Dual Branding

Preferred placement.

For communication and marketing materials, the preferred placement of the Coat of Arms is in the bottom right hand corner. To ensure clear visibility, the Coat of Arms should be placed on a solid colour or clear background. The Coat of Arms symbol cannot be used on its own by departments, ie. elements may not be separated. Remember to use the Positioning line wherever possible on all external marketing communications.
Toowoomba and the Darling Downs will capture your heart. From the moment you arrive, your senses will be overwhelmed by the region’s beauty.

Clean crisp air, wide open spaces, picturesque places and views stretching as far as the eye can see.
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
Thanks to our key partners Toowoomba Regional Council and Toowoomba and Surat Basin Enterprise for their help in putting this presentation together. Excerpts have been taken from ‘LIVE Toowoomba’ Magazine for this presentation.

There really is no better place to live, study, work and play.
From the **General Manager**

Welcome to Toowoomba Campus.

As Regional Managers for TAFE Queensland International it is our pleasure to showcase our capabilities and what an international student will experience when they start with us.

International students can expect to study alongside Australian students in classes that are small in size and have access to teachers with years of experience in their chosen trade. Toowoomba offers a lower cost of living for students and excellent employment opportunities on graduation from their studies.

We appreciate your willingness to promote Toowoomba to international students and can assure you we will do everything to ensure they have a positive experience.

_Trevor Schwenke_  
General Manager
From the **Executive Director of Studies**

TAFE Queensland South West is committed to offering international students programs to help them succeed in this pursuit for a better life.

We are keen to expand our range of programs on offer to international students with new registrations in 2016 and 2017.

Our faculty directors are devoted to ensuring international students and programs are all inclusive, constructive and progressive.

**Jenni Butler**

*Executive Director of Studies*

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From the **Director of Corporate Solutions**

Thank you for travelling to Toowoomba to experience our beautiful campus and appreciate the opportunities our region can offer international students.

We believe we can provide students with the Australian essence and lifestyle that many students desire in their quest to live and study in Queensland.

**Michele Berkhout**

*Director of Corporate Solutions*
Welcome to TOOWOOMBA

DEMOGRAPHICS

Toowoomba is situated 125km west of Queensland’s state capital Brisbane, crowning the edge of the Great Dividing Range 800m above sea level. It is one of Australia’s largest inland regional cities with a population now reaching just over 160,000. It is the commercial and economic hub of the Darling Downs and widely accepted as the service centre for the Surat Basin, which encompasses a geographic area from Toowoomba in the east, to Roma in the west, north to Taroom and south to the New South Wales border.

The Toowoomba Regional Council area is a growing residential area, with significant rural and rural-residential areas, and some industrial and commercial land use. It is conservatively predicted that the Toowoomba Regional Council area will be home to nearly 200,000 people by 2036. However, more optimistic forecasts for the area suggest the population could be as high as 234,706 by 2036. There is no doubting that the city is on the cusp of a major growth spurt, with an enormous set of opportunities to come its way.

CLIMATE AND WEATHER

Toowoomba’s climate ranges from quite cool during the winter months, to warm during the summer months. The city enjoys four distinct seasons and is particularly magnificent during spring due to the abundance of public parks overflowing with flowers. The average temperature ranges from 11.4 to 22.6 degrees, with an average yearly rainfall of 944mm. There are a vast number of activities and events throughout the year, making the city a top spot to visit any month of the year.

... an abundance of public parks overflowing with flowers.
Due to its elevation, even on the hottest Queensland days the residents of Toowoomba can relax with a cool evening breeze. In fact, you’ll feel all of the seasons here: there’s a true winter with fog and frost, an autumn of golden falling leaves, and a spring of non-stop colour.

**ECONOMY**

Toowoomba’s Gross Regional Product was $8.19 billion in 2013, having grown 3.2% from the previous year. However, recent predictions from the Regional Australia Institute see a $10 billion boost to Toowoomba’s GRP in the next 15 years, more than double the 2013 figure.

There are currently nearly 80,000 people employed in Toowoomba, with the Health Care and Social Assistance sector the largest employer, generating nearly 12,000 jobs. This is followed by Retail Trade and then Education and Training.

The Construction industry has the highest output at $2.49 billion, with the Manufacturing sector coming in second highest at $2.36 billion, and the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing sector the third highest at $1.47 billion.

The majority of the workforce are within the 25-54 years age bracket. The top three occupations are professionals followed by clerical and administrative workers and technicians and trades workers. Manufacturing has the largest total exports by industry, generating $1.5 billion in 2013/14. The Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing sector is another major contributor to the export industry, generating $915 million, followed by Mining at $410 million.

For many workers and their families, moving to Toowoomba and the wider Surat Basin is proving to be the recipe for a bright, new future and a major boom for established and emerging industries.
The Toowoomba region covers an area rich in Australian history. The region has a strong aboriginal history, with the Indigenous tribes of the Jagera, Giabal and Jarowir people inhabiting the region for at least 40,000 years before European settlement which came in the early 1800s. When explorers set their eyes upon the fertile land it became destined to be one of the country’s rural heartlands and give birth to the vibrant city of Toowoomba and surrounding towns.

The area around Toowoomba was first explored by English explorer Allan Cunningham who named the region as the Darling Downs after the New South Wales Governor, Sir Ralph Darling. Toowoomba as a township grew up in the 1840s as a convenient stopping place between Moreton Bay and the west. Drayton, which can also lay claim to being the first town established beyond the Great Dividing Range in Queensland, was settled in 1842 and five years later the Royal Bulls Head Inn was built. Toowoomba was officially declared a municipality in 1860, became a town in 1887 and was declared a city in 1904. Between 1920 and 1950, Toowoomba homed an influx of American and Australian troops who took over parks and buildings for recreational, hospital and training purposes, during the Second World War. Following this period, Toowoomba proceeded to build and add tertiary services, public service departments and military bases. This meant the expansion of a centre that had previously only been known as a commercial, agricultural and educational centre.

Over the past two centuries, the region has continued to attract new residents and grow to become an integral part of Queensland.
AGRICULTURE

The Toowoomba region is Queensland’s number one agricultural region, generating upwards of $664 million annually in gross value agricultural production in recent years and currently providing 3437 jobs.

Key outputs include grain, cotton, beef, dairy products, pork and eggs, along with a growing volume of horticulture. With rapid economic and population growth occurring in the Asian region, Australia is witnessing a rapid change in its export destinations for packaged and fresh food, a situation that could not have been imagined a decade ago. The change has always seemed inevitable but the pace of change is staggering.

There is much talk about Asia’s potential to reshape the Australian economy through food imports and it seems this may prove to be particularly relevant for protein food products.

Red meat shipments to China alone have increased by 400 per cent to over 160,000 tonnes in 2012/2013 from around 23,000 tonnes in 2009/2010. China is now one of Australia’s largest agricultural export destinations and the growth continues. Reports indicate that the growth in demand for food is being driven by Asia’s strong economy, growing population, higher personal incomes, tight supplies and food safety concerns. This provides a real opportunity for food producers in the region, and with Toowoomba now housing the new internationally capable Brisbane West Wellcamp Airport, export figures are only set to increase.

RESOURCES

Toowoomba is the gateway to the Surat Basin Energy precinct which is rich in natural minerals and energy resources. In the 2013-2014 year, the resource sector represented a $2.5 billion economic contribution to Toowoomba’s economy, 27 per cent of the regions total GRP, and employed well over 18,000 people. Recent times have seen the resource sector face some challenges as many of the major projects in the region transition from the construction phase to the operations and maintenance phase. However, with operations and maintenance activities expected to continue for the next 40-50 years, and with these operations representing around a billion dollars of expenditure each year until 2020, and half a billion dollars every year after that, there is still an optimistic outlook for the sector’s longevity.

The operations and maintenance phase has now kicked off for the three major CSG and LNG projects in the Surat Basin region; BG Group’s Queensland Curtis LNG project, Santos’ project and the Origin ConocoPhillips Australia Pacific joint venture project. It is the upstream work (attendant processing plants and pipelines) of these three approved CSG and LNG projects that is located in the Surat Basin and has not only created thousands of jobs, but also benefitted regionally-based businesses who have been able to expand their operations. Many attest the CSG industry has led to the construction of long-awaited and vital infrastructure in the region.

Toowoomba and the wider Surat Basin has also become a hub for well drilling and servicing. The reasons for this include: the location which provides transport and logistics efficiencies with reduced travel times to the gas fields; the region has a lower cost of living compared with Brisbane; and there is a greater ability to recruit and attract skilled labour compared to more remote locations. In Toowoomba alone, at least nine major drilling and servicing companies have a substantial base. Their strong presence has significant advantages for the region, such as experienced and respected supply chains being in place, specialist support services being introduced and high quality workforces and training facilities coming to fruition.

The significant coal mine in the Toowoomba region is the New Acland Mine run by the New Hope Group. The mine is currently awaiting Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) approval of their proposal to expand its operations on the easternmost edge of the Surat Basin within the Toowoomba Regional Council area.

It is expected that the $900 million expansion will create 260 jobs during construction plus another 135 jobs once the mine is operational. The mine is also leading the way with its rehabilitated mined land for cattle. Currently being trialled on grazing cattle, a combination of soil, pasture and cattle fattening tests form the basis of a long term trial to fully understand the impact of the mining operation on grazing land with the intent to return this land to the best possible state post mining.
... growth in demand for food is being driven by Asia’s strong economy.
Toowoomba is the largest regional centre in Queensland, and is situated at the intersection of three major highways - the Warrego, New England and Gore. The area has a diverse economy and is within an easy drive of Brisbane (approx. 1.5 hours), the Sunshine Coast (approx. 3 hours) and the Gold Coast (approx. 2 hours).

The new Toowoomba Airport is a 10 minute drive from the CBD and is home to a number of flying schools, charter operators, business operators and maintenance providers.

While it is now starting to cater for the ever-expanding population of Toowoomba, the internationally capable airport is expected to change the face of the regions agriculture industry by opening up international export opportunities that did not exist before.

“\n\n*The Toowoomba estimated resident population for 2014 is 161,970, with a population density of 0.12 persons per hectare.*

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“\n
161,970

ERP, 2014

\n
Grown by 1,811 from the previous year.
Toowoomba is a safe family place to study without the distractions of a big city.

If you would like to visit the many tourist attractions on offer, the Gold Coast and Brisbane are only a short drive away.
BUSINESS NUMBERS

As of June 2011, there were an estimated 526 businesses in the Manufacturing sector in the Toowoomba Region. The Manufacturing sector accounted for 3.7% of the 14,374 businesses in the Toowoomba Region. The Manufacturing sector ranked tenth in terms of the number of registered businesses behind Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (21.7%), Construction (16.7%), Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services (9.8%), Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (7.1%), Retail Trade (6.5%), Transport, Postal and Warehousing (6.3%), Financial and Insurance Services (6.2%), Other Services (4.6%) and Health Care and Social Assistance (4.3%).

WORKFORCE SIZE

Just over half (51.1%) of all manufacturing businesses within the Toowoomba Region were non-employing (i.e. business owners only, no additional staff) in 2010-11. An estimated 20.2% of all manufacturing businesses had workforces of one to four persons, with 18.6% of all manufacturing businesses with a workforce of five to nineteen persons. The average workforce size across all manufacturing businesses in the Toowoomba Region was 15.1 persons, with a significant difference between urban (18.9 persons) and rural (10.8 persons) areas.

The average workforce size across manufacturing businesses in the Toowoomba Region was marginally lower than state (16.0 persons) and national averages (16.4 persons).

CONTRIBUTION TO GROSS REGIONAL PRODUCT

The manufacturing sector in the Toowoomba Region recorded industry value added (or contribution to Gross Regional Product (GRP)) of $637.2 million in 2010-11, accounting for 8.8% of the total GRP of the Toowoomba Region ($7.3 billion). Manufacturing was the fourth largest industry contributor to GRP in 2010-11 behind Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services ($825.3 million), Mining ($799.4 million) and Financial and Insurance Services ($655.6 million).

PRODUCTIVITY

Productivity is a measure of the efficiency of production in a region and is a key aspect of economic growth. By dividing the GRP of a region by the total number of hours worked, it will calculate the labour productivity within that region, i.e. the average total output produced by an hour worked by a person within that region.

The Manufacturing sector in the Toowoomba Region recorded productivity (industry value added per hour worked) of $57.33 in 2010-11.
was lower than the average productivity level for all industries across the region ($68.80) such that manufacturing ranked eighth in industry productivity in the Toowoomba Region in 2010-11 behind Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services ($522.48), Mining ($429.01), Financial and Insurance Services ($189.68), Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services ($145.66), Information Media and Telecommunications ($117.06), Wholesale Trade ($74.04), and Administrative and Support Services ($60.43).

EMPLOYMENT

The manufacturing sector in the Toowoomba Region employed 5,628 persons in 2011, representing 9.3% of the region’s working population (60,292 persons). Manufacturing was the fourth largest industry employer in the Toowoomba Region in 2011 behind Health Care and Social Assistance (14.8%), Retail Trade (11.7%) and Construction (10.8%).

In 2011, there were a higher proportion of persons employed in the Manufacturing industry in the Toowoomba Region than across Queensland.

The largest employer within the Manufacturing industry in the Toowoomba Region was Food Product Manufacturing, with 36.0% of the total industry workforce. This was followed by Machinery and Equipment Manufacturing (11.9%), Transport Equipment Manufacturing (11.5%) and Fabric Metal Product Manufacturing (6.9%).

OCCUPATION

Of the 5,628 persons employed in the Manufacturing sector in the Toowoomba Region in 2011, the most common occupations were Technicians and Trade workers (30.2%), Labourers (28.9%), Managers (10.8%), Machinery Operators and Drivers (9.9%) and Clerical and Administrative workers (9.7%).

Within the Manufacturing sector, the Toowoomba Region had a higher proportion of Labourers and a slightly higher proportion of Technicians and Trade Workers than Queensland in 2011.

LOCATION QUOTIENTS

Location quotients are ratios used to identify specialised industries in the local economy.

A location quotient greater than one often, but not always, indicates the industry sector is export-orientated.

In this analysis, location quotients have been used to assess the industry concentration in the Toowoomba Region and Queensland relative to Australia.

The Toowoomba Region has a greater manufacturing sector employment concentration (location quotient greater than one) than the national economy (1.10). By comparison, Queensland has a lower manufacturing sector employment concentration than the national economy (0.95).
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

At TAFE Queensland South West we are committed to building a foundation for sustainable growth and enterprise across the businesses, industries and communities throughout the region.

We achieve this through strong partnerships across industry, community and education and training. These alliances provide us greater access to a more diverse range of organisations, which assists us to pursue more business opportunities and support communities. These alliances often take the form of co-provider arrangements, memorandums of understanding (MOU), sponsorships and partnerships.

We currently have high level sponsorships and MOUs in place with a number of regional chambers of commerce and regional economic development organisations across the Darling Downs and surrounds. This includes the Toowoomba Chamber of Commerce, Toowoomba Surat Basin Enterprise and the emerging Food Leaders Australia.

TAFE Queensland South West also sponsors or has a high level of involvement in regional showcase events such as the Toowoomba Surat Basin Mining & Energy Expo, Ag in Asia Century, and Farmfest.

We are proud to be part of the communities we operate and work closely to supporting events that promote the regions culture and diversity.

These events also provide us with the opportunity to showcase our diverse course offerings, industrial capabilities, training facilities, and students’ knowledge and skills.

Events we support locally include the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers – Flower Food and Wine Festival, Toowoomba Winter Wonderland and Multicultural Festival.
From health and education to manufacturing and resources, Toowoomba remains the powerhouse to South West Queensland’s and Northern New South Wales thriving industries. Recently named Australia’s 3rd most industrially diverse region, and featuring a gross regional product in excess of $8 billion annually, Toowoomba boasts a distinctively optimistic business climate and maintains steady economic growth.

In fact, the Regional Australia Institute recently predicted that the regions’ gross regional product will increase by $10 billion in the next 15 years, further fuelling confidence in Toowoomba’s economic stability. The region benefits from world-class education facilities that have led to vast pools of skilled and experienced workforces who are supported by a number of premium health care facilities.

EDUCATION
Toowoomba currently houses 86 primary and secondary schools, and also has a significant boarding school sector, with eight of the 48 boarding schools in Queensland found in Toowoomba.

HEALTH
The Social Assistance Sector in the region provides an output of $1.2 billion (5%) to the economy, and encompasses hospital services, specialist services, medical support, community health, Allied Health Services, Home and Community Care services (HACC), educations services and other outreach and health promotion services.

MANUFACTURING
The success of the manufacturing sector comes from a variety of avenues, including small family-run businesses and agriculture and energy industries.

Toowoomba is home to three major hospitals, including St Vincent’s Private Hospital, Toowoomba Hospital and St Andrew’s Toowoomba Hospital.

Toowoomba and the surrounding region is committed to promoting health and well-being, with a number of gyms and natural health practitioners available to residents.

CONSTRUCTION
Construction is one of the largest industries in the Toowoomba region and is a significant employer and contributor to the local economy. The local economy.

The constructions sector in the Toowoomba region maintains stability and contributes an impressive $2,008.8 million to total outputs, making it the second largest contributor to total outputs in the region.

The construction sector also has the highest total industry turn-over, turning over $968.4* (16.5%) million in 2012/2013, and is the largest contributor to gross regional product, contributing $849.7* million (9.2%) in 2013/2014.

Employing 3,485* people, the construction industry is also the eighth largest employer in the region. With increasing population and rising levels of local employment, the need for residential dwellings will continue to carry the construction industry in
the near future as mining-related construction activity begins to slow down.

The demand for new dwellings is expected to stay steady until 2016, with an expected 1,225 new dwellings needed per annum until then.

Also growing the construction sector in the near future is the number of major (over $25 million) projects in the pipeline for the region. These include the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing due and the long-anticipated Inland Rail Project both due to begin construction in 2015.

QIC’s $460 million redevelopment of Grand Central and Gardentown, which began construction in late 2014, will also prove a viable opportunity to the construction sector until it’s completion in 2018.

The construction industry in the Toowoomba region also holds the title of being the largest contributor to total local sales, generating approximately $2,045.3 million within the region.

RESOURCES

The Surat Basin is home to a number of large multi-million dollar CSG projects that produce and deliver gas to Queensland’s residential networks, and produce LNG for export through processing plants now open in Gladstone.

Many attest that the CSG industry has led to the construction of long-awaited and vital infrastructure in the region, with opportunities for the resource sector significantly increased in light of these developments.

In the 2013-2014 year, the Queensland Resource Council found that the Resource Sector contributed approx. $5.1 billion to Gross Regional Product in the Toowoomba and Surat Basin region (figures based off the Toowoomba, Maranoa and Western Downs Regional Council Areas).

As a whole the sector employed 26,667 people through direct and indirect jobs, and paid approx. $182 million in wages. Growth projections based on a medium-level scenario for the potential of resource development in the Surat Basin predict that the production of coal and CSG will increase ten-fold by 2031 from current levels*.

The Toowoomba and Surat Basin region has now also widely been recognised as a Well Drilling and Servicing Hub to support energy rich areas, with many local businesses reaping the benefits of an increased need for skilled workers and supplies of products and services.
EDUCATION
Why study in Toowoomba?

International students can study in a large regional city and belong to a community that welcomes multicultural backgrounds.

TAFE colleges specialise in courses that provide you with skills for a particular industry or trade, and courses range from Certificate courses to Advanced Diploma level. TAFE offers you hands-on practical vocational learning combined with theory based learning sessions in small class sizes.

Highly sought after industry-focused qualifications.
We’ve more than 390 qualifications that will provide you with a current and relevant nationally-recognised qualification.

Professional teachers, first-class facilities.
Our teachers are industry professionals with great contacts, and a passion for passing on their expertise. You’ll learn in industry-current facilities, using the latest materials and tools.

Location.
Located in a regional area of Queensland, Toowoomba is known as the Garden City with crisp, clean air for a healthy lifestyle. There are a vast number of activities and events throughout the year, making the city a top spot to study.

Personalised support.
There is a dedicated unit available to you at all times to guide and support you through from the initial orientation through to graduation of your program. We will provide you with information you need about the locations, accommodation, and other support services available to you.

Facilities.
Modern class and lecture rooms, flexi-learn centre, library, laboratories and workshops provide some of the best learning environments available and many of which simulate the workplace. Our learning environments give you the opportunity to study and learn practical skills side by side with Australian students studying the same programs. Canteen - Our canteens sell food and refreshments and operate during the semester. Parking - Our campuses provide free parking for our students and visitors during business hours.

Visas.
When international students graduate they may wish to apply for a General Skilled Migration visa (GSM), which means they may need to undergo a points test. Living, working and studying in a regional city such as Toowoomba can assist the person to gain extra points towards that visa.

Connected to Business.
We are connected to business and our close relations mean workplace placement and strong potential employment outcomes.
Health and Community Services Industries Faculty: 
**Faculty Director Ann-Maree Lucht**

If you’re wanting to work with children, families, and at-risk members of the community the Health Community Services Faculty offers a range of industry-valued courses. Career outcomes include childcare educator, early childhood teacher to teacher aide; and community career outcomes include family support workers, foster carers and senior youth workers. Health services courses vary from youth work to family intervention and nursing; with career outcomes including disability officers, enrolled nurses and aged care workers. Our courses are highly regarded by industry and with Australia’s ageing population, qualified aged care and general health care workers are in high demand.

Trades Training Industries Faculty: 
**Faculty Director Alison Stewart**

Building and construction offers a solid trade career with our apprentice to post-trade level courses. There are a wide range of trade courses available, including carpentry, electrical, plumbing and building. Courses are also offered in the engineering and automotive industries, from mechanical and welding to engineering and diesel fitting. All are delivered by teachers with years of experience, using industry-current tools and training spaces.

Resources and Infrastructure Industries Faculty: 
**Faculty Director Debbie Jackson**

For a career in the resources and infrastructure industries, courses offered include tickets, licences, trade qualifications and diplomas from civil construction, work health and safety, project management, transport and logistics to process manufacturing resulting in skilled and job-ready students. If your career goals lie in the great outdoors, we offer horticulture, landscape construction and rural operations. Our qualifications and passionate teaching teams will have you skilled up, knowledgeable and ready to work.

Business and Services Industries Faculty: 
**Faculty Director Sharon Richardson**

This Faculty covers the hair and beauty, hospitality and events, business, IT and creative industries. Hairdressing and beauty to aromatherapy and massage courses see you train in real salons with real customers, ensuring you graduate job and client-ready. From cookery to event coordination, our courses are delivered in industry-grade kitchens and open to the public restaurants. If you want to discover the exciting, fast-paced world of corporate management, or seeking to help others through IT or legal solutions; our cutting-edge courses will give you the skills you need to make an impact, and a difference.

Education Industries Faculty: 
**Faculty Director Tom Rowe**

If you feel you were born to lead and share knowledge with those around you, a job in the education and training industries might be what you’re looking for. Career outcomes include a trainer and assessor. Whether you wish to improve your own language and literacy skills or teach trades, our courses will see you qualified and confident to stand at the front of the classroom. The faculty also offers pathways to higher level VET programmes and university studies through our Adult Tertiary Preparation course.
TAFE QUEENSLAND SOUTH WEST is proud to support the Start Up Community

TAFE Queensland South West is proud to support the Start Up community in greater Toowoomba region, which creates grassroots opportunity and diversity in entrepreneurial activity through education, mentorship, acceleration, incubation and promotion.

Canvas Coworking Inc is a not-for-profit association formed with members of our community who are passionate about developing the local startup ecosystem, and currently TAFE Queensland South West supports Canvas Coworking through the provision of working space.

Key objectives of Canvas Coworking Inc are to provide a hub for the diverse community of the Darling Downs & South West Queensland which encourages entrepreneurship, and to develop partnerships between skilled mentors, freelancers and entrepreneurs to foster collaboration, incubation and acceleration of the development of innovative, scalable businesses that will drive economic growth in our ever changing environment.

“A hub for the diverse community of the Darling Downs and South West Queensland which encourages entrepreneurship.”
Empowering technology and innovative Startups on the Darling Downs

ENTREPRENEURS
Startup Toowoomba supports entrepreneurs and Startups on the Darling Downs. Creating opportunity and diversity in grassroots entrepreneurial activity through education, mentorship, acceleration, incubation and promotion.

PEOPLE
We believe that by helping people to realise their potential, we can create new markets and change the way we do business on the Downs – any business.

Find out more?
Call David on 0422 590 552 or Leanne on 0407 360 897
info@startuptoowoomba.com.au
https://www.facebook.com/toowoombastartupgroup
https://twitter.com/StartupTSG

LEADERS
Resulting in the Downs community becoming world leaders in technology and social innovation.
And our own Formula E team!
LIFESTYLE and LIVEABILITY

FESTIVALS and EVENTS

Toowoomba is known as The Garden City with multiple award-winning parks and gardens that, each spring, attract more than 100,000 visitors to the city for the Carnival of Flowers and Flower, Food and Wine Festival. The temperate climate, beautiful gardens and serene countryside all remain within minutes of an increasing cosmopolitan, vibrant centre offering an enviable lifestyle for new residents keen to be a part of the region’s success.

The Carnival of Flowers has become an iconic, ten-day community festival held in September each year. Along with the Flower, Food and Wine Festival, the annual event attracts more than 100,000 visitors to the city for its parade, spectacular open gardens, live music and local food and wine. Up-to-date information on all the events can be found at www.tcof.com.au

The Toowoomba Show is another iconic event held annually every March at the Toowoomba Showgrounds. A favourite for families, the three-day event includes rides, stalls and live entertainment, offering something for all ages. Farmers can also delight with agricultural event FarmFest, attracting crowds from surrounding agricultural regions held over three days at Kingsthorpe (just outside of Toowoomba) in June.

Races are a major drawcard for many throughout the year. The biggest race day of the year is the Weetwood Cup, held at Clifford Park in April. The annual day attracts up to 10,000 race goers, to enjoy not only the races, but Fashions of the Field events, food and drinks. Other race days are held throughout the year. Visit www.toowoombaturfclub.com.au for details of upcoming events.

A multitude of markets are also held regularly, including the Queens Park...
Craft Markets held on the third Sunday of every month and the PCYC Markets offering fresh produce every Sunday morning.

Regardless of the time of year, there is always something happening in Toowoomba. Events are listed on the Toowoomba Regional Council website at www.toowoombarc.qld.gov.au and are regularly updated.

**VISUAL ARTS**

There are a number of art galleries around the city, showcasing exhibitions throughout the year. The Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery is located beside City Hall on Ruthven Street, and was established in 1937, making it the oldest public art gallery in regional Queensland. Tosari Galleries on Margaret Street draws art lovers and visitors, who can enjoy and purchase original artworks, limited edition prints, along with a range of unusual and beautiful Australian designed and made glass, ceramic and timber souvenirs. USQ Arts Gallery at the university also showcases a variety of collections throughout the year.

**THEATRE and FILM**

Toowoomba's Empire Theatre is a heritage-listed venue that first opened as a silent movie theatre back in 1911. The theatre on Neil Street now boasts the latest purpose-built facilities as well as retaining the grandeur and superb acoustics, with the interior styling having been faithfully restored to the finest detail. It hosts a variety of concerts and shows, drawing local, national and international acts to the city. Visit www.empiretheatre.com.au for a full listing of what’s on.

The University of Southern Queensland’s Shakespeare in the Park Festival is a delight for the young and old. Each year in October, a different Shakespeare tale is re-told to audiences, who flock to Queens Park to watch the live performances outdoors. Beginning in 2004, the Festival continues to evolve and grow, now offering a range of outdoor and indoor cultural experiences in celebration of The Bard. For further information visit http://artsworx.com.au/events/king-lear

Toowoomba also has two cinemas, each playing the latest release movies. The Toowoomba Strand is Australia's oldest purpose-built cinema on Margaret Street. Originally a church, and then a hotel, the building was transformed into a cinema in 1914 and has been renovated a number of times throughout the years. The other cinema complex is located at Toowoomba Grand Central Shopping Centre. Visit www.eventcinemas.com.au for movie times for both venues.
ATTRACTIONS

For those looking for a more active day out, Tabletop Mountain is a challenging yet rewarding climb. Be aware it can be quite demanding at times, with rocky sections and a scramble before the summit. It is recommended you don’t carry anything in your hands, as there may be times you are on your hands and feet! Located on the edge of Toowoomba, the top provides vast views of the neighbouring Lockyer Valley. Allow roughly two and a half hours to walk up and back. Access is via South Street which turns into Tabletop Drive.

Toowoomba is known around the country for its picturesque and vibrant parks and gardens. While September sees a surge of people visiting the city to get a glimpse of the picture-perfect gardens during the Carnival of Flowers, the parks can be just as beautiful other times of the year. The city’s major parks include Queens Park, Laurel Bank Park and Newtown Park, and are all regularly maintained by council. At USQ, the Japanese Gardens are a must see for new residents or visitors. The peaceful park is Australia’s largest and most traditionally designed Japanese stroll garden and a popular venue for weddings and picnics. Admission is free.

Located roughly 30 minutes outside of Toowoomba at Jondaryan is the Jondaryan Woolshed. At the heart of the woolshed is the museum village, which is rich in history from the original Jondaryan station. The woolshed itself is an original sheep-shearing shed and is the oldest and largest operating woolshed in the world that still operates. There are daily tours and activities for the young and old, from billy cart racing to shearing demonstration and the animal nursery. Visit www.jondaryanwoolshed.com.au for more information.

For those who enjoy a drop of wine, a visit to Preston Peak winery is a must. The family owned winery is located just 10 minutes outside of the city and offers wine tastings and sales throughout the week. It is also a popular venue for weddings and functions.

Picnic Point is another popular meeting spot, due to its stunning views of the escarpment coupled with al fresco and indoor dining.

Located on the edge of the Great Dividing Range, the café is open during the day seven days a week and for dinner Friday and Saturday nights. Take a passenger train from the CBD to the heritage-listed site Spring Bluff Railway Station. Located on the main railway line between Ipswich and Toowoomba, there are two daily return routes to the station which includes a café where visitors can sit, enjoy food and drinks while enjoying the breathtaking gardens and scenery. Its significance stems from 140 years of railway history. “Acting” Station Master Ralph Hickey is always on hand to explain the history behind the site, and if you’re lucky, a song and dance welcome too. Call (07) 4688 6883 to find out more.

There are a variety of day trips for those wanting to explore...
FOOD and NIGHTLIFE

Toowoomba’s dining scene is diverse. With plenty of local pubs serving up classic pub meals, there is also a selection of international cuisines and fine dining, offering something for all tastes and budgets. There are a number of bars that open late, with venues along Margaret Street in the CBD busiest on both Friday and Saturday nights with over 142 restaurants, bars and coffee shops in Toowoomba City.

SHOPPING

For a wide selection of shops in the one location, head to the city’s biggest shopping centre Grand Central. It offers the only Myer store in the region and also features over 50 fashion stores, a cinema, a 550 seat food court and 140 specialty shops. Margaret Street is also lined with stores, selling clothes to homewares, shoes and electronics. Grocery stores are dotted around Toowoomba, while there are several big centres for hardwares, including Bunnings Warehouse, Mitre 10 and Masters.

Major shopping centres include:
• Grand Central Shopping Centre, Margaret Street
• The Ridge Shopping Centre, Hume Street
• Clifford Gardens Shopping Centre, James Street and Anzac Avenue
• K-Mart Plaza, Ruthven Street
• Hooper Centre, Hume Street
• The Range Shopping Centre, James Street
• Wilsonton Shopping Centre, Bridge Street
• Northpoint Shopping Centre, Ruthven and Jones Streets
• Highfields Village Shopping Centre, Highfields Road and Lauder Drive

SPORTS and ACTIVITIES

Many Toowoomba residents know the value of sports and physical activities, with an abundance of local clubs and facilities catering for all types of sport. From tennis and rugby, to bowls, cricket, soccer and hockey, there is a club for all standards and ages. For a directory of clubs, see Page 48 or visit the Toowoomba Regional Council website for information on facilities available and park at www.toowoombarc.qld.gov.au

Cycling is popular amongst both amateur and professional cyclists,
with a strong cycling contingent in the city. The Toowoomba Criterium Track located at the Toowoomba Showgrounds offers a fantastic recreation facility for the whole community to use and enjoy. The site’s undulating terrain also makes it an appealing facility for elite state and national competition or training.

The city hosts a number of professional sporting events throughout the year, giving residents the chance to watch world-class athletes in action. The Tour of Toowoomba attracts the country’s top cyclists for four days of gruelling rides in May. The exhilarating racing event attracts spectators from around the country, for four days of road stages, team time trials and the inner city criterium. Visit www.touroftoowoomba.com.au for more information.

Throughout the year, a number of state and national tennis tournaments are held in the city including the Toowoomba International at the Toowoomba Regional Tennis Centre in October. Golf also attracts pro-golfers to the city, with a number of tournaments held at golf courses around the region including the Queensland PGA Championship at the City Golf Club. Other clubs in the city include the Toowoomba Golf Club Middle Ridge with 18 holes carved out of beautiful natural parkland and the Eustondale Golf Course which is a par 33 course, offering golfers of all abilities a challenge.

WALKING in TOOWOOMBA

Toowoomba City is very walkable with a walk score of 82 (www.walkscore.com), most errands can be accomplished on foot in Toowoomba City.

There are over 142 restaurants, bars and coffee shops in Toowoomba City.

People in Toowoomba City can walk to an average of 8 restaurants, bars and coffee shops in 5 minutes.
GREEN and CLEAN
The Toowoomba Region has the best of city and country – it is a place in which we love to live!

Toowoomba City is a prosperous place with a cosmopolitan heart that retains its “rural heritage” and services the Darling Downs and beyond. A network of vibrant towns, each with their own character and identity, embraces a relaxed country lifestyle and rural qualities.

Our family-friendly and safe communities are defined by their resilience, a spirit of collaboration and a rich cultural life. Good quality services and infrastructure equitably meet the diverse needs of our healthy communities. We care for our people!

Our region’s various natural and built environmental assets and scenic landscapes are valued by our community and managed sustainably.

Toowoomba is a thriving region with a robust and adaptive economy that provides opportunities for all. We take advantage of opportunities presented by our unique position as a gateway to the east and west.

Our governance structure supports local community leadership and decision-making, and our communities actively participate in Council decision-making processes.

How will we best use what we have? Our valued scenic landscapes and regional green spaces are protected and our natural areas and resources are well managed by landholders and community. Our diversified primary production (including agriculture, forestry and fisheries) is eco-efficient and adaptive to changing climate conditions. Land with best capacity for food production is protected and buffered.

The economic benefits of extraction of finite land and water resources (including quarry and mineral resources) or generation of energy are balanced with community and environmental needs. The use and re-use of a range of land, water and atmospheric resources in primary and secondary production is well understood and only occurs if impacts are managed and resources are returned or rehabilitated to a similar or better condition.
Clifton is situated roughly 50 kilometres south of Toowoomba.

**Other CENTRES**

**HIGHFIELDS**

Highfields is the biggest regional centre outside of Toowoomba, with a population of more than 8000. Located just 12km north of Toowoomba, it provides an attractive lifestyle for those looking to live outside of the city but still remain close. The district is one of the fastest-growing areas in the state, which is reflected not only in the housing industry but also other sectors such as retail.

The Highfields Village Shopping Centre was recently expanded, and joins other retail outlets including supermarkets, cafes, restaurants and fast food outlets. Highfields includes three schools, motels, a cultural centre and the Highfields Pioneer Historical Village, which houses an unusual collection of vintage machinery.

A new high school is also currently under construction, to cater for the needs of the growing community.

**GOOMBUNGEES**

Located 35km north of Toowoomba, Goombungee is home to nearly 800 people. Nestled amongst the picturesque Darling Downs farming country, the small town is famous for its magnificent Jacarandas and Silky Oaks, which form the...
backdrop for its Jacaranda Day Festival in November.

It is a popular spot for day trips with its country hospitality, antiques, art and gift shopping. The town is also rich in history and has a museum with local collections and access to family history.

Beef cattle, dairying, pig farming, poultry/egg farming and grain growing are the dominant primary industries that surround the town. The town also includes a primary school, shopping centre and sport and recreation centre.

**YARRAMAN**

Yarraman is a small town of 950 situated approximately 120km north of Toowoomba. It is set in a fertile valley and produces timber, grain, beef and dairy goods, to which it exports to larger cities.

In and around Yarraman there are a large number of attractions, including wineries, farm stays, museums, gold fossicking and national parks. It is also less than an hour from the Bunya National Park.

**CROWS NEST**

Crows Nest has a population of nearly 1,600 and is situated 44km north-east of Toowoomba on the New England Highway. It is home to a selection of shops, restaurants, cafes as well as galleries. The town also has day care facilities, a primary and secondary school, local library and a Folk Museum and Village. It also has a medical centre, sporting facilities, a swimming pool, golf course and two bowls clubs.

The area is popular amongst bushwalkers and those who enjoy the outdoors, with bird watching trails, tourist drives, dams and bike, horse and 4WD trails. The Crows Nest Falls are a popular spot for day trips and campers, located 6km east of the town in the Crows Nest National Park.
The park features spectacular creek scenery, granite outcrops, a waterfall and eucalypt forest with a camping ground available to those looking to camp.

**CLIFTON**

Situated roughly 50 kilometres south of Toowoomba, Clifton is home to just over 1000 people. The town includes a post office, war memorial and a high school. The town’s charming street facades have been a popular backdrop for many Australian movies, including the epic film adaptation of The Thorn Birds.

Main attractions include the Historical Museum in the old butter factory, with displays of early farm life. It is open the first and third Sunday of the month.

The renowned annual Rose and Iris Show takes place in October, transforming the town into a sea of colour. Nearby towns include Nobby (8km north) which has a museum of pioneering memorabilia, as well as the Darling Downs Zoo (10km east).

The zoo is situated in the countryside and features native and exotic animals from Africa, South America and Asia, including lions, baboons and crocodiles. Call (07) 4696 4107 to find out opening hours.

**PITTSWORTH**

Pittsworth is located just off the Gore Highway, roughly 40 kilometres south west of Toowoomba. The area is known as a prime agricultural area with about 3000 residents calling the township home.

With four major banks, three schools and a range of shops, Pittsworth is an attractive place to live, providing a friendly and relaxed country lifestyle while still being central to Toowoomba.

Many residents are connoisseurs of fine food, with local fresh produce for sale roadside, as well as primary producers that sell from the farm gate. Some of the farmers produce available includes honey, fresh bread, bathing milk, eggs, chickens, beef, vegetables and fruit, chutneys and jams, sauces and flavoured oils.

There are markets on the last Saturday morning of the month at the show grounds which include fresh produce, handcrafts, greeting cards and stationary, knitting, trash and treasure, kittens, books, hot food and great coffee. The Pittsworth District Alliance website provides a range of information on exploring and living in Pittsworth [www.pittsworth.org.au](http://www.pittsworth.org.au)

**MILLMERRAN**

Millmerran is located around an hour’s drive from Toowoomba, 84km south-west of the city. It has a population of more than 1300 people and is surrounded by rural primary production areas including stud/beef cattle, pork, poultry, sheep, timber, olives, grain and cotton.

It has a local shopping centre with a variety of shops, as well as a museum, library, community and cultural centre and an aerodrome. There is also a hospital, medical centre, retirement village, child care centres and two schools, making it a comfortable town to live for both families and the elderly.

Sporting facilities include a golf club, indoor sports centre, bowls club and tennis courts. Major attractions include the Australian Camp Oven Festival, held every alternative year in October. The festival is known to attract upwards of 8,000 visitors, enjoying camp oven cooking competitions, music and markets.
Oakey is situated roughly 30 minutes’ drive west of Toowoomba, just off the Warrego Highway, and is perhaps best-known for the Australian Army Aviation Centre located just outside of the town.

The centre provides a training facility and also hosts a Singapore Armed Forces Helicopter Squadron, while the Museum of Australian Army Flying includes many historical aircrafts on display. With a population nearing 4000 people, local industries are generally rural-based with an emphasis on the production of beef.

The Oakey Abattoir is one of Australia’s largest beef processing plants and is a major economic driver for the town, employing 750 people. Oakey also has both a primary and high school, hospital, sporting facilities and a range of retail and commercial outlets.

A synopsis on all the major centres around Toowoomba can be found on TRC’s website under the Our Region menu.

In and around Yarraman there are a large number of attractions, including wineries, farm stays, museums, gold fossicking and national parks.
Our MARKET OPPORTUNITY

1. Global Growth Areas
   Changing economics and demography with emerging middle class in Asian economies primarily.

2. Drivers of International Education
   Quality, visa extension opportunities, employment.

3. International Growth (Students)
   2nd and 3rd tier cities in China; cities of India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand, Bangladesh.

4. International Growth (Business)
   China, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Middle East (UAE, Saudi Arabia), PNG.

5. Growth Targets
   100 enrolment for 2016.
For communication and marketing materials, the preferred placement of the Coat of Arms is in the bottom right hand corner. To ensure clear visibility, the Coat of Arms should be placed on a solid colour or clear background. The Coat of Arms symbol cannot be used on its own by departments, ie. elements may not be separated. Remember to use the Positioning line wherever possible on all external marketing communications.