



Forbes offers a unique blend of modern lifestyle in a historic setting. The tranquil Lake Forbes is central to the identity of the region and offers residents numerous recreation and leisure activities.

Ideally positioned on the Newell Highway halfway between Brisbane and Melbourne, Forbes is a major urban centre. Combined with excellent communication infrastructure and road network, Forbes makes for an attractive business location.

Forbes' unique and creative culture has attracted a growing population seeking a rural lifestyle as well as employment opportunities.

FORBES REGIONAL OVERVIEW

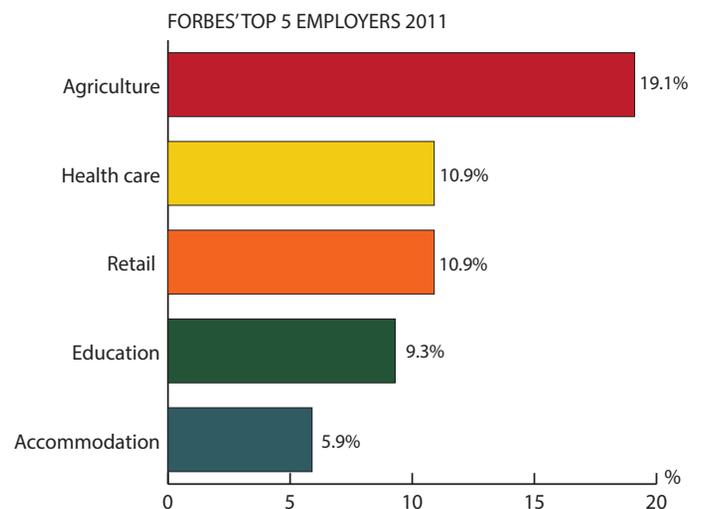
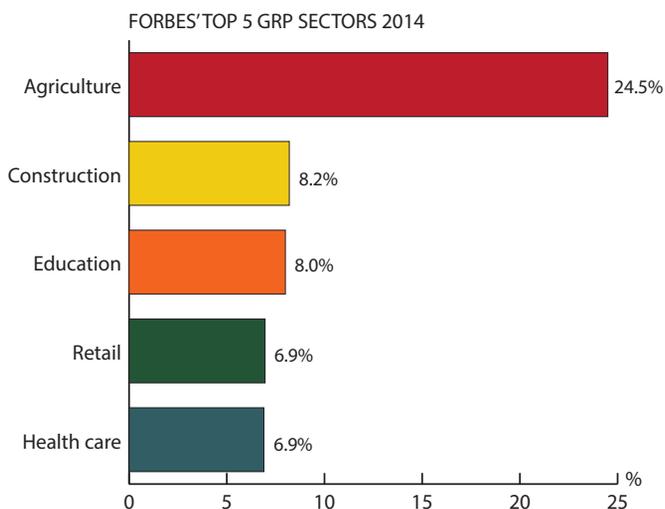
STATISTIC	INDICATOR
Population/Demographics	
Estimated Resident Population (2013)	9,664
Employment (2011)	3,891
Unemployment (Sept 2014)	6.7%
Average Wage (weekly) (2011)	\$778
Economy (2014)	
Gross Regional Product	\$398.3 million
Key Sectors (2014)	
Agriculture	\$97.1 million
Construction	\$32.6 million
Education and training	\$32.0 million
Retail	\$27.4 million
Health care	\$27.3 million
Investment (2014)	
Non-residential Investment	\$1.0 million
Residential Investment	\$3.9 million
Median House Price	\$218,000



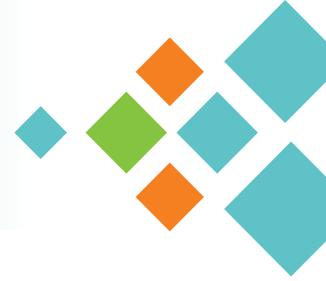
The map above illustrates Forbes' strategic location with access to some 65,000 people within a 100km radius. Forbes' economy is underpinned by both irrigated and dry land agriculture, particularly grains and livestock. In addition, the following sectors also contribute a high proportion of GRP:

- ▶ Construction ▶ Education and training ▶ Retail ▶ Health care

Sources: ABS Census (2011) ERP (2013), Cat 8731, DEEWR (2014), NIEIR (2014), Housing NSW (2014)



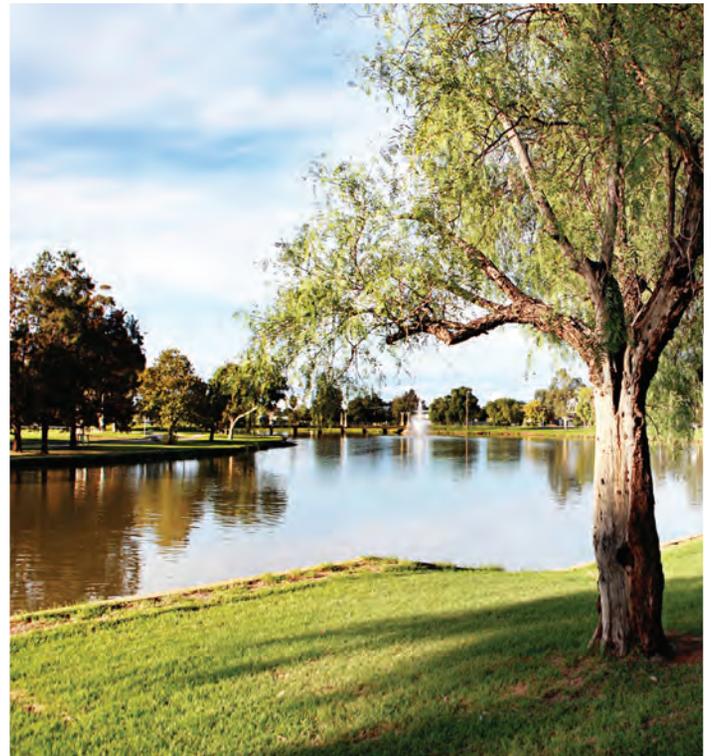
Sources: ABS Census 2011, NIEIR (2014), A.PSHEREE CONSULTING (2015)



Major business and industry located in Forbes include national retailers Bunnings and Spotlight, Bernardi's SUPA IGA, Superbee, engineering/fabrication businesses and the Central West Livestock Exchange. The Bernardi group employs over 350 people in five Supermarkets across the Central West. Superbee produces honey and other bee-related health products, which are exported all over the world from its factory in Forbes. The Central West Livestock Exchange is a world-standard undercover cattle, sheep and pig selling centre, which is among the biggest trading centres in the industry.

Opportunities for economic development in Forbes include:

- ▶ **Jemalong Regional Education Centre (JREC)** – This new Medical & Education facility provides training, conference and accommodation facilities for related fields. Developed in partnership with a number of NSW universities and Western Institute of TAFE, the facility boasts single, double and unit accommodation, video conferencing, multi-purpose conference room, Wi-Fi and more.
- ▶ **Industry and Logistics** – Forbes' strategic location on the Newell Highway combined with readily available and affordable industrial land present ideal conditions for growth. Our Intermodal Freight Terminal run by Mountain Industries is strategic in meeting the increased freight over future years.



Bringing industry to Forbes

Forbes has become highly attractive to new industry and business because of its centralised position on major transport routes, access to a willing and skilled workforce, modern infrastructure and Council incentives. The community is also very loyal to the town and firmly supports local business.

Pro-development Council

Forbes Shire Council offers a range of incentives for businesses of all sizes looking to locate within the Forbes region. The Council has established the Forbes Business and Industry Committee whose focus areas include:

- ▶ Attraction and retention of business, industry and employment opportunities
- ▶ Increased development
- ▶ Support for business development and investment
- ▶ Manufacturing and construction
- ▶ Tourism development

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