

Wagga Wagga Special Activation Precinct



Community newsletter update
November 2023



The Wagga Wagga Special Activation Precinct (Wagga Wagga precinct) will be a sustainable hub of high value production and manufacturing.

As NSW's southern gateway and located on the new Inland Rail, the precinct will connect Australia's richest food and agricultural region with the world.



nsw.gov.au/waggasap

Budget announcement for Special Activation Precincts

The NSW State Budget released in September reconfirmed the NSW Government's commitment to the Wagga Wagga Special Activation Precinct (Wagga Wagga precinct) with \$154 million in funding allocated over the next four years, taking the government's total investment in the precinct to over \$212 million.

The NSW Government will continue to work closely with Wagga Wagga City Council to ensure the vision of the precinct is realised.



\$154 million
funding commitment over
the next four years



\$212 million
total investment

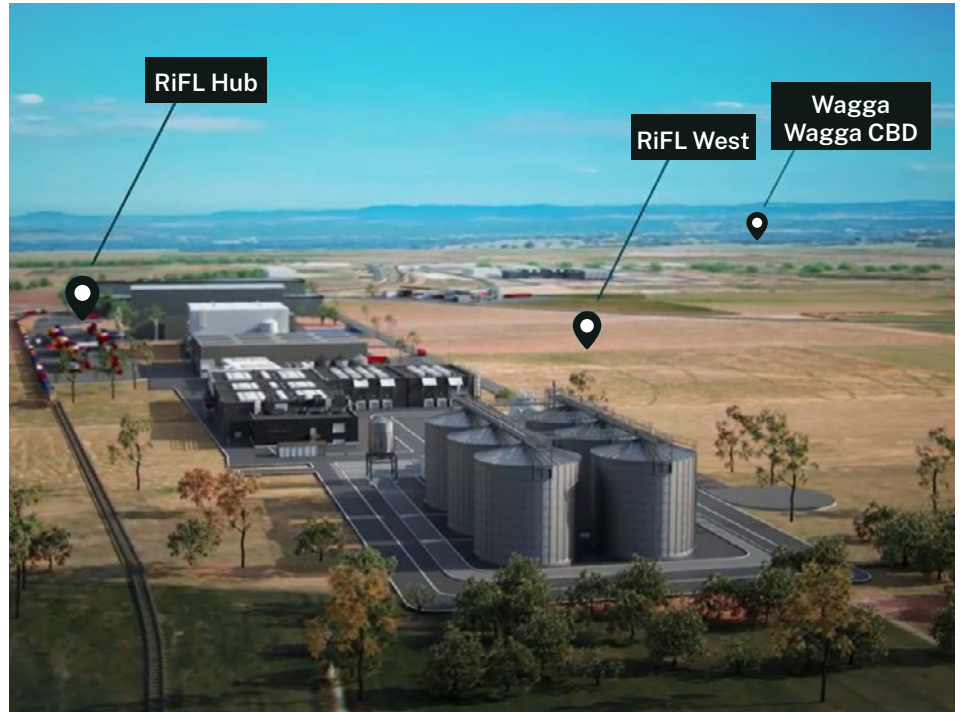
Image: construction progress, June 2023

Wagga Wagga Special Activation Precinct

Completion of RiFL West construction work

The Wagga Wagga precinct recently achieved a significant project milestone with the completion of Riverina Intermodal Freight and Logistics (RiFL) West construction work. The construction was carried out by the Regional Growth NSW Development Corporation (the RGDC) in partnership with Wagga Wagga City Council. It has unlocked 34 hectares of new land.

The construction works included earthworks and utilities to create new industrial lots now ready for investment to boost the regional economy and workforce. These new lots together with the industrial land adjoining the new RiFL Hub have been taken to market, providing the opportunity for new business investment into the region.



Concept illustration

Investor Forum for Wagga Wagga

In June we held the Wagga Wagga Special Activation Precinct Online Investor Forum. Over 280 participants registered for the forum with over 170 tuning in during the peak of the event. Participants came from all over the globe including North America, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, India, Thailand, Austria and Finland to name a few.

The event showcased the live opportunities and key advantages of doing business in the Wagga Wagga precinct, along with the advantages of living in the region. In addition, industry experts and precinct tenants spoke to participants during three interactive industry focused breakout sessions on agribusiness, recycling and advanced manufacturing.

Planning for development in the Wagga Wagga precinct

The Special Activation Precinct's streamlined planning service allows businesses to establish and grow with confidence, providing more local jobs and driving economic growth.

The delivery plan for Wagga Wagga precinct requires an Activation Precinct Certificate (APC) from the RGDC prior to applying for Development Consent. Development Consent in the precinct will generally be through the complying development certificate pathway.

A key aim of the APC process is to facilitate streamlined planning assessments to provide greater investor certainty and a 30-day approval pathway.

The APC provides confidence to the consent authority that the development proposal can be supported and approved, significantly reducing the time for the consent authority to provide its approval.

The RGDC has also established a concierge team that will support investors and local businesses to ensure their proposal aligns with the objectives of the Wagga Wagga precinct.

An overview of the 6-step process a developer is required to take to obtain an APC is on the following page.

Special Activation Precincts



Government-led studies



Streamlined planning



Government-led development

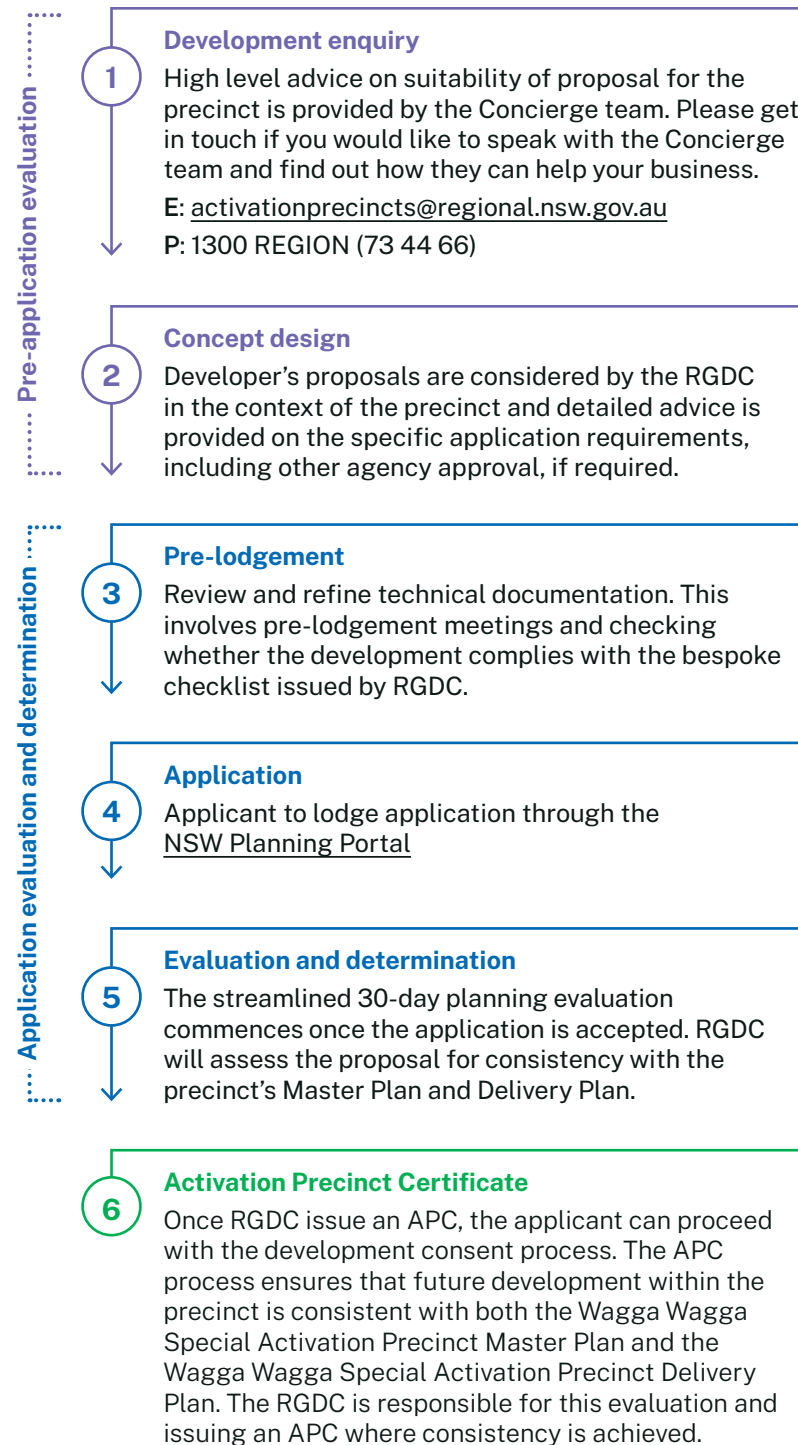


Infrastructure investment



Business Concierge

→ APC six step process for developers



A register of APC's issued within the precinct are published [here](#). For more information, please visit our website.

Business Support Services

Did you know our Concierge team is available to connect precinct businesses to a wide range of support programs that we are delivering either in-house or via our partners.

The available programs are focused on supporting critical business needs through guidance, connections to experts and industry best practice. A selection of the programs available include:

→ **CSIRO Generation STEM Links:**

This program has a \$2,500 subsidy available to businesses who take on interns in the fields of science, tech, engineering, or mathematics. Read the case study below to see how Halocell Energy used this program to secure great talent into their team.

→ **Bin Trim waste assessments:**

Our sustainability team has expertise and access to the [BIN Trim Pro app](#). They can assist small and medium businesses interested in measuring their waste and identifying easy actions to reduce waste and save costs.

→ **Net Zero profiles and actions plans:**

Our Sustainability team can help you to establish your carbon footprint, identify opportunities for energy efficiency and emissions reduction, and develop a net zero action plan. Steps that can help you identify upgrades, innovations and opportunities in line with the [NSW Government Net Zero Plan](#).

We want to learn about your business needs and connect you with the right support. If your business is in the precinct and you are interested in accessing any of these programs, or to find out more, please get in touch with our team via our contact details on the following page.

Case study: Halocell Energy

Halocell Energy is one of the businesses based at the precinct who has taken advantage of the CSIRO Generation STEM Links program. Halocell takes advanced solar technology from the lab into production for commercialisation, providing solar cells for defence, agriculture and manufacturing.

Halocell had some initial recruitment concerns about finding candidates with technical expertise and retaining young employees when their pilot plant opened in the region in 2021. They turned to the Generation STEM Links program to help address these issues.

The program is a hands-on internship that pairs NSW students in their final years of study with local businesses. Businesses receive the recruitment support from the CSIRO team as well as \$2,500 per student after completion of the internship to cover their time and expenses.

Through the program, Halocell has appointed two Charles Sturt University students as interns to great success, with one of them accepting an ongoing position. The interns had the opportunity to learn valuable skills in a real-world laboratory and assist with refining the technologies in the development stage.

Halocell sees this program as a great way to build a pipeline of high potential local talent, raise their brand awareness and access financial support for each completed internship.

Generation STEM Links, part of Generation STEM, is managed by CSIRO and made possible by the NSW Government's \$25 million endowment to the Science and Industry Endowment Fund (SIEF).

→ [Read more](#) about the [Generation STEM Links Program](#) and some local experiences at [Retaining STEM talent in the Riverina](#)

Alexandra Bastick, Charles Sturt University



Wagga Wagga
Special Activation Precinct

1300 REGION (73 44 66)

activationprecincts@regional.nsw.gov.au