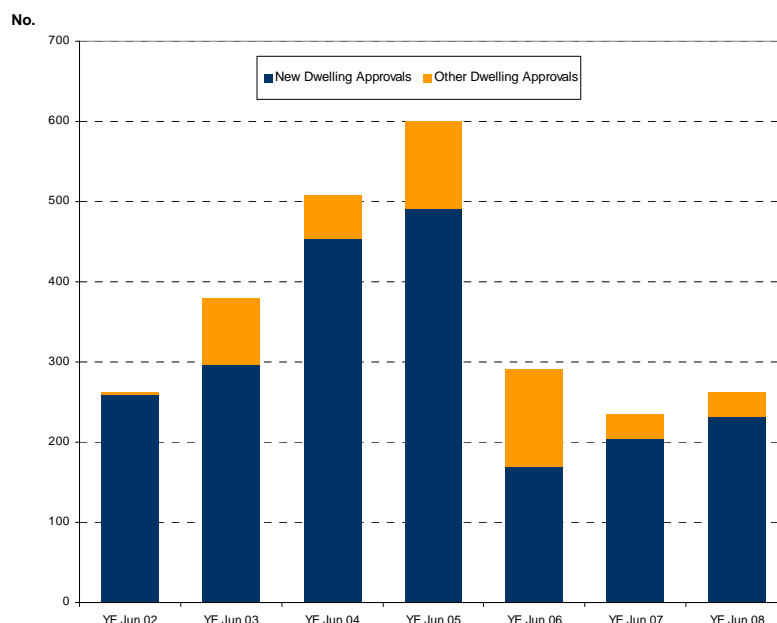
Table 6.1. Dwelling Approvals

Dwelling Type	Approvals		Value (\$ million)	
	2008	Annual Change	2008	Annual Change
<b>Wagga Wagga LGA</b>				
New House	233	13.7%	\$60.8	25.1%
Other Dwellings	30	0.0%	\$5.1	3.6%
Alterations & Additions	6	500.0%	\$9.2	-18.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>14.0%</b>	<b>\$75.1</b>	<b>16.0%</b>
<b>New South Wales</b>				
New House	15,709	-1.1%	\$4,156.0	5.0%
Other Dwellings	14,975	-0.4%	\$3,306.4	-3.9%
Alterations & Additions	382	10.4%	\$1,788.4	2.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,066</b>	<b>-0.7%</b>	<b>\$9,250.8</b>	<b>1.2%</b>

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2008b)

Between 2001-02 and 2004-05, Wagga Wagga experienced a steady increase in residential building activity, peaking 600 approvals in 2004-05. Since then, there has been a significant decline in building approvals although 2007-08 did see a slight increase in the number of approvals, the first since 2003-04.

Figure 6.1. Number of Dwelling Approvals, Wagga Wagga LGA, 2002 to 2008



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2008b)

## 6.2 Property Market

### 6.2.1 Housing Tenure Type

***Wagga Wagga has an above average proportion of households purchasing homes or renting, reflecting the relative affordability of the area to the younger age demographic of the region...***

In 2006, Wagga Wagga recorded a lower proportion of persons fully owning their home (32.0%) compared to the State (35.9%) and a higher proportion of persons purchasing (35.0%) and renting (32.1%) compared to the State (32.8% and 30.4%, respectively). This is primarily due to the lower cost housing (relative to the New South Wales average) and the younger age demographic in the region.

In 2006, Wagga Wagga recorded a lower cost of housing (lower home loan repayments) compared to the State (see section 7.2.3), with Wagga Wagga one of the top 20 regions with the highest take up rate of the Commonwealth Government's First Home Buyers Grant (Business Wagga Wagga, 2008). The relatively low cost of housing in Wagga Wagga, in combination with this government scheme have been factors in increasing the number of households purchasing homes by 6.8% since 2001.

**Table 6.2. Housing Tenure Type, 2001-2006**

Region	Fully Owned	Purchasing	Renting	Other
Wagga Wagga LGA				
2006	32.0%	35.0%	32.1%	0.9%
2001	37.4%	28.1%	32.0%	2.5%
% Change 2001-2006 <sup>(a)</sup>	-5.4%	6.8%	0.1%	-1.5%
New South Wales				
2006	35.9%	32.8%	30.4%	0.9%
2001	43.4%	24.6%	29.1%	2.9%
% Change 2001-2006 <sup>(a)</sup>	-7.5%	8.2%	1.4%	-2.1%

Note: (a) This is a percentage point change.  
Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2007)

### 6.2.2 Property & Sales Values

***Wagga Wagga has lower average property prices than the New South Wales average, highlighting the relative affordability of the region...***

Wagga Wagga recorded an average house price of \$265,000 in June 2008, 6.0% higher than the same period in 2007. Median house prices are higher than the averages of the Central Murrumbidgee and Lower Murrumbidgee regions but lower than those recorded for Albury and the New South Wales average.

The following tables shows that over the past four years, Wagga Wagga has experienced lower average annual growth in house prices (4.2%) than all surrounding comparison areas but this was still above the average recorded for New South Wales (1.0%) in the same period.

Wagga Wagga recorded an average unit/townhouse price of \$186,000 to June 2008, above that recorded for Albury and below that of New South Wales. Average annual growth in the past year and over the four years to June 2008 have been significantly higher than all other comparison areas (18.2%) in 2007-08 with an average annual growth of 6.2% between 2003 and 2008.

Table 6.3. Property Market, March Q 2008

Property Type	Median Property Price		
	2008	Annual Change	Four Year Ave. Annual Change
<b>House</b>			
Wagga Wagga LGA	\$265,000	6.0%	4.2%
Central Murrumbidgee (surrounding areas)	\$170,000	0.0%	9.1%
Lower Murrumbidgee (Griffith)	\$196,300	-8.1%	4.6%
Albury	\$268,500	3.7%	4.8%
New South Wales	\$370,000	2.4%	1.0%
<b>Unit/ Townhouse</b>			
Wagga Wagga LGA	\$186,000	18.2%	6.2%
Central Murrumbidgee (surrounding areas)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Lower Murrumbidgee (Griffith)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Albury	\$172,000	4.2%	5.3%
New South Wales	\$360,000	3.2%	1.1%

Source: NSW Department of Housing (2008)

### 6.2.3 Homeloan Repayments

*In line with median property price trends, Wagga Wagga records lower average home loan repayments than the State, however over the past five years it has experienced a higher than average level of growth...*

In 2006, Wagga Wagga recorded an average monthly home loan repayment of \$1,306, \$401 less than the New South Wales average of \$1,709. Wagga Wagga has a higher average monthly home loan repayment than the average of the combined surrounding LGAs (\$1,070) and that of Albury LGA (\$1,260). Between 2001 and 2006, Wagga Wagga experienced average annual growth of 8.2%, above all other comparison areas with exception of Albury LGA, which experienced growth of 8.4% per annum for the period.

Table 6.4. Home Loan Repayments

Region	Average Monthly Home Loan Repayment	Average Annual % Growth (2001 – 06)
Wagga Wagga LGA	\$1,306	8.2%
Surrounding Areas <sup>(a)</sup>	\$1,069	6.5%
Griffith LGA	\$1,436	6.8%
Albury LGA	\$1,260	8.4%
New South Wales	\$1,709	8.0%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2007)

### 6.2.4 Rental Bonds & Prices

*Wagga Wagga has a lower average weekly rent repayment than the New South Wales average, but this was higher than in the surrounding areas of the Murrumbidgee region...*

In 2006, average weekly rents in Wagga Wagga were higher than those in the comparison areas (\$168) but lower than the New South Wales average (\$232). Between 2001 and 2006, Wagga Wagga experienced average annual growth in weekly rents of 5.0% per annum.

**Table 6.5. Rental Prices, 2001 to 2006**

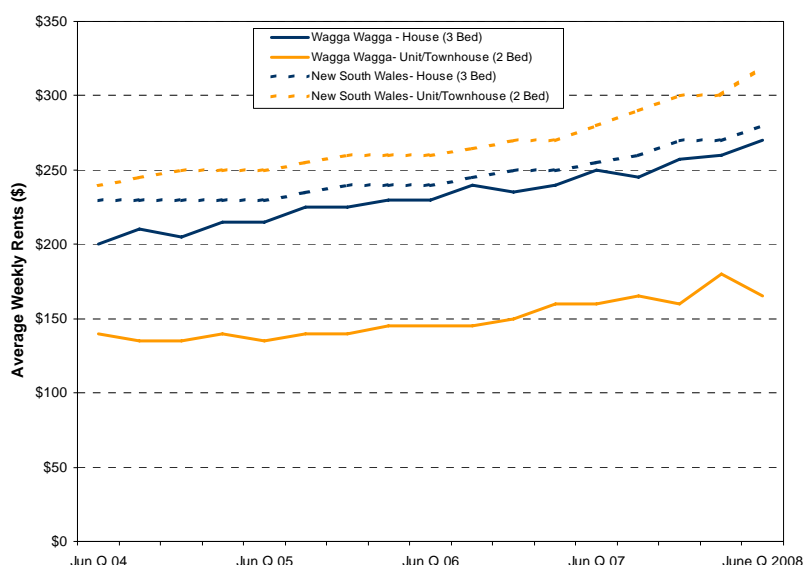
Region	Average Weekly Rent Payment	Average Annual % Growth (2001 – 06)
Wagga Wagga LGA	\$168	5.0%
Surrounding Areas <sup>(a)</sup>	\$113	0.6%
Griffith LGA	\$161	1.8%
Albury LGA	\$167	5.9%
New South Wales	\$232	2.9%

Note: Average weekly rents calculated from census data are calculated from all household rental types, therefore, the average weekly rent repayment will be higher than NSW Housing rents which only take into account households that are required to lodge a rental bond (no other renting household types included).

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2007)

The following figure shows that Wagga Wagga house rental prices have generally trended upwards over the past four years, slightly below the growth rate for New South Wales. Unit/townhouse rental prices in Wagga Wagga have also trended upwards (until the most recent quarters) and are significantly lower than that recorded for New South Wales.

**Figure 6.2. Rental Price Trends**



Source: NSW Department of Housing (2008)

## 6.3 Commercial & Building Investment

### 6.3.1 Non-residential Building Approvals

*Non-residential building investment has experienced a significant decline in the last year following a peak driven by the Wagga Wagga defence upgrades...*

Wagga Wagga non-residential building investment was \$24.2 million in 2008, 77.2% lower than in the previous year. This was in contrast to growth in New South Wales non-residential building investment, which increased by 18.0% over the same period.

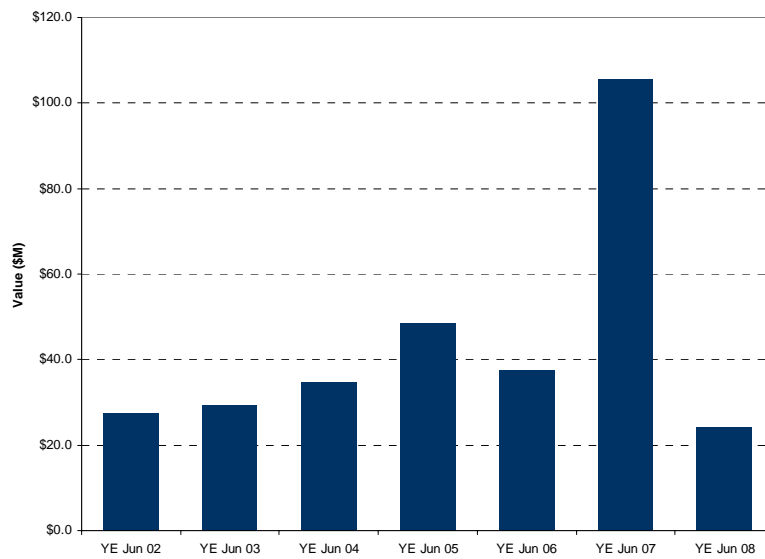
**Table 6.6. Non-Residential Building Investment**

Region	Value	
	2008 (\$M)	% Annual Change
Wagga Wagga LGA	\$24.2	-77.2%
New South Wales	\$8,981.3	18.0%

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2008b)

The most recent year, 2007-08, saw the lowest level of non-residential investment in the region between 2002 and 2008.

**Figure 6.3. Non-Residential Building Investment, Wagga Wagga LGA, 2002-2008**



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics (2008b)

## 7. Infrastructure Review

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### 7.1 Transport Infrastructure

*Wagga Wagga has access to an integrated transport network that supports population growth, industry activity and accessibility to the region and provides multimodal connectivity between regions and States...*

The Wagga Wagga region has a highly valuable combination of road, rail and airport infrastructure located in close proximity to major trade route infrastructure. Wagga Wagga is a key transport node between these Sydney and Melbourne and the wider New South Wales and Victorian regions.

Key transport infrastructure of the Wagga Wagga region includes:

- The intersection of the Olympic and Sturt Highways, which provides road linkage between the Sydney and Melbourne trade route;
- A regional airport with daily passenger services to Sydney and Melbourne; and
- A main southern rail line with daily direct freight connections to the Port of Melbourne.

#### 7.1.1 Road

Wagga Wagga is situated at the intersection of the Olympic and Sturt Highways and forms an integral part of the Riverina transport network. Wagga Wagga provides a vital trade route link between the markets, seaports and international airports on the eastern seaboard and the south western New South Wales primary production sectors. Wagga Wagga is home to major transport and freight companies, which service the Victorian, South Australia and New South Wales markets.

Wagga Wagga is approximately equidistant from Melbourne and Sydney, with access to over two-thirds of Australia's population within less than five hours by road. This strategic location provides many logistical advantages to road freight companies in the Riverina region, allowing freight to be delivered to major state and interstate ports and airports with shorter 'on-road' transport times and lower costs.

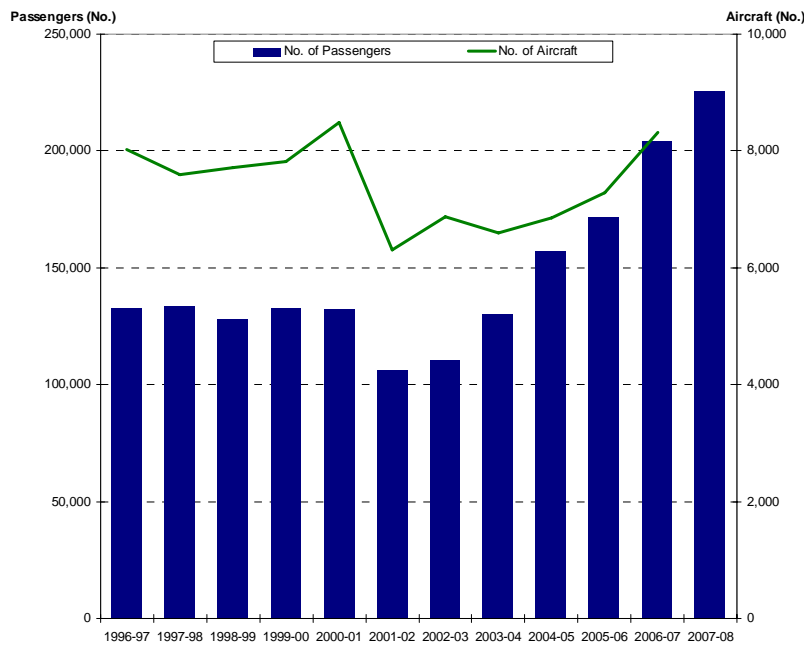
#### 7.1.2 Airport

##### **Civil**

The civil component of Wagga Wagga airport is owned by the Commonwealth (RAAF) and leased to Wagga Wagga City Council. The area covers approximately 202 hectares and includes two runways (one grass and one sealed). The Wagga Wagga Airport is serviced by daily QantasLink flights to Sydney and Regional Express flights to Sydney and Melbourne.

In the year ended June 2007, the Wagga Wagga airport recorded a total throughput of 204,409 passengers and 8,316 aircraft landings. In the most recent year passenger numbers have increased by 10.3% to 225,462 passengers in the year ended June 2008. Since 2001-02, the number of aircraft movements has trended upwards at an average rate of 5.7% per annum. Passenger activity has also increased over the last six years, recording an average annual growth of 13.4% per annum between 2001-02 and 2007-08.

Figure 7.1. Passenger Numbers &amp; Aircraft Movements, Wagga Wagga



Source: BITRE (2008a)

### **Commonwealth Defence**

The Royal Australian Air Force's RAAF Base Wagga, in NSW's Riverina region, is home to Air Force trade training schools. Over the past few years, the RAAF base has undergone a \$60 million upgrade training and accommodation facilities. Training facilities upgraded include:

- No. 1 recruit training wing for airmen/women;
- Ground training wing;
- School of administration & logistics training;
- School of technical training;
- School of postgraduate training;
- ADF school of signals;
- National aerospace training centre of excellence; and
- Combat support unit Wagga-base managers.

### **7.1.3 Rail**

#### **Passenger Services**

CountryLink offers twice-daily services to Sydney and Melbourne.

#### **Freight**

Situated on the main southern railLink in New South Wales, Wagga Wagga is serviced by daily rail freight services direct to the Port of Melbourne. Rail capacity for freight transport in the region has been expanded to accommodate the increasing demand for freight infrastructure to support the growing exports industry from the region. To assist exports growth the Port of Melbourne has located an office to Wagga Wagga. A new rail bridge at Wagga Wagga was also opened in 2007 to accommodate an additional 22 trains to pass through Wagga Wagga per day.

## 7.2 Utilities Infrastructure

***Wagga Wagga has extensive utilities infrastructure capable of supporting ongoing population and industry growth in the area...***

### **Electricity & Gas**

Wagga Wagga is strategically situated on the New South Wales electricity grid and is supported by a distribution network supplied by the Bomen, Copland and Gregadoo substations. By industry standards, the reliability of supply in Wagga Wagga is considered to be high within the City and at the Bomen Business Park. The local distributor for electricity and natural gas is CountryEnergy.

Natural gas is supplied to 92% of residential, commercial and industrial properties in Wagga Wagga from the Moomba gas line from South Australia and the Victorian gas fields.

### **Water**

Water in Wagga Wagga is sourced from the Murrumbidgee River and the East, West and North Wagga Wagga Borefields. Filtration, chlorination and aeration are undertaken at treatment facilities in Wagga City and the surrounding area. It is believed that there are sufficient water resources within the Wagga Wagga LGA to support continued population and industry growth in the region.

### **Waste**

The Wagga Wagga sewerage network services over 18,000 residential and 2,000 non-residential properties. The new Bomen Industrial Sewerage Treatment Facility (BISTF) has been specifically designed to deal with industrial wastes. This facility will be able to accept higher strength waste, facilitating further industrial development and maintaining environmental standards.

## 7.3 Social Infrastructure

***Wagga Wagga is a key services centre that provides the surrounding Murrumbidgee region with access to key health, education and community services...***

### 7.3.1 Health

Wagga Wagga is the main service delivery point for health services in the region and the health & community services sector is a significant employer. Health facilities located within the region include:

- Wagga Wagga Base Hospital;
- Calvary Hospital Wagga Wagga (private) ;
- Calvary Cancer Centre;
- The Riverina Cardiovascular and Physiology Centre;
- Wagga Medical Imageing;
- Douglass Hanley Moir Pathology Laboratory & Collection Clinic; and
- The Calvary Specialists Clinic.

Wagga Wagga also provides a number of ancillary health and well being facilities including private day surgeries, retirement villages and nursing homes, community health centres, alternative health services, daycares and early childhood centres.

### 7.3.2 Education

Wagga Wagga is a regional education centre providing educational opportunities from primary and early childhood to tertiary education. The key educational facilities are outlined in the table below.

**Table 7.1. Wagga Wagga Major Educational Facilities**

Educational Facility	Description
Early Childhood/ Preschool/ Primary Schools	There are 25 facilities that cater for early childhood to pre-school education in Wagga Wagga. There are 24 public and private primary schools in Wagga Wagga
Secondary Schools	Wagga Wagga has eight secondary schools (three public and five private secondary schools), each providing specialist education across a range of educational areas including artistic, sporting, academic and cultural areas.
TAFE NSW: Riverina Institute	Wagga Wagga is home to three of the 19 Riverina Institute of TAFE campus' which feature the Primary Industries Centre (North Wagga Wagga) providing specialist training in crops, livestock & horticulture, the National Aerospace Centre of Excellence (Forest Hill RAAF base) and the Tourism & Technology Centre (City Campus). In 2008, the NSW Riverina TAFE recorded 7,000 student enrolments.
Charles Sturt University	The Charles Sturt University recorded a total of 12,000 student enrolments in 2008. Over 100 courses are provided by the university at the Wagga Wagga campus including degrees in arts, commerce, education, health, science, dentistry and agriculture. Of particular note are the newly expanded veterinary science school and centres for research in agriculture studies and viticulture. The university is also know for the production of its award winning wines and cheeses at its factory located in Wagga Wagga.
Special Needs	There are two facilities that provide specialist education for students that learning and intellectual disabilities: Kurrajong Early Intervention Services and the Willians Hill Public School.
Riverina Conservatorium of Music	The Riverina Conservatorium of Music fosters the strong cultural and musical interests in the region for pupils of all ages. The Conservatorium provides vital links to the cultural arts of the region.

Source: Business Wagga Wagga (2008), Wagga Wagga City Council (2008)

## 8. Research, Development & Innovation

***Innovation is key to the ongoing success of the regional economy. Key areas of innovation over the past five years have included civil engineering & mining, goods handling, packaging & printing and agricultural & food machinery....***

In 2006, the Wagga Wagga region recorded a total of seven official innovation activity lodgements, (five patent applications and two Awarded Oz grants). This was double the innovative application lodgements recorded in the previous year and one and a half times more than recorded five years ago.

Innovative activity within the Wagga Wagga region represents 0.3% of all innovative activity lodged within New South Wales in 2006. Despite experiencing growth in innovative activity above the level of New South Wales over the past five years, the Wagga Wagga region records a relatively low level of innovation on a per capita basis (working aged population only) when compared to the State.

**Table 8.1. Lodgement of Innovative Activity, Wagga Wagga & New South Wales**

Industry	Wagga Wagga	New South Wales
No. Patent Applications 2006	5	1,444
% Annual Change	-9.0%	12.4%
% Five Year Change	127.5%	33.1%
No. Oz Grants 2006	2	547
% Annual Change	91.7%	-10.9%
% Five Year Change	-4.2%	36.0%
Total Innovation Activity (official records only)	7	1,991
% Annual Change	107.2%	104.9%
% Five Year Change	163.0%	133.9%

Note: The smallness of the sample means that this data (particularly growth comparisons) should be used with caution.  
Source: IP Australia (2008)

- Over the past five years, the most common form of innovative activity in Wagga Wagga has been for the following areas of innovation:
  - Civil engineering & mining (16.0% of all innovative activity);
  - Handling, packaging & printing (12.9% of all innovative activity);
  - Agricultural & food machinery (12.9% of all innovative activity);
  - Transport (9.9% of all innovative activity); and
  - Environmental processes (9.6% of all innovative activity).

**Table 8.2. Key Areas of Innovation, Wagga Wagga 1996- 2006**

Industry	Innovative Activity 2001-2006		Innovative Activity 1996-2006	
	No.	%	No.	%
Civil engineering & mining	2	16.0%	9	11.2%
Handling, packaging, printing	1	12.9%	1	7.5%
Agricultural & food machinery	0	12.9%	1	9.4%
Transport	2	9.9%	2	11.5%
Environmental processes	2	9.6%	2	5.6%
Mechanical tools	0	6.6%	1	3.8%
General processes	1	6.5%	1	3.8%
Electrical devices & engineering	3	6.4%	3	17.1%
Medical engineering	2	6.4%	2	3.7%
Thermal techniques	1	3.3%	2	1.9%
Mechanical parts	4	3.3%	4	3.8%
Consumer goods & equipment	4	3.2%	5	5.7%
Audio visual	3	3.0%	6	1.7%
Optics	1	0.0%	3	1.9%
Coatings surfaces	5	0.0%	6	1.9%
Not classified	0	0.0%	5	9.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: IP Australia (2008)

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## Appendix A: Glossary of Economic Terms

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**Output (also referred to as turnover in text):** Output measures the gross sales throughout the whole economy by summing all the individual transactions resulting, directly and indirectly, to the economic stimulus. The output is also useful in providing an indication of the degree of structural dependence between sectors of the economy.

**Gross Value Added (GVA):** Gross value added (GVA) measures the net activity of each stage of production for key industry sectors and excludes taxes and subsidies and ownership of dwellings. GVA is not the same as output as it also does not include wages and incomes.

**Gross Regional Product (GRP):** Gross Regional Product (GRP) measures only the net activity at each stage of production and is defined as the addition of consumption, investment and government expenditure, plus exports of goods and services, minus imports of goods and services for a region. Note in table 3.3, GRP is presented as GVA plus taxes and subsidies.



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