AGRIBUSINESS IN THE CANBERRA REGION

The Canberra Region is a major agricultural region, hosting a diverse and rich array of boutique produce and large scale agricultural enterprises from the tablelands to the sea, creating significant opportunities for investment.

The Canberra Region is resource rich and boasts a diversity of local produce sourced from the coast through to the alpine and tableland regions. This opens the door to a broad range of exciting investment opportunities.

The Canberra and South-East NSW region is a leading agricultural and food investment area, with the temperate climate and strategic location offering favourable growing conditions and ease of access to Australia’s eastern seaboard and export markets, particularly in Asia. The recent addition of regular flights between Singapore and Canberra International Airport provide an enhanced export opportunity.

The region is open to investment and innovation with over 175,000 people currently employed in the NSW food and agriculture sector including retail, logistics and wholesale.

Boorowa, Harden, Young and Bombala each generate at least 15 per cent of their employment from agriculture, while agricultural production in the Hilltops is estimated at $269 million.

The There is high domestic and international demand for NSW’s agriculture and food products and food retail is the biggest growth driver in NSW’s retail industry.

Canberra Region agribusiness employment is 12 per cent, compared to NSW’s 2.2 per cent.
DIVERSE PRODUCE

The recent availability of international flights between Canberra International Airport, Singapore and New Zealand is creating an exciting new era for the Canberra region. Expanded access to international markets is set to drive innovation and rapid growth for the Canberra Region economy in tourism, business and trade.

Temperate climate and strategic location offers favourable growing conditions and ease of access to export markets.

Resource rich with a diversity of local boutique produce.

Agricultural production in the Hilltops is estimated at $269 million.

Agricultural industries support and underpin a range of secondary industries across the food supply chain, such as small species abattoirs, the Bega cheese processing facility, wine processing facilities and regional saleyards.

In addition to food production, farmers are increasingly directly involved in retail, marketing and value-adding or secondary processing. This increases local employment and has flow-on effects in the local economy. Agricultural activities operate across 2.5 million hectares of farmland in the region, employing over 5,000 people.

There is also potential to increase economic viability by accessing export markets. International flights between Canberra, New Zealand and Singapore have commenced at Canberra International Airport, with Singapore Airlines operating regular connecting flights. This is an exciting new era for the Canberra Region with the expanded access to international markets set to drive innovation and rapid growth for the Canberra Region economy in tourism, business and trade.

FIBRE AND WOOL PRODUCTION

Fibre and wool production is a feature of the Canberra region due to its expansive agricultural land with 16 per cent of the State’s wool and fibre coming from the region. Australia produces some of the world’s best quality fibre - Australian Merino wool, and NSW is Australia’s largest wool producing state. The Canberra Region provides an excellent range of sheep growing areas, from cooler southern and northern tablelands suited to superfine wool production, through to medium to strong wool production.

Alpaca is becoming one of the world’s most valuable and sought-after fibres and is an excellent industry for investment. The Southern NSW Alpaca Region is one of the largest alpaca districts in Australia, stretching from the southern highlands to the Victorian border and encompassing some of Australia’s best fibre growing areas. Both Suri and Huacaya alpacas are bred in this region.
BOUTIQUE FOOD PRODUCTION

The Canberra Region has niche capability in boutique food production, with many outlets providing people the opportunity to buy directly from small local producers. This includes many boutique wineries with cellar doors operating for visitors to participate in wine tasting. There is diversity of investment options with local growers specialising in a wide array of unique produce including pears, cherries, hazelnuts, mushrooms and truffles.

The climatic conditions in the Canberra Region are perfect for growing truffles, providing strong incentive for investment in this emerging and specialised industry.

2.5 million hectares of farmland employing over 5,000 people.

The Canberra Region provides 16 per cent of wool production for NSW.

The Canberra Region is one of the largest alpaca districts in Australia.

Truffles specifically have become an internationally recognised gourmet experience, with the most prized truffles known as Perigord Truffles (Black Truffles). As a southern hemisphere industry, Australia provides the potential for counter-seasonal supply to strong demand from European and other northern hemisphere markets.

The availability of Canberra to Singapore flights at the Canberra International Airport allow for increased export speed and availability – a necessity when exporting produce like truffles which have a very short and delicate shelf life. This also opens the forwarding transport potential to reach the European Union, a market which accounted for more than 35 per cent of the global truffle market value in 2016.

WINE PRODUCTION

The Canberra Region is one of Australia’s most rapidly expanding wine districts, located in prime countryside for vineyards and inviting increased investment.

The district is known as a cool-climate wine area. The unique regional climate and variation in temperature, vineyard elevations and different soil types, gives rise to refined, unique varieties of wine. This includes the lower altitude and more inland regions near Yass and the high altitudes near Bungendore.

The Coast is home to multiple dairy products including cheese and yoghurt. It is this diversity coupled with high output that makes this sector attractive for further
investment. The Bega Valley is renowned for Bega Cheese, the leading supplier of cheese in the Australian market and exporting approximately 20 per cent of its production to over 50 countries. 500 farmers across Australia supply Bega Cheese with approximately 700 million litres of milk.

The Canberra Region is a leader in wheat production, delivering 21 per cent of wheat production for NSW. In recognition of its importance, the Cunningar Grain Storage and Handling Facility in Harden has recently been funded to upgrade key rail infrastructure. This will significantly increase the capacity and capability in the region and strengthen the export competitiveness of grain growing.

SEAFOOD

The Canberra Region incorporates the south Coast, with fresh produce available including wild catch fish, oysters, lobsters and mussels, encouraging a breadth of investment possibilities.

The Marianvale Blue aquaculture facility is set amongst 3000 plus acres of bush and farmland near Goulburn. Marianvale Blue is the largest Murray Cod farm in the world and engages in sustainable aquaculture to reduce the farm’s carbon footprint, water usage and volume of wastes.

Fishing and aquaculture, particularly oysters and shellfish, are significant industries on the coast. There are 103 oyster farmers in the region, producing mainly Sydney Rock Oysters and smaller quantities of Native Oysters and Pacific Oysters. The Canberra Region contributes more than 30 per cent of Sydney rock oyster production in NSW.

Product diversity coupled with high output makes the Canberra Region dairy sector ready for investment

Industry leaders for both wheat and dairy

The Canberra Region’s ‘Oyster Coast’ is famous for produce and fifth generation oyster farms.

BEEF AND OTHER MEATS

The Canberra region is home to world class agricultural investment through Growth Farms which specialises in the acquisition and management of agricultural investments, assisting with investment, farm structure and farm business. Growth Farms currently have approximately $380 million in assets under management.

With multiple beef and meat producers and exporters - such as Southern Meats, Goulburn and Hilltops Meats, and Monbeef at Cooma - there is great opportunity for investment in the region. Prime lamb production is strong across the region with farmers directly supplying domestic food chains and supermarkets.
Southern Meats, one of Australia’s leading sheep meat exporters, have a hi-tech abattoir strategically located within prime Australian sheep growing country in Goulburn. Its proximity to Sydney also ensures ease of access to worldwide markets. Monbeef abattoir at Cooma supplies to markets throughout Australia and to 26 countries around the world.

TIMBER

The deep natural harbour in Twofold Bay, Eden is surrounded by more than 163,000 hectares of state forests. Woodchip export is currently the major trade for the Port of Eden, with over one million mass tonnes exported to Japan, China and Korea in 2011.

The western and southern areas of the Canberra Region have well established and growing timber harvest and processing businesses. The operations use softwood plantation timber and the sector offers opportunities for business investment and development.

The Canberra Region timber industry is supported by more than 163,000 ha of state forests

Major operations are located at Tumut at the Visy mill, at Bombala at Dongwha Timbers’ state of the art processing facility and at the recently established International Primary Products log export yard at Goulburn who are exporting structural timber and pulp which is being used in riverbank stabilisation works. Dongwha Timbers, an international company based in South Korea, are currently working towards further expansion and improvements at their Bombala site.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

canberraregion.com.au

All information correct at time of printing.