# Western Downs Profile

Report generated on 12 February 2025.

## Overview

**Total Area:** 37,923 sqkm          **Population:** 34,991          **Major Town:** Dalby

## Demographics

| **Median Age** | **Labour Force Median Age** | **Labour Force Population** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 38 | 42 | 18,398 |

## Vulnerability

| **Homelessness Population** | **Unemployment Rate** | **SEIFA - IRSD** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 121 | 7.1% | 3 |

## Support Payments LGA and State Comparison

| **Rates** | **Western Downs** | **Queensland** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Age Pension | 3,650 | 536,840 |
| Commonwealth Rent Assistance | 2,240 | 337,180 |
| Disability Support Pension | 1,745 | 177,500 |
| Carer Allowance | 1,170 | 139,030 |

## Economy

**Median Income:** $49,717          **Gross Regional Product:** $5,914 Million          **Employed Residents:** 16,394

| **Ranked Industries With Most Value** | **Value ($Million)** | **Ranked Employing Industries** | **No. Employees** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Mining | 3,209 | Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing | 2,685 |
| Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing | 683 | Construction | 2,117 |
| Construction | 260 | Retail Trade | 1,561 |
| Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services | 249 | Health Care and Social Assistance | 1,492 |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 110 | Mining | 1,358 |

## Number of Businesses

| **Small Businesses (<20 employees)** | **Total Businesses** |
| --- | --- |
| 9,984 | 10,180 |

## Disaster History

The following Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements have been declared in since 01 July 2022. For a full list of declarations visit [Disaster Assist](https://www.disasterassist.gov.au/).

| **AGRN** | **Event Name** | **DRFA Category** | **AGDRP** | **DRA** | **Hazard Type(s)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1102 | AGRN 1102 - Tropical Cyclone Kirrily, associated rainfall and flooding (25 January - 26 February 2024)) | AB | N | N | Cyclone |
| 1078 | AGRN 1078 - Southern Queensland Bushfires (8 September - 7 November 2023) | ABCD | Y | Y | Bushfire |
| 1048 | AGRN 1048 - Western Downs Bushfire (30 January - March 2023) | AB | N | N | Bushfire |

## Disaster History Cumulative Payment

The following payments have been made based on disaster events occurring in since 01 July 2022. For a break down of disaster history payment please visit [Data.gov.au](https://data.gov.au/data/dataset/disaster-history-payment-by-lga)

Note – some AGDRP/DRA payment information is aggregated from suburb level to LGA. As such there may be duplication of records as the boundaries of some suburbs may overlap two or more LGAs.

| **Payment** | **Applications Approved (no.)** | **Applications Received (no.)** | **Applications Approved ($)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| New Zealand Disaster recovery payment | < 20 | < 20 | < 20,000 |
| Non Profit Grant | < 20 | < 20 | 89,700 |
| Disaster Recovery Payment | 617 | 2,436 | 726,400 |
| Disaster Recovery Allowance | < 20 | 53 | 67,830.46 |
| Small Business Grants | < 20 | < 20 | 180,516 |
| Primary Producer Loans | < 20 | < 20 | 143,520 |
| Primary Producer Grants | 554 | 656 | 14,337,518 |
| New Zealand disaster recovery allowance | 0 | < 20 | 0 |

## Emergency Response Fund (ERF)

The Emergency Response Fund is an investment fund to maximise the Commonwealth’s capacity to support states and territories responses to major natural disasters into the future.

\*Some program costs are shared amongst multiple LGAs

| **Program** | **Number of Programs** | **Total Commonwealth agreed funding\*** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Flood Recovery and Resilience Program - Queensland $74 million grant | 1 | 7,000,000 |
| Flood Recovery and Resilience Program - Queensland $1 million grant | 1 | 1,000,000 |

### Data Sources

These profiles utilise data from a number of third-party providers, including:

* Services Australia
* State and Territory Governments
* [Regional population, 2021-22 financial year | Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/regional-population/latest-release#data-downloads)
* [DSS Benefit and Payment Recipient Demographics - quarterly data | Datasets | data.gov.au - beta](https://data.gov.au/dataset/ds-dga-cff2ae8a-55e4-47db-a66d-e177fe0ac6a0/details)
* [Estimating Homelessness: Census, 2021 | Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/housing/estimating-homelessness-census/latest-release#data-downloads)
* [Small Area Labour Markets | National Skills Commission](https://www.nationalskillscommission.gov.au/topics/small-area-labour-markets#UpdatedLGAstructure)
* [Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), Australia, 2021 | Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/people-and-communities/socio-economic-indexes-areas-seifa-australia/latest-release#data-downloads)
* [EconomyID](https://economy.id.com.au/)
* [Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, July 2018 - June 2022 | Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/business-indicators/counts-australian-businesses-including-entries-and-exits/latest-release)
* [Regional population by age and sex, 2021 | Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/regional-population-age-and-sex/latest-release#data-downloads)
* [Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, May 2023 | Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/employment-and-unemployment/labour-force-australia-detailed/latest-release)
* [Personal Income in Australia, 2015-16 to 2019-20 | Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/labour/earnings-and-working-conditions/personal-income-australia/latest-release#data-downloads)

The data is maintained by these third-party providers. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this information, no guarantee is given.