

## Shire Profiles

### Rural City of Wangaratta

<b>Location:</b>	Approximately 235 km from Melbourne.
<b>Area:</b>	179,000 ha
<b>Major towns:</b>	Wangaratta, Everton, Glenrowan, Oxley, Milawa, Moyhu, Peechelba, Springhurst, Whitfield, Whorouly and Eldorado.
<b>Landforms:</b>	King Valley, King River, Ovens River (north of Wangaratta is heritage listed), the Warby Ranges Lake William Hovel, Reedy Ck and Fifteen Mile Ck. King Valley and the Warby Ranges have good granitic soils which are especially suitable for stone fruit production
<b>Major agricultural commodities:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Citrus (100%) of production in Ovens-Murray region.</li><li>· Cherries (90%)      Nectarines (100%)</li><li>· Peaches (100%)      Grapes (59%)</li><li>· Kiwi Fruit (95%)</li><li>· Capsicums and Chillies (51%)</li><li>· Zucchini and Button Squash (98%)</li><li>· Sheep and Lambs (40%)      Beef Cattle (31%)</li><li>· Chickens – Meat (100%)</li><li>· Horses (45%)      Goats (62%)      Deer (69%)</li><li>· Beekeeping (43%)</li><li>· Hops (24%)</li><li>· Hay and Silage (37%)</li><li>· Berry Fruit (10%)</li><li>· Milk Cattle (24%)</li><li>· Cereals (32%)      Canola (27%)</li><li>· Legumes (18%)</li></ul>
<b>Major land uses:</b>	Broadacre cropping, livestock and horticultural crops.
<b>No. of farms:</b>	930, 36% of farms in Ovens-Murray region.
<b>Other:</b>	<p>The Rural City of Wangaratta is renowned for its gourmet food and wine areas. This shire is primarily a manufacturing and commercial centre for North-East Victoria. Several large transport and freight companies are located in Wangaratta.</p> <p>A green tea processing plant was opened in Wangaratta in 2004 and processes green tea produced solely within the Alpine Shire. A proposal to build a large scale abattoir and meat processing facility in Wangaratta is currently being considered.</p>
<b>Reference:</b>	(Australian Bureau of Statistics 2008a).

## Indigo Shire

<b>Location:</b>	Approximately 270 km from Melbourne and borders the Murray River west of Albury/ Wodonga.
<b>Area:</b>	113,000 ha
<b>Major towns:</b>	Beechworth, Stanley, Chiltern, Rutherglen and Yackandandah.
<b>Landforms:</b>	Murray River (west of Wodonga), Kiewa River, Lake Hume, Mt Pilot National Park, Black Dog Ck, Indigo Ck and Chiltern Ironbark National Park. The eastern parts of the shire are sub-alpine terrain. The western end of the shire is more open and flatter, suit
<b>Major agricultural commodities:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Cereals (67%) of production in Ovens-Murray region.</li><li>· Canola (73%)</li><li>· Legumes (83%)</li><li>· Sheep and Lambs (32%)</li><li>· Apples (31%)</li><li>· Pears (88%)</li><li>· Grapes (27%)</li><li>· Berry Fruit (73%)</li><li>· Cherries (9%)</li><li>· Lives (30%)</li><li>· Nuts (43%)</li><li>· Tomatoes (37%)</li><li>· Milk Cattle (21%)</li><li>· Beef Cattle (16%)</li><li>· Pigs (16%)</li><li>· Beekeeping (33%)</li><li>· Hay and Silage (22%)</li></ul>
<b>Major land uses:</b>	Broadacre cropping, grazing and horticultural crops.
<b>No. of farms:</b>	574, 22% of farms in Ovens-Murray region.
<b>Reference:</b>	(Australian Bureau of Statistics 2008a).

## Rural City of Wodonga

<b>Location:</b>	Approximately 300 km from Melbourne and borders the Murray River and the New South Wales town of Albury.
<b>Area:</b>	25,000 ha
<b>Major towns:</b>	Wodonga, Baranduda and Bandiana.
<b>Landforms:</b>	Kiewa River, Murray River, Baranduda Ranges and Lake Hume.
<b>Major agricultural commodities:</b>	Negligible
<b>Major land uses:</b>	Housing and development, manufacturing.
<b>No. of farms:</b>	119
<b>Other:</b>	Manufacturing is the largest industry sector followed by retail, government and defence, health and community services, and education.  Major investments have been made in the manufacturing and processing sectors including a \$90 million distribution centre for Woolworths, which has formed the basis for a transport and logistics hub, called LOGIC. The Rural City of Wodonga is also home to
<b>Reference:</b>	(Australian Bureau of Statistics 2008a).

## Alpine Shire

<b>Location:</b>	Approximately 270 km from Melbourne and 70 km from Albury/ Wodonga.
<b>Area:</b>	70,000 ha
<b>Major towns:</b>	Bright, Myrtleford, Mt Beauty and Dinner Plain.
<b>Landforms:</b>	Kiewa Valley, Ovens Valley, Buffalo River Valley, Kiewa River, Ovens River, Buffalo River, Mt Buffalo, Lake Buffalo, Rocky Valley Dam, Mt Feathertop and Mt Bogong.
<b>Major agricultural commodities:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Apples (68%) of production in Ovens-Murray region.</li><li>· Nuts (47%)</li><li>· Hops (76%)</li><li>· Berry Fruit (17%)</li><li>· Capsicum and Chillies (49%)</li><li>· Olives (52%)</li><li>· Pears (12%)</li><li>· Grapes (15%)</li><li>· Kiwi Fruit (5%)</li><li>· Tomatoes (54%)</li><li>· Horses (15%)</li><li>· Goats (13%)</li></ul>
<b>Major land uses:</b>	Horticultural crops and commercial forestry.
<b>No. of farms:</b>	400, 16% of farms in Ovens-Murray region.
<b>Other:</b>	Timber logging and processing are important activities for the shire, with a significant saw milling facility at Myrtleford and substantial soft wood timber plantations throughout the shire.  Approximately 74% of tobacco in the Ovens-Murray region was produced in the Alpine Shire until late 2006.
<b>Reference:</b>	(Australian Bureau of Statistics 2008a).

## Towong Shire

<b>Location:</b>	North-East corner of Victoria, 120 km east of Albury/Wodonga on the Murray Valley Highway.
<b>Area:</b>	170,000 ha, Towong is the largest shire in the Ovens-Murray region.
<b>Major towns:</b>	Tallangatta and Corryong.
<b>Landforms:</b>	Mitta Mitta River, Mt Granya National Park, Murray River (east of Lake Hume), Lake Hume and Lake Dartmouth. These dams are key water storages for regulating the water flows of the Murray River.
<b>Major agricultural commodities:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Sheep and Lambs (20%) of production in Ovens-Murray region.</li><li>· Milk Cattle (38%)</li><li>· Beef Cattle (35%)</li><li>· Pigs (74%)</li><li>· Chickens – Layers (95%)</li><li>· Horses (24%)</li><li>· Goats (15%)</li><li>· Hay and Silage (29%)</li></ul>
<b>Major land uses:</b>	Livestock and commercial forestry.
<b>No. of farms:</b>	537, 21% of farms in Ovens-Murray region.
<b>Other:</b>	Towong shire also supports a strong timber industry.
<b>Reference:</b>	(Australian Bureau of Statistics 2008a).