

Wagga Wagga Fact Sheet
Introducing Wagga Wagga

City of Wagga Wagga

Telephone: 1300-292-442



Nestled on the banks of the magnificent Murrumbidgee River in southern NSW, Wagga Wagga is a vibrant and cosmopolitan regional city. With more than 60,000 residents and thriving business, sports and arts communities, Wagga Wagga offers the lifestyle and facilities to suit everyone. Read on to find out more about our great city.

What's in a name?

Wagga Wagga's original inhabitants, the Wiradjuri, were the largest Aboriginal tribe in NSW, and it is from their language the City is named. It is most commonly accepted that Wagga means "crow" and repeating it means "crow, crow" – or place of many crows. However contemporary Wiradjuri people often refer to the name as meaning "dancing" or "staggering like a drunken man!"

Facts and figures

Wagga Wagga is the Riverina region's business capital and the largest inland city in NSW. The Wagga Wagga Local Government Area occupies 4,886 sq km and encompasses the City of Wagga Wagga and the villages of Collingullie, Currawarna, Galore, Uranquinty, Mangoplah, Humula, Tarcutta, Ladysmith, and Oura, and surrounding farming districts. More than 90% of residents live in the region's urban areas.

The Wagga Wagga food and wine experience

From the finest regional produce to authentic Italian and Indian cuisine, Wagga's cosmopolitan culture is reflected in a wonderful variety of dining experiences – it's even been referred to as the food bowl of Australia! Choose from dozens of restaurants and styles, from fine dining to teppanyaki! Alfresco dining in cafes is a popular event and Wagga is also home to some top drops, with more than 12 wineries in the region.

The annual *Wagga Wagga Food and Wine Festival*, held in March, brings together local restaurateurs, producers and multicultural groups to showcase their gourmet delicacies and fabulous fine wine. The popular event attracts around 4,000 food and wine lovers for an afternoon of good food, fun and entertainment for everyone in the family!

For the love of art and sport!

Wagga Wagga is renowned for its strong arts community and sporting culture. It is home to two public art galleries, including the acclaimed National Art Glass Gallery, three theatres, two outdoor amphitheatres, two museums and a world-class conservatorium of music. The City has also produced a multitude of national sporting champions in cricket, rugby league, AFL, hockey and netball – such as cricketer Mark Taylor, jockey Scobie Beasley, rugby league legends Arthur Summons and Peter Sterling and Commonwealth Games gold medallist triathlete Brad Kahlefeldt - who are showcased in Wagga's Sporting Hall of Fame.

Our economic outlook

The manufacturing sector is one of the leading contributors to the economy, accounting for approximately \$243.9 million (11.5%) of the total economy in 2006-07. Added to this has been significant development at the Wagga Wagga Campus of Charles Sturt University (the university's largest campus) with a new School of Veterinary Science, a National Wine and Grape Industry Centre and the EH Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation established. Core industries are education and research, defence, manufacturing, and agriculture.

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Regional Australia's city of events

Wagga Wagga supports more than 400 events every year! From the International Millinery Forum and the Annual Wagga Wagga Jazz and Blues Festival, to the magnificent Gold Cup Festival and the quirky and satirical portrait competition known as the Bald Archy Prize, there's always something on. It's not unusual for the City to host national events – Wagga's location, situated mid way between Sydney and Melbourne, makes it easily accessible to more than 75% of Australia's population.

Where to find us

Situated on the Sturt and Olympic Highways, midway between Sydney and Melbourne, Wagga Wagga's location is ideal for keeping in touch with the trends that filter out of Sydney, Melbourne, Canberra and Adelaide. Wagga Wagga is serviced by two airlines – Regional Express and Qantaslink – with more than 148 flights to or from Sydney and Melbourne every week. You can also reach us by bus or train. Distances: Wagga Wagga to: Sydney (458 km); Melbourne (455 km); Canberra (240 km).

An ideal touring base

Wagga Wagga is the ideal base for exploring one of Australia's emerging holiday destinations – the Riverina. An easy day trip in any direction can take you through the extremes of Australia's natural and cultivated environment. To the east rises Mount Kosciuszko in the Snowy Mountains and the alpine towns of Batlow and Tumbarumba. To the west lies Griffith, the heart of NSW's biggest wine producing region. An easy drive out of town takes you to undiscovered gems like Junee, Lockhart and Temora.

The heart of Australia's military training

Wagga Wagga is home to all three of Australia's defence forces – the Australian Army Recruitment Training Facility Kapooka, the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Forest Hill and Royal Australian Navy training facilities. The RAAF Base Wagga is the largest ground training Base in the Air Force, has approximately 1,500 staff, provides aviation trade training to all three military services, and graduates approximately 4,500 trainees per year. At the Kapooka Military Area, approximately 3,500 recruits undertake an intensive training course each year while 1,750 Army Reservists are also trained here annually.

'Culture vulture' trivia – did you know ...

- The Bee Gees wrote "Morning of My Life" at the Wagga Police Boys Club.
- Wagga has also been home to socialist, poet and journalist Dame Mary Gilmore; actor and director Lex Marinos OAM; actor Bill Kerr; radio presenter George Moore; and Australia's first WW II VC Medal holder John Hurst Edmondson.

Want to know more about us?

Contact the Wagga Wagga Visitor Information Centre for friendly advice on planning your Wagga Wagga experience. Phone 1300 100 122 or visit www.visitwaggawagga.com.

For more information, please contact:

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