

LANDMARK POSTCODE

2871



Forbes Lachlan Street at sunset
Image courtesy of Jack Meagher

LOCATION: Forbes
4 hours west of Sydney

POPULATION: 8,000

INDUSTRIES: Agriculture, education, retail, health and community services

CLIMATE: Temperate
Summer 17.4°C – 32.7°C
Winter 2.7°C – 14.2°C
Rainfall 526.5mm

The by-gone days of bushrangers and gold have left a lasting legacy in Forbes. This vibrant New South Wales town is steeped in history and its main street boasts many architectural treasures from the late nineteenth century.

These days, agriculture is the main driver of the economy and despite more than five years of drought the town is flourishing. It's easy to see why.

Sitting beside the Lachlan River and divided by the natural waters of Lake Forbes, the town is a green oasis in the state's central west.

Forbes has good schools, health and community facilities. Its retail strips are a regional drawcard with an impressive mix of boutiques and specialty stores.

The rural economy was traditionally dominated by wheat and wool but irrigation has enabled diversification into feed lots and fodder production, dairy farming, oil seed crops, apples and stone fruits, vegetables, wine, olives and citrus.

Forbes is home to the largest covered feedlot dairy in the Southern Hemisphere. The Moxey farm is undergoing a \$12 million expansion

program that will see its herd double from 2,000 to 4,000 cows. Round the clock milking will require an additional 18 full-time staff.

Historically, Forbes importance as a rural centre grew because of its position on the main overland stock route between Victoria and Queensland. Location is still critically important.

Landmark's Ainslie Toole says Forbes is centrally located to multiple feed sources.

"We are well-placed on the Newell Highway, have good underground water as well as supply from the Wyangala Dam."

A new multi-million dollar honey factory has relocated from Queensland's Sunshine Coast to Forbes. Superbee will source honey from across the eastern states and process about 1,500 tonnes of honey a year.

The town is also an important stock selling centre. Its new Central West Livestock Exchange is one of Australia's largest under cover cattle selling centres.

In the early 1800's explorer John Oxley camped on the banks of the Lachlan near present day Forbes during one of his first treks inland. Gold was discovered in 1861 and the town grew overnight. Fabulously rich strikes were made, but not always from gold. Bushrangers Ben Hall, Frank Gardiner and their respective gangs were notorious and their exploits are part of local folklore. The system of tunnels built to foil the bushrangers can still be seen today.

Forbes is accessible by rail and air. The town boasts that sixty per cent of Australia's population lives within ten hours drive.

"We are seeing a lot of mining families moving

to Forbes to live because it is such a nice town," says Ainslie.

The value of development approvals has tripled in the past year.

A new \$15 million nursing home is being planned and Woolworths is building a new supermarket in the centre of town.

Housing construction has doubled in 12 months and rural land is selling well.

"High grain prices have boosted inquiry and sales to record levels," says Ainslie.

"Concerns over a world wide food shortage are creating strong interest in rural land in our region from domestic and international interests."

Contact

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PROPERTY GUIDE:

Residential: 3 bedroom house \$180,000

Rural Residential: 5 acres with town services starting from \$95,000

Farming land: Cropping land from \$600 - \$900 an acre

Irrigation: Well developed irrigation land from \$2,000 an acre including the water licenses