

# Welcome

## TO THE ORANA REGION

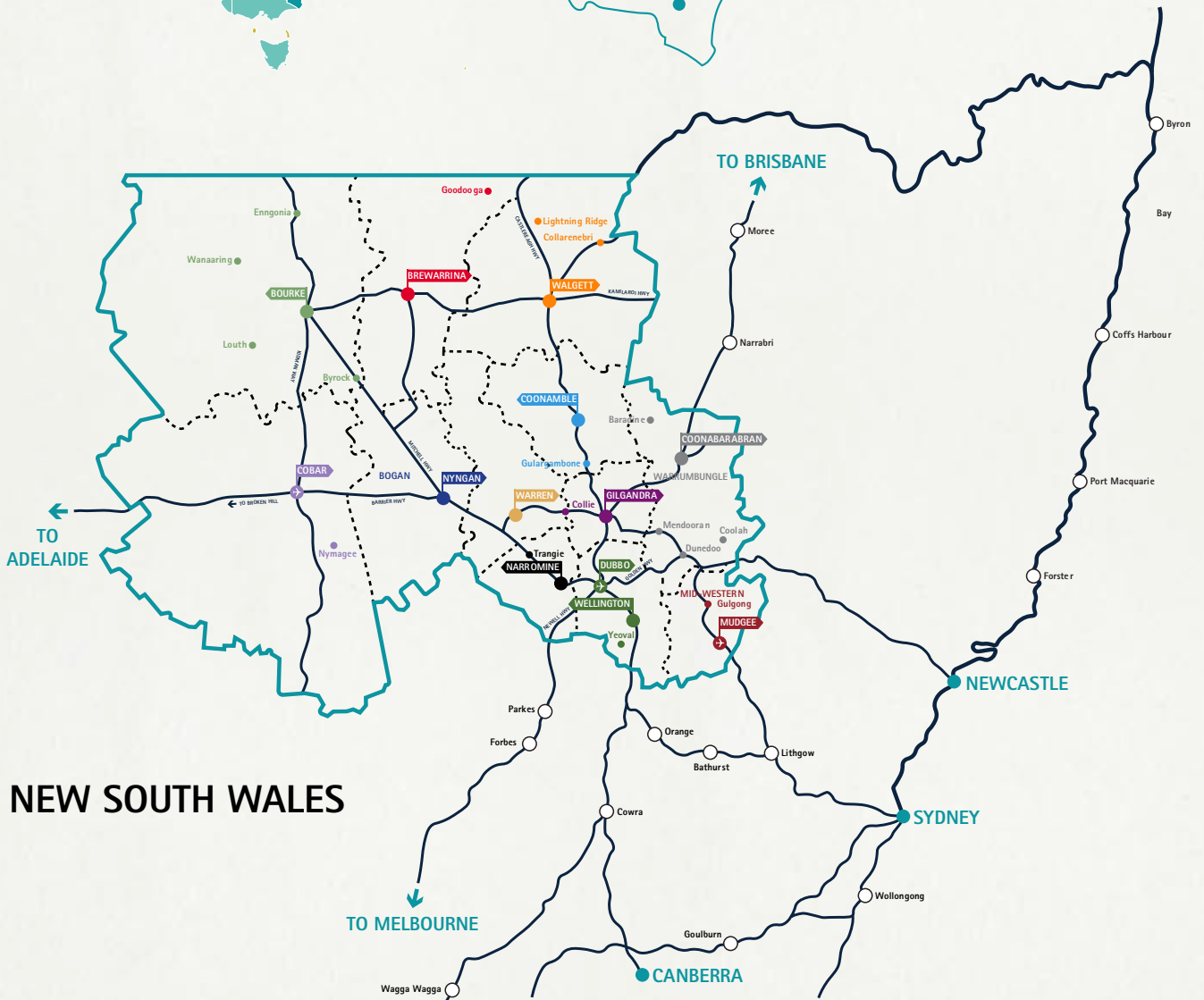


[www.rdaorana.org.au](http://www.rdaorana.org.au)



*Enjoy every moment!*

# Orana Regional Maps



## NEW SOUTH WALES

- |                            |                                |                              |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ● BOGAN SHIRE COUNCIL      | ● COONAMBLE SHIRE COUNCIL      | ● NARROMINE SHIRE COUNCIL    |
| ● BOURKE SHIRE COUNCIL     | ● DUBBO REGIONAL COUNCIL       | ● WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL      |
| ● BREWARRINA SHIRE COUNCIL | ● GILGANDRA SHIRE COUNCIL      | ● WARREN SHIRE COUNCIL       |
| ● COBAR SHIRE COUNCIL      | ● MID-WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL | ● WARRUMBUNGLE SHIRE COUNCIL |



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## COVER PHOTO

Sunil Bhandari and his wife Pratiksha Poudel Bhandari are originally from Nepal. They moved to Sydney then Dubbo six years ago. They are involved in the local Nepalese community and do volunteer work to help others. He works in the food service industry. They have a daughter, Prinsha Bhandari who is aged 3. Zara Faisal and her husband Faisal Manzoor are originally from Pakistan. They have a son, Muhammad Shafin Faisal, who is six years old. Faisal moved to Dubbo late last year and was followed by his family at the beginning of 2020.

They love Dubbo, for the space and the parkland. He works in security, she is in hospitality and Shafin attends Orana Heights Public School.

Photo by Vivid Editorial





# Welcome

## TO THE ORANA REGION

### NOW THAT YOU'RE HOME

Orana means 'welcome' in the Wiradjuri language; whose people were the first inhabitants of the area. Our communities provide the perfect combination of relaxed country living and exciting new opportunities and attractions.

Here in Orana, the skies are blue, and the people are friendly. The region comprises quaint townships full of history and beauty covering an area of 199,000 square kilometres across the central and north western parts of New South Wales – extending from the hilly western slopes of the Warrumbungle Ranges in the east, to the flat plains of Cobar and Bourke in the west, and north to the Queensland border.



One of the region's main assets is our people. The population of more than 120,000 people are welcoming to new residents. You'll be able to create new connections while still being close to friends and family, enjoy an enriched lifestyle, be rewarded with great job opportunities and take advantage of affordable living. Whether you seek to make your mark in business, cheer for your children on the soccer field, or enjoy social days out at the races, the region can provide all of these opportunities and more.





## TOP 12 SIGHTS

- FORT BOURKE HILL LOOKOUT** - Cobar
- BACK O' BOURKE EXHIBITION CENTRE** - Bourke
- FISH TRAPS** - Brewarrina
- BIG BOGAN** - Nyngan
- THE SMALLEST LIBRARY IN NSW** - Quambone
- WELLINGTON CAVES COMPLEX** - Wellington
- ORANA CACTUS WORLD** - Gilgandra
- TARONGA WESTERN PLAINS ZOO** - Dubbo
- MACQUARIE MARSHES** - Warren
- AVIATION MUSEUM** - Narromine
- WINERY TOUR** - Mudgee
- ARTESIAN BORES** - Walgett

## ABOUT RDA ORANA

Regional Development Australia Orana was formed in 2009 and is partially funded through the Federal Government. It is governed and directed by a committee comprising representatives of business, community and government organisations from across the Orana region.

Our vision is to create a regional powerhouse recognised for production, value-adding, linkages and entrepreneurship. The head office of RDA Orana is based in Dubbo.

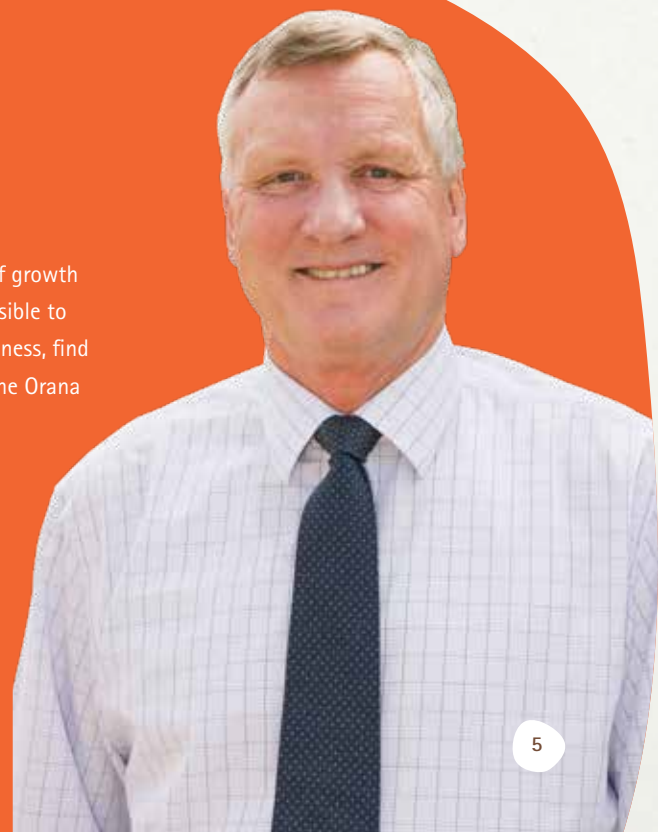


## Welcome from us

Congratulations on choosing to move to the Orana, a region of diversity, of growth and development and a place of innovation and opportunity. Here it is possible to live your dreams and achieve your goals – buy your own home, start a business, find a good school for your children's education. Not only is it all available in the Orana region, but with determination, it is also achievable. We also know how important it is for the region to have the input and insight of our migrant community. It is a workforce strategy of ours, and there are many benefits at a cultural, social, and economic level to have migration as a key proponent of future planning in the Orana region. Welcome!

### Brad Cam

Acting Chairman, RDA Orana Committee





# Events Calendar



AUSTRALIA DAY



WELLINGTON VINTAGE FAIR



WELLINGTON BOOT RACING CARNIVAL



HARTWOOD COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL  
EASTER



MUDGEE MAKERS MARKET



BRE BIG FISH COMPETITION  
BREWARRINA



COONAMBLE RODEO AND CAMPDRAFT



HENRY LAWSON HERITAGE FESTIVAL  
GULGONG



NYNGAN AG EXPO



LOUTH RACES



FLAVOURS OF MUDGEE



COO-EE FESTIVAL - GILGANDRA



STARFEST



DREAM FESTIVAL - DUBBO



FESTIVAL OF THE MINERS' GHOST -  
COBAR



DUNEDOO TUNES ON THE TURF



COTTON CUP - WARREN

# Australian public Holidays

## AUSTRALIA DAY

Australia Day on January 26 is the official national day of Australia. It is marked as an important time to celebrate the nation's diverse population, its history and achievements. It is a public holiday in Australia and ceremonies are held in most towns and cities to honour and bestow awards on deserving citizens. Some communities hold festivals, concerts, sporting matches and parades to mark the occasion.

## ANZAC DAY

ANZAC Day on April 25 is a national day of remembrance in Australia and New Zealand that broadly commemorates all Australians and New Zealanders who have served and died in all wars, conflicts, and peacekeeping operations. General observance of the day includes a dawn ceremony, public marches and remembrance services across the country. It is a public holiday and the only day of the year where the game of two-up is legally recognised in Australia. It is also traditionally a day where shops do not open until midday as a mark of respect.

## NAIDOC WEEK

NAIDOC (National Aboriginal and Islanders Day Observance Committee) Week is an annual celebration of the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia. It is observed annually in July and includes a range of traditional activities such as craft, cooking, concerts and an awards ceremony.

## OTHER PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Other public holidays in Australia include:

- New Year's Day (January)
- Queen's birthday (June)
- Labor Day (October)
- NSW Bank Holiday (August)

Australia also recognises the Christian holidays of Easter (March-April) and Christmas (December).





# Housing



## SHORT TERM ACCOMMODATION

Check newspaper classified advertisements, real estate agents or reputable websites to find rental or shared accommodation. Sometimes, house sitting opportunities also become available if you are willing to look after someone's pets and property in exchange for accommodation.

[www.flatmates.com.au](http://www.flatmates.com.au)

[www.airbnb.com.au](http://www.airbnb.com.au)

[www.couchsurfing.com](http://www.couchsurfing.com)

[www.trustedhousesitters.com](http://www.trustedhousesitters.com)

## SERVICED APARTMENTS

Dubbo and Mudgee both have short and long-term serviced apartments and B&Bs. Some of these are managed by real estate agents, and some by the owners themselves.

## SHARE ACCOMMODATION

Community organisations such as ORISCON in the Dubbo area may help in determining the availability of shared accommodation. These are generally suited to short stays rather than permanent solutions and are most suited to singles.

## HOTELS/MOTELS

Most of the towns in the Orana region have hotels and motels that are suitable for singles, couples, or families for short term stays. Rates are variable and some will have basic cooking facilities, along with shared bathrooms in some instances.

When you decide which accommodation option suits you, call the business and negotiate a price for a long-term stay. While there are many motels in the Orana region, don't leave it to the last minute to book short stay accommodation.

Several towns in the region, especially Bourke, Cobar, Nyngan, and Narromine as well as Dubbo and Mudgee will be fully booked during the week or when there are major events. In the mining towns of Mudgee, Cobar and Nyngan, the itinerant workforce puts significant pressure on short term accommodation options such as motels, hotels, and serviced apartments. Check the following sites for availability:

[www.wotif.com](http://www.wotif.com)

[www.booking.com](http://www.booking.com)

[www.trivago.com.au](http://www.trivago.com.au)

[www.hotels.com](http://www.hotels.com)

## CARAVAN PARKS

Many towns have caravan parks with vans, cabins, and camping options for short or mid-term accommodation facilities with either private or shared amenities. Check with each Council or online accommodation guides for options and more information.

## LONG TERM ACCOMMODATION

Where you decide to make your home will be one of the biggest determining factors for successful settlement in the Orana region. Factors that are important to consider include: proximity to work/schools/supermarkets if you do not have a car, cost, neighbours, size of the house and length of the lease.





## RENTING A PROPERTY

Most rental properties will be listed with a real estate agent while some may be secured privately. You may be required to pay a deposit plus four weeks' rent as a security bond. This is a payment made to the NSW State Government Rental Bond Board. This money will be refunded when your lease finishes, provided the property is left in a suitable condition. You should inspect each premises prior to signing a lease or purchase agreement and ensure all your dealings are documented in writing. More information on this process may be found at [www.service.nsw.gov.au/nswgovdirectory/rental-bond-board-0](http://www.service.nsw.gov.au/nswgovdirectory/rental-bond-board-0)

As a tenant in NSW, your responsibilities include:

- Filling out a condition report
- paying rent on time
- caring for the premises
- paying for any damage caused by you or your guests
- report the need for any repairs or maintenance
- not making alterations or additions without the landlord's permission
- not using the premises for illegal purposes
- not to cause or permit a nuisance
- not to interfere with the peace, comfort or privacy of neighbours
- to give correct written notice when you leave
- to leave the premises in a similar condition to when you rented them, except for normal wear and tear

A list of your rights and responsibilities as a tenant can be found at [www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au)

Employers in the smaller towns understand how difficult accommodation is to source when you first move to an area and will have contacts that may be able to help, or they may have their own staff quarters. Some government roles in remote towns provide accommodation as part of their employment package.

## BUYING A HOME

Most properties for sale are listed by real estate agents and can also be found at [realestate.com.au](http://realestate.com.au) or [domain.com.au](http://domain.com.au). The cost of a home in the Orana region ranges from \$100,000 to upwards of \$1,000,000. It is advisable to seek legal and financial advice before purchasing a property. A bank or similar lender can assist with finance options while a solicitor or conveyancing firm can manage the property negotiation. Most buyers also arrange for building and pest inspection prior to settlement to determine structural soundness. It would also be prudent to contact the local council to determine if there are any factors, such as new developments which may impact the area along with the zoning of that area.

## FINANCE

A bank or similar lender can assist with finance options while a solicitor or conveyancing firm can manage the property negotiation. The big four banks in Australia are the Commonwealth, Westpac, NAB and ANZ. There are also credit unions and money lenders who will be able to negotiate property financing for your very first Australian home.

## COST OF LIVING

The cost of living varies around the region with each town and city. Housing tends to be cheaper in smaller and more remote communities. You can pretty much buy everything you need in the region and we are well serviced by a variety of retailers including Big W, JB HiFi, Myer, Harvey Norman, Bunnings and Mitre 10. There is also a fantastic range of specialty stores and boutiques across the region.

The prices for fuel and groceries also tend to be more costly in these areas due to the expense associated with freight and transport. The cost of education is relative to the type of schooling chosen, with private schooling more expensive than the public system as a rule.

Availability of sporting and cultural activities is relative to each community, with larger centres generally having more access to a range of pursuits.

## BANKING

Opening a bank account with an Australian bank is a simple process if you're migrating, studying or working. If you reside in another country and don't intend to migrate to Australia, you'll need to speak to a local bank who has international ties with a bank in Australia. Those on a tourist or visitor visa can open an Australian bank account by visiting a local branch and providing your passport.

To open a bank account, you just go to the bank of your choice and set up an appointment. A bank teller will give you all the information you need to know to open your account. Necessary documents and information include your passport, address and phone number in Australia and a Tax File Number which needs to be obtained if you intend to work during your stay.

The two main types of accounts are everyday and savings accounts. As mentioned, the big four banks in Australia are Commonwealth, Westpac, NAB and ANZ with a range of other credit unions and banking institutions available.

# Employment

The Orana region offers many job opportunities. The main industries in employment terms are agriculture, mining, construction, health, education, and retail.

If you want to take the next step in your career, explore a new pathway or start your own business, the region presents great opportunities.

There are many other exciting job prospects around these areas:

- automotive and engineering trades
- professionals including design, engineering, science, and transport
- sales workers
- electro-technology and telecommunications trades
- labourers including construction and farm workers
- health
- hospitality
- road and rail drivers





# A GUIDE TO FINDING A JOB IN THE ORANA



## 1. GET TO KNOW YOUR AREA

Just by taking a stroll around the CBD, you will be able to familiarise yourself with the local layout and the types of businesses that populate the area. There might be a lot of cafes, pubs, or other retail outlets. This will also give you an idea of what kinds of jobs are on offer and if you will need to brush up on training to gain employment.

## 2. MATCH YOUR SKILLSET

Do your skills match those required to successfully secure a position? Make a note of areas where you would be able to slot into a business or where you could improve.

## 3. MAKE YOURSELF A SELLABLE PRODUCT

Is your appearance clean and tidy, is your resume and qualifications up to date and do you have current references for potential employers to contact? You will be more appealing as an employee if you are friendly and presentable and have accurate contact details.

## 4. CHECK IN WITH BUSINESSES

When you visit a business, check if the retailer is not too busy serving customers, then you can politely enquire about potential employment opportunities. If they don't have any vacancies, maybe they know someone who does.

## 5. WORD OF MOUTH

Jobs are not always advertised in the media; often it is by word of mouth or a sign in the window. Be prepared to be open-minded to following these options.

## 6. BE PREPARED

There will always be places that are looking for employees, where they are too busy to actively seek out staff, but they need assistance. Make sure you are open to this opportunity. Often employers appreciate someone who shows some initiative.

## 7. JOIN SOCIAL NETWORKS

Sometimes, jobs are promoted via business circles such as LinkedIn or through the local Business Chamber. Develop a profile and make yourself known to business channels or networks.

## 8. JOBS BOARD

Does your adopted town have a board where employment opportunities are offered? It's a good idea to keep an eye on these, possibly even creating a post with your own details.

## 9. ADAPT YOUR RESUME

Whatever position you apply for, make sure your resume reflects the particular details of that job. If the position is a barista, be sure to outline any cafe and catering experience you have had.

## 10. LOOK ONLINE

There are numerous websites geared to finding a job. Put in your search terms and go from there. The following links are a starting point when seeking a job in our region:

[www.seek.com.au](http://www.seek.com.au)  
[www.au.jora.com](http://www.au.jora.com)  
[www.au.indeed.com](http://www.au.indeed.com)  
[www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)



## RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AT WORK

In the workplace, you will need to comply with all laws, policies, procedures, rules and regulations. Be honest and fair in dealing with others and display the appropriate image of professionalism. Wear the required uniform, safety equipment or work clothes, and ensure your appearance is neat and tidy.

If there is a cultural reason to wear a certain item of clothing, discuss this with your manager to ensure that others at work are familiar with your needs.

Treat others in the organisation in a non-discriminatory manner with proper regard for their rights.

Be punctual, polite and maintain and develop the knowledge and skills necessary to carry out duties and responsibilities. Ensure that your work is completed on time and discuss workload and assistance with your manager if issues arise.

Observe health and safety policies and obligations and co-operate with all procedures and initiatives in the interests of work health and safety.

Reporting of accidents and incidents is important so that they are followed up promptly and the correct procedures maintained.

## IMMERSING YOURSELF IN WORKPLACE CULTURE

Aim to be a team player by using co-operation and communication to comply with the needs of your workplace. Follow directives from your supervisor and actively contribute to team discussions and meetings. Try to make your area of the workplace friendly and inviting. Show supportiveness and respect for others and where possible, participate in group bonding activities and outings.

## CULTURAL AWARENESS


Culture is defined as the learned and shared behavior of a community of interacting human beings. People in the workplace all come from a range of different backgrounds and have their own cultural identity which deserves respect and consideration. Cultural competency refers to an ability to interact effectively with people of different cultures.

The four elements of cross-cultural communication are:

1. Awareness of one's own cultural values
2. Awareness and acceptance of cultural differences
3. Development of cultural knowledge
4. Ability to adapt to cultural context

The best rule of thumb is to treat others as you would wish to be treated.





## Dubbo's new 21st Century School

### Looking for a new approach to your child's education?

The Central West Leadership Academy is Dubbo's newest school. Our focus is on 21st Century Skills and preparing our students to take a leadership role in an ever-changing technical world.

### We Create independent Learners for life

The Central West Leadership Academy is Dubbo's newest school. Our focus is on 21st Century Skills and preparing our students to take a leadership role in an ever-changing.

### We coach and develop emotional and social skills

The Central West Leadership Academy is Dubbo's newest school. Our focus is on 21st Century Skills and preparing our students to take a.

**For enquiries or enrolment, please phone 02 6882 4216**







*Bogan*

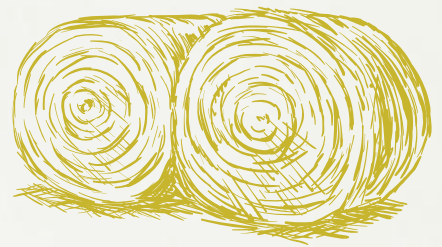
**KNOWN COLLOQUIALLY AS THE 'GATEWAY TO THE OUTBACK', THE TOWNSHIP OF NYNGAN IS THE MAJOR CENTRE OF THE BOGAN SHIRE.**

Spanning approximately 14,610 square kilometres, the Shire also includes the villages of Girilambone, Hermidale and Coolabah and has a total population of just over 3000.

The main waterway is the Bogan River and the Shire has traditionally been one of the state's most productive agricultural areas for wool, cattle and cropping production. In recent years, the local economy has diversified to include mining and renewable energy.

Life in Nyngan and surrounds offers the best of town and country. The farming community is very close-knit and the townspeople enjoy comfortable country living alongside the beauty of the bush. With Nyngan's location at the junction of the Mitchell and Barrier highways, the main access to the Bogan Shire is via road. The Shire is also home to the geographical centre of NSW at the Five Ways intersection.

There is a return bus service operating daily to and from Dubbo connecting with the XPT rail service to Sydney and chartered flights are also available.



SUMMER AVG. 25° - 45°  
WINTER AVG. 3° - 18°



POPULATION 2,689



**TOP 3 INDUSTRIES FOR EMPLOYMENT**

Agriculture / Mining / Health





# Bourke

THE TOWNSHIP OF BOURKE IS PIVOTAL TO THE SHIRE OF THE SAME NAME, WHICH COVERS AN AREA OF 43,000 SQUARE KM IN FAR WEST NSW.

Bordering southern Qld, the Shire has a population of approximately 2600 people and is home to the small villages of Byrock, Enngonia, Fords Bridge, Wanaaring and Louth.

Bourke is on the banks of the Darling River and relies on the pastoral, irrigation, tourism and service industries. The surrounding area is mainly used for sheep farming with some irrigated fruit and cotton crops near the river.

The town is at the crossroads of the Mitchell and Kamilaroi Highways and the Kidman Way.

The distance to Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong is approximately 800km. In driving time, motorists should allow 10 hours. A coach service is available to Dubbo, 360 km away, with connecting train and air services. Flights are available through Airlink to Dubbo for forward connections as well as charter flights.



SUMMER AVG. 25° - 45°  
WINTER AVG. 4° - 22°



POPULATION 2,633



TOP 3 INDUSTRIES FOR  
EMPLOYMENT

Public Administration / Health / Education







# Brewarrina

## THE TOWN OF BREWARRINA IN NORTHERN NSW HAS A PROUD PAST AND A BRIGHT FUTURE.

Situated on the banks of the Barwon River, and home to the Kamilaroi Highway, Brewarrina is steeped in history and has plenty of natural and manmade attractions.

The Brewarrina township has a population of 2000 people and forms the heartbeat of the area, complemented by the villages of Weilmoringle and Goodooga, the hamlet of Gongolgon and the locality of Angeldool. The shire covers an area of 19,000 square kms and borders Queensland to the north and is surrounded by the local government areas of Walgett, Warren, Bogan and Bourke. All major roads in the LGA are sealed and there is a bus service operating to and from Dubbo on selected days, connecting with the XPT rail service to Sydney. Brewarrina Shire Council's vision for the LGA includes building on the economic and social fabric in order to preserve the rich heritage of the area by accepting challenges, having a responsible attitude towards change and working towards sustaining their community.



SUMMER AVG. 25° - 42°  
WINTER AVG. 3° - 19°



POPULATION 1,645



TOP 3 INDUSTRIES FOR  
EMPLOYMENT

Agriculture / Health / Education







**COBAR IS A LIVELY AND ENGAGING COMMUNITY IN THE HEART OF NSW. THE SHIRE'S PROSPERITY IS BUILT AROUND THE THRIVING MINING SECTOR (COPPER, LEAD, SILVER, ZINC, GOLD) AND PASTORAL INDUSTRY, BOTH OF WHICH ARE STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY LOCAL RETAIL AND HEALTH SERVICES.**

Cobar Shire is home to 4,650 people. Most of the population is concentrated in the town of Cobar, which is the service centre for the surrounding district which includes Cubba, Tindarey, Nymagee, Gilgunnia, Eremerang, Euabalong and Mt Hope.

Cobar Shire is situated at the crossroads of the Barrier Highway and the Kidman Way and has excellent road, rail and air links to most of Australia's capital cities. With an area of 45,609 square kilometres, the Shire is approximately two-thirds the size of Tasmania.

The distance from Cobar to Sydney is 750 km, which is an eight-hour journey by car or a two-hour plane trip. A coach service is available to Dubbo, 300 km away, with connecting train and air services, along with chartered flights.



**SUMMER AVG. 24° - 40°  
WINTER AVG. 6° - 17°**



**POPULATION 4,650**



**TOP 3 INDUSTRIES FOR  
EMPLOYMENT**

Mining / Agriculture / Health







# Coonamble

## COONAMBLE IS A DETERMINED AND DYNAMIC TOWNSHIP ON THE BANKS OF THE CASTLEREAGH RIVER.

It lies at the heart of what is a productive agricultural region based on sustainable dryland livestock grazing and cropping industries.

The Coonamble Shire spans almost 10,000 square km from the edge of the Warrumbungle Range, across the Castlereagh Plains to the magnificent Macquarie Marshes. The area is traditionally home to the Wailwan and Gamilaroi people and has a population of 3900.

Just down the road from Coonamble is the town of Gulargambone which has a Wiradjuri heritage and a strong sense of community. Its name in the traditional language means 'watering place of many birds' and a number of bird sculptures in the form of corrugated iron galahs pay homage to this historical element. 'Gular' was also the first place in Australia to have a community-owned post office.

The village of Quambone is a charming place which has two quaint churches, a general store, hotel/motel, tennis courts, swimming pool, school and library. The localities of Combara, Gilgooma and Wingadee are also situated in the Coonamble Shire.



SUMMER AVG. 24° - 39°  
WINTER AVG. 4° - 19°



POPULATION 3,919



TOP 3 INDUSTRIES FOR EMPLOYMENT

Agriculture / Health / Education





# Dubbo Region



**THE DUBBO REGION OFFERS DIVERSITY AND OPPORTUNITY, COMBINING THE ATTRIBUTES OF A LARGER CENTRE WITH THE FAMILIARITY AND GENEROSITY OF SPIRIT TYPICAL OF RURAL COMMUNITIES IN REGIONAL NSW.**

The Dubbo Regional Council area consists of the city of Dubbo, the township of Wellington and the villages of Geurie, Wongarbon, Ballimore, Eumungerie, Mumbil, Euchareena, Stuart Town, Mogriguy, Elong Elong, Brocklehurst, Gollan and Goolma.

Geographically located in the heart of NSW, the region spans 7,500 square kilometres and boasts a growing population of more than 50,000 people.

Dubbo is ideally located at the intersection of the Mitchell, Newell and Golden highways, offering excellent routes for road transport. Regular flights operate from Dubbo City Regional Airport to Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Newcastle, Ballina and Canberra as well as other regional centres such as Bourke, Walgett and Broken Hill. A major passenger rail and bus network also offers daily links to Orange, Bathurst and Sydney.

The Dubbo Region has excellent wireless broadband services, assisting individuals and businesses with high speed internet access and information technologies.

From festivals and fun runs to rodeos and race meetings, there is literally something for everyone in the Dubbo region.

Stuart Town hosts the annual Man from Ironbark Festival, Wellington has its Boot Carnival and Dubbo is home to the DREAM festival. There's also the WestWordsFest writers' festival, Mumbil Black Wattle Fair, Dubbo Stampede, Wellington Springfest, Mt Arthur Challenge, Geurie Rodeo and agricultural shows in Dubbo, Yeoval and Wellington.



SUMMER AVG. 21° - 38°  
WINTER AVG. 3° - 18°



POPULATION 50,075



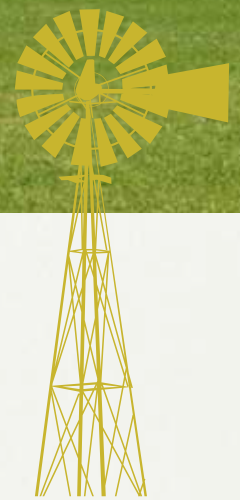
TOP 3 INDUSTRIES FOR  
EMPLOYMENT

Health / Retail / Education





# Gilgandra



**LOCATED AT THE JUNCTION OF THE NEWELL, OXLEY AND CASTLEREAGH HIGHWAYS, GILGANDRA IS APPROXIMATELY HALFWAY BETWEEN BRISBANE AND MELBOURNE.**

The town of windmills, Gilgandra is a farming community built on the banks of the Castlereagh River. Located at the junction of the Newell, Oxley and Castlereagh Highways, Gilgandra is approximately halfway between Brisbane and Melbourne.

The name is Aboriginal for long water hole, and Gilgandra was traditionally a meeting place between the Wiradjuri, Kamilaroi and Wailwan nations. Historically, it is also known for the famous Coo-ee March of 1915 when men from the Central West formed to volunteer their services in World War I. Swelling from 35 to 263 marchers, it became known as the most successful recruitment campaign of its kind.

The region covers a geographic area of 4800km, and the population of Gilgandra Shire is 4200, with 3129 living in Gilgandra township. Other villages are Tooraweenah located at the southern entrance to the Warrumbungle National Park and Armatree in the north of the Shire.

Gilgandra is just 65km north of Dubbo, with Sydney a distance of 450km. A coach service is available from Gilgandra daily, with travel to and from Dubbo, Lightning Ridge, Walgett and Coonamble.

Gilgandra's aerodrome is available for chartered flights and regular commercial travel can be made from Dubbo to Canberra, Sydney, Brisbane, Newcastle, Melbourne and Broken Hill. The XPT train service also links passengers to Sydney from Dubbo.



SUMMER AVG. 24° - 33°

WINTER AVG. 5° - 16°



POPULATION 4,234



**TOP 3 INDUSTRIES FOR EMPLOYMENT**

Agriculture / Health / Education



# Mid-Western Region

## THE MID-WESTERN REGION HAS A STRONG AND DIVERSE ECONOMIC BASE, PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUTURE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH.

The district is home to approximately 24,079 people with most of the population residing in the regional centre of Mudgee and the outlying townships of Gulgong, Kandos and Rylstone.

With a population of 10,920, Mudgee has some beautiful historic buildings, a vibrant café culture, market days and a thriving arts community. The surrounding area is home to a vast array of wineries nestled in the picturesque countryside. There are a range of employment opportunities within the booming mining and renewable energy sectors within the Mid-Western region.

Nearby Gulgong is known as the 'Ten Dollar Town' as it featured on the original \$10 banknote, along with iconic Australian son Henry Lawson. With a population of 2521, it is a town steeped in history and walking its main street is like stepping back in time. Historically, it is renowned for its gold mining traditions.

The Rylstone area dates from the 1820s and was originally called Dabee. It is home to 644 people and features many fine buildings constructed from the local sandstone. It is fast becoming known for its wineries, olive estates and gourmet foods. The town is also a gateway to the World Heritage-listed Wollemi National Park to the east and the scenic Capertee Valley to the south.

Kandos is located at the northern entrance to the Capertee Valley and on the western edge of the Blue Mountains. The town was established in 1913, when the New South Wales Cement Lime and Coal Company was set up to take advantage of local supplies of limestone, and currently has a population of 1261.

The Mid-Western Region covers more than 9000 square km and stretches from the Wollemi National Park in the east to Lake Burrendong in the west and from the Goulburn National Park in the north to the Macquarie and Turon Rivers in the south.



SUMMER AVG. 15° - 30°

WINTER AVG. 2° - 17°



POPULATION 24,079



TOP 3 INDUSTRIES FOR  
EMPLOYMENT

Mining / Retail / Health





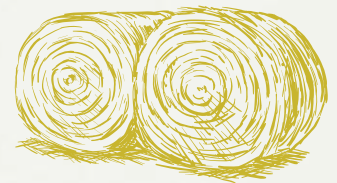
# Narromine

## NARROMINE IS A FAMILY FOCUSED SHIRE WITH A STRONG SENSE OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT.

Opportunities for investment and employment are driven by a growing mineral resource industry and extensive agricultural sector.

Nestled on the banks of the Macquarie River, Narromine offers space, freedom and climate. Narromine Shire is home to a population of 6872 centred around Narromine and the outlying towns of Trangie and Tomingley.

The Shire is renowned as a quality grain producing region and is home to a number of large businesses, including international plant breeding and seed production companies and a large machinery manufacturer. The main industry in Trangie is agriculture, mainly cotton production while mineral exploration and production is prominent in Tomingley.



SUMMER AVG. 23° - 38°

WINTER AVG. 5° - 18°



POPULATION 6,444



## TOP 3 INDUSTRIES FOR EMPLOYMENT

Agriculture / Education / Health





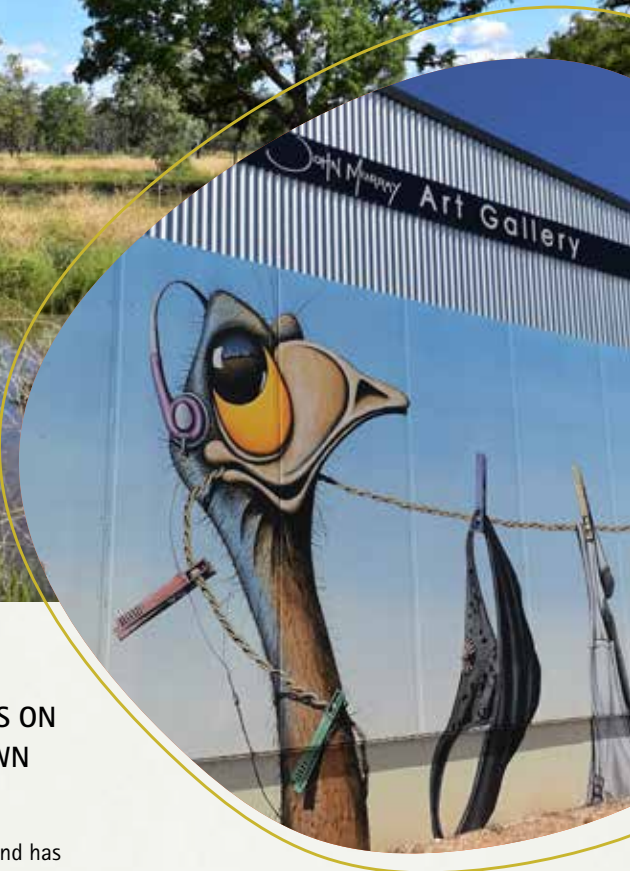
# Walgett

**WALGETT SHIRE COVERS AN AREA OF 22,000 SQUARE KILOMETRES ON THE BLACK SOIL PLAINS OF NORTH-WEST NSW AND IS BEST KNOWN FOR ITS AGRICULTURE, OPAL MINING AND TOURISM INDUSTRIES.**

The township of Walgett on the Namoi River is the administrative centre of the shire and has a population of 2148. Approximately an hour's drive away, Lightning Ridge is famous for its opal fields and boasts 2282 residents. Nearby Collarenebri has a population of 654 and is a farming and fossicking district on the banks of the Barwon River. Burren Junction, population 276, is popular with tourists for its hot mineral springs. Other villages in the area include Carinda, Rowena, Cumborah, Cryon, Come by Chance, Grawin, Glengarry, Pokataroo and Sheepyards.

Walgett Shire has all the ingredients for a great country lifestyle – the community is friendly and relaxed, there is minimal traffic and a range of recreational and sporting activities is on offer. It is also very multicultural and there are more than 50 nationalities around the Lightning Ridge area. Walgett is located 277 km, or a three-hour drive from Dubbo. Return daily flights to Sydney are available along with bus and rail options. Flights are also available to Dubbo for connections to other major centres in Australia.

Walgett Shire is accessible by road and is intersected by the Castlereagh and Kamilaroi Highways.



SUMMER AVG. 24° - 40°

WINTER AVG. 3° - 20°



POPULATION 6,122



**TOP 3 INDUSTRIES FOR EMPLOYMENT**

Agriculture / Education / Health







# Warren

## WARREN IS A SAFE AND FRIENDLY RURAL COMMUNITY PROVIDING A RANGE OF SERVICES AND AMENITIES FOR ITS RESIDENTS.

Offering a comfortable, affordable and relaxed lifestyle, Warren provides the perfect base for family, business and social interests.

There are great environmental attractions including the Macquarie Marshes, Macquarie River and Tiger Bay Wetlands on your doorstep; a safe and clean environment and plenty of time and facilities for recreation and relaxation.

It is a place where you can spend less time commuting and have more time for you and your family to live your dream lifestyle.

The Warren region is within easy reach of Dubbo and takes in the township of Warren and villages of Collie and Nevertire. The population is approximately 2,900 people and covers an area of approximately 10,763 square km.

The Warren Shire is located 540km north-west of Sydney and 120km from Dubbo. Collie is located approximately 50km from Warren on the Oxley Highway and Nevertire is located 19km from Warren on the Oxley and Mitchell Highways.

The Warren region is a perfect base for family or business; an ideal location to live, work and to raise a family in close proximity to the nearby regional centre of Dubbo.

There is also the opportunity to participate in a variety of sports, from bike riding to polocrosse and more.



SUMMER AVG. 18° - 33°

WINTER AVG. 2° - 16°



POPULATION 2,730



## TOP 3 INDUSTRIES FOR EMPLOYMENT

Agriculture / Retail / Public Administration



# Warrumbungle



**CRISSCROSSED BY THE NEWELL, OXLEY, CASTLEREAGH AND GOLDEN HIGHWAYS, WARRUMBUNGLE SHIRE SPANS AN AREA OF 12,380 SQUARE KILOMETRES.**

The Shire has a total population of 9380 and this encompasses the townships of Coonabarabran, Baradine, Binnaway, Mendooran, Coolah and Dunedoo.

Although agriculture is the primary industry in the Warrumbungle area, the tourism industry also plays a very important role as it has major attractions in the shire.

The huge draw card is the Dark Sky Park - the official classification for Warrumbungle National Park for being the best place to view stars - Australia's first and only Dark Sky Park. And Coonabarabran is lucky to have this at their doorstep, along with Siding Spring Observatory, Australia's largest optical telescope.

Warrumbungle Region is the adventure and nature-lovers' heaven. Not only does this region have wide open spaces, big skies, and fresh air, there are three unique National Parks in the region - Warrumbungle National Park, Pilliga State Forest, and Coolah Tops National Park, all with breathtaking views, hiking trails for varying levels, look outs, and camp grounds available. The region is also blessed to have an ample variety of birds, with bird routes throughout for the keen twitcher.

It is both the traditional land of the Kamilaroi people and the Wiradjuri nation, and the area has strong Aboriginal heritage with many sacred sites.

As the administrative centre of the Shire, Coonabarabran has a population of 2537. It is the astronomy capital of Australia and home to Siding Springs, Australia's largest optical telescope research facility. Nearby Baradine is located on the edge of the Pilliga Forest and is home to 760 people. It is a small rural community which was built on the thriving forestry industry of the 1930s. The streetscape and architecture of the area reflects an era of relative prosperity, with colonial and Art Deco buildings.



SUMMER AVG. 12° - 38°

WINTER AVG. 0° - 17°



POPULATION 9,380



TOP 3 INDUSTRIES FOR EMPLOYMENT

Agriculture / Education / Health

# Health



AUSTRALIA HAS A NATIONAL HEALTH SYSTEM CALLED MEDICARE. THIS SYSTEM AIMS TO PROVIDE CARE ACROSS THE POPULATION.

It is funded by a levy on taxable income and is automatically deducted from the pay of Australian citizens. As a temporary visa holder, you may not be eligible for Medicare until you become a permanent resident. This means that you will be responsible for your own health care costs which range from doctor's visits to hospital stays and maternity services. Routine visits to the GP are usually cost effective. However, where hospital treatment or emergency surgery is required, costs can quickly escalate.

For migrants, Australia has reciprocal health care agreements with Belgium, Finland, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Ireland, Slovenia, Sweden and the United Kingdom. These agreements are subject to variations.

The health industry is a major employer in the Orana, which has benefited from government funding and private investment. There is a range of services available in terms of emergency, chronic health care, aged care, mental health and specialist treatment.

In the larger centres such as Mudgee and Dubbo, there are private health centres, public hospitals and various other providers. The smaller centres tend to have multi-purpose health service and aged care facilities to cater for the ageing population.





## HOSPITALS

All Local Government Areas in the Orana region have a Multi-Purpose Health Service which provides public access to emergency care as well as other services. Nyngan, Bourke, Gilgandra, Coonabarabran, Brewarrina, Coonamble, Warren and Walgett all have an emergency department, maintenance renal dialysis and a nursing home care unit. Cobar has an emergency department and dialysis while Wellington, Gulgong, Rylstone, Narromine, Trangie, Lightning Ridge, Collarenebri, Coolah, Dunedoo and Barradine all have emergency departments and nursing facilities. Mudgee Hospital has emergency and dialysis along with oncology and obstetric services and has recently received largescale upgrades to include operating theatres and a CT Scanner.

Dubbo Hospital offers dialysis, alcohol and drug treatment, coronary and diabetes care, intensive care, emergency department, obstetrics, oncology, paediatrics, neonatal, day surgery and a psychiatric unit. Dubbo Private Hospital is a major private hospital staffed by a number of local and visiting specialists providing care for breast surgery, cardiology, dental surgery, ear, nose and throat surgery (ENT), endoscopy, gastroenterology, gynaecology, infusion services, oncology, ophthalmic surgery, orthopaedic surgery, oral maxillofacial surgery, paediatrics, sleep studies, thyroid surgery and urology.

## PHARMACIES

Local pharmacies also have registered health care providers and may be able to provide advice and assistance including medicine audits, vaccinations and other services.

Most towns in the Orana region have a pharmacy, including Nyngan, Bourke, Wellington, Brewarrina, Cobar, Coonamble, Dubbo, Gilgandra, Mudgee, Narromine, Warren and Coonabarabran.



## DENTAL CARE

Dental services are available across the region in most of the towns while the major centres such as Dubbo have access to orthodontic and specialist work.

## OPPORTUNITIES

Many medical professionals are choosing to relocate to the region, including those from overseas. There are many opportunities available in the fields of nursing, medical professionals and additional care services.

### Organisations include:

- **Marathon Health** [www.marathonhealth.com.au](http://www.marathonhealth.com.au)
- **Western NSW Local Health**  
[www.wnswlhd.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.wnswlhd.health.nsw.gov.au)
- **Catholic Healthcare** [www.catholichealthcare.com.au](http://www.catholichealthcare.com.au)
- **Macquarie Women's Health**  
[www.macquariewomenshealth.com.au](http://www.macquariewomenshealth.com.au)
- **Burnside** [www.uniting.org/about-us/burnside](http://www.uniting.org/about-us/burnside)
- **Centacare** [www.centacare.org.au](http://www.centacare.org.au)



# Education



AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLING BEGINS FOR CHILDREN AT APPROXIMATELY THREE YEARS OF AGE WITH PRESCHOOL. THIS IS NOT COMPULSORY BUT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED TO BEGIN THEIR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION 2-3 DAYS PER WEEK. A STANDARD SCHOOL DAY RUNS FROM 9AM TO 3PM WITH SOME MINOR VARIATIONS.

The school year in Australia is divided into four terms, beginning at the end of January and running until mid-December.

The end of term one usually coincides with the Easter break in April, which is followed by two-week holidays in July and October before a six-week break at the end of the year.

Children progress from preschool to Kindergarten at approximately five years of age which is followed by Primary School where they have a single teacher for the entire year. In some schools, there are also composite classes, depending on student and teacher numbers.

High School begins at age 12 and is based on a set curriculum, with each subject taught by a specialist teacher. Students generally move from class to class at the end of each subject session.

From Year 8, students can choose electives alongside their compulsory subjects.

Senior high school begins in Year 11 and is composed of mainly electives alongside some compulsory subjects such as English.

Subjects are governed by the NSW Board of Studies and examinations and assessments throughout the final years of school are combined to give a Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) which will be used towards further education.

The Australian Higher Education System is based around the Australian Qualifications Frameworks (AQF) which regulates the quality of tertiary qualifications across the country. [www.aqf.edu.au](http://www.aqf.edu.au)







## PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLING

There is a variety of private and public education facilities and providers across the Orana region. These range from early childhood centres through to university campuses as well as government and private institutions, giving people of all ages an opportunity for educational advancement.

The scope of different educational opportunities and the convenience of location is what gives the Orana region an edge. Parents can enrol their children at good schools and universities at an affordable rate, without leaving the region. There are also excellent study options for anyone who wishes to retrain or learn new skills and information.

Public schools are fully government funded while private schools are partly government funded with the balance funded by school fees.

Public schools are generally non-denominational with small amounts of religious education provided. Private schools in the region are predominantly Christian based so enrolled children will be taught a curriculum that includes the faith of that school.

NSW public schools have defined local enrolment areas, meaning that every child is entitled to enrol in a particular school based on his or her residential address. Every public school reserves enough places within their school for students in their local enrolment area. For more information, check the Department of Education website on [www.data.cese.nsw.gov.au](http://www.data.cese.nsw.gov.au)

All schools in the Orana region have a compulsory school uniform which may be purchased from the individual school or from other retailers throughout the region.

The My School website provides some base data regarding the performance of individual schools against other factors such as attendance and completion rates. [www.myschool.edu.au](http://www.myschool.edu.au)

Further education options in the Orana region include vocational training through TAFE and private training providers or university qualifications through the Charles Sturt University campus in Dubbo or via distance education.

## ENROLMENT

After doing research, plan to visit the schools in the town you wish to live in to discuss the options available with administration staff.

For all schools, the type of information you will need to provide will include:

- Birth Certificate and passport – in English
- Visa documentation
- Immunisation certificates – Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Whooping Cough, Polio, Chicken Pox and Tetanus are recommended for children in Australia
- Current court orders if applicable
- Relevant medical and/or special needs information if applicable
- Recent reports for any assessments your child has undergone for issues that may impact their learning
- Recent school reports if your child is to be enrolled in any class other than Kindergarten
- Sacramental certificates if applicable

If you decide to enrol your child/children at a public school, the NSW Department of Education provides extensive information on the NSW Education system and the requirements for the children of overseas parents at [www.deinternational.nsw.edu.au/study-options/study-programs/temporary-residents](http://www.deinternational.nsw.edu.au/study-options/study-programs/temporary-residents)

If you decide to enrol your child in a private school, the school will be able to provide details relating to costs and requirements. The cost of private education varies from school to school. In the public system, school fees are calculated according to visa type.

In most towns in the region there will be one or more Catholic Primary or Primary-Year12 schools. Dubbo provides several options for private education for other faiths.

- Orana Region Catholic Schools come under the Bathurst Education Office or the Wilcannia Forbes Education Office (Trangie, Warren, Narromine, Mudgee, Nyngan, Cobar, Bourke, Brewarrina) [www.bth.catholic.edu.au/Community--Schools](http://www.bth.catholic.edu.au/Community--Schools)
- Macquarie Anglican Grammar School [www.mags.nsw.edu.au](http://www.mags.nsw.edu.au)
- Dubbo Christian School [www.dubbocs.edu.au](http://www.dubbocs.edu.au)
- Burrabadine Christian Community School [www.bccs.cornerstone.edu.au/](http://www.bccs.cornerstone.edu.au/)
- Central West Leadership Academy [www.theacademy.nsw.edu.au](http://www.theacademy.nsw.edu.au)
- Dubbo West Primary and Dubbo College Delroy Campus offer a Gifted and Talented program for students in the public system by application and a competitive process.

## CHILD CARE FOR WORKING PARENTS

The Australian Day Care system is highly regulated in terms of who may provide care, their backgrounds and the number of children each person is able to look after at any one time.

Long Day Care – is the most common choice for parents with preschool aged children. Day care centres vary in their opening hours, though 7am –6pm is a common arrangement. These centres offer combined preschool/day care programs

Family Day Care – offers a home-based care program with smaller numbers and generally shorter hours available.

Preschools – offer a formal education program to ready children for formal schooling. This option is generally available from 9am-3pm during school terms only.

After school or vacation care – is provided by a number of organisations to cover any gap between school finishing and the end of the working day.

The education system in NSW is regularly upgraded to keep improving the standard of learning for students. Educators are working to enhance outcomes for all students, to improve teaching quality, to innovate for the future and to work more effectively. Key components are learning for the future, multicultural education, rural and distance education, cross-curricular, preschool, literacy and numeracy, career learning and vocational training.



# Industry profile

THE ORANA REGION HAS A DIVERSE INDUSTRY BASE, RICH HISTORY, UNIQUE GEOGRAPHY AND MANY BEAUTIFUL NATURAL ASSETS. IT IS RICH IN RESOURCES, WITH A HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR PROVIDING FOOD, WINE AND FIBRE TO GLOBAL MARKETS. FROM BLACK OPALS TO FINE RED WINES, RENEWABLE ENERGY AND TOURISM, THERE ARE MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR LIFESTYLE AND INVESTMENT.



Diversity is the driver of the region's economic strength. Bogan and Cobar shires are dominated by mining, Bourke and Brewarrina by agriculture, education and public administration, Coonamble, Gilgandra, Narromine, Walgett, Warren and Warrumbungle Shires are predominantly agricultural, Mid-Western LGA is known for coal mining, and Dubbo for health & community, finance & insurance and education.

High-level commercial, residential, cultural and industrial services are in Dubbo, Orana's only regional city. Other smaller towns and villages rely primarily on agribusiness and are also reliant on the services and facilities provided in Dubbo.



## MINING

Mineral deposits are rich in the Orana region and it is home to a thriving mining sector. Coal is the largest export earner for the mining industry in the Orana region, followed by non-ferrous metals such as gold, silver and copper.

Rare earths such as zirconium, scandium and niobium are growing in demand through their use in high-tech products such as pacemakers, smartphones, wind turbines, and electric car batteries.

| MINING           | INDUSTRY TOTAL      | ANNUAL GROWTH RATE |
|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Employment       | 3,353 Jobs          | 7.1%               |
| Output           | \$3,714.024 million | 12.2%              |
| Wages & Salaries | \$417.095 million   | 5.4%               |

## AGRICULTURE

The agricultural industry in Orana forms the backbone of the local community. Agricultural production is diverse and includes irrigated cotton, grains, cereals, as well as extensive areas of dryland cropping and livestock grazing including beef, sheep and wool. The industry supports an extensive value chain including major livestock centres in Dubbo, transport, logistics and intermodal transport hubs, cotton gins, canneries, packing and processing. The region includes the Macquarie irrigation area that supports significant cotton, export lucerne and horticulture industries.

| AGRICULTURE      | INDUSTRY TOTAL      | ANNUAL GROWTH RATE |
|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Employment       | 6,711 Jobs          | 4.8%               |
| Output           | \$2,283.304 million | 13.3%              |
| Wages & Salaries | \$171.020 million   | 8.8%               |

## EDUCATION

The education sector in the Orana region has experienced a steady growth and is the fourth largest employer. This growth can be attributed to increasing population that has resulted in development of more educational and training infrastructure.

| EDUCATION        | INDUSTRY TOTAL    | ANNUAL GROWTH RATE |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Employment       | 4,811 Jobs        | 3.5%               |
| Output           | \$683.549 million | 8.0%               |
| Wages & Salaries | \$438.785 million | 7.6%               |

## TRANSPORT

Transport is another strong sector, with the Orana region linked by road, rail and air connections. The transport industry provides a service to primary industries in the region such as mining and agriculture, which support freight movers with their products. The industry also supports secondary industries such as manufacturing.

| TRANSPORT        | INDUSTRY TOTAL    | ANNUAL GROWTH RATE |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Employment       | 1,694 Jobs        | 2.3%               |
| Output           | \$474.860 million | 1.8%               |
| Wages & Salaries | \$114.690 million | 1.2%               |



## CONSTRUCTION

The construction industry is a significant driver of economic activity in Australia and forms the nation's third largest industry. With the presence of new businesses, regional investment and population expansion, there is a strong demand for additional infrastructure and services in regional areas. This has extended to renewable energy and housing construction to accommodate increasing needs in the Orana region. The Orana's booming construction industry both boosts the economy and drives further growth.

| CONSTRUCTION     | INDUSTRY TOTAL      | ANNUAL GROWTH RATE |
|------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Employment       | 3,668 Jobs          | 15.0%              |
| Output           | \$1,767.222 million | 15.1%              |
| Wages & Salaries | \$283.120 million   | 19.0%              |

## HEALTHCARE

Health care and social assistance services are in increasing demand across regional Australia, including the Orana region. These services are important for the wellbeing and quality of life of people and support the region's economic development. Roles in the health care and social assistance sector are a mix of private and public jobs.

Traditionally the public sector provided the foundation of health services in the region; the private sector is increasingly playing a role in both health care and social assistance, particularly in response to changing consumer expectations.

| HEALTHCARE       | INDUSTRY TOTAL    | ANNUAL GROWTH RATE |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Employment       | 6,672 Jobs        | 7.1%               |
| Output           | \$893.621 million | 12.2%              |
| Wages & Salaries | \$530.142 million | 6.9%               |

## TOURISM

The tourism sector is currently a solid contributor to the Orana region's economy, particularly in terms of employment. The Orana region is a popular tourist destination and visitation is a mix of holiday, business and visiting relatives and friends.

| TOURISM          | INDUSTRY TOTAL    | ANNUAL GROWTH RATE |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Employment       | 3,249 Jobs        | 15.6%              |
| Output           | \$620.873 million | 17.4%              |
| Wages & Salaries | \$160.597 million | 18.2%              |

FOR LISTINGS OF  
CURRENT PROJECTS AND  
OPPORTUNITIES IN THE  
REGION, HEAD TO OUR  
WEBSITE

[www.rdaorana.org.au](http://www.rdaorana.org.au)



# Driving in Australia



AUSTRALIANS DRIVE ON THE LEFT-HAND SIDE OF THE ROAD AND USE THE METRIC SYSTEM TO MEASURE DISTANCE AND SPEED. STANDARD VEHICLES ARE RIGHT-HAND DRIVE AND FEATURE EITHER MANUAL OR AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSIONS.

The Orana region covers 25 per cent of NSW and includes some isolated and remote communities so driving in this area can be a hazardous task. Some of the issues to watch out for include unsealed roads, changing conditions and wildlife on the road. Many accidents occur at night due to driver fatigue, and the presence of native animals which become more active in the evenings. The road network varies greatly in type, surface and the provision of services so there are often very long distances between towns with access to fuel, water and food.

## FUEL

The majority of cars in Australia run on Unleaded Petrol (ULP). Some vehicles (especially 4WDs and trucks) use diesel fuel.

Even on major regional roads, service stations and roadhouses may close overnight. If you are planning a long drive at night, make sure you plan ahead and know when and where you are going to get fuel. Almost all service stations are self-serve.





## LICENCING

All drivers must have a valid driver's licence. Foreigners with an English language driver's licence can drive for three months and then apply for an Australian licence. If your licence is not in English, you need to get an International Driving Permit or carry an English translation. If you become a permanent Australian resident or hold a permanent visa under the Commonwealth Migration Act 1958, and you intend to stay in NSW, you are not considered to be a visitor. If you do not hold permanent Australian residency, but will be in NSW for more than three months, you can apply for a Temporary Overseas Visitor licence.

## SAFETY

Australia has a consistent set of road rules with four main target areas of enforcement: speeding, drink driving, not wearing a seat belt and mobile phone use while driving. There are often double demerit periods operating during busy times.

Speed limits are clearly signposted in most areas. A default 50km/h speed limit applies in urban areas and school zones have a 40km/h limit during school hours. On some of the main roads in urban areas, a 60 km/h limit applies. Out of town, there is generally a 100 km/h speed limit, although some highways are 110 km/h. Speed cameras are used across NSW.

The blood alcohol limit is 0.05 per cent for full licence holders with a limit of zero for learner and provisional drivers. Police conduct roadside alcohol and drug testing and anyone caught driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be fined and suspended from driving. Refusing a random breath test is also an offence.

Seat belts must be worn by all vehicle occupants. Children and babies must be restrained in an approved safety harness, capsule or booster seat. Seat belt laws are strictly enforced, and the onus is on the driver to ensure all passengers are buckled up. Passengers 16 and over not wearing a seat belt will be fined along with the driver if caught.

Mobile phone use is an offence while driving. Please ensure you have a hands-free kit installed in your vehicle to avoid being fined.



## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The scope and availability of public transport varies across the Orana region. Most areas are accessible by coach services, including Dubbo, Wellington, Walgett, Mudgee, Warrumbungles, Bourke, Narromine, Cobar, Brewarrina, Nyngan, Gilgandra, Coonamble and Warren. Taxis are available in Dubbo, Wellington, Narromine, Gilgandra, Cobar, Bourke and Mudgee.

Flights can be made from Cobar, Nyngan, Dubbo, Mudgee, Bourke, Gilgandra, Walgett and Narromine. These range from chartered to commercial services.

For more on public transport please see [www.transportnsw.info/regional](http://www.transportnsw.info/regional)

For bus companies please see [www.buslinesgroup.com.au/dubbo](http://www.buslinesgroup.com.au/dubbo)

For taxis please contact 131008 or see [www.131008.com](http://www.131008.com)

## ACCIDENTS

If you have an accident while driving, it is important to notify emergency services by calling Triple 0. The police will need to be advised in order to deal with any legal aspects of the accident such as insurance claims and who was at fault. If someone is injured, you will need to call an ambulance.

The driver of any vehicle involved in an accident is legally required to stop and render assistance to others. There are penalties for leaving an accident scene. Anyone rendering first aid in good faith in Australia is protected by law and not at risk of legal action.

If you are visiting from overseas, or you've recently moved here permanently, make sure that you are driving legally and safely. For all information relating to obtaining a driver's licence or checking your overseas licence go to

[www.service.nsw.gov.au/services/driving-and-transport/driver-and-rider-licences/nsw-driver-licence](http://www.service.nsw.gov.au/services/driving-and-transport/driver-and-rider-licences/nsw-driver-licence)

You will also use this website to register your vehicle.



# Lifestyle and culture



## COMMUNITY FESTIVALS

The Orana region has a range of events celebrating bush life, our literary history and rich cultural fabric.

These include The Man from Ironbark Festival at Stuart Town, celebrating the work of Banjo Patterson, the Henry Lawson Festival at Gulgong, Westwordsfest and DREAM Festival in Dubbo. Flavours of Mudgee, the Cob Loaf Festival in Wellington, Riverfest Barbecue and Beers, Beers to the Bush and the Gluttony dessert night, all in Dubbo, celebrate our food and flavours.

The Festival of the Miner's Ghost in Cobar, Gilgandra's Coo-ee Festival, the Potch Queen Festival in Lightning Ridge and StarFest in Coonabarabran also showcase industry and community.

## CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

While Orana is well-known for being a sports-loving region, there is also a broad range of cultural events and experiences which have shaped our identity. Many home-grown festivals and events have drawn inspiration from the produce and history of our region.

Events held in the region include food and wine festivals and markets, music and dance festivals and agricultural community events.

Each local area has its own character and their events often reflect that heritage.







## AGRICULTURAL SHOWS

- Agricultural shows have a long history and are a pivotal aspect of country life in many communities, signifying the essence of rural living. They are an annual event where farmers showcase their livestock and produce and there are also displays of art, craft, flowers and baking. Champion entries are eligible for the annual Sydney Royal Easter Show. For more information, visit [www.agshowsnsw.org.au/shows](http://www.agshowsnsw.org.au/shows)
- Baradine, Binnaway, Mendooran, Mudgee, Rylstone Kandos, Coonabarabran, Dunedoo Shows are held in February and March each year
- Coonamble, Cobar, Bourke, Mudgee, Walgett, Wellington, Dubbo, Nyngan, Gulargambone, Gilgandra Shows are held in May and June each year
- Narromine Show is held in August
- Tooraweenah Show is held in October

There are other agricultural events across the region such as the Nyngan Ag Expo and Mudgee Small Farm field days showcasing industry and primary production.

Major livestock shows are held at Dubbo Showground, enabling breeders to showcase their animals and sell them to commercial producers. Dog Trials are another event that has evolved from the skills needed to work livestock. Many agricultural shows incorporate dog trials into their program and other major independent events are held each year, including Geurie in October and Coolah in May.

## ART GALLERIES AND MUSEUMS

Museums celebrating our heritage, natural resources and scientific endeavours are found in the form of the Great Cobar Heritage Centre, Railway Museum and Shearers Museum in Nyngan, Back o' Bourke Exhibition Centre, Australian Opal Centre in Lightning Ridge and Siding Springs Observatory near Coonabarabran.

Western Plains Cultural Centre in Dubbo hosts both permanent and travelling exhibitions, including the annual Waste to Art and Archibald Prize. There are a number of smaller private galleries such as the Garling Gallery in Wongarbone, Outback Arts in Coonamble, Back o' Bourke Gallery in Bourke, Soul Food in Narromine, Eris Fleming in Wellington, Lynn and Tim Winters at Stuart Town, John Murray in Lightning Ridge, Pandora Gallery in Coolah, Red Earth Gallery and Bill O'Shea in Dubbo, Sculptures in the Garden, Stony Creek Studio, Artisan on Lewis, Brett Niven Ceramics and The Gables to name a few in Mudgee. Dunedoo hosts Art Unlimited each year and Wellington has an annual Arts and Sculpture Festival. Gulargambone also hosted the Pave the Way to Gular Arts Festival which included painted shopfronts and window installations.

Outdoor art trails exist across the Orana region including Silo Art on grain storage facilities in Coonamble and Gulargambone and public murals in Dubbo, Gilgandra, Lightning Ridge, Brewarrina and Mendooran. There are also the Animals on Bikes trails between Molong and Dubbo which features roadside sculptures.



## MUSIC, LITERATURE AND DANCE

Eisteddfods are a popular introduction to music, drama and dance in the region, with Mudgee, Wellington, Dubbo and Gulgong all hosting annual events.

Dubbo Regional Theatre and Convention Centre, a purpose-built facility in the heart of the city, boasts a range of concerts, plays, musicals, dance presentations and comedy nights held throughout the year.

Other musical events in the region include Rock the Racecourse and the Hartwood Music Festival at Coolah, Cobar Mardi Gras, Under Western Skies Dubbo, Dolly Festival Narromine, and the Mudgee Festival of Dance.

Macquarie Conservatorium has an annual concert series and Opera at Dundullimal, Dubbo.

The Red Hot Summer tour and Day on the Green are also regular outdoor concerts in Dubbo and Mudgee.

## SPORTING LIFE

Most towns in the Orana region have a common sporting precinct with a variety of sports on offer. The major sports in the region are football (soccer, touch, rugby league, Australian Rules and rugby union), netball, tennis, swimming, cycling, squash, basketball, athletics, lawn bowls, gliding, frisbee, darts and snooker, golf and hockey. Water sports are also popular with skiing, canoeing, kayaking, boating and recreational fishing.

Some activities require licencing or insurance so please be aware of what is needed before commencing a new hobby. Local councils are often a good source of information in terms of getting started.

## CULTURAL HERITAGE

The Orana region has many beautiful areas to be explored including hilly outcrops, underground caves, vast plains and natural waterways. The first inhabitants of the region were the Wiradjuri nation, along with the smaller nations of Kamilaroi, Wailwan and Wongaibon. There are many sites of Aboriginal significance across the Orana region including the Fish Traps and Dennawan near Brewarrina, Mt Drysdale and Mt Grenfell near Cobar, Terramungamine at Dubbo, Byrock Rock Holes, Bourke, and Moordale Wells, Walgett.

Beautiful national park areas include Piliga, Goonoo, Gundabooka, Macquarie Marshes, Culgoa and the Warrumbungles. It is well worth the journey to visit some of these spectacular areas. Their remoteness and extreme weather also lends itself to potentially dangerous situations. Take extreme care, carry plenty of water, make sure your vehicle is roadworthy and tell someone where you're going if you plan to visit these areas.

Several major sporting events are held regularly across the region, bringing large numbers of participants. These include athletics carnivals, football and basketball tournaments, horse race meetings, rodeos and camp drafting, fishing competitions and equestrian events. Each town has regular picnic race meetings which generally have a good family atmosphere.

Motorsports are also popular including go-carting, speedway, drag racing and motocross. Dubbo also hosts a range of annual running events, such as the Dubbo Stampede and Macquarie Mud Run as well as a weekly parkrun. Other towns such as Cobar and Wellington, also have a regular parkrun.



# Checklist for regional Australia



## VISA

Ensure that you have your visa in order and all the associated documentation



## FIND ACCOMMODATION

Check with contacts, websites and real estate agents to secure a place to live



## BE JOB READY

Have an up to date CV or resume, tax file number and superannuation fund



## TRANSPORT

Familiarise with availability of public transport and other options



## BE CULTURALLY AWARE

Learn about the customs and ways of Australian life



## WEATHER

Orana has potentially extreme temperatures, prepare and familiarise with the seasons



## CULTURAL NETWORKS

Local councils and neighbourhood centres can provide links to migrant groups and culturally specific information



## RELIGIOUS NEEDS

Not every town has the variety of places of worship or faith communities which needs to be taken into account



## GET INVOLVED

Whether it's a parent group or sporting team, it's important to immerse yourself in Australian culture





An Australian Government Initiative



[www.rdaorana.org.au](http://www.rdaorana.org.au)



*Enjoy every moment!*