WATER for WARRILL

FACT SHEET

HIGH-VALUE WATER

BOOSTING THE WARRILL'S FARM PRODUCTION AND FOOD PROCESSING ECONOMY

The Warrill Valley Water Supply Scheme supplies irrigation water to approximately 8,000 hectares of agricultural land.

Agriculture generated $238 million in Scenic Rim industry value added in 2024-25, or 11.2 per cent of the regional economy.

Farm production from the area supplies an established group of food-processing and packing businesses, including operations with year-round supermarket contracts and export-market accreditation.

The corridor between Kalbar, Harrisville and Bromelton contains significant agricultural processing and manufacturing capacity.

Carrots, sweet corn, onions and mixed vegetables are washed, graded, cooled and packed locally, with some carrots and sweet corn also cut or prepared for retail. Smaller-scale processing also occurs in dairy, wine and other specialty products.

AT A GLANCE

Water used for food processing has a value-add worth approximately $166,000/ML/year.

The Warrill and Fassifern valleys feature 8000ha of irrigated agricultural production, along with established food processing, packing, cold-storage and dairy-manufacturing activities.

Vegetables undergo first-stage processing with washing, grading, cooling, curing and prepared-vegetable lines at Kalbar. Dairy processing occurs at Harrisville, and gelatine manufacturing and rendering at Bromelton.

Product from the region is sold nationally via the major supermarkets and is exported to Asia. The largest single vegetable operation handles ~40,000t/yr.

The $291m Scenic Rim Agricultural Industrial Precinct at Kalbar is under construction and includes two vegetable-processing facilities and an anaerobic-digester.

Kalbar is within an hour of Ipswich, Qld's fastest-growing local government area, and Logan, the State's fourth-largest, providing access to labour to support expansion.

THE GROWTH OPPORTUNITY

With access to increased volumes and more reliable water, the region has strong opportunity to grow its processing base, while contributing to import replacement through expanded production of garlic, spinach, silverbeet, kale and beans.

Current private investment in the Scenic Rim Agricultural Industrial Precinct demonstrates the need for further expanding the production and processing base.

Based on an existing vegetable-processing operation, approximately 10 megalitres of processing water supports 5,000t of annual throughput and results in $1.66 million a year in gross post-harvest value added.

This is equivalent to approximately

$166,000
ML/year

from water used for food processing.



WATER RELIABILITY EQUALS ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Harrisville dairy farmers David and Gwen Roderick, and their son Paul and wife Linda, have implemented drought-proofing measures for their business, but the biggest risk remains low irrigation allocations in dry years.

Rodericks Dairy is 250 hectares and currently milks 500 cows each day, relying on medium priority allocation from the Warrill Valley Water Supply Scheme to produce irrigated pastures as well as fodder crops for silage.

“We’ve got a very good system but it’s not 100pc reliable, and we can’t just stop milking our cows because it gets dry,” Paul Roderick said.

“In my time on the farm, we’ve had a number of years in a row with little to no allocation to start the season, and when that happens we either have reduce the size of our herd or continue with much higher costs of production.

“By having more secure water for our farm, we’d limit the times we would be caught without fodder. Feed is the biggest cost in our business, and when there’s a drought the cost of fodder can be twice the price of what we can produce it for.”

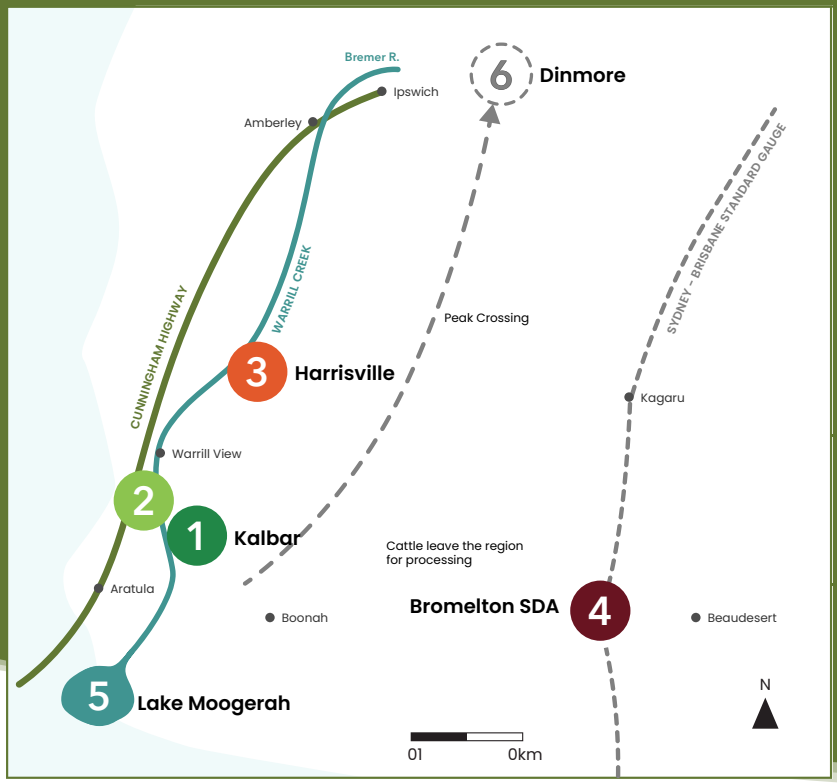
Part of Rodericks Dairy is located within the flood zone, making it an ideal location for constructing additional on-farm water infrastructure to store water for use during dry times or building up their fodder reserves.

“Access to additional water would give us the ability to open up more land and enable us to invest in efficient irrigation systems to maximise the productivity of that water,” Paul said.

“And it would give us the buffer we need to keep producing even in those very bad drought years.”

THE WARRILL AND FASSIFERN PROCESSING CORRIDOR

Operating food processing and manufacturing capacity, the water that serves it, and where value leaves the region



PROCESSING AND MANUFACTURING

1 Kalfresh, Kalbar
Washing, polishing, optical grading, cold chain and packing. Around 40,000 t a year. Prepared-vegetable, onion curing and sweet-corn lines on the same site.

2 Scenic Rim Agricultural Industrial Precinct, Kalbar
$291m over ten years, under construction. Two vegetable-processing plants, anaerobic digestions, composting.

3 Summer Land Camels, Harrisville
Australia's largest commercial camel dairy and milk processing facility. Export accreditation in progress.

4 Bromelton State Development Area
15,610 ha declared, about 1,800 ha for industry. GELITA (edible gelatine), A.J. Bush (rendering), SCT Logistics intermodal rail.

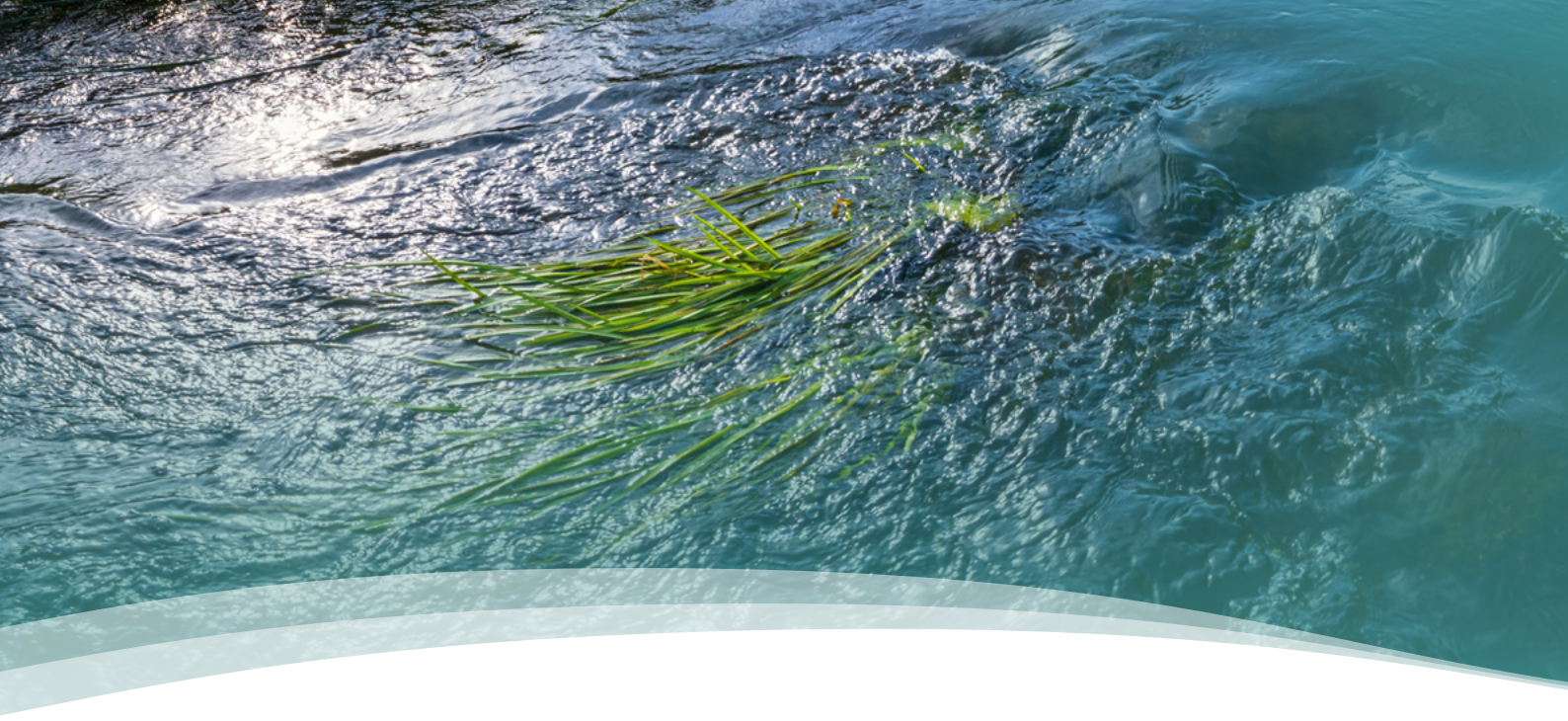
WATER

5 Moogerah Dam
83,700 ML storage, built 1961. Sole storage for the Warrill Valley Water Supply Scheme, serving about 8,000 ha and 262 customers.

PROCESSED OUTSIDE THE REGION

6 JBS Dinmore
No abattoir operates in the Scenic Rim. Cattle leave live for Dinmore in the adjoining Ipswich LGA - up to 3,400 head a day.

ECONOMIC FACTORS	CURRENT POSITION OF THE WARRILL AND FASSIFERN CORRIDOR
Raw material proximity	Growing, packing, cooling and manufacturing currently operate within a few kilometres of one another. The Kalbar precinct was designed around co-location with the farms that supply it.
Labour supply	Kalbar is within about an hour of Ipswich, Queensland's fastest-growing local government area in 2024-25 at 3.5pc. Logan, the State's fourth-largest local government area at 403,515, adjoins to the east. Around 40pc of Scenic Rim resident workers currently travel outside the region for work.
Industrial land, zoned and buffered	The Scenic Rim Agricultural Industrial Precinct is a declared coordinated project that has completed Coordinator-General assessment. The Bromelton State Development Area covers 15,610ha, with State provisions to prevent encroachment by incompatible and sensitive land uses.
Freight to market and port	Kalbar fronts the Cunningham Highway and is approximately 84km from the Brisbane CBD, with access to the Port of Brisbane and Brisbane Airport. Bromelton sits on the Sydney–Brisbane standard-gauge corridor with SCT Logistics' $30m intermodal terminal and future Inland Rail connectivity. On declaration in 2008, the State described Bromelton as the only area available for future industrial development in the South-East corner with access to the national standard-gauge rail network.
Energy and organic waste	The Scenic Rim Agricultural Industrial Precinct will include an anaerobic-digestion plant and a composting facility producing up to 50,000t a year, with re-use of treated industrial wastewater contemplated in its design. A.J. Bush at Bromelton currently recycles biogas from covered anaerobic lagoons to generate electricity and recycles wastewater for irrigation.
Existing cluster	Vegetable, dairy, gelatine and rendering operations are already established across Kalbar, Harrisville and Bromelton.



IMPORT REPLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES	IMPORTED, YEAR ENDING JUNE 2025	AUSTRALIAN PRODUCTION	WARRILL VALLEY SUITABILITY
Fresh garlic	16,743 t	3,147 t	Imports exceed domestic production more than five-fold and have risen in each of the last four years. Garlic suits the winter rotation, and the curing, drying and storage capability at Kalbar is already in place for onions.
Frozen spinach, silverbeet and kale	7,271 t	6,737 t	Imports exceed total Australian production. Not currently a corridor crop, but agronomically compatible.
Frozen beans	5,732 t	27,691 t	Queensland grows the majority of Australia's green beans, and they are an established corridor crop.

FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Access to higher volumes and more reliable allocations of water from the Warrill Valley Water Supply Scheme will take the region's economy to a new level for Queensland.

The Warrill and Fassifern corridor is already more than an agricultural production area; it is a food processing and manufacturing hub ready to expand through its new industrial precinct, freight connection points and access to a large labour market.

Additional reliable water would support more consistent agricultural production and throughput for processors.

With established facilities, locally grown raw materials and potential markets for further processed products, the corridor has a credible foundation for expanding food processing and retaining more of the value generated from its agricultural production within the region.