

CARRATHOOL

Carrathool is one of the Riverina's most diverse Shires, and at 19 000 km², is the largest Shire in the Riverina. Two thirds of the population are based in the five towns and villages: Hillston is the major town (population 1200), followed by Goolgowi (300), Rankins Springs (110), Carrathool (70) and Merriwagga (60). The remaining one third resides in rural areas.

Carrathool Shire is well known for its rich agricultural industry. Traditionally a grazing and cropping area, with new innovations in irrigation, the industry has now expanded into citrus, cotton, viticulture, walnuts, olives, potatoes, lettuce, mangoes, cherries, corn, rice and a large cattle feedlot. The five communities are buzzing with activity at harvest time. This thriving agricultural industry provides employment opportunities and a flow on effect can be seen throughout the local economy.

Carrathool Shire is only a short distance from the regional centre of Griffith, and is a safe and friendly place to reside and raise a family. Affordable land and housing are available, along with access to all major services such as medical facilities and schools.

Carrathool Shire offers a relaxed, laid back lifestyle, with culture, recreation and sporting facilities playing a major role in the five communities. The Lachlan and the Murrumbidgee Rivers both flow through the Shire, and the historic Willandra National Park is located only a short distance from Hillston. Residents of Carrathool Shire enjoy a vibrant lifestyle in a rural outback setting.

Key Industries

One of the largest Shires in New South Wales, Carrathool relied heavily upon the wool industry as its economic base, until the establishment of irrigation in recent years. With access to both river and arterial waters, the Shire has experienced substantial growth and development of agricultural and horticultural industries.

While traditional broad acre crops such as barley, wheat and maize continue to be grown in Carrathool Shire, there is an increasingly diverse range of horticultural and agricultural commodities being produced. Recent years have seen the emergence of crops including walnuts, potatoes, cherries, cotton, citrus, grapes, olives, mangoes, rice and lettuce.

Carrathool Shire is also a prominent producer of livestock (predominantly sheep and lamb) in addition to a substantial cattle feedlot. As well as numerous family based holdings, several large corporations own and manage properties in the district.



AT A GLANCE

Population	3136 (Whole Shire)
DISTANCE:	
To Sydney	695 km
To Melbourne	574 km
To Canberra	840 km



Employment Opportunities

There are a substantial number of jobs available in the agricultural industry, particularly during harvest. These jobs range from full time to casual and are concentrated on the management and operation of farming enterprises and the harvesting and processing of food and fibre products.

Health & Education

The Hillston Medical Centre has a resident doctor who also services the Hillston District Hospital. A physiotherapist resides in Hillston and visits the village of Goolgowi on a weekly basis. Hillston and Goolgowi are both serviced by the visiting outreach services provided by Greater Southern Area Health, based in Griffith. These services include Mental Health, Women's Health, a Drug and Alcohol Worker, and a Dietician, to name a few. Hillston also has an Ambulance Service, Home and Community Care Service, retirement home and an aged care facility.

Hillston has both a public central school and a private primary school, educating students from Kindergarten to Year 12. The villages of Rankins Springs, Carrathool and Goolgowi all have public primary schools. Children in parts of the Shire can also travel by bus to attend schools in the nearby city of Griffith. The Hillston Billylids is a childcare centre for children up to the age of 5. The remaining villages are serviced by visiting preschools and childcare facilities from Griffith and Hay.

Housing

Carrathool Shire Council has for sale residential land in subdivisions located in Hillston and Goolgowi. The blocks are very affordable, have supporting infrastructure and are ready to be developed. Sizes range from approximately 838m² to 1339m².

There are a range of affordable residential premises available in both Hillston and Goolgowi.

Leisure and Lifestyle

Carrathool Shire has a strong sporting culture, with a large number of sports played including aussie rules, rugby union, rugby league, soccer, cricket, tennis, basketball, netball, golf, swimming and pony club. Hillston has a large community centre which includes indoor netball and basketball courts, and both Goolgowi and Hillston have public swimming pools.

Both the Lachlan and Murrumbidgee Rivers flow through the Shire and Lake Woorabinda in Hillston is also a popular spot for water skiing and swimming. Carrathool Shire is home to Cocoparra National Park and the historic Willandra National Park, which both provide idyllic locations for camping, bush walking and bird watching.

Transport

The city of Griffith (110km from Hillston) is serviced by Regional Express airlines, with over 25 return flights to Sydney each week. Countrylink also services Griffith via coach and train. Freight rail runs through Hillston, connecting with major south west interstate lines.

Communications

Both Hillston and Goolgowi have access to ADSL broadband, with the remaining three villages able to connect to the internet via dial up.

CDMA mobile phone coverage services the majority of the Shire, with the exception of a few remote 'blackspots'.

A selection of commercial, community and national AM & FM radio services are received in the Shire. Carrathool also receives ABC, WIN TV, Prime and SBS television stations. Austar provides pay television via satellite.

The Hillston Spectator is a locally produced newspaper that covers local interest stories and issues.

Contact

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