

Bland Shire At A Glance

Bland Shire Population: 5,995 (2016)

Median weekly household income: \$1,100
Median monthly mortgage repayments: \$1,000
Median weekly rent: \$150
Work full-time: 1609

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 Carrathool. Has a road network of 3,190km and has nine bridges.

Towns and villages in the Bland Shire include West Wyalong, Wyalong, Barmedman, Mirrool, Naradhan, Tallimba, Kikiora, Ungarie and Weethalle.

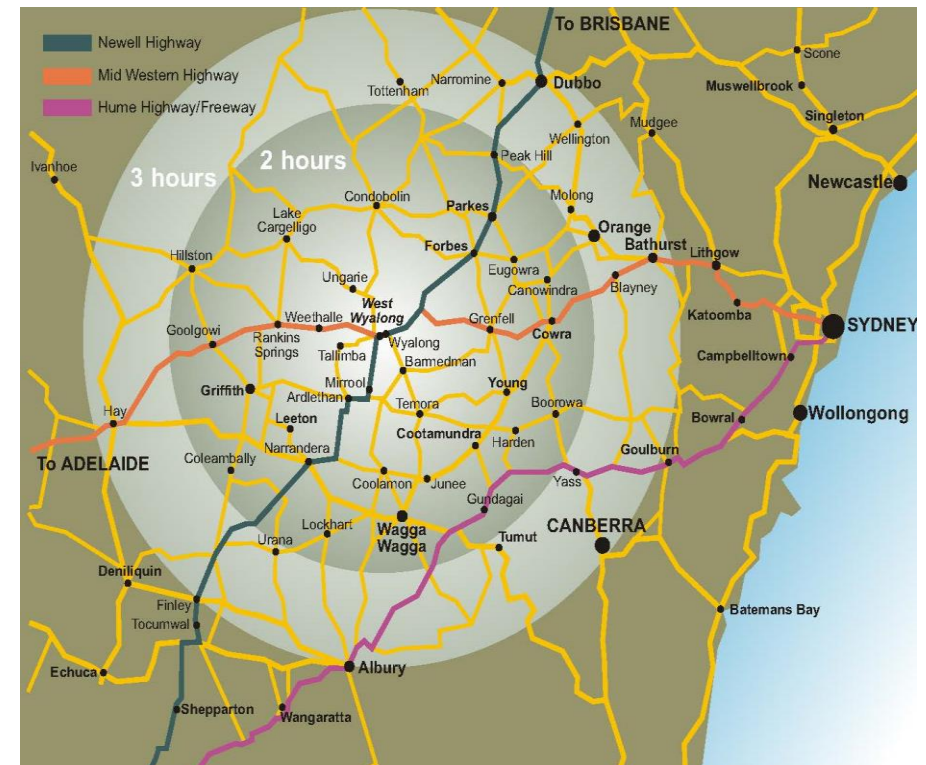
Distances by road to:

Barmedman 32km (22mins)
Tallimba 33km (26mins)
Ungarie 43km (3mins)
Mirrool 47km (29mins)
Weethalle 57km (38mins)
Forbes 104km (1hr 4mins)
Lake Cargelligo 118km (1hr 34mins)

Wagga Wagga 156km (1hr 48mins)
Hay 256km (2hrs 4mins)
Dubbo 258km (2hrs 47mins)
Canberra 276km (3hrs 16mins)
Sydney 491km (5hrs 15mins)
Melbourne 571km (6hrs)

West Wyalong & Wyalong Population: 3,800

Work part-time: 764
Work away from home: 168
Unemployed: 95



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Electoralates:

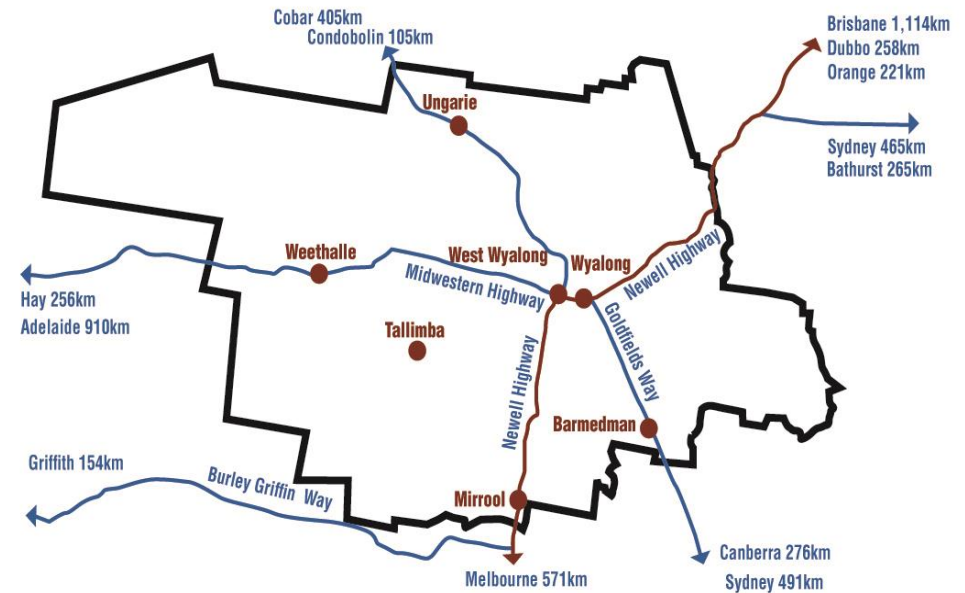
The Bland Shire is the NSW State Electorate of Cootamundra and the Federal Electorate of Riverina.

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 as 'country that would never again be visited by civilised man.' The dire prediction was made in 1817 when surveyor-general, John Oxley traversed the western boundaries of the area.

Gold was discovered at Wyalong in September 1893 by Joseph Neeld. In 1895 West Wyalong was developed 5 km from Wyalong around the gold mines and bullock tracks, without the benefit of town planning, resulting in curious curves in the road where it avoided trees and gold mines. As well as the mines, the White Tank water supply was located in West Wyalong. This is now the location of McCann Park. The goldfield was declared the most productive in the colony in 1899.

The Bland Shire was proclaimed on 6 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 Highway between Melbourne and Brisbane, the Mid-Western Highway 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 Cowl Gold Mine commenced construction in 2004 with gold production in 2006 and in 2014; Barrick Cowl produced 268,000 ounces of gold. Evolution Mining acquires the Barrick Cowl 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.

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Some of the major employers include:

- Bland Shire Council
- Evolution Cowal Gold Mine
- Grainflow
- Grain Corp
- John Holland
- Royal Freemasons Benevolent Institution
- NSW Department of Education

Occupation sectors:

- Sheep, Beef Cattle and Grain Farming 9.1%
- Sheep Farming (Specialised) 4.0%
- Metal Ore Mining 7.4%
- Other Grain Growing 7.3%
- Local Government Administration 3.9%

Bland Shire Towns and Villages

West Wyalong and Wyalong

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The town of Wyalong contains many of the beautiful historic features of the area such as the Historic Court House and Council Chambers. It is in Wyalong that you will also find some very unique gifts from the Exclusive Hot Glass Gallery and Wheatley's Wares.

Barmedman

Barmedman had its origins as a gold mining town and is located 32 kilometres south east of West Wyalong on the Goldfields Way. The famous Barmedman mineral pool is the largest mineral pool in the world, just edging out the American Glenwood Hot Springs Pool by a few hundred square metres and is said to have health giving properties. The Pool is situated on a four-hectare reserve and is equipped with barbeque and change facilities and it includes a small but picturesque campsite.

A second camping ground is situated on the showground which hosts the Barmedman Modified Tractor Pull in March and the Barmedman show in September.

Mirrool

Mirrool is located 47 kilometres to the South of West Wyalong on the Newell Highway. Mirrool is the home of the Mirrool Silo Kick, a hotly contested football kicking competition held on the 2nd Saturday in October each year. The area has a colourful history of settlement, squatters and bushrangers.

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The old-style Mirrool Hotel is the social hub of the village, and there is a small park with a well equipped child play area and also a great camping area alongside the park.

Naradhan

On the road from Rankins Springs to Lake Cargelligo, Naradhan is a small village owing its origins in part to the Ungarie to Naradhan Railway. The engine turntable forms the terminus of the line.

The fully restored Historic Naradhan Woolshed built in 1888 (can be viewed from the Rankins Springs road) is one of the last great woolsheds in the region. Visits to the woolshed can be made by appointment (02) 6896 9802.

Tallimba

Tallimba is a small rural community located 33 kilometres to the south west of West Wyalong and is surrounded by rich agricultural land.

Tallimba's combined pub/post office faces the park with a shady children's play area and it is a great place to visit.

Ungarie

Ungarie is located 43 kilometres north west of West Wyalong on the road to Lake Cargelligo and is surrounded by rich agricultural land. The town has a wonderful open air swimming pool, motel accommodation, café, dining, pub, museum and bowling club.

There is a campsite with a dump point facility at the showground and the annual show is held in September.

Weethalle

Weethalle is located 57 kilometres west of West Wyalong on the Mid Western Highway and the 'Whistle Stop' (1923) station tea-room and craft shop is well worth a visit for a Devonshire tea and coffee. Refreshments can also be obtained at the Roadhouse or the friendly Royal Hotel.

Weethalle's museum is housed in the former premises of The Commercial Banking Company of Sydney. The museum displays many antiques from the district and items of local history.

