

Bland Shire At A Glance



Bland Shire Population: 5,547 (2021)

West Wyalong & Wyalong Population: 3,657 (2021)

Median weekly household income: \$1,326

Median monthly mortgage repayments: \$1,083

Median weekly rent: \$200

Work Full-time: 1607

Work Part-time: 772

Unemployed: 77

Work Away From Home: 168

Area:

The Bland Shire covers an area of 8,558 square kilometres. It is surrounded by the Shires of Lachlan, Forbes, Weddin, Young, Temora, Coolamon,

Narrandera and Carathool. Bland has a road network of 3,190km and has nine bridges.

Towns & Villages:

Towns & Villages in the Bland Shire include **West Wyalong, Wyalong, Barmedman, Mirrool, Naradhan, Tallimba, Kikoira, Ungarie and Weethalle.**

Distances by road from West Wyalong to:

Barmedman 32km (22 mins)

Weethalle 57km (38 mins)

Hay: 256km (2 hrs 4 mins)

Sydney 491km (5 hrs 15 mins)

Tallimba 33km (26 mins)

Forbes 104km (1hr 4 mins)

Dubbo: 258km (2 hrs 47 mins)

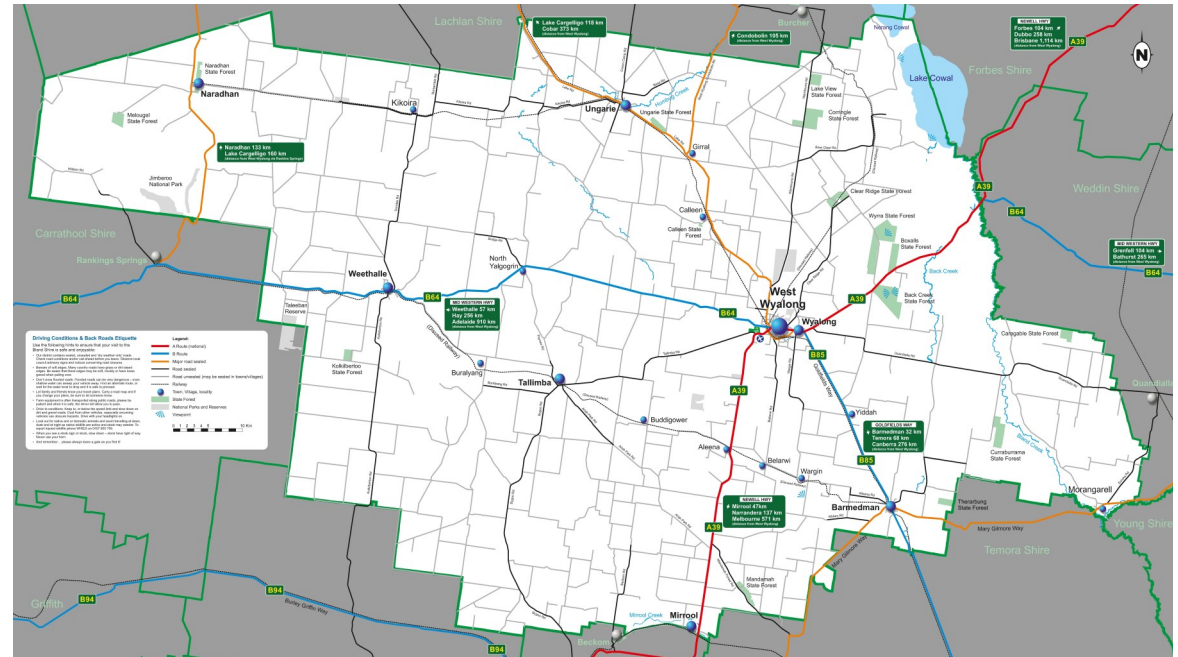
Melbourne: 571km (6 hrs)

Ungarie 43km (3 mins)

Lake Cargelligo 118km (1hr 34mins)

Mirrool 47km (29 mins)

Wagga Wagga 156km (1 hr 48 mins)



Bland Shire At A Glance



Electoralates:

The Bland Shire is the NSW State Electorate of Cootamundra and the Federal Electorate of Riverina.

Elevation:

262 metres above sea level. Average annual rainfall: 480 millimetres. Average number of rain days: 51

Bland Shire

The original inhabitants of the area were the Wiradjuri people and West Wyalong was once described in 1817 as “country that would never again be visited by civilized man” by surveyor-general, John Oxley.

Gold was discovered at Wyalong in September 1893 by Joseph Neeld. In 1895 West Wyalong was developed 5km from Wyalong around the gold mines and bullock tracks, resulting in curious curves in the road where it avoided trees and gold mines. The goldfield was declared the most productive in the colony in 1869.

The Bland Shire was proclaimed on 6th March 1906 and takes its name after Dr William Bland a medical practitioner, surgeon, politician, farmer and inventor.

Situated on the northern fringes of the Riverina in a very central location (at the crossroads of the Newell Hwy between Melbourne and Brisbane, the Mid-Western Hwy between Sydney and Adelaide, and the Goldfields Way)

The Bland Shire’s history is deeply engrained in agriculture and gold production which continues through to today. The Barrick Cowal Gold Mine commenced construction in 2004 with gold production in 2006 and in 2014: Barrick Cowal produced 268,000 ounces of gold. Evolution mining acquired the Barrick Cowal Gold Mine in July 2015.

The Bland Shire is one of New South Wales largest cereal- growing areas producing wheat, barley, oats, triticale, cereal-rye, chickpeas, field peas, lupins, canola and sorghum. Eucalyptus Oil production started in 1907 and the West Wyalong area has become one of the major world exporters of Eucalyptus Oil in Australia.



Bland Shire At A Glance



Some of the major employers include:

- Bland Shire Council
- Evolution Cowal Gold Mine
- Grainflow
- Graincorp
- John Holland
- Royal Freemasons Benevolent Institution

Occupation Sectors:

- NSW Department of Education
- Sheep, Beef Cattle and Grain Farming
- Metal Ore Mining
- Other Grain Growing
- Local Government Administration

