

# Riverina-Murray Economy

## Fact Sheet #1

April 2016

### Planning for the Riverina-Murray

The NSW Government has released the draft Riverina-Murray Regional Plan (draft Plan) to guide sustainable growth in the region over the next 20 years.

It outlines a vision to grow and diversify the economy by creating more jobs, sustainably managing its agricultural, mining and natural resources and strengthening the region's cities, towns and villages.

You can have a say on the draft Plan which is now on exhibition.

### What does the draft Plan say about the regional economy?

#### Agribusiness

The draft Plan identifies agribusiness as a key economic sector for the region. Agribusiness is the group of businesses associated with primary and secondary production and the manufacturing, processing and distribution of agricultural products. For example, it includes agriculture, forestry and fishing as well as transport and logistics, storage and warehousing, machinery and equipment, food, beverage and other product outlets, as well as the financial institutions that fund these activities.

Agribusiness provides the economic base of many cities, towns and villages in the region and is vital to the regional and State economies.

- **Agriculture, forestry and fishing**

Agriculture, forestry and fishing is the largest contributor to gross regional product in the region, contributing \$1.4 billion to the regional economy and employing more than 11,700 people in 2011. This accounts for 20 per cent of the total NSW gross regional product for agriculture.

- **Manufacturing**

Manufacturing is the second largest contributor to gross regional product in the region, contributing \$1.3 billion to the regional economy and employing more than 10,750 people in 2011.

The draft Plan identifies manufacturing as an important economic sector in the region which supports many cities, towns and villages in the region.

Manufacturing industries in the region include food and beverage, wood and paper production, chemical products (e.g. organic fertilizer, ethanol production), plastics recycling and road stabilisation products.

A large part of the region's manufacturing sector is aligned with agriculture, including the processing and manufacturing of raw agricultural produce. This is known as value-added manufacturing.

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Examples of value-added manufacturing in the region include organic and free-range production methods, milling of grain and oilseeds, ginning and spinning of cotton, packaging of raw fruits, vegetables and meats, and preparing processed foods such as jam or dairy products.

- **Other Important Sectors**

Other sectors such as health care and social assistance, retail, and education and training are also important to the regional economy as they contribute to gross regional product and provide employment across many cities, towns and villages in the region.

### What does the draft Plan propose for the agribusiness and manufacturing sectors?

The draft Plan outlines actions to foster innovation, diversification and investment in the agribusiness sector to strengthen the economy and generate jobs.

It proposes that the NSW Government work with councils and stakeholders across the region to support growth of the agribusiness sector and overcome potential barriers to industry diversification.

Additionally, it proposes that the agricultural supply chain be protected in local plans and investment opportunities in supply chain infrastructure be identified. The supply chain includes key freight network infrastructure and facilities such as grain silos, abattoirs and saleyards, secondary processing facilities, and transport and logistics industries.

The draft Plan aims to support investment in the manufacturing sector by identifying and removing barriers to manufacturing, identifying opportunities for value-added manufacturing operations and protecting these operations from potential land use conflict. It encourages the co-location of related manufacturing industries and the use of by-products and waste materials from other industries to create new products and services.

### How will the final Plan be implemented?

A Coordination and Monitoring Committee will be established to oversee the implementation of the final Riverina-Murray Regional Plan, comprising State agencies, councils and other representatives.

### Further information

To find out more about what is in the draft Plan and to make a comment visit:  
[www.planning.nsw.gov.au/riverinamurray](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/riverinamurray)