



Measuring the Australian Night-Time Economy 2026

A project for the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors

July 2026



Ingenium Research

ABOUT THE DATA USED IN THIS REPORT

The Council of Capital City Lord Mayors (CCCLM) have been commissioning this annual analysis to measure the size of the Australian Night-Time Economy (NTE) since 2012, with data available since 2009. The NTE is defined as economic activity occurring between 6pm and 6am and is split into Core, Non-Core and Supply sectors, with reports historically focusing on the Core NTE, comprising Food, Drink and Leisure & Entertainment (consumption) businesses. In 2024 the report’s remit was expanded to include retail (grocery and non-grocery) and accommodation (a sub-set of the Non-Core NTE), to reflect the growing diversity of NTE activities in Australian cities.

This report provides detailed economic performance data for the latest financial year for which official data is available (2024/25). The report also includes data and maps relating to opening hours and clustering of businesses, using a snapshot of business activity data from April 2026. Further detail on the methodology and data sources used in this document can be found in the Appendix. Economic data has been prepared for 88 Australian cities with a summary table available online [here](#).

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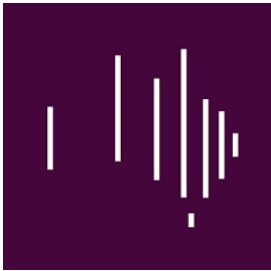
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CCCLM Chair's foreword



Andrew Barr, MLA

Chief Minister of the
Australian Capital Territory
CCCLM Chair 2026

A strong night-time economy is essential to the social, cultural and economic life of our cities. It brings significant wellbeing benefits for both local businesses and the broader community including employment opportunities, cultural experiences and opportunities for social connection. Together, these benefits make our cities a more attractive place to visit, study, and live.

Across Australia, the night-time economy supports more than one million jobs and over 136,000 businesses, making it a significant employer and economic driver in every capital city. This year's report shows that the sector continues to evolve. There has been steady growth in the number of businesses operating at night, with strong expansion in the food, leisure and entertainment sectors. This report also shows capital cities across Australia are broadening their after-dark offerings and moving beyond traditional nightlife to more diverse, experience-led activities that better reflect how Australians want to spend their time.

Australia's night-time economy continues to evolve in response to changing consumer behaviour and economic uncertainty. Cost-of-living pressures are affecting households and businesses alike. Consumer spending remains cautious, and patterns of activity are shifting, with mid-week evenings now playing a much greater role. In most cities, Thursday has become the new peak trading night, reflecting changing work patterns and social habits.

This year's report highlights both the resilience of the night-time economy sector and the challenges that remain. It also demonstrates that with the right policy settings, investment and collaboration, our cities can continue to grow strong, diverse night-time economies.

CCCLM remains committed to meet these challenges and elevate the night-time experiences of our communities and visitors. Our cities are already adapting and by continuing to work together, we can ensure that our night-time economies remain vibrant, inclusive and resilient.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Term	Definition
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics - the national provider of official government statistics.
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification - a method of classifying establishments to a standardised set of industries
Employment	The number of employees associated with the establishment(s). Elements of charts and infographics relating to employment throughout this report are coloured red.
Establishment(s)	Actively trading business(es) recorded in the Australian Bureau of Statistics Business Register (ABSBR) as at 30 th June in each reporting year. Elements of charts and infographics relating to establishments throughout this report are coloured blue.
LGA	Local Government Area - the municipal geographic area of a local council.
Non-employing business	A business that holds an Australian Business Number (ABN) and is registered for Goods and Service Tax (GST) that does not employ any individuals outside of its directors or sole proprietors.
NTE	Night-Time Economy - economic activity which occurs at establishments primarily between the hours of 6pm and 6am. The NTE can be broken down into Core, Non-Core and Supply as per the table below. The focus of this report is the Core NTE.
SA2	Statistical Area 2 - An ABS geographic area classification defined using the Census of Population and Housing.
Turnover (\$m)	The sales and service income generated by the establishment(s), exclusive of goods and service tax (GST). Elements of charts and infographics relating to turnover throughout this report are coloured green.
Sector	Description
24 Hour Economy	Economic and social activity occurring across the full 24-hour day, including morning, daytime, evening and night-time activity.
Core NTE	Economic activity occurring at establishments that provide services to leisure users - mainly between 6pm and 6am. The Core NTE is split into sub-sectors of Drink, Leisure & Entertainment and Food and then further sub-divided by specific activity types.
Food	Establishments primarily offering meals, snacks or other food services for on-site consumption, takeaway or delivery. This includes cafés, restaurants, and fast-food outlets.
Drink	Establishments focused on the sale and consumption of beverages, including pubs, bars, taverns, and liquor retailers
Entertainment	Venues and activities offering cultural, artistic, sporting or recreational experiences. This includes cinemas, live music venues, theatres, gaming venues, gyms, sporting and physical recreation centres, amusement and gaming venues, clubs, racing venues, and sex industry services.
Non-Core NTE	Economic activity occurring at establishments that may operate across the 24-hour day, some of which provide integral services to Core NTE leisure activities. These include public and private transport, hotels and other accommodation, retail services, policing, health, parking, and lighting.
Retail & Accommodation	A subset of Non-Core NTE establishments covering Retail (both Food and Retail/Other) and Accommodation. Please see Table 3 in the Appendix for more detail.
Supply NTE	Supply NTE establishments tend to operate during the day but are part of the Core NTE supply chain via the production or wholesaling of Food, Drink or Entertainment products for resale in leisure outlets.
Non-NTE	This refers to all the other economic activity within a defined geography that is outside the NTE definition.
Total Economy	This is the sum of all economic activity within a defined geography.

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Highlights from the report

136,121

Core NTE Businesses (June 2025)

A record number of night-time businesses in 2024/25

Australia's Core night-time economy gained an additional 2,441 venues (+1.8%) in 2024/25:

- Food businesses led the way, adding 1,685 establishments.
- Leisure & Entertainment grew by 868 businesses (+2%).
- Drink businesses declined by 112 (-1.2%), marking the second consecutive year of losses.

1.14m

Core NTE Employment (June 2025)

Modest growth in employment masks a divided picture

Over 16,000 extra jobs (+1.4%) but while Victoria surged, New South Wales experienced decline:

- Food jobs increased by 18,065 (+3%) to over 730,870 jobs.
- Leisure & Entertainment employment fell by 4,100 (-1.4%), relinquishing last year's strong gains, particularly in NSW.
- Drink employment grew modestly (+1.7% / +2,075) despite declining venue numbers.

\$196bn

Core NTE Sales Turnover (2024/25)

Record sales turnover was generated, but inflation tells a quieter story

Australia's Core NTE sales turnover reached a record \$196bn in 2024/25, up 4% in cash terms:

- Leisure & Entertainment (+5%) and Food (+4%) drove this increase.
- Sales turnover growth from Drink businesses trailed at +1.9%.
- In real terms (after accounting for inflation), overall sector growth was modest at +0.7%, largely holding its value since 2023/24.

01

Victoria's NTE is surging

02

The Drink sub-sector is contracting

03

Food dominates but the mix in activities is shifting

04

Thursday is the new Friday

05

Cities are planning more actively for life after dark

Top NTE insights in 2026

Six years on from the pandemic, Australia's night-time economy has never had more businesses - but growth in 2024/25 varied dramatically between states, cities and sub-sectors, with some areas adding jobs and venues at pace while others contracted sharply. This year's data points to an NTE that is structurally shifting: more food-led, less reliant on traditional drink venues, and increasingly influenced by how cities are planning, programming and governing activity after dark. These are five key insights emerging from this year's report.

Victoria's NTE is surging

01

Victoria recorded the strongest Core NTE employment growth of any state, adding over 30k jobs (+10%) driven by a +13% surge in Food employment alone - and outpacing every state and territory. Melbourne led on establishments too, adding 177 venues (+6%) - the strongest city-level growth in this year's report.

The Drink sub-sector is contracting

02

The number of Drink establishments fell for the second consecutive year, down 112 venues (-1.2%) to 9,301. This was consistent across most states and territories with the exception of Queensland where Drink businesses increased (+3%) and the territories which saw no change.

Food dominates but the mix in activities is shifting

03

Food accounts for 62% of all Core NTE establishments and 64% of employment with both metrics growing in 2024/25. Leisure & Entertainment matched Food's establishment growth rate (+2% / +868 businesses), but shed 4,100 jobs (-1.4%), giving back gains from the previous year's post-pandemic recovery. The NTE is becoming more food-led, while entertainment activity is growing in breadth but not yet in workforce depth.

Thursday is the new Friday

04

Thursday evenings (6pm to 9pm) are now the peak trading night in most cities - only Adelaide, Hobart and Perth peak on a Friday with Melbourne strong on both nights. In Maribyrnong and Penrith, 72% of Core NTE businesses trade on Thursday evening, reflecting a mid-week peak shaped by hospitality and service-sector demand. While the Friday-Saturday weekend is still strong after 9pm, it is no longer the sole anchor of evening trade.

Cities are planning more actively for life after dark

05

Councils are increasingly embedding night-time and 24-hour economy priorities into planning, cultural programming, public space improvements and business support initiatives as cities adapt to changing patterns of activity across the full day and night.

Introduction

This report provides the latest snapshot of Australia's night-time economy (NTE) and the trends shaping how Australians work, socialise and spend after dark.

The economic analysis is based on Australian Bureau of Statistics data through to the 2024/25 financial year, allowing long-term comparison of night-time economy performance across local government areas, states and territories, and nationally.

The report also includes analysis based on the data that sits behind Google Maps from May 2026, providing more detailed insight into where businesses are located, and when they operate.

The report begins with a national overview of Australia's night-time economy, followed by state and territory trends. It then provides detailed analysis for each of the seventeen participating capital city councils*.

The analysis in this report provides an important evidence base for governments, businesses and industry stakeholders seeking to support vibrant, safe and economically resilient cities after dark.

Night-time economy governance

Governments across Australia are placing increasing focus on the role of activity after dark in supporting jobs, tourism, hospitality, live music, safety, and vibrant urban centres.

All councils participating in this report are actively supporting their night-time economies through initiatives such as events, transport improvements, safety measures and precinct activation. States and territory governments are also expanding their support for the sector:

NSW continues to lead through the Office of the 24-Hour Economy Commissionerⁱ and Minister for Night Time Economyⁱⁱ.

WA has committed \$2.9m to reform liquor laws and is developing a state night-time economy strategyⁱⁱⁱ.

QLD continues work through its Night-Life Economy Commissioner^{iv}, with a Night-Life Strategy^v in development.

ACT has a Minister for the Night-Time Economy^{vi}.

National attention on Australia's night-time economy continued to grow in 2025 and 2026, particularly around governance, live music and the long-term sustainability of activity after dark.

In October 2025, the first National Roundtable on the 24-Hour Economy was hosted by the NSW Office of the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner at the state's NEON Forum^{vii}, bringing together government leaders from across Australia to discuss opportunities and challenges shaping the country's 24-hour economy.

In January 2026, the NSW and ACT Ministers for the Night-time Economy held the world's first joint meeting of Night-time Economy Ministers, calling for stronger ministerial leadership and coordination on after-dark policy.

At a federal level, a 2025 parliamentary inquiry into Australia's live music industry^{viii} highlighted mounting pressures on venues, festivals and artists, including rising costs, venue closures and changing audience behaviour. The inquiry recommended reforms^{ix} relating to ticketing transparency, live music support, entertainment precincts and stronger protections for grassroots venues.

* If your council would like to take part in future iterations of this research, please contact CCCLM via eo@lordmayors.org.



Trends shaping Australia's night-time economy

Australia's night-time economy continues to evolve in response to changing consumer behaviour, economic pressures, work patterns and social trends. Across Australia, businesses and cities are adapting to growing demand for social connection, experience-led spending, wellness-focused activity and more flexible patterns of activity across the full day and night.

Insurance pressures

Insurance affordability and availability emerged as a growing issue for Australia's night-time economy in 2025-26. A federal parliamentary inquiry into small business insurance^x highlighted escalating premiums and reduced coverage availability, particularly for hospitality, tourism and live music businesses. Submissions from venues, nightlife organisations and industry groups raised concerns about mounting financial pressure on after-dark businesses and the long-term viability of live performance, festivals and events.

Consumer spending trends

Consumer spending remained mixed in early 2026. ABS Household Spending Indicator^{xi} data showed overall household spending increased in May, with growth in discretionary spending, recreation and culture, and hotels, cafés and restaurants. However, the figures suggest households remain cautious with discretionary expenditure amid ongoing cost-of-living pressures. ABS social survey data^{xii} released in 2026 showed that around one quarter of households experienced at least one cashflow problem during the year, with financial stress increasing compared with both 2020 and 2019.

Live experiences and Gen Z

Live experiences continue to resonate strongly with younger audiences. Live Nation's 2026 Love Song^{xiii} research found Gen Z consumers increasingly value live music, events and in-person social connection, with 86% seeking experiences that make them feel part of something bigger and 92% reporting that meeting new people at gigs is "cool".

Experience-led precincts

Australians are increasingly spending money on experiences rather than traditional in-person retail. Industry reporting^{xiv} has highlighted growing demand for "competitive socialising" venues such as arcade bars, mini golf, bowling and immersive gaming concepts, with operators increasingly activating vacant spaces and extending activity into the evening. CBRE^{xv} research found shopping centres are increasingly evolving into lifestyle destinations focused on dining, entertainment and social experiences, with food and beverage uses continuing to expand as major drivers of visitation and dwell times.

Cultural participation

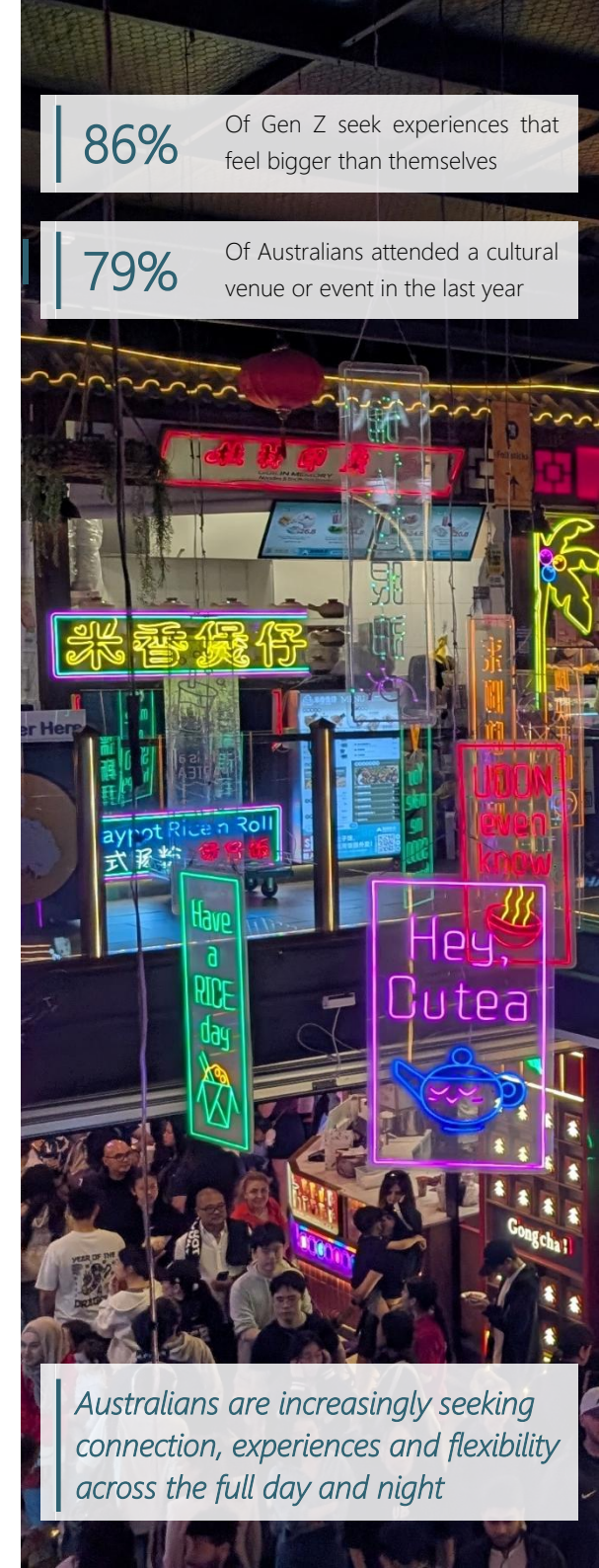
ABS' General Social Survey^{xvi} data highlights the continuing importance of in-person cultural and social experiences. Nearly 80% of Australians attended cultural venues or events in the previous year, including almost half attending live music performances.

86%

Of Gen Z seek experiences that feel bigger than themselves

79%

Of Australians attended a cultural venue or event in the last year



Australians are increasingly seeking connection, experiences and flexibility across the full day and night



53%

Of Australians had weekly face to face contact outside their home

1 in 3

Australians are regularly working at night

Social connection

ABS' General Social Survey^{xvii} data shows Australians are continuing to reconnect in person, although social interaction remains below pre-pandemic levels. ABS data released in 2026 showed 53% of Australians had weekly face-to-face contact with friends or family outside their household in 2025, up from 42% during the pandemic in 2020, but still well below 2019 levels (68%). The findings highlight ongoing concerns around loneliness and social isolation, and the important role hospitality, cultural and community venues play in bringing people together.

Weather and seasonal activity

Weather, seasons and changing work patterns are continuing to shape activity across Australian cities. City of Sydney analysis^{xviii} released in 2025 found wet weather significantly reduced dining, entertainment and weekend visitation in central Sydney.

Separate analysis prepared for the CCCLM using Visa consumer spending data showed spending patterns also shift seasonally, with warmer months associated with increased morning activity in southern cities and stronger evening spending patterns.

Morning economy

The "morning economy"^{xxix} is increasingly recognised as the bookend to traditional night-time economy activity within broader 24-hour economy discussions. Greater attention is being placed on early morning activity linked to cafés, fitness, markets, commuting, tourism and morning workers. The trend reflects growing interest in healthier lifestyles^{xx}, flexible work patterns, social connection and more diverse patterns of activity across the full day, with both morning and night-time economy trends highlighted in LinkedIn's 2026^{xxi} business predictions.

Night work beyond nightlife

Australia's night-time economy is increasingly being recognised as extending well beyond traditional nightlife. New analysis released in 2025^{xxii} found 4.1 million Australians regularly work at night, accounting for almost one in three workers. While hospitality remains a major employer, large numbers of Australians also work at night in healthcare, transport, education, mining and professional services, reflecting broader changes in

how Australians work, consume services and use cities across the full day and night.

Volunteering

While the timing of volunteering activity is not captured, volunteering continues to play an important role in Australia's social and cultural life. ABS' General Social Survey^{xxiii} data released in 2026 showed 23% of Australians aged 15 and over volunteered through an organisation, particularly in sport and physical recreation (1.7 million people), religious and faith-based organisations (1.1 million), and community or cultural groups (879,000).

The State of Australia's *Night-Time Economy*

Australia's Core NTE recorded a sixth consecutive year of business growth in 2024/25, adding over 2,400 businesses, 16,000 jobs and \$196bn in revenue. But beneath the steady national growth, a sharp divergence is emerging between states, sub-sectors and cities.



▲ +1.8%

136,121

Core NTE Businesses | June 2025

Food and Leisure & Entertainment both grew 2%.
Drink declined for the second year running (-1.2%).

5% of total economy



▲ +1.4%

1,143,115

Core NTE Employment | June 2025

Food added 18,065 jobs (+3%), while L&E shed 4,100 jobs (-1.4%) reversing last year's gains.

8% of total economy



▲ +4% | +0.7%
(nominal | real)

\$196bn

Core NTE Sales Turnover | 2024/25

Leisure & Entertainment (+5%) and Food (+4%) drove these gains while Drink growth slowed (+1.9%).

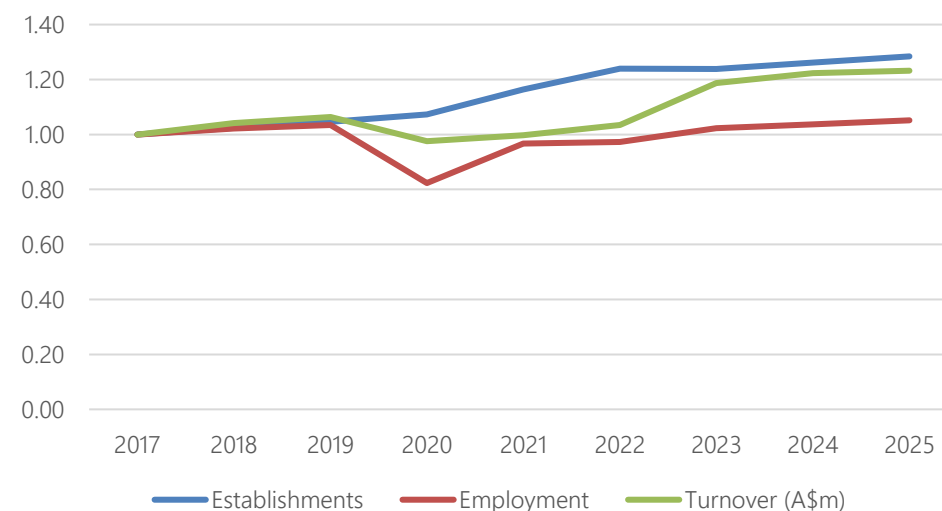
4% of total economy

The number of Core NTE establishments in Australia rose by 2,441 (+1.8%) between 2023/24 and 2024/25, reaching a new high of 136,121 businesses. Growth was led by Food (+1,685 / +2%) and Leisure & Entertainment (+868 / +2%), while Drink venues fell by 112 (-1.2%). Australia now has over 25,000 more Core NTE businesses than before the pandemic (+23% since 2018/19).

Employment grew by 16,045 (+1.4%) to 1,143,115. Food was the primary driver, adding over 18,000 jobs, with Drink employment also growing modestly (+1.7%), despite fewer venues. In contrast, Leisure & Entertainment shed 4,100 jobs (-1.4%), giving back some of the strong gains recorded the previous year.

Turnover reached a record \$196bn (+4%) but increased just +0.7% in real terms once inflation is stripped out. Figure 1 shows inflation adjusted turnover has begun to flatten, aligning with sector challenges highlighted in the introduction.

Figure 1: Indexed trend in Core NTE (2017 = 1.0) across key metrics (inflation adjusted)



Sub-sectoral performance

Food

Food establishments rose by 2%, adding 1,685 businesses to reach 83,720, driven by cafés and restaurants (+1,110 / +4%) with a modest increase in takeaway food services (+575 / +1.0%). Employment increased by over 18,000 (+3%) since 2023/24 with cafés and restaurants growing 2% (+10,125) and takeaway food services increasing 4% (+7,950).

Drink

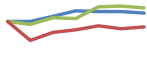
Drink establishments fell (-1.2% / -112) for the second consecutive year to 9,301 with both liquor retailing (-1.0% / -25) and pubs, taverns and bars (-1.2% / -87) experiencing declines. Employment in pubs, taverns and bars has remained relatively static (+0.6% / +600) compared to liquor retailing (+9% / +1,475).

Leisure and entertainment

Leisure & Entertainment establishments increased by 868 over 2024/25 to reach 43,100, while employment fell by 4,100 jobs (-1.4%) - driven by losses in creative and performing arts (-7% / -3,750) and sports and physical recreation activities (-1.2% / -1,210). Leisure & Entertainment losses were driven by NSW (-17%), while other areas grew. Post June 2025 employment data suggests recovery for NSW.

Retail and accommodation (Non-Core NTE)

Retail establishments eased slightly (-0.7% / -630), although employment surged 7% (+41,010) to 657,005. Accommodation businesses declined -2% (-294) to 13,805, while employment grew modestly (+0.8% / +985).

Core NTE	Establishments FY25 (change FY24-25)	Employment FY25 (change FY24-25)	Sales turnover FY25 (change FY24-25)	Metric trend (FY19 to FY25)
 Drink	9,301 ▼ -1.2%	126,435 ▲ +1.7%	\$27.1bn ▲ +1.9%	
 Leisure & Entertainment	43,100 ▲ +2%	285,810 ▼ -1.4%	\$61.3bn ▲ +5%	
 Food	83,720 ▲ +2%	730,870 ▲ +3%	\$107.5bn ▲ +4%	
Retail & Accommodation (subset of Non-Core NTE)				
 Retail	91,877 ▼ -0.7%	657,005 ▲ +7%	\$413.2bn ▲ +1.5%	
 Accommodation	13,805 ▼ -2%	117,425 ▲ +1%	\$19.1m ▲ +9%	

After dark across Australia: *States & territories*

In 2024/25, seven of eight states and territories recorded growth in Core NTE establishments, led by Western Australia (+5% / +587) and the Northern Territory (+4%). Queensland and the ACT both grew 2%, while New South Wales (+1.5%), South Australia (+1.4%) and Victoria (+1.2%) saw more modest increases. Tasmania was the only jurisdiction to record a decline (-0.7% / -17 businesses).

Employment was far more varied. Victoria recorded the strongest growth by a considerable margin, adding 30,335 Core NTE jobs (+10%), which was driven by a +13% surge in Food employment across the state. South Australia also performed strongly (+8% / +5,725), with notable gains in both Food (+10%) and Drink (+13%) employment. Western Australia added 6,710 jobs (+5%).

In contrast, New South Wales experienced a significant employment decline of -8.6%, losing over 27,000 Core NTE jobs despite adding 682 new businesses. The losses were concentrated in Leisure & Entertainment

(-17%), with Food (-5%) and Drink (-3%) also contracting. More recent employment data (to November 2025) suggests a rebound in NSW Leisure & Entertainment, although still remaining below 2023/24 levels by approximately 10%. Tasmania (-5%) and the Northern Territory (-3%) also shed employment, though from much smaller bases.

Core NTE sales turnover growth was more uniform, with every state and territory recording nominal growth within a narrow band of 4% to 5%. Adjusting for inflation real growth ranged from just +0.2% in South Australia to +1.3% in Tasmania – meaning each jurisdiction broadly held its value in 2024/25.

New South Wales remains the largest Core NTE by turnover (\$58.8bn), ahead of Victoria (\$49.6bn) and Queensland (\$39.2bn). Tasmania saw the strongest growth (+4.8%) and South Australia saw the most modest (+3.7%). Tasmania's increases despite shedding venues and jobs points to activity concentrating among fewer operators.

		Establishments FY25 (change FY24-25)	Employment FY25 (change FY24-25)	Sales turnover FY25 (change FY24-25)
NSW		45,912 ▲ +1.5%	289,600 ▼ -9%	\$58.8bn ▲ +4%
VIC		40,054 ▲ +1.2%	325,370 ▲ +10%	\$49.6bn ▲ +4%
QLD		24,047 ▲ +2%	240,440 ▲ +0.8%	\$39.2bn ▲ +4%
WA		12,297 ▲ +5%	143,270 ▲ +5%	\$23.0bn ▲ +4%
SA		7,950 ▲ +1.4%	74,265 ▲ +8%	\$13.1bn ▲ +4%
TAS		2,565 ▼ -0.7%	21,955 ▼ -5%	\$4.0bn ▲ +5%
ACT		2,350 ▲ +2%	32,505 ▲ +0.9%	\$4.9bn ▲ +4%
NT		918 ▲ +4%	15,710 ▼ -3%	\$3.2bn ▲ +4%

After dark across Australia: *City snapshots*

An overview of key NTE findings for each of the seventeen participating city councils in 2024/25 is provided here, followed by a detailed section for each area.

The 2024/25 data reveals a widening gap between cities experiencing NTE growth and those under pressure. Brisbane remains the largest Core NTE by establishments (7,833), followed by Sydney (6,196) and Melbourne (3,284), though Melbourne and Parramatta are growing fastest, increasing 6% and 7% respectively. Darwin (+4%), Sydney (+4%), Willoughby (+4%) and Launceston (+4%) all saw similar pace in growth, while Hobart (-5%), Newcastle (-5%) and Stonnington (-3%) recorded the sharpest declines.

Employment trends are similarly divergent. Melbourne led with 9% growth (+2,895 jobs), followed by Adelaide (+8%) and Maribyrnong (+4%). At the other end, Hobart (-7%), Penrith (-6%) and Sydney (-6%) experienced significant employment losses. Sydney notably added establishments while shedding jobs, driven by losses in Leisure & Entertainment. Within Tasmania, the two cities diverged, with Launceston adding 15 businesses (+4%) while Hobart lost 33 (-5%), though both shed employment.

Sales turnover growth was far less uniform across cities than across states, ranging from a 0.9% decline in Stonnington (the only city in the report to decline) to 8% gains in Hornsby, Launceston and Willoughby. Brisbane remained the largest Core NTE (\$13.1bn), ahead of Sydney (\$6.4bn) and Melbourne (\$5.1bn) which grew strongly (+6%).

Table 1: Core NTE metrics in the seventeen participating LGAs in 2024/25 (turnover change in nominal terms)*

	Establishments		Employment (000s)		Sales Turnover (\$)		Population (000s)	
	2024/25	% Change 23/24-24/25	2024/25	% Change 23/24-24/25	2024/25	% Change* 23/24-24/25	2024/25	% Change 23/24-24/25
Adelaide, SA	978	▲ +0.3%	10.5	▲ +8%	\$1.7bn	▲ +2%	30.2	▲ +3%
Brisbane, QLD	7,833	▲ +2%	81.8	▲ +1.1%	\$13.1bn	▲ +4%	1,375.3	▲ +1.6%
Canberra, ACT	2,350	▲ +2%	32.5	▲ +0.9%	\$4.9bn	▲ +4%	484.6	▲ +1.3%
Darwin, NT	506	▲ +4%	4.6	▼ -3%	\$0.9bn	▲ +4%	90.0	▲ +1.4%
Hobart, TAS ★	622	▼ -5%	6.6	▼ -7%	\$1.1bn	▲ +3%	55.9	▼ -0.2%
Hornsby, NSW ★	653	▲ +3%	3.3	▼ -0.9%	\$0.5bn	▲ +8%	155.5	▲ +0.4%
Launceston, TAS	370	▲ +4%	2.2	▼ -2%	\$0.4bn	▲ +8%	71.3	▼ -0.3%
Maribyrnong, VIC	722	▲ +2%	3.5	▲ +4%	\$0.5bn	▲ +2%	94.7	▲ +1.0%
Melbourne, VIC ★	3,284	▲ +6%	37.0	▲ +9%	\$5.1bn	▲ +6%	194.5	▲ +4%
Newcastle, NSW	1,027	▼ -5%	13.6	▼ -6%	\$2.3bn	▲ +3%	178.9	▲ +1.1%
Parramatta, NSW ★	1,647	▲ +7%	8.7	▼ -0.7%	\$1.6bn	▲ +4%	279.0	▲ +1.3%
Penrith, NSW	751	▲ +0.8%	4.2	▼ -6%	\$0.7bn	▲ +5%	231.7	▲ +1.2%
Perth, WA	666	▲ +0.6%	12.3	▲ +1.9%	\$1.8bn	▲ +3%	35.7	▲ +2%
Stonnington, VIC ★	1,186	▼ -3%	7.5	▲ +0.9%	\$1.0bn	▼ -0.9%	114.8	▲ +1.3%
Sydney, NSW	6,196	▲ +4%	34.1	▼ -6%	\$6.4bn	▲ +4%	241.8	▲ +1.8%
Willoughby, NSW	695	▲ +4%	3.6	▼ -0.1%	\$0.6bn	▲ +8%	80.5	▲ +1.0%
Yarra, VIC	1,525	▼ -0.4%	9.8	▲ +3%	\$1.4bn	▲ +1.0%	101.4	▲ +1.4%

If your council would like to take part in future research iterations, please contact CCCLM via eo@lordmayors.org

Trading patterns across cities

Evening (6pm-9pm) is when Core NTE businesses are most active across all seventeen participating cities. Thursday is the peak evening trading day in fourteen of the seventeen cities - with Adelaide, Hobart and Perth the exceptions. In cities where Thursday leads, the margin over Friday is often modest but in Maribyrnong (72%) and Penrith (72%), Thursday evening trading is distinctly elevated, reflecting the concentration of hospitality and service businesses catering to the mid-week peak.

Early-night (9pm-midnight) trading is most prevalent on Friday and Saturday nights across all cities. Adelaide, Yarra, Sydney and Melbourne record the highest proportions of Core NTE businesses open in this window, with close to half trading through to midnight on peak nights. Brisbane, Darwin, Hornsby and Willoughby show the lowest early-night activity on a weekly average basis, with the mid-evening evening activity tapering off more noticeably after 9pm in these cities.

Late-night (12am-3am) trading is highest on Friday and Saturday nights. Adelaide leads on this measure, with around 18-20% of Core NTE businesses open after midnight on weekend nights and one of the highest late-night profiles in this year's report. Yarra and Melbourne also stand out, with 15-18% trading late on Friday and Saturday. At the other end, Hobart, Launceston and Willoughby record the lowest late-night activity, with fewer than 9% of businesses open after midnight even on peak nights.

The **early-morning economy (3am-6am)** is becoming a more visible component of Australia's broader 24-hour economy, although there is clear geographic variation. Brisbane is a significant outlier, with around 20% of Core NTE businesses open before 6am on weekday mornings and consistently across Monday through Friday and is driven by early-opening cafés, gyms and service businesses. Penrith, Newcastle and Parramatta also show elevated early-hours activity, with 13-15% of businesses trading before 6am, pointing to the role of shift-worker and early-riser demand in Western Sydney's NTE.

Figure 2: Proportion of Core NTE businesses trading by time of night in each city

City	6pm-9pm	9pm-12am	12am-3am	3am-6am
Penrith, NSW ★	76%	40%	12%	16%
Maribyrnong, VIC	75%	44%	11%	10%
Hornsby, NSW	72%	34%	9%	14%
Stonnington, VIC	70%	47%	16%	12%
Parramatta, NSW	70%	41%	13%	15%
Adelaide, SA ★	68%	51%	20%	10%
Willoughby, NSW	68%	32%	8%	12%
Darwin, NT	68%	32%	14%	12%
Brisbane, QLD ★	68%	33%	11%	21%
Yarra, VIC ★	68%	51%	19%	11%
City Average	67%	40%	13%	14%
Canberra, ACT	66%	35%	11%	12%
Newcastle, NSW	66%	35%	11%	16%
Sydney, NSW	66%	49%	14%	12%
Launceston, TAS	65%	27%	8%	12%
Hobart, TAS	63%	36%	9%	10%
Melbourne, VIC	62%	48%	17%	10%
Perth, WA	58%	41%	15%	11%

How cities are supporting their night-time economies

The seventeen councils participating in this research are supporting activity after dark through a broad range of policy, planning, cultural and economic initiatives.

Strategy, governance and partnerships

Cities are embedding night-time and 24-hour economy priorities into economic development, placemaking and cultural strategies, while also strengthening coordination through advisory groups and partnerships.

Events and activation

Festivals, markets, performances and temporary activations continue to attract visitation, support businesses and strengthen precincts activity.

Public realm and place improvement

Cities are investing in lighting, laneways, seating, wayfinding, outdoor dining and public space improvements to create more welcoming environments.

Arts, culture and live performance

Councils are supporting live music, creative industries, public art and cultural programming to strengthen cultural participation and vibrancy after dark.

Business and economic support

Initiatives include grants, trader engagement, destination campaigns, business capability programs and support for adapting to changing trading patterns and consumer behaviour.

Safety, accessibility and amenity

Cities are exploring approaches to safety and inclusion through transport improvements, safer streets initiatives, late-night management and balancing residential amenity with vibrancy.

Data, research and evaluation

Councils are increasingly using research, data and evaluation to better understand temporal activity patterns, measure impacts and support evidence-based decision-making relating to 24-hour economies.



SPOTLIGHT | EVENTS AND ACTIVATION | ADELAIDE

Illuminate Adelaide²⁴ combines light, music, art and technology to activate the Adelaide CBD during winter. In 2025, the festival attracted 1.5 million attendances and generated an estimated \$74.7 million in economic activity for South Australia, demonstrating the role major cultural events can play in supporting visitation and hospitality after dark.

Adelaide

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Australia's only UNESCO City of Music. Home of the Adelaide Festival, WOMAdelaide and Illuminate Adelaide - a UNESCO Creative Cities network member

2025 CORE NTE SNAPSHOT

978

Businesses
▲ 0.3%

10,460

Employees
▲ 8%

\$1.74bn

Turnover
▲ 4%

NTE AT A GLANCE

Peak night

Friday

Growth sector

Drink

Open 6pm to 9pm

68%

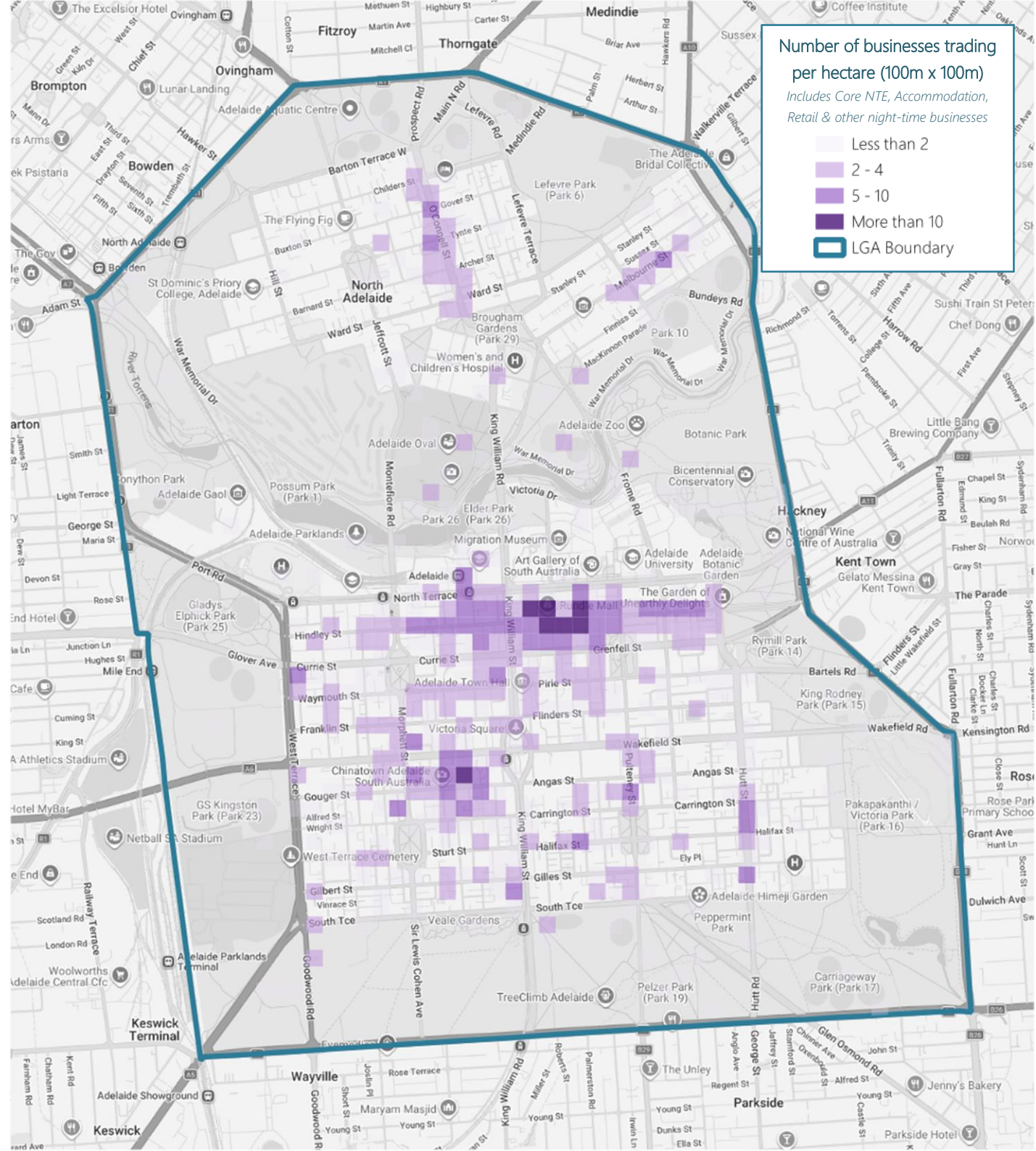


Where is Adelaide's NTE located?

In May 2026, the City of Adelaide's evening economy (6pm - 9pm) is concentrated across several well-established precincts:

- The corridor from Rundle Mall along Rundle Street in the east remains the city's most active strip,
- Along Hindley Street to the west is also particularly active,
- The Adelaide Central Market and Gouger Street form a distinct cluster to the south,
- Hutt Street to the south-east is also quite active,
- Melbourne Street and O'Connell Street in North Adelaide.

An interactive map can be viewed online [here](#).



Adelaide's City Initiatives

Adelaide's night-time economy is delivering measurable and sustained economic outcomes, supported by a busy events calendar, targeted precinct activation and a growing diversity of after-dark offerings. These strengths have contributed to increased night-time spending, stronger visitation patterns and a distinctive city experience that continues to position Adelaide competitively at a national level.

Economic growth and city performance

Citywide expenditure in December 2025 reached \$430 million, a 5% increase on the previous record, with dining and entertainment spending up 12%. Rundle Mall recorded \$158 million across more than 4.5 million visitors in December 2025, its highest monthly result on record for 2024/25. The city's economic base is also strengthening, with 2025 .id reporting showing an Estimated Resident Population of 30,173, 174,945 local jobs and 12,975 local businesses.

Events as economic drivers

Adelaide's events architecture is a core competitive advantage. Illuminate Adelaide's 2025 program attracted approximately 1.5 million attendances and generated an estimated \$74.7 million in economic activity for South Australia, reinforcing the role of major events in activating the city during the traditionally quieter winter period. A concentrated calendar of cultural, sporting and business events, including Adelaide Fringe, AFL Gather Round and a diverse business events program, sustains mid-week and weekend visitation, supports hospitality and retail trade, and strengthens Adelaide's position as a year-round night-time destination.

Precinct activation and business support

Place-based activation focuses investment where returns are greatest: East End and Rundle Street, Hindley Street, North Terrace and key laneways, together with activity around the Adelaide Central Market and Hutt Street. Night-time priorities are embedded in the City's Economic Development Strategy 2024-28 and operationalised by the City of Adelaide and its subsidiary, Adelaide Economic Development Agency (AEDA). Policy levers include outdoor dining permits, targeted grants and trader partnership programs that help lower barriers for small operators and support experiential, lower-alcohol and after-dark offerings.

Public realm and footfall performance

Footfall monitoring shows pronounced uplifts during extended trading and festival periods, with extended trading during major events producing large, demonstrable increases in pedestrian activity. Outdoor dining and public realm upgrades remain central enablers, supporting longer dwell times and earlier evening trade.

Consumer trends and future opportunities

Consumer preferences continue to shift toward experience, wellbeing and more diverse social options. This is reflected in growing demand for live music, cultural programming, immersive events, outdoor dining, wellness-oriented activities and lower-alcohol or alcohol-free hospitality offerings. Adelaide's compact precinct structure, temperate climate, strong events calendar and UNESCO City of Music designation position the city well to respond to this shift. Continued data integration, targeted precinct investment and business support will help consolidate diversification, sustain employment and ensure a safe, inclusive and economically productive night-time city.

Adelaide's NTE performance

Adelaide's Core NTE is rebounding. Business numbers stabilised after last year's decline, while employment surged 8%, led by strong gains in Drink and Food. The city's NTE workforce remains below pre-pandemic levels, but the gap is narrowing.

Adelaide's Core Night-Time Economy stabilised in 2024/25, with the number of establishments edging up from 975 to 978 (+0.3%). More significantly, Core NTE employment grew 8% (+745 jobs) to 10,460, well above the national average of +1.4% and consistent with the broader South Australian recovery (+8%). Despite this strong rebound, Adelaide's NTE workforce remains 8% below its pre-pandemic level of 11,405. Core NTE sales turnover growth was more subdued than the jobs figures suggest, up 2% in cash terms (to \$1.74bn) but broadly flat (-1.0%) once inflation is accounted for.

By sector, Drink recorded the strongest growth, with establishments up 4% (to 160) and employment surging 15% (+300 jobs) to 2,265. Food employment also grew solidly (+7% / +445 to 6,760), despite a slight dip in venue numbers (-1.2% / -8 to 670). Leisure & Entertainment added five businesses (+4% to 148), though employment was effectively flat (-0.3%). Food continues to dominate Adelaide's Core NTE, accounting for 69% of establishments.

In Non-Core, Accommodation was the standout with nine establishments (+11%) and 165 additional jobs (+12%). Retail venues eased (-0.9%) with modest employment growth (+1.6%).

Measure	FY25	City		National	
Core NTE overview		%Change FY24-25		% Total Economy	
 Establishments	978	+0.3%	+1.8%	8%	5%
 Employment	10,460	+8%	+1.4%	10%	8%
 Sales Turnover	\$1.74bn	+2%	+4%	4%	4%
 Indexed trend	City Core NTE FY2019 to FY2025 (Inflation Adjusted)				
Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Core NTE	
 Drink	160	+4%	-1.2%	16%	7%
 Leisure & Entertainment	148	+4%	+2%	15%	32%
 Food	670	-1.2%	+2%	69%	62%
Non-Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Non-Core NTE	
 Retail	433	-0.9%	-0.7%	33%	31%
 Accommodation	89	+11%	-2%	7%	5%

Adelaide's trading patterns

In May 2026, Adelaide's Core NTE is most active on Friday evenings, when 64% of businesses are open between 6pm and 9pm. Trading builds steadily through the week from 45% on Monday to 60% on Thursday lifting to a peak of 64% on Friday.

Adelaide's most distinctive characteristic is its late-night depth. Nearly half (49%) of Core NTE businesses remain open until midnight on Friday, and the late-night (12am-3am) window sees 18% of businesses trading on Friday and 20% on Saturday. This places Adelaide among the top two cities in the study for late-night weekend activity, alongside the City of Yarra, Victoria. Around 10% of Core NTE businesses trade through until 6am on peak nights, which is one of the highest early-hours profiles recorded.

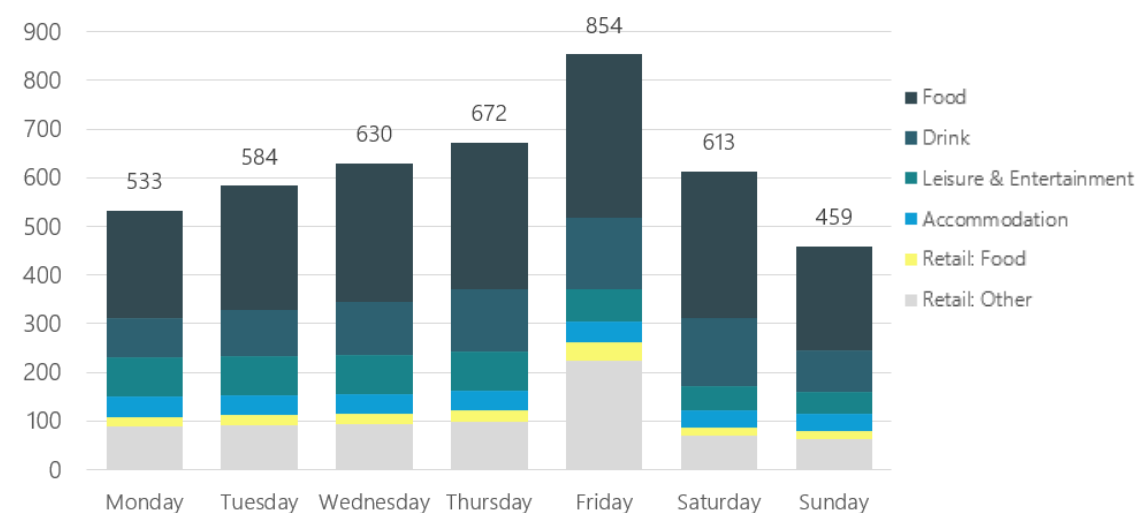
Weekday trading is consistent and grows progressively from Monday, with Wednesday and Thursday showing solid mid-week engagement before the Friday lift. Sunday is the quietest evening, with 40% of businesses open.

Retail businesses are considerably less active after dark. Around 22-24% of retail outlets trade in the early evening on weekdays, rising to 53% on Fridays - a significant jump that reflects extended trading hours policies. Saturday and Sunday retail is subdued, at 17% and 16% respectively, suggesting most retail activity remains concentrated in the standard daytime window.

Proportion of all **Core NTE** and **Retail** businesses open

Sector	Weekday (6pm-6am)	Evening 6pm-9pm	Early-Night 9pm-12am	→ Night rolls into next day →	
				Late-Night 12am-3am	Early-hours 3am-6am
Core NTE	Monday	45%	29%	9%	7%
	Tuesday	51%	33%	8%	7%
	Wednesday	56%	36%	10%	7%
	Thursday	60%	39%	10%	7%
	Friday ★	64%	49%	18%	10%
	Saturday	56%	49%	20%	9%
	Sunday	40%	28%	9%	5%
Retail	Monday	22%	13%	9%	9%
	Tuesday	23%	13%	9%	9%
	Wednesday	23%	14%	9%	9%
	Thursday	24%	14%	9%	9%
	Friday ★	53%	15%	9%	9%
	Saturday	17%	14%	9%	9%
	Sunday	16%	13%	8%	8%

Number of businesses open at night (at some point 6pm and 6am)



Brisbane

QUEENSLAND

A diverse and vibrant city on the runway to hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games - focused on tourism, community and economic benefits.

2025 CORE NTE SNAPSHOT

7,833

Businesses
▲ +2%

81,785

Employees
▲ +1.1%

\$13.1bn

Turnover
▲ 4%

NTE AT A GLANCE

Peak night

Thursday

Growth sector

Drink

Open 6pm to 9pm

68%

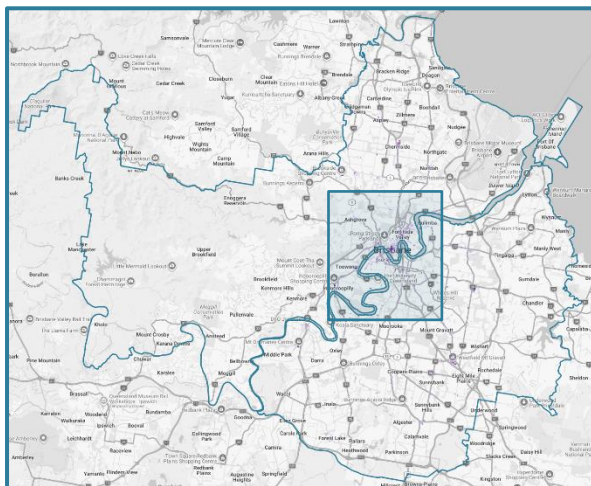
Where is Brisbane's NTE located?

Brisbane City LGA covers a large geographic area - the equivalent of Greater Sydney or Melbourne - with many distinct clusters of night-time businesses spread across the city.

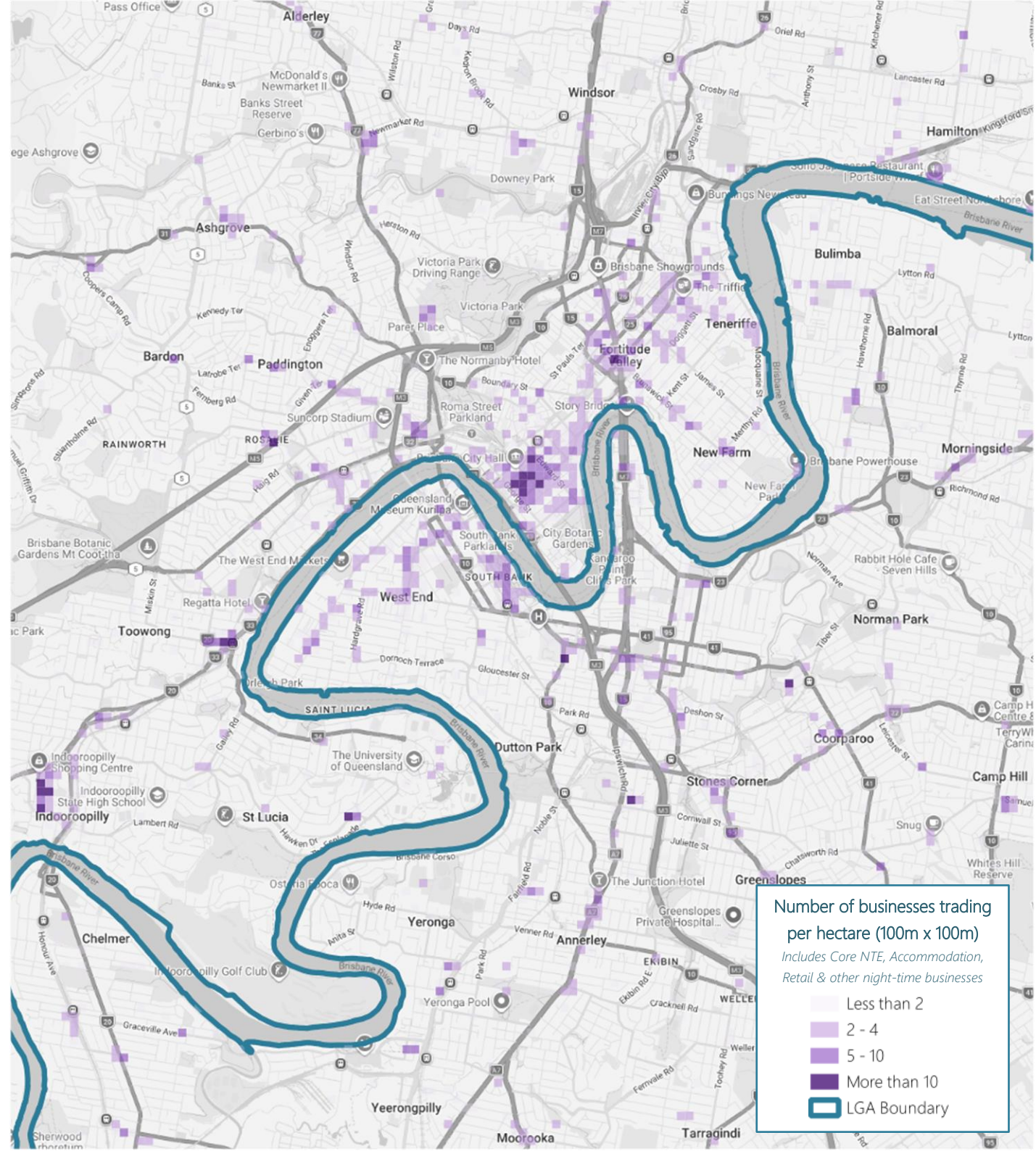
In May 2026, the strongest concentrations of evening activity (6pm to 9pm) are in the inner city, where the CBD, Fortitude Valley, and the West End-South Bank corridor form the core of Brisbane's NTE. Beyond the inner city, notable clusters include:

- New Farm and the Hamilton-Eat Street waterfront to the north-east,
- Indooroopilly Shopping Centre to the south-west,
- Westfield Carindale and Westfield Mount Gravatt to the southeast; and
- Westfield Chermside to the north.

An interactive map can be viewed online [here](#).



MEASURING THE AUSTRALIAN NTE 2026 | CITY PROFILE | BRISBANE, QLD



Brisbane's City Initiatives

Brisbane City Council is actively supporting Brisbane's night-time economy through the delivery of targeted initiatives aligned with the key priorities of the Brisbane Economic Development Plan 2031. These initiatives aim to enhance Brisbane's lifestyle while strengthening the city's global reputation. This work includes fostering a vibrant and creative economy across the inner city and key cultural precincts and encouraging residents and visitors to engage with Brisbane's local lifestyle, businesses, places and experiences.

To deliver on its commitment to strengthening Brisbane's night-time economy, Brisbane City Council focuses on:

- Building a deeper understanding of community trends, needs and motivations that shape participation in night-time activities, events and experiences.
- Identifying challenges faced by businesses, as well as partnership opportunities that can support and grow the night-time economy.
- Recognising opportunities where Council can play a role in facilitating, providing, partnering, funding, regulating and advocating to foster a vibrant, diverse and sustainable night-time economy.

During 2024/25, Brisbane City Council advanced the growth of Brisbane's night-time economy by delivering targeted initiatives and showcasing the breadth of after dark experiences across the city and suburban precincts. Key examples include:

Events and activations

Supporting night-time events and activities including Valley Fiesta and BrisAsia Festival and promoting these events through the What's On in Brisbane calendar.

Seasonal campaigns

Delivering seasonal campaigns, marketing initiatives and activations to promote The City, including Dine BNE City, Latin Friday Nights at Reddacliff Place and Christmas in Brisbane.

Precinct activations

Valley Malls marketing and activations including Christmas in the Valley, Lunar New Year, Moon Festival, Brunswick Street Live and the Council-sponsored BIGSOUND.

Creative lighting initiatives

Activating the city and key precincts through creative lighting initiatives, including supporting the installation of bud lighting in street trees to create attractive night-time streetscapes in business areas.

Safety initiatives

Delivering ongoing safety initiatives including Public Space Liaison Officers, safety audits and the

Safety Camera Network of over 4,500 permanent, temporary and mobile cameras for safety and security.

Grants and festival funding

Supporting local organisations and communities to activate public spaces through targeted grants and festival funding initiatives.

Suburban precinct program

Encouraging suburban retail precincts to apply for precinct promotion and activation sponsorship to deliver events that support and grow the night-time economy.

Discounted evening parking

Providing discounted evening parking rates at King George Square and Wickham Terrace car parks, with 94,910 vehicles using the discounted evening rate in 2024/25.

Nightlife promotion

Promoting things to do after dark around Brisbane through dedicated Nightlife articles on Council's website promoting the places, spaces and hidden gems that keep Brisbane buzzing after dark.

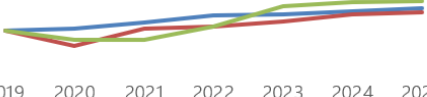
Brisbane's NTE performance

Brisbane's Core NTE continues to expand steadily adding 166 businesses and 910 jobs, with a 14% jump in Drink establishments and strong Leisure & Entertainment employment growth (10%).

Brisbane's Core NTE grew to 7,833 establishments in 2024/25, up 2% (+166), in line with the Queensland state average and above the national rate of +1.8%. Employment rose more modestly, adding 910 jobs (+1.1%) to reach 81,785. Brisbane remains the largest Core NTE in Australia by establishment count, and its NTE is now 20% larger than its pre-pandemic size, comfortably above the national recovery trajectory. Core NTE sales turnover reached \$13.1bn, the largest city NTE by revenue (noting the large geographic coverage of the LGA) and up 4% on last year (+0.5% in real terms), broadly in line with national growth.

Drink was Brisbane's standout sub-sector, with establishments surging 14% (+43 to 342), a sharp contrast to the national Drink decline of -1.2%. Employment in the sub-sector eased slightly (-1.1%), suggesting new Drink venues are operating with leaner staffing models. Leisure & Entertainment employment grew strongly (+10% / +2,000 jobs to 23,100), though venue growth was more modest (+0.7%). Food continues to dominate with 66% of Core NTE establishments, though employment dipped 1.9% (-1,040 jobs) - a pattern seen in several capital cities this year.

In Non-Core, Retail establishments grew slightly (+0.4%), bucking the national decline (-0.7%), though employment fell 7%. Accommodation venues declined 4%.

Measure	FY25	City	National	City	National
Core NTE overview		%Change FY24-25		% Total Economy	
 Establishments	7,833	+2%	+1.8%	5%	5%
 Employment	81,785	+1.1%	+1.4%	10%	8%
 Sales Turnover	\$13.1bn	+4%	+4%	4%	4%
 Indexed trend	City Core NTE FY2019 to FY2025 (Inflation Adjusted)				
Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Core NTE	
 Drink	342	+14%	-1.2%	4%	7%
 Leisure & Entertainment	2,334	+0.7%	+2%	30%	32%
 Food	5,157	+2%	+2%	66%	62%
Non-Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Non-Core NTE	
 Retail	4,815	+0.4%	-0.7%	28%	31%
 Accommodation	464	-4%	-2%	3%	5%

Brisbane's trading patterns

In May 2026, Thursday is Brisbane's busiest evening for Core NTE trade, with 64% of businesses open between 6pm and 9pm. Activity builds from 52% on Monday through to the Thursday peak before easing slightly on Friday and Saturday.

Brisbane's most distinctive pattern is its early-hours economy. Around 20% of Core NTE businesses are open between 3am and 6am on weekday mornings and consistently from Monday through Friday, which is more than twice the proportion recorded in most other participating cities. This reflects the strength of early-opening cafés, fitness venues and service businesses that serve Brisbane's dawn economy. Early-hours activity drops to around 13% on Saturday and 11% on Sunday.

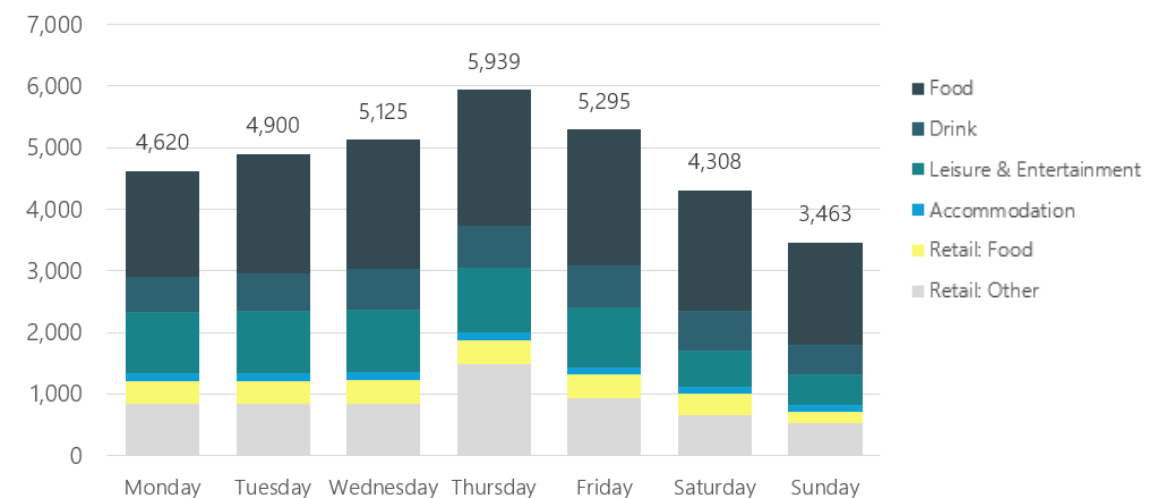
Early-night (9pm-midnight) trade reaches 31% on Fridays and 30% on Saturdays, lower than the southern capitals but consistent. Late-night (12am-3am) activity is modest, with around 11% of businesses open on Friday and Saturday nights.

Retail is primarily a daytime and early-evening proposition in Brisbane, with around 26% of retailers open on weekday evenings. The exception is Thursday, when 41% of retail businesses trade in the evening. Friday retail drops back to 28%, and weekend retail is quieter.

Proportion of all **Core NTE** and **Retail** businesses open

Sector	Weekday (6pm-6am)	Evening 6pm-9pm	Early-Night 9pm-12am	→ Night rolls into next day →	
				Late-Night 12am-3am	Early-hours 3am-6am
Core NTE	Monday	52%	22%	9%	20%
	Tuesday	57%	23%	9%	20%
	Wednesday	61%	25%	9%	21%
	Thursday ★	64%	27%	10%	21%
	Friday	61%	31%	11%	21%
	Saturday	53%	30%	11%	13%
	Sunday	45%	22%	9%	11%
Retail	Monday	26%	11%	6%	8%
	Tuesday	26%	10%	6%	8%
	Wednesday	26%	11%	7%	8%
	Thursday ★	41%	11%	6%	8%
	Friday	28%	11%	7%	8%
	Saturday	22%	10%	7%	7%
	Sunday	15%	9%	6%	7%

Number of businesses open at night (at some point 6pm and 6am)



Canberra

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

The nation's capital, known for its cultural attractions and thriving food and wine scene - with a dedicated Minister for the Night-Time Economy

2025 CORE NTE SNAPSHOT

2,350

Businesses
▲ 2%

32,505

Employees
▲ 0.9%

\$4.9bn

Turnover
▲ 4%

NTE AT A GLANCE

Peak night

Friday

Growth sector

**Leisure &
Entertainment**

Open 6pm to 9pm

66%



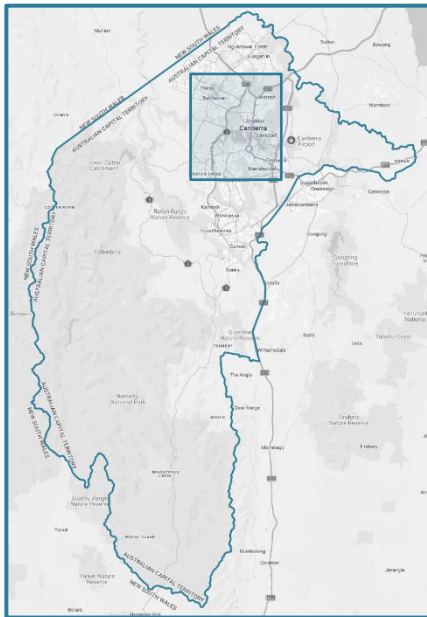
Where is Canberra's NTE located?

The Australian Capital Territory covers a vast geographic area, although the great majority of night-time business activity is concentrated in and around Canberra itself.

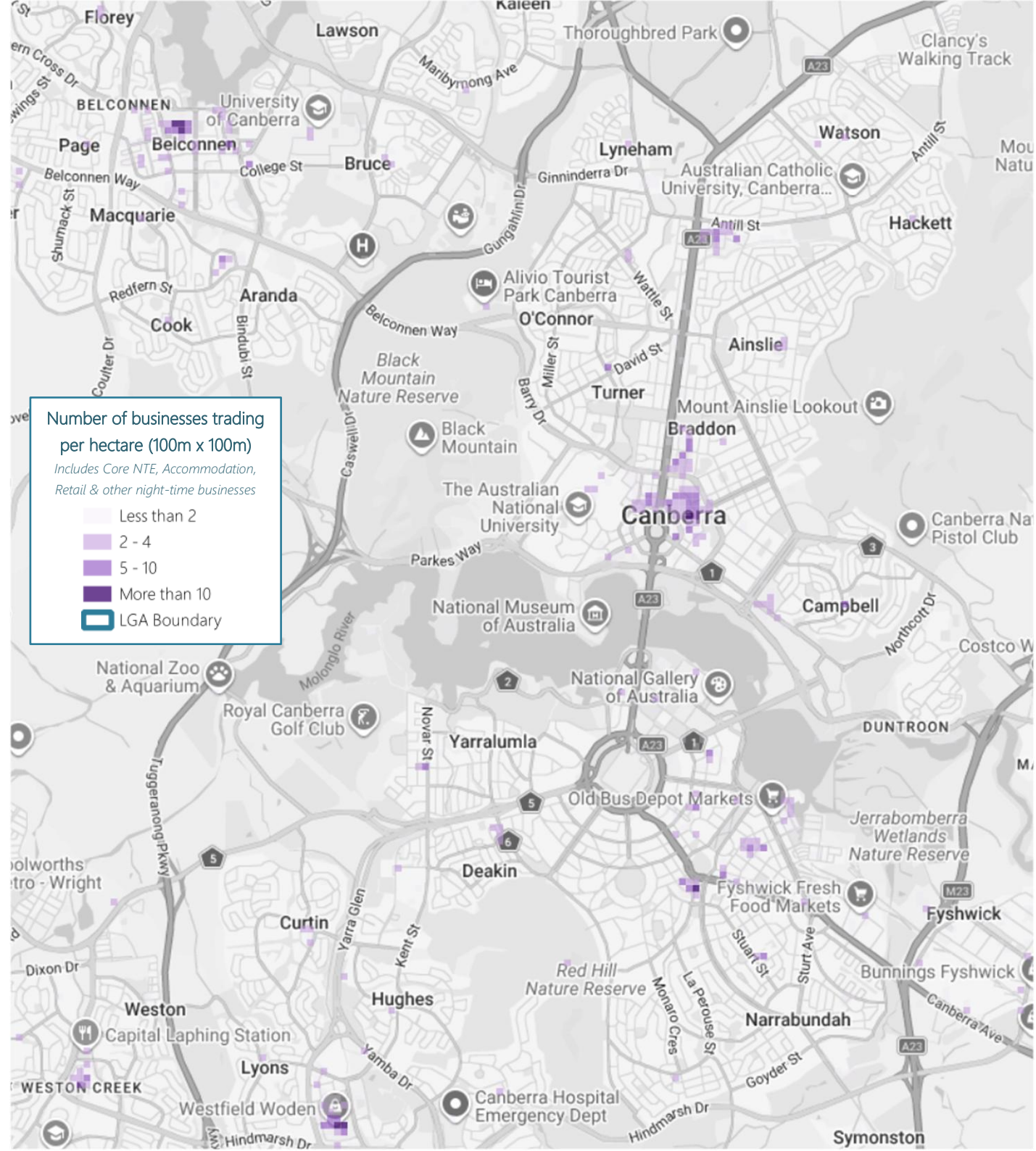
In May 2026, the strongest evening (6pm-9pm) concentrations are in the inner north where the broader city centre stands out as the city's densest NTE precinct, with Braddon also showing strength. Beyond the inner city, clusters can be found in:

- Belconnen to the north-west,
- Phillip (Woden) to the south,
- Griffith (Manuka) to the southeast, and
- Fyshwick, where some evening activity is visible.

An interactive map can be viewed online [here](#).



MEASURING THE AUSTRALIAN NTE 2026 | CITY PROFILE | CANBERRA, ACT



Canberra's City Initiatives

The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Government is delivering a comprehensive program of reforms to support a vibrant and inclusive night-time economy for Canberra businesses, creatives and the community. The ACT continues to have a dedicated Minister for the Night-Time Economy portfolio to drive and oversee these reforms.

Fee reductions

Following the delivery of a suite of reforms in 2024, the ACT Government introduced further liquor licence reforms to provide more support to small and medium sized hospitality businesses and venues that operate in Canberra's night-time economy and support local artists and performers and the Canberra community. From 1 July 2025:

- restaurants and cafés with an occupancy between 81 and 150 people and general licences with occupancies between 21 and 150 people received an automatic 50 per cent reduction to their annual liquor licence fees; and
- eligible venues with occupancies between 151 and 350 that showcase artists, musicians and other cultural activities can also receive a 50 per cent reduction to their annual liquor licence fee upon a successful application.

Extended trading

Venues can also take advantage of declared 'special events' which automatically extend their trading hours when there is an important event for Canberrans. In August 2025, more than 40 events were declared as special events over a 12-month period.

Musician access

The ability for musicians to have access to free loading zones for up to 30 minutes to load or unload equipment at venues has also been continued following the completion of a 12-month trial. This initiative complements broader night-time economy reforms by improving accessibility for musicians booked to play at venues.

Entertainment precinct investigations

The ACT Government is looking at further ways to support Canberra's night-time economy. It is undertaking a review of the introduction of the City Centre Entertainment Precinct which will support future investigations into town centres and other areas across the ACT that are suitable to be defined as entertainment precincts.

Public space use

A review of the framework that enables event organisers and venues to legally use public spaces is also being undertaken. A fit-for-purpose public unleased land framework can better support a wide range of activations and events that contribute to a lively night-time economy.

Events investment

The ACT Government also invests heavily in the visitor and event economy to generate significant economic benefits through tourism, hospitality and retail spend. These efforts also increase visitation and engagement with Canberra's night-time economy. This investment includes:

- Delivering a major event calendar with a range of night-time activities including Enlighten, and Floriade NightFest.
- Supporting significant events like SpiltMilk, Summernats, Chicago the Musical, that attract visitation to Canberra.
- Delivering targeted local night-time activations in the city centre and across Canberra. This includes, Winter in the City, Summernats Braddon Fringe Festival, Floriade About Town and Enlighten Beyond.

Canberra's NTE performance

Canberra's Core NTE continues to broaden with Leisure & Entertainment venues growing at nearly three times the national rate, while Food and Drink held steady.

Canberra's Core NTE grew to 2,350 establishments in 2024/25, up 2% (+50) slightly above the national average (+1.8%). Employment rose more modestly, adding 300 jobs (+0.9%) to 32,505. The city's NTE has expanded substantially since the pandemic, with 29% more businesses than in 2018/19 and employment 9% higher. Core NTE sales turnover grew 4% to \$4.9bn – or +0.9% in real terms, slightly ahead of the city's establishment and employment growth.

Leisure & Entertainment was the growth driver, adding 30 establishments (+6%), nearly three times the national L&E growth rate (+2%). Employment in the sub-sector was essentially flat (+0.4%), suggesting the new venues are small-format operations. Food grew steadily, with 20 new businesses (+1.2%) and 275 additional jobs (+1.2%). Food dominates Canberra's Core NTE more than in most cities, accounting for 71% of establishments, well above the national share of 62%. Drink was unchanged on both counts - 128 establishments and 2,245 employees - a notable result given the national decline of -1.2% in venues.

Retail establishments grew modestly steady (+1.0% / +11), while Accommodation declined by six venues (-6%), steeper than the national fall of -2%.

Measure	FY25	City		National	
Core NTE overview		%Change FY24-25		% Total Economy	
 Establishments	2,350	+2%		+1.8%	
 Employment	32,505	+0.9%		+1.4%	
 Sales Turnover	\$4.9bn	+4%		+4%	
 Indexed trend	City Core NTE FY2019 to FY2025 (Inflation Adjusted)				
Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Core NTE	
 Drink	128	0.0%		-1.2%	
 Leisure & Entertainment	564	+6%		+2%	
 Food	1,658	+1.2%		+2%	
Non-Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Non-Core NTE	
 Retail	1,091	+1.0%		-0.7%	
 Accommodation	92	-6%		-2%	

Canberra's trading patterns

In May 2026, Thursday is Canberra's busiest evening for Core NTE activity, with 62% of businesses trading between 6pm and 9pm. Trade follows a clear mid-week build, rising from 52% on Monday before peaking on Thursday and easing through to Sunday, when 45% of businesses are open.

Friday and Saturday are the peak nights for trading beyond 9pm. Around 34% of Core NTE businesses remain open until midnight on Friday and 33% on Saturday, above the weekday average of around 25-30%. Late-night (12am-3am) activity reaches 10% on Friday and Saturday, placing Canberra in the middle range across all cities on this measure.

Early-hours (3am-6am) trade is more consistent in Canberra than in most cities, with around 10-11% of Core NTE businesses open before 6am across most days of the week.

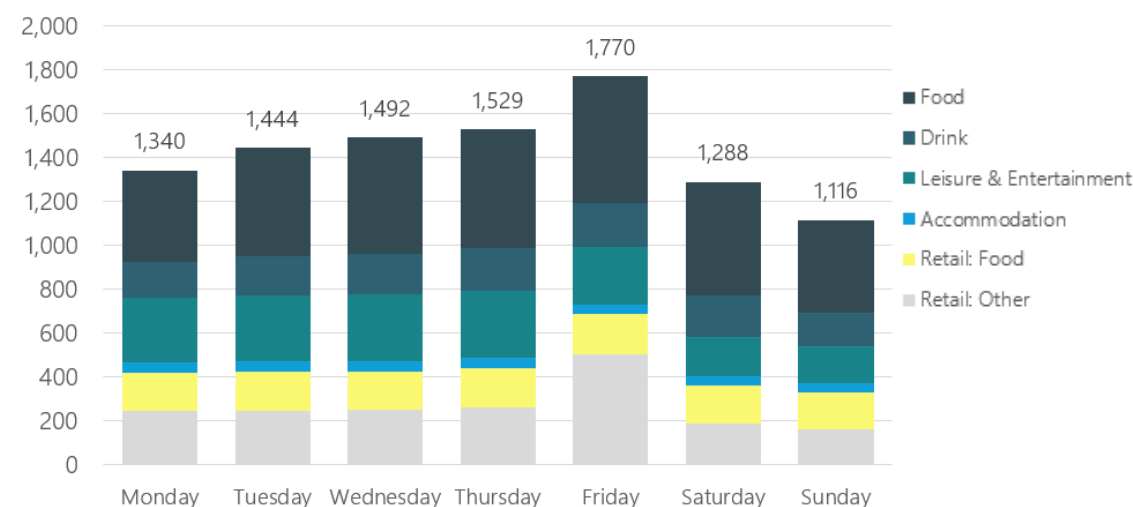
Sunday trading is relatively strong at 45% in the evening. This is above several larger cities, suggesting that Canberra's NTE has developed a robust seven-day character.

Retail businesses are primarily daytime traders. Around 32-34% open in the early evening on weekdays, rising to 53% on Fridays under extended trading hours provisions. Saturday and Sunday retail drops to around 25-28%.

Proportion of all **Core NTE** and **Retail** businesses open

Sector	Weekday (6pm-6am)	Evening 6pm-9pm	Early-Night 9pm-12am	→ Night rolls into next day →	
				Late-Night 12am-3am	Early-hours 3am-6am
Core NTE	Monday	52%	23%	8%	11%
	Tuesday	58%	26%	8%	11%
	Wednesday	61%	28%	8%	11%
	Thursday ★	62%	30%	9%	11%
	Friday	61%	34%	10%	11%
	Saturday	53%	33%	10%	8%
	Sunday	45%	23%	8%	8%
Retail	Monday	32%	11%	5%	5%
	Tuesday	33%	12%	5%	5%
	Wednesday	33%	12%	5%	5%
	Thursday	34%	12%	5%	6%
	Friday ★	53%	12%	6%	6%
	Saturday	28%	11%	6%	6%
	Sunday	25%	10%	5%	5%

Number of businesses open at night (at some point 6pm and 6am)



Darwin

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Australia's gateway to South East Asia, on Larrakia Country. Known for warm nights, outdoor dining, cultural festivals and bustling night markets.

2025 CORE NTE SNAPSHOT

506

Businesses
▲ 4%

4,615

Employees
▼ 3%

\$886m

Turnover
▲ 4%

NTE AT A GLANCE

Peak night

Thursday

Growth sector

**Leisure &
Entertainment**

Open 6pm to 9pm

68%

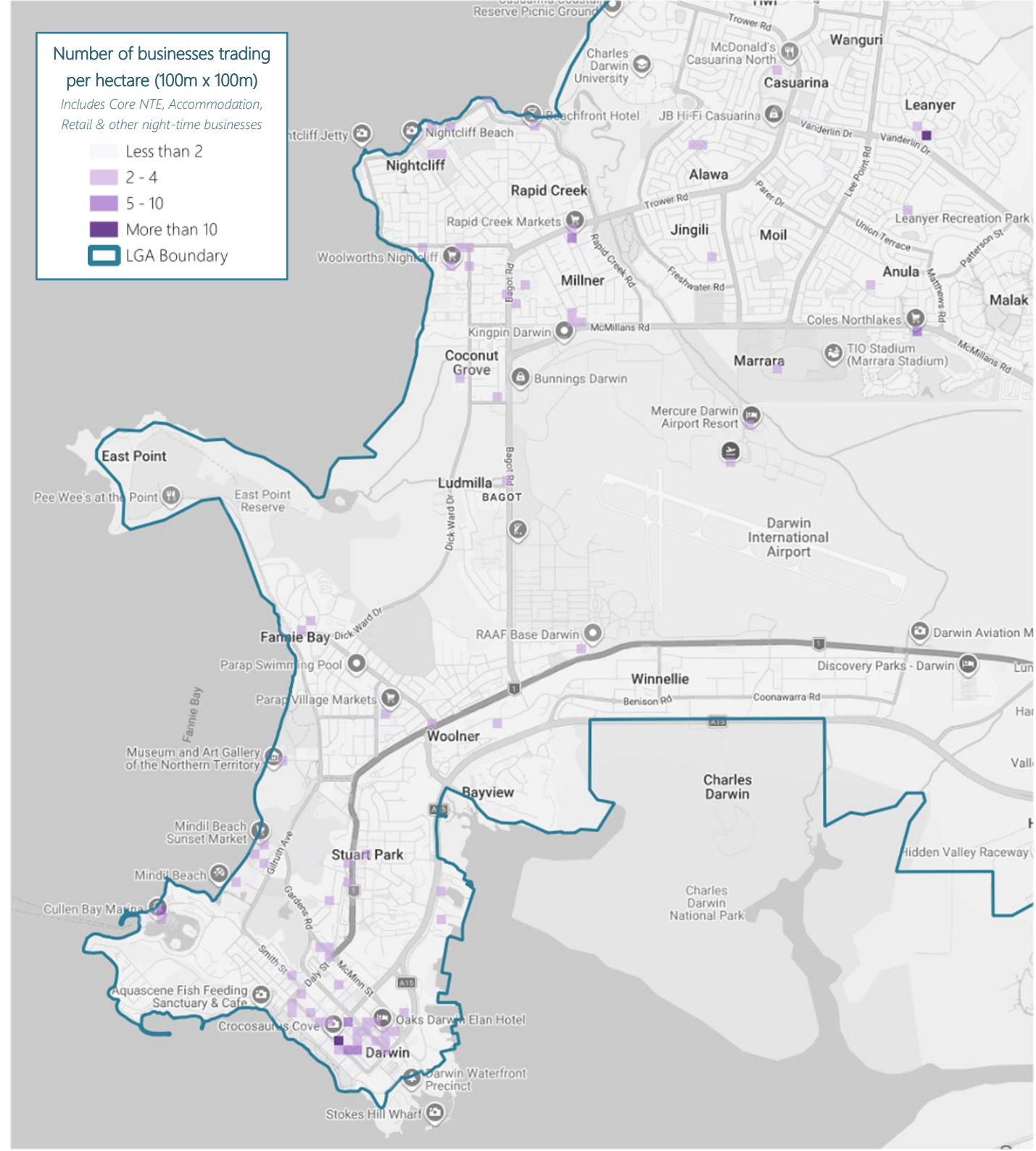


Where is Darwin's NTE located?

In May 2026, most of Darwin's night-time businesses (6pm to 9pm) is anchored in the CBD at the southern tip of the peninsula along Mitchell Street and The Mall, which form the city's most concentrated cluster of night-time businesses. Smaller pockets of activity are scattered across the LGA, including:

- Around Stuart Park, Cullen Bay and Mindil Beach,
- Dotted around Nightcliff including along Casuarina Drive, and the Progress Drive shops, and,
- At the Hibiscus Shopping Centre in Leanyer to the northeast.

An interactive map can be viewed online [here](#).



Darwin's City Initiatives

As the heat of the day subsides, Darwin's tropical character encourages increased social and economic activity, with the City continuing to invest in its night-time economy through initiatives under its 2030 Economic Development Strategy. In 2024/25, the City of Darwin delivered the following initiatives:

Arts and culture

The City sponsored the Darwin Street Art Festival's 2025 closing event, Double Exposure, a one-night outdoor projection exhibition held on Saturday 14 June 2025 that transformed underutilised city spaces into a vibrant night-time gallery. The event attracted 1,047 attendees and enhanced cultural vibrancy and evening visitation..

Neighbourhood activation

The City delivered a pilot neighbourhood activation project in Casuarina in November 2024, enhancing a local walkway through a collaborative public art installation by Larrakia artist Naomy Briston, in partnership with Mimik-Ga Centre and City of Darwin staff, alongside new solar lighting to improve safety and amenity after dark.

Event funding

The City provided over \$1.5m in sponsorship and grant funding and \$70,000 in-kind support to events, including the Darwin Festival, Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, Royal Darwin Show, among others. These programs attracted significant audiences and delivered strong economic benefits for the city, reinforcing Darwin's place as a regional destination for arts, culture and tourism.

Community events

The City brought the community together at the annual *A Very Darwin Christmas Pageant and Christmas Tree Lighting*, attracting over 14,000 attendees, more than 17 per cent of Darwin's population, delivered in partnership with the Northern Territory Government.

Street food

The City issued 41 permits to street food vendors, supporting a vibrant and diverse street food scene across the Darwin municipality, with a strong focus on increased use of beaches and foreshore areas during evening hours.

International engagement

The City hosted Darwin Fusion 2025, a two-day international relations conference, trade show and food fair that welcomed over 140 international delegates from sister and friendship cities, over 50 trade stall holders, and over 1,500 local community members. The conference received local and international news coverage, including 500 million views across 190 countries and territories.

Transport and mobility

The City continued support for Beam e-scooter and e-bike services contributes to night-time initiatives,

with usage consistently peaking between approximately 5pm and 10pm and increasing significantly on weekend evenings, reflecting strong demand associated with leisure, social, and visitor activity.

Event permits

The City issued approximately 300 small and comprehensive event permits across the Darwin municipality, supporting local businesses and contributing to growth in the visitor economy.

Public space activation

The City launched Bundilla Beach Reserve as a vibrant new leisure destination featuring skateable surfaces, a basketball court, green space, and weekly food truck operations, resulting in 2.5 times higher foot traffic during the dry season compared to pre-activation levels.

Night-time safety

The City improved night-time safety through targeted public lighting upgrades at key locations, delivering 16 new or upgraded luminaires across parks, car parks and shared paths, enhancing visibility and safety in areas of known evening and night-time use.

Darwin's NTE performance

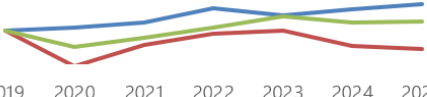
Darwin's Core NTE is opening more venues than ever, at more than double the national rate - but employment fell 3%. Leisure & Entertainment is growing strongly on both counts.

Darwin added 21 Core NTE establishments in 2024/25 (+4% to 506), more than double the national growth rate of +1.8% and in line with the broader Northern Territory increase (+4%). However, employment fell 3% (-130 jobs) to 4,615, mirroring the territory-wide decline. Darwin's NTE workforce is now 17% below its pre-pandemic level. Core NTE sales turnover grew 4% to \$886m (+0.7% in real terms), rising in step with venue numbers despite the fall in employment.

Leisure & Entertainment was the standout, with establishments surging +9% (+14 to 164) - more than four times the national L&E growth rate - with employment also rising +5% (+70 to 1,480). This sub-sector now accounts for 32% of Darwin's Core NTE, matching the national share.

Food added six venues (+2%), broadly in step with the national rate, but employment fell sharply (-6% / -165 jobs to 2,700). Drink gained one establishment (+3%), bucking the national decline, though employment contracted (-8%). The persistent gap between venue growth and employment decline points to a structural shift of more businesses operating with smaller workforces.

In Non-Core, Retail (-3%) and Accommodation (-3%) shed venues, steeper than the respective national declines.

Measure	FY25	City	National	City	National
Core NTE overview		%Change FY24-25		% Total Economy	
 Establishments	506	+4%	+1.8%	6%	5%
 Employment	4,615	-3%	+1.4%	8%	8%
 Sales Turnover	\$886m	+4%	+4%	4%	4%
 Indexed trend	City Core NTE FY2019 to FY2025 (Inflation Adjusted)				
Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Core NTE	
 Drink	35	+3%	-1.2%	7%	7%
 Leisure & Entertainment	164	+9%	+2%	32%	32%
 Food	307	+2%	+2%	61%	62%
Non-Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Non-Core NTE	
 Retail	275	-3%	-0.7%	27%	31%
 Accommodation	58	-3%	-2%	6%	5%

Darwin's trading patterns

In May 2026, Thursday is Darwin's busiest evening for Core NTE trade, with 62% of businesses open between 6pm and 9pm. Trading builds from 52% on Monday to the Thursday high before easing on Friday (60%) and Saturday (52%).

Darwin shows a notably even distribution of early-hours (3am-6am) activity across the week, with around 10% of Core NTE businesses trading before 6am on most days, exceeding several larger cities.

Late-night (12am-3am) activity reaches 13% on Friday and 12% on Saturday, while early-night trade (9pm-midnight) is steady rather than peaking sharply, reflecting a NTE character that spreads across the night rather than concentrating in a single window.

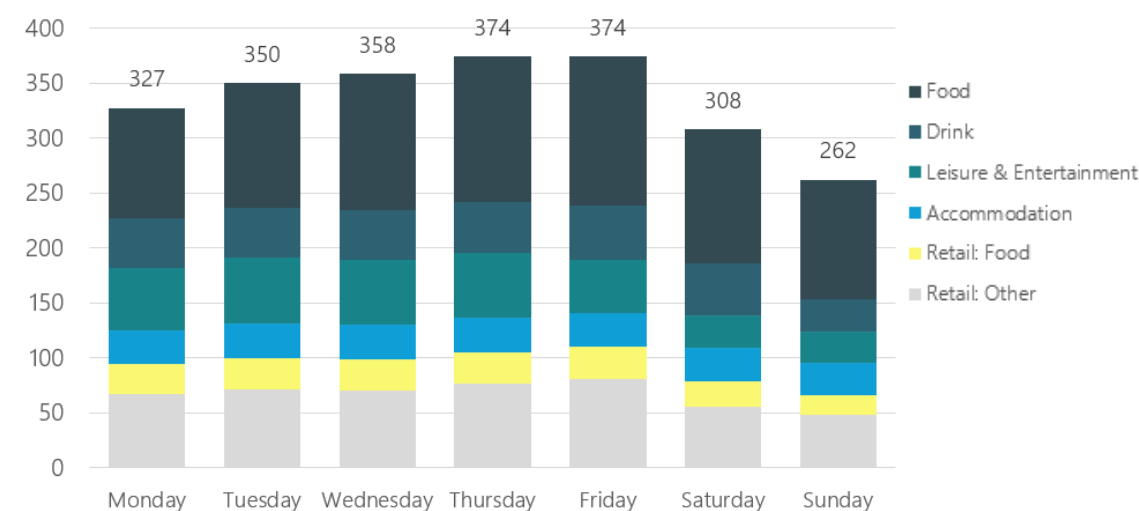
Sunday trading is relatively solid at 45% of Core NTE businesses in the evening, consistent with Darwin's year-round outdoor and hospitality culture.

Retail is modest at night, with around 25-28% of retailers open on weekday evenings. Friday retail lifts slightly to 30%.

Proportion of all **Core NTE** and **Retail** businesses open

Sector	Weekday (6pm-6am)	Evening 6pm-9pm	Early-Night 9pm-12am	→ Night rolls into next day →	
				Late-Night 12am-3am	Early-hours 3am-6am
Core NTE	Monday	52%	26%	9%	11%
	Tuesday	57%	26%	9%	10%
	Wednesday	59%	28%	9%	10%
	Thursday ★	62%	28%	9%	10%
	Friday	60%	31%	13%	11%
	Saturday	52%	30%	12%	9%
	Sunday	45%	26%	9%	8%
Retail	Monday	25%	11%	8%	9%
	Tuesday	27%	12%	9%	9%
	Wednesday	27%	12%	8%	9%
	Thursday	28%	11%	8%	9%
	Friday ★	30%	12%	8%	9%
	Saturday	21%	12%	9%	9%
	Sunday	18%	11%	9%	9%

Number of businesses open at night (at some point 6pm and 6am)



Hobart

TASMANIA

A waterfront city shaped by Kunanyi/Mt Wellington and the Derwent River. Renowned for culinary excellence, local producers, arts culture and iconic events.

2025 CORE NTE SNAPSHOT

622

Businesses
▼ 5%

6,580

Employees
▼ 7%

\$1.12bn

Turnover
▲ 3%

NTE AT A GLANCE

Peak night

Friday

Growth sector

Drink

Open 6pm to 9pm

63%



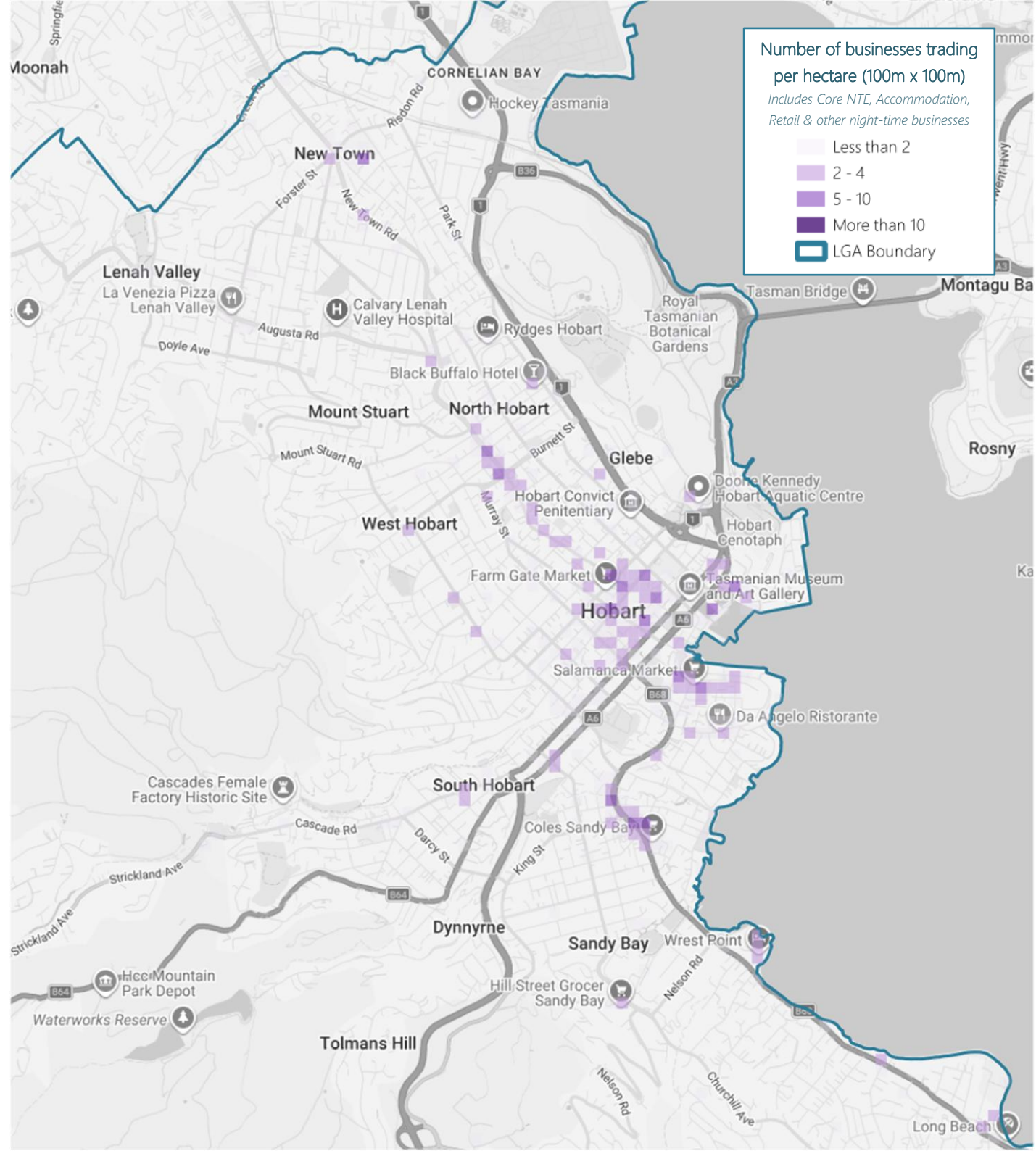
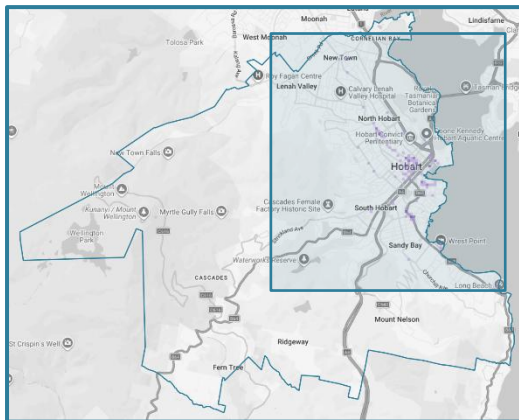
Where is Hobart's NTE located?

In May 2026, Hobart's night-time business activity is concentrated in the eastern portion of the LGA. The CBD, particularly around Elizabeth and Murray Streets, is the strongest cluster, with activity extending south to the Salamanca waterfront precinct.

Other pockets of evening trade include:

- Along Elizabeth Street in North Hobart,
- Around Salamanca Place and the waterfront, and
- The Sandy Bay retail strip to the south.

An interactive map can be viewed online [here](#).



Hobart's City Initiatives

Hobart is a waterfront city with a rich history. Hobart is the capital of the island state of Tasmania. From Kunanyi/Mt Wellington to the Derwent River, the natural landscape shapes Hobart. Hobart has a reputation for excellent culinary experiences, local producers, arts and culture, and playing host to iconic events.

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The night-time economy in Hobart contributes significantly to the economic performance of the city, and has been identified as an area with potential for continued economic growth opportunities for a diverse mix of contributing sectors. The City of Hobart is actively involved in supporting the growth of the night-time economy, through events, support campaigns, policy and land use planning and business support activities.

Key night-time precincts

Hobart's night-time economy is centred around a number of precincts, including:

- The CBD and waterfront
- Along Elizabeth Street in North Hobart
- Around Salamanca Market
- Across the Sandy Bay retail centre, and
- Around New Town.

Events and activations

The City of Hobart supports different events and activities in these locations. Hobart plays host to major events such as Dark Mofo, Taste of Summer, and a diverse range of other events to increase the mix of night-time activities available for residents and visitors alike and to experience what makes Hobart unique.

On a different scale, the City of Hobart supports events such as Franko Street Eats and the Twilight Market to encourage greater visitation to different parts of the city.

Policy and planning

From a policy and land use planning perspective, the Central Hobart Plan (Structure Plan) includes a number of actions designed to prioritise Central Hobart as the primary commercial, cultural, creative, political and administrative centre for Southern Tasmania and the State, including encouraging a mix of uses that contribute to the night-time economy.

Promotion and business support

The City of Hobart also supports night economy activities through Hello Hobart, the City's primary business promotion platform. A range of ongoing

campaigns have been designed to showcase different events, businesses doing exciting new activities and precincts during different seasons.

Council roles and responsibilities

The City of Hobart continues to support the night-time economy through a range of roles:

- Setting the policy framework that supports commercial night-time economy activities
- Incentivising activities through the provision of grants.
- Playing a leading role in facilitating or funding activations.
- Cultivating a dynamic, safe, and culturally rich environment that supports the night-time economy.

Hobart's NTE performance

Hobart's Core NTE contracted on both fronts in 2024/25, losing 33 businesses and 535 jobs, the sharpest declines of any city in this year's report.

Hobart's Core NTE fell to 622 establishments in 2024/25, down 5% (-33), a reversal from the growth seen in recent years and the largest percentage decline among the 16 participating cities. Employment dropped 7% (-535 jobs) to 6,580, also the steepest city-level fall. These declines exceed the broader Tasmanian trend (-0.7% establishments, -5% employment), indicating pressures concentrated in the Hobart LGA rather than spread evenly across the state. Core NTE sales turnover held up better than other metrics, rising 3% in cash terms, though it edged down 0.4% in real terms as venues and jobs contracted.

The Core NTE accounts for 9% of all businesses and 12% of total employment in Hobart - both well above the national averages underscoring how central the NTE is to this city.

Food bore the brunt of the decline, losing 30 establishments (-7% to 408) and 490 jobs (-10%), a sharp contrast to the national Food trend (+2%). Leisure & Entertainment also shed venues (-5% / -8 to 148), but managed to grow employment modestly (+1.8% / +20 to 1,190). Drink was the sole sub-sector to add businesses, growing 8% (+5 to 66) - notably against the national Drink decline (-1.2%) - though employment still fell 8%.

In Non-Core, Retail (-3%) and Accommodation (-5%) both declined, steeper than national trends.

Measure	FY25	City	National	City	National
Core NTE overview		%Change FY24-25		% Total Economy	
 Establishments	622	-5%	+1.8%	9%	5%
 Employment	6,580	-7%	+1.4%	12%	8%
 Sales Turnover	\$1.12bn	+3%	+4%	6%	4%
 Indexed trend	City Core NTE FY2019 to FY2025 (Inflation Adjusted)				
Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Core NTE	
 Drink	66	+8%	-1.2%	11%	7%
 Leisure & Entertainment	148	-5%	+2%	24%	32%
 Food	408	-7%	+2%	66%	62%
Non-Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Non-Core NTE	
 Retail	288	-3%	-0.7%	31%	31%
 Accommodation	79	-5%	-2%	8%	5%

Hobart's trading patterns

In May 2026, Friday is Hobart's busiest evening for Core NTE activity, with 60% of businesses open between 6pm and 9pm. Thursday is close behind at 59%, and Saturday records 54%. Trading drops to 47% on Monday and 42% on Sunday, the quietest day.

Early-night (9pm-midnight) trade peaks on Friday and Saturday, when 35% of Core NTE businesses remain open until midnight. This is a meaningful step up from the 21-28% range seen on weeknights.

Late-night (12am-3am) trade is limited, with just 8% of businesses open on Friday and Saturday nights; among the lowest across the seventeen cities.

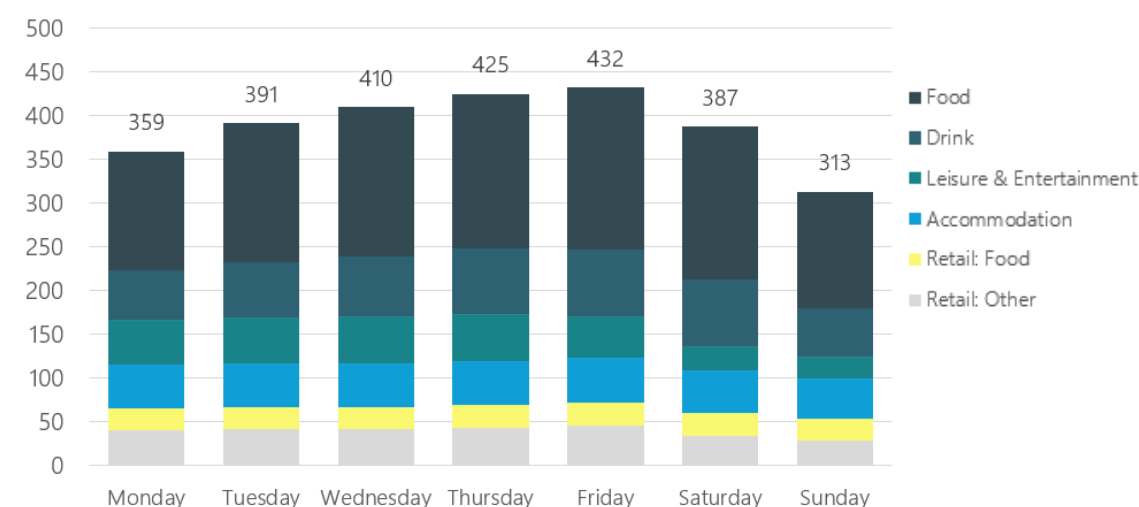
Sunday evening trade at 42% is the lowest among the capital cities, reflecting Hobart's more compact NTE footprint. That said, the growth from previous years in mid-week activity, with Wednesday and Thursday both exceeding 56%, indicates a strengthening pattern beyond the traditional weekend.

Retail activity at night is very low, with fewer than 19% of retail businesses open on any weekday evening. Friday records the highest retail evening participation at 19%, while Saturday drops to 16%. This points to an ongoing opportunity for Hobart to grow its after-dark retail offer.

Proportion of all **Core NTE** and **Retail** businesses open

Sector	Weekday (6pm-6am)	Evening 6pm-9pm	Early-Night 9pm-12am	→ Night rolls into next day →	
				Late-Night 12am-3am	Early-hours 3am-6am
Core NTE	Monday	47%	21%	5%	8%
	Tuesday	53%	23%	5%	8%
	Wednesday	57%	26%	5%	8%
	Thursday	59%	28%	6%	8%
	Friday ★	60%	35%	8%	8%
	Saturday	54%	35%	9%	7%
	Sunday	42%	21%	5%	5%
Retail	Monday	17%	7%	4%	4%
	Tuesday	18%	7%	4%	4%
	Wednesday	18%	7%	4%	4%
	Thursday	18%	7%	4%	4%
	Friday ★	19%	8%	5%	5%
	Saturday	16%	7%	4%	4%
	Sunday	14%	7%	4%	4%

Number of businesses open at night (at some point 6pm and 6am)



Hornsby

NEW SOUTH WALES

Emerging as one of Greater Sydney's newest night-time destinations - live music, markets and outdoor dining amid natural beauty and growing connectivity.

2025 CORE NTE SNAPSHOT

653

Businesses
▲ 3%

3,325

Employees
▼ 0.9%

\$528m

Turnover
▲ 8%

NTE AT A GLANCE

Peak night

Thursday

Growth sector

Drink

Open 6pm to 9pm

72%



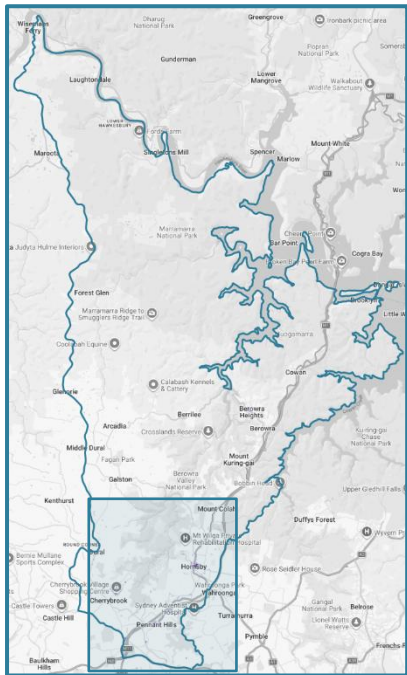
Where is Hornsby's NTE located?

Hornsby Shire is one of the largest LGAs in Greater Sydney. In May 2026, night-time business activity is heavily concentrated in the south of the shire, with the Hornsby town centre - around Westfield and the train station - forming by far the densest cluster of evening businesses (6pm-9pm).

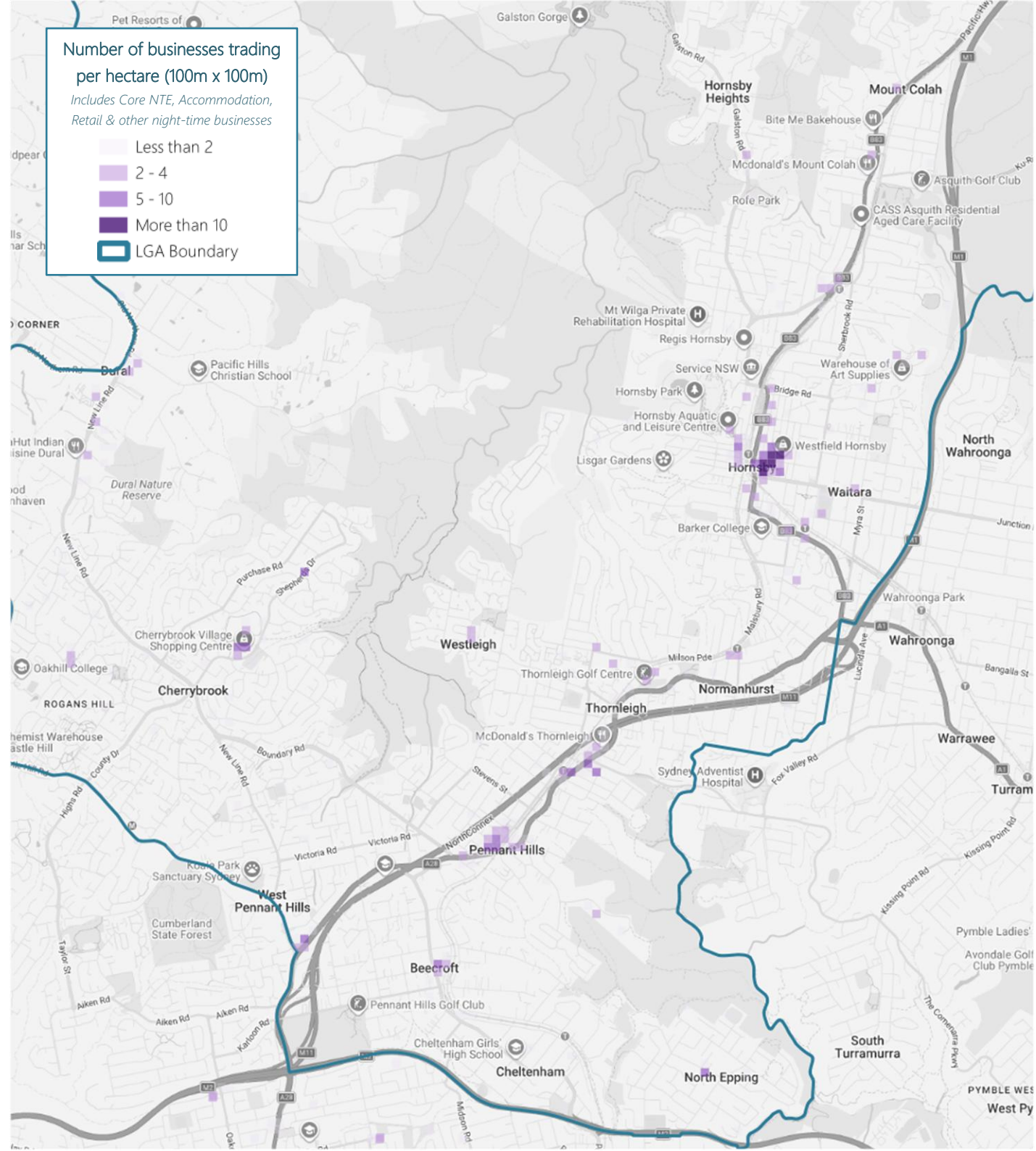
Smaller pockets of activity are scattered across the shire, including:

- Pennant Hills, near the train station to the south,
- Beecroft, along Hannah Street, and
- Cherrybrook Village Shopping Centre to the west.

An interactive map can be viewed online [here](#).



MEASURING THE AUSTRALIAN NTE 2026 | CITY PROFILE | HORNSBY, NSW



Hornsby's City Initiatives

The Hornsby Town Centre is well positioned to evolve from a primarily retail precinct into a lively, mixed-use night-time destination over the next decade, thanks to its new Transport Oriented Development designation and a trial Special Entertainment Precinct. With these foundations in place, Hornsby Town Centre can attract new residents, evening visitors, and a broader range of businesses that will bring energy and activity after dark.

Uptown project - Hornsby after dark

NSW Government investment through the Uptown Grant Program has supported the delivery of the Hornsby After Dark initiative, one of a network of precinct-based projects designed to strengthen local night-time economies across Greater Sydney.

Led by the Hornsby Chamber of Commerce, Hornsby After Dark brings together local businesses, community groups and stakeholders to revitalise the evening economy and establish a distinct identity for the town centre.

The initiative focuses on promoting Hornsby as a destination for dining, entertainment and social activity after dark, supported by coordinated programming, marketing and business engagement. This includes events, activations and campaigns that showcase local food, live music, performance and cultural experiences, encouraging residents and visitors to engage with the precinct beyond traditional daytime hours.

Early activations, including the revival of twilight markets and community-led events, demonstrate how targeted programming can increase foot traffic, support local businesses and re-establish

Hornsby as an evening destination. These initiatives also highlight the importance of local collaboration and flexible delivery models in building momentum and responding to community demand

The project is galvanising local businesses and community groups to activate the town centre, creating momentum for a more vibrant evening economy. These early initiatives are building practical partnerships and demonstrating how targeted activation can transform public spaces into welcoming, safe, and engaging places at night. They also provide a foundation for ongoing programming and community-led activity that can sustain momentum over time.

Integrated precinct planning

As Council advances strategic place planning across precincts such as Pennant Hills and the New South Wales Government progresses planning around the Cherrybrook Metro, the importance of amenity, liveability and the night-time economy will only grow. Coordinated planning across these projects presents a significant opportunity to shape complementary precincts that support residents' needs and encourage local spending into the

evening. This integrated approach will be important to ensuring accessibility, connectivity and a consistent quality of experience across the Shire.

Policy and investment opportunity

While cost of living pressures and the longer lead times for master planned developments are real considerations, they also underscore the value of getting policy settings and infrastructure right now. Early, supportive policies will ensure the Shire is ready to capture the benefits of urban renewal as it unfolds.

Local economic retention

Even with the draft Sydney Plan designating Hornsby as a "retail centre" rather than a "strategic centre", there is clear scope to retain and grow evening economic activity by creating and marketing attractive local offerings that keep spending and social life within the Shire. This includes supporting a mix of dining, cultural and community-based activities that encourage residents to stay local after dark.

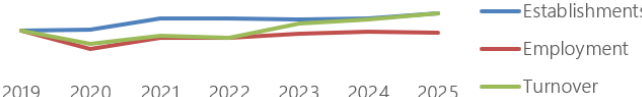
Hornsby's NTE performance

Hornsby's suburban NTE is growing in businesses - led by Food and a notable surge in Drink venues - but shedding employment across most sub-sectors. Sales turnover growth is very strong.

Hornsby Core NTE comprised 653 establishments in June 2025, up 3% (+22) on the previous year - nearly double the national growth rate (+1.8%). Employment eased slightly, however, falling 0.9% (-30 jobs) to 3,325. Core NTE turnover was a standout, increasing 8% to \$528m reflecting an almost 5% growth in real terms and placing it among the strongest growth of any city in this year's report, even as employment edged down.

Food drove establishment growth, adding 21 venues (+5% to 409) - more than double the national Food growth rate. Employment dipped 1.9%, a pattern consistent with the broader NSW experience this year. Drink was the standout in percentage terms, surging 21% (+6 establishments to 34), with employment also up 20% (+35 to 190) - a particularly strong result against the national Drink decline (-1.2%). Leisure & Entertainment moved in the opposite direction, losing five venues (-2%) and 20 jobs (-2%), counter to the national L&E growth trend.

In the Non-Core sector, both Retail (-3%) and Accommodation (-3%) declined.

Measure	FY25	City	National	City	National
Core NTE overview		%Change FY24-25		% Total Economy	
 Establishments	653	+3%	+1.8%	5%	5%
 Employment	3,325	-0.9%	+1.4%	6%	8%
 Sales Turnover	\$528m	+8%	+4%	2%	4%
 Indexed trend	City Core NTE FY2019 to FY2025 (Inflation Adjusted)				
Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Core NTE	
 Drink	34	+21%	-1.2%	5%	7%
 Leisure & Entertainment	210	-2%	+2%	32%	32%
 Food	409	+5%	+2%	63%	62%
Non-Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Non-Core NTE	
 Retail	456	-3%	-0.7%	26%	31%
 Accommodation	30	-3%	-2%	2%	5%

Hornsby's trading patterns

In May 2026, Thursday is Hornsby's busiest evening for Core NTE trade, with 65% of businesses open between 6pm and 9pm. Trading follows a steady mid-week build from 54% on Monday, with the Thursday peak giving way to a modest decline on Friday. Saturday holds at 54% and Sunday sits at 46%; maintaining a relatively even weekend profile.

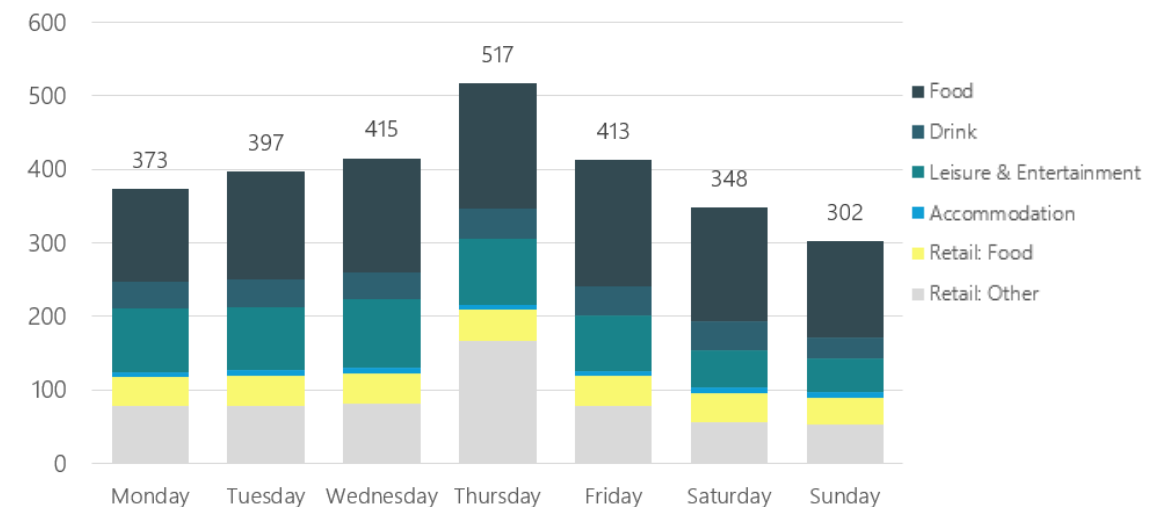
Early-night (9pm-midnight) trade reaches 31% on Friday and Saturday, above the weeknight range of 22-28%. Late-night (12am-3am) activity is moderate, at 8% on Saturdays and Fridays. Early-hours (3am-6am) trade is relatively elevated for a suburban LGA, at around 12-13% on weekdays.

Retail businesses show a pronounced Thursday peak, with 48% of retailers open in the early evening on Thursdays, which is roughly double the weekday average. This likely reflects late-night shopping provisions. Friday, Saturday and Sunday retail returns to lower levels of 22-27%.

Proportion of all **Core NTE** and **Retail** businesses open

Sector	Weekday (6pm-6am)	Evening 6pm-9pm	Early-Night 9pm-12am	→ Night rolls into next day →	
				Late-Night 12am-3am	Early-hours 3am-6am
Core NTE	Monday	54%	22%	7%	12%
	Tuesday	59%	24%	7%	13%
	Wednesday	62%	25%	7%	12%
	Thursday ★	65%	28%	7%	13%
	Friday	61%	31%	8%	12%
	Saturday	54%	31%	8%	8%
	Sunday	46%	23%	7%	7%
Retail	Monday	27%	10%	6%	6%
	Tuesday	27%	10%	6%	7%
	Wednesday	27%	10%	6%	7%
	Thursday ★	48%	11%	7%	7%
	Friday	27%	10%	6%	7%
	Saturday	22%	10%	6%	6%
	Sunday	20%	10%	7%	7%

Number of businesses open at night (at some point 6pm and 6am)



Launceston

TASMANIA

A UNESCO City of Gastronomy, Launceston is reimagining its centre after dark—strategic investment, outdoor dining and vibrant events shaping a safe, inclusive and welcoming NTE.

2025 CORE NTE SNAPSHOT

370

Businesses
▲ 4%

2,205

Employees
▼ 2%

\$374m

Turnover
▲ 8%

NTE AT A GLANCE

Peak night

Thursday

Growth sector

**Leisure &
Entertainment**

Open 6pm to 9pm

65%



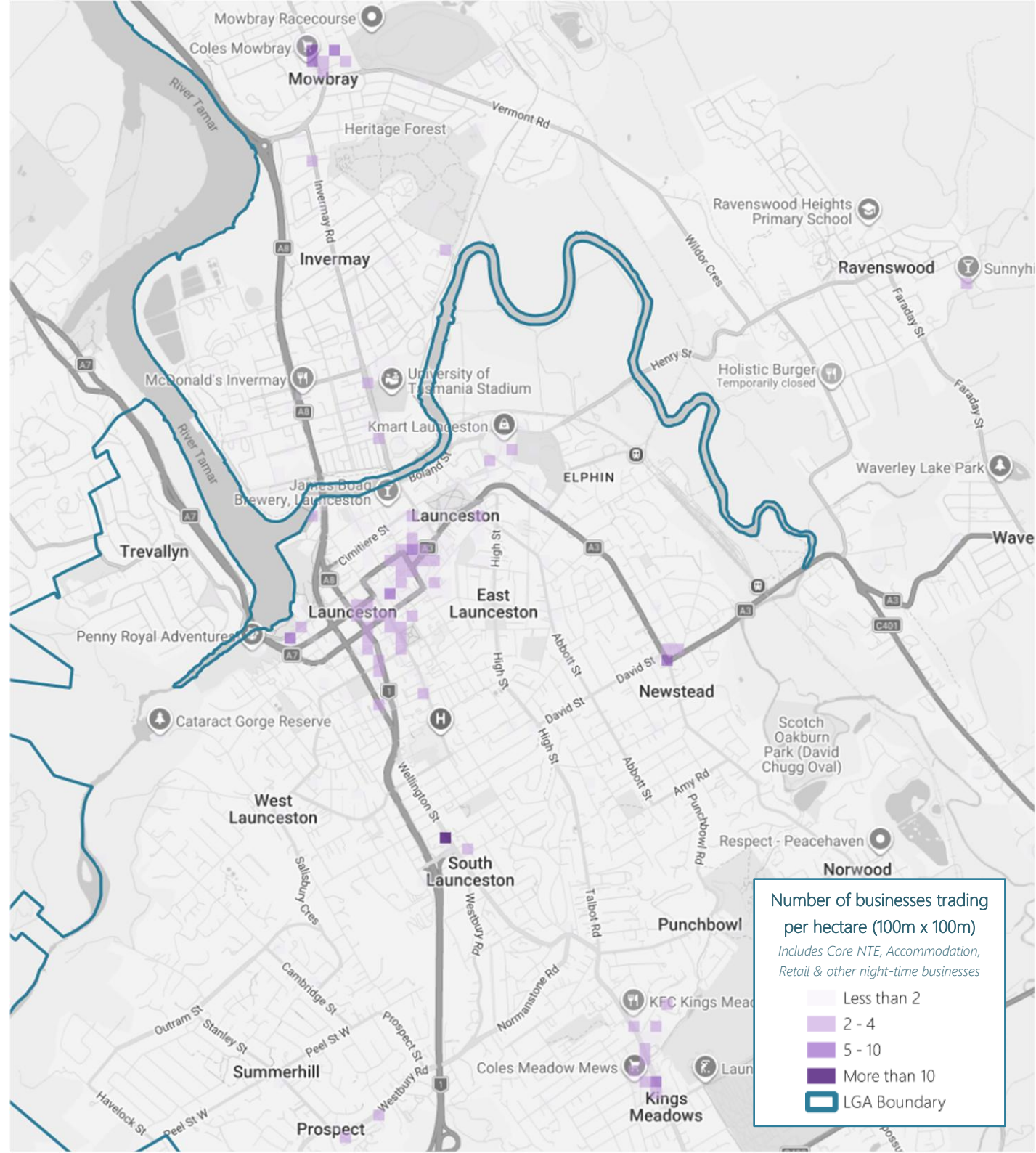
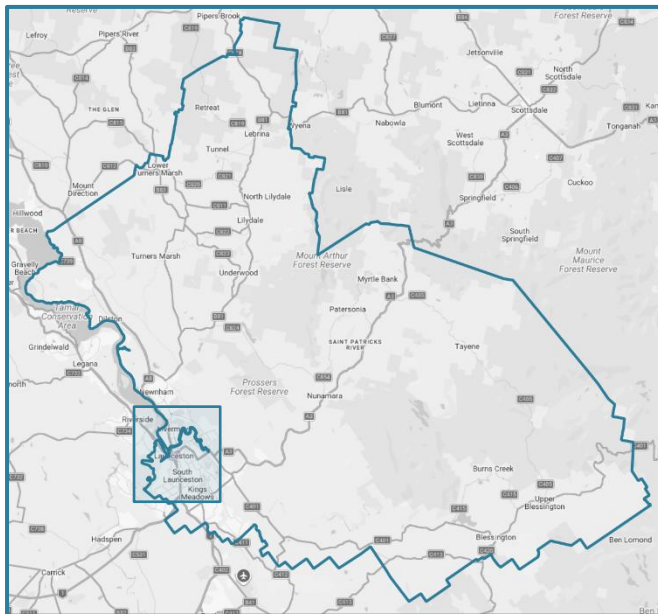
Where is Launceston's NTE located?

In May 2026, the City of Launceston's evening economy (6pm-9pm) is concentrated in the south-west of the LGA, with the CBD – centred on George Street, Paterson Street and York Street – forming the city's primary cluster of night-time businesses.

Beyond the city centre, other pockets of activity include:

- Kings Meadows, along Hobart Road,
- A distinct cluster in South Launceston, and
- Mowbray, around Vermont Road, and
- A small pocket in Newstead near the Newstead Hotel.

An interactive map can be viewed online [here](#).



Launceston's City Initiatives

Launceston continues to strengthen its night-time economy through strategic planning, place-based initiatives, and targeted activations that support a safe, vibrant and economically productive after-dark city centre. The Launceston City Heart Place Plan (2024–2029) provides a framework for a more connected and people-focused CBD, prioritising public realm improvements, increased dwell time, and expanded evening activity aligned with broader economic development objectives.

Outdoor Dining Activation

Building on these initiatives, the George Street Dining Deck Trial (2024–25) demonstrated the value of converting on-street parking into outdoor dining, directly supporting hospitality businesses, and increasing street activation. The trial delivered measurable benefits, including higher patronage, longer visitor dwell times, and positive feedback from traders and the community, confirming that flexible use of public space can enhance vibrancy and strengthen the night-time economy.

Business Monitoring

The city continues to invest in data-driven decision-making through its Business Activity Survey, which provides an annual snapshot of business composition, trading patterns, and vacancy trends across the CBD. Updated survey results will be released in 2026, further strengthening Council's capacity to monitor performance and respond to emerging trends.

Events and Visitation

Events and activations remain central to Launceston's after-dark offer. Major community events, including Carols by Candlelight, Winter Fest,

and seasonal food and wine programming, continue to attract strong attendance and stimulate visitation to the CBD. In May 2026, the Thoroughfare^{xxv} event in Launceston further contributed to evening activation, drawing visitors into the city centre, and supporting local businesses after dark. In January 2026, the Foo Fighters concert at UTAS Stadium delivered a significant boost to the local economy, attracting visitors from across the region, increasing accommodation demand, and generating substantial flow-on benefits for hospitality and retail businesses.

Long-Term Investment

Ongoing investment in lighting, programming, and cultural activity continues to enhance perceptions of safety and vibrancy after dark. Foot traffic data indicates sustained recovery and growth, particularly within key hospitality precincts, supported by an expanding mix of live music, arts, and entertainment offerings. The City of Launceston Strategic Plan^{xxvi} positions the night-time economy as a core enabler of prosperity, place activation, and population attraction, rather than a standalone sector. The strategy links night-time economy initiatives directly to tourism, liveability,

and economic diversification outcomes. These coordinated actions reinforce Launceston's role as Northern Tasmania's cultural and economic hub. Continued collaboration between Council, local businesses, and cultural organisations will support consistent activation and programming that enhances visitor experience and encourages longer stays into the evening, ensuring the city centre remains welcoming and inclusive for all community members.

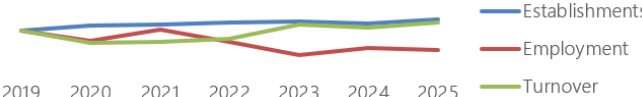
Launceston's NTE performance

Launceston's Core NTE grew to 370 establishments in 2024/25, up 4% (+15), well above the national growth rate of +1.8% and a notably stronger result than Hobart (-5%).

Launceston's Core NTE grew to 370 establishments in 2024/25, up 4% (+15), well above the national growth rate of +1.8% and notably stronger than Hobart (-5%). Employment fell -2% (-50 to 2,205), though this is milder than the broader Tasmanian decline of -5%. Launceston's NTE has grown 10% in business numbers since 2018/19, but employment remains 18% below pre-pandemic levels. Despite the dip in employment, sales turnover grew 8% to \$374m (+4% real), among the highest rates in the report.

Leisure & Entertainment was the growth standout, adding seven venues (+8% to 91) – four times the national rate – and 35 jobs (+11%). Drink also performed well, gaining one establishment (+3% to 32) and employment surging 11% (+35 to 340). These two sub-sectors are driving a shift in Launceston's NTE mix, though both remain below their national shares. Food added seven venues (+3% to 247), ahead of the national rate, but employment fell sharply (-7% / -120 to 1,500). Food accounts for 67% of Core NTE establishments, above the national share of 62%. The contrast between growing Drink and L&E employment (+11% each) and falling Food employment (-7%) is among the most pronounced sub-sector divergences this year.

Accommodation grew 9% (+4 to 49), bucking the national decline of -2%, while Retail fell -2%, steeper than the national rate of -0.7%.

Measure	FY25	City	National	City	National
Core NTE overview		%Change FY24-25		% Total Economy	
 Establishments	370	+4%	+1.8%	6%	5%
 Employment	2,205	-2%	+1.4%	7%	8%
 Sales Turnover	\$374m	+8%	+4%	4%	4%
 Indexed trend	City Core NTE FY2019 to FY2025 (Inflation Adjusted)				
Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Core NTE	
 Drink	32	+3%	-1.2%	9%	7%
 Leisure & Entertainment	91	+8%	+2%	25%	32%
 Food	247	+3%	+2%	67%	62%
Non-Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Non-Core NTE	
 Retail	242	-2%	-0.7%	26%	31%
 Accommodation	49	+9%	-2%	2%	5%

Launceston's trading patterns

In May 2026, Launceston's Core NTE is most active on Thursday evenings, when 59% of businesses are open between 6pm and 9pm. Trade builds steadily through the week from 44% on Monday, with Thursday edging just ahead of Friday (59%) before easing to 52% on Saturday and dropping to 39% on Sunday.

Friday and Saturday are the peak nights for trading beyond 9pm. Around 26% of Core NTE businesses remain open until midnight on Fridays and 24% on Saturdays, with the weeknight average of around 14-18%. Late-night (12am-3am) activity is modest, with 7% of businesses trading on Friday and Saturday nights, which is in line with Hobart but more contained relative to the larger capitals.

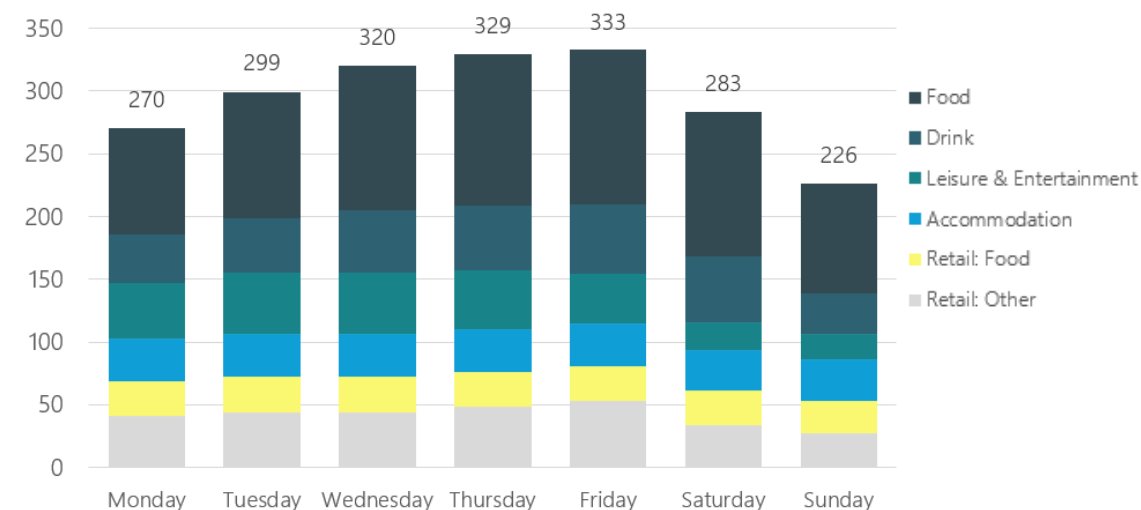
Compared to Hobart, Launceston records similar evening (6pm-9pm) participation rates but lower early-night (9pm-12am) depth, with Hobart seeing 35% of Core NTE businesses trading until midnight on Fridays, while in Launceston that figure sits at 26%.

Retail businesses are primarily daytime traders. Evening participation is flat across the week at around 19-22%, with Friday the peak. Unlike most other participating cities, there is no pronounced Thursday retail spike in Launceston, with trading consistent across Monday through Friday before easing on weekends.

Proportion of all **Core NTE** and **Retail** businesses open

Sector	Weekday (6pm-6am)	Evening 6pm-9pm	Early-Night 9pm-12am	→ Night rolls into next day →	
				Late-Night 12am-3am	Early-hours 3am-6am
Core NTE	Monday	44%	14%	5%	10%
	Tuesday	52%	15%	5%	10%
	Wednesday	58%	18%	5%	10%
	Thursday ★	59%	20%	5%	10%
	Friday	59%	26%	7%	11%
	Saturday	52%	24%	7%	7%
	Sunday	39%	14%	5%	5%
Retail	Monday	19%	7%	4%	6%
	Tuesday	20%	7%	5%	6%
	Wednesday	20%	7%	5%	6%
	Thursday	21%	7%	4%	6%
	Friday ★	22%	7%	4%	6%
	Saturday	17%	7%	5%	5%
	Sunday	15%	7%	5%	4%

Number of businesses open at night (at some point 6pm and 6am)



Maribyrnong

VICTORIA

Melbourne's inner west - from the energy of Footscray to the village feel of Yarraville and Seddon. An eclectic, diverse evening economy.

2025 CORE NTE SNAPSHOT

722

Businesses
▲ 2%

3,525

Employees
▲ 4%

\$474m

Turnover
▲ 2%

NTE AT A GLANCE

Peak night

Thursday

Growth sector

**Leisure &
Entertainment**

Open 6pm to 9pm

75%



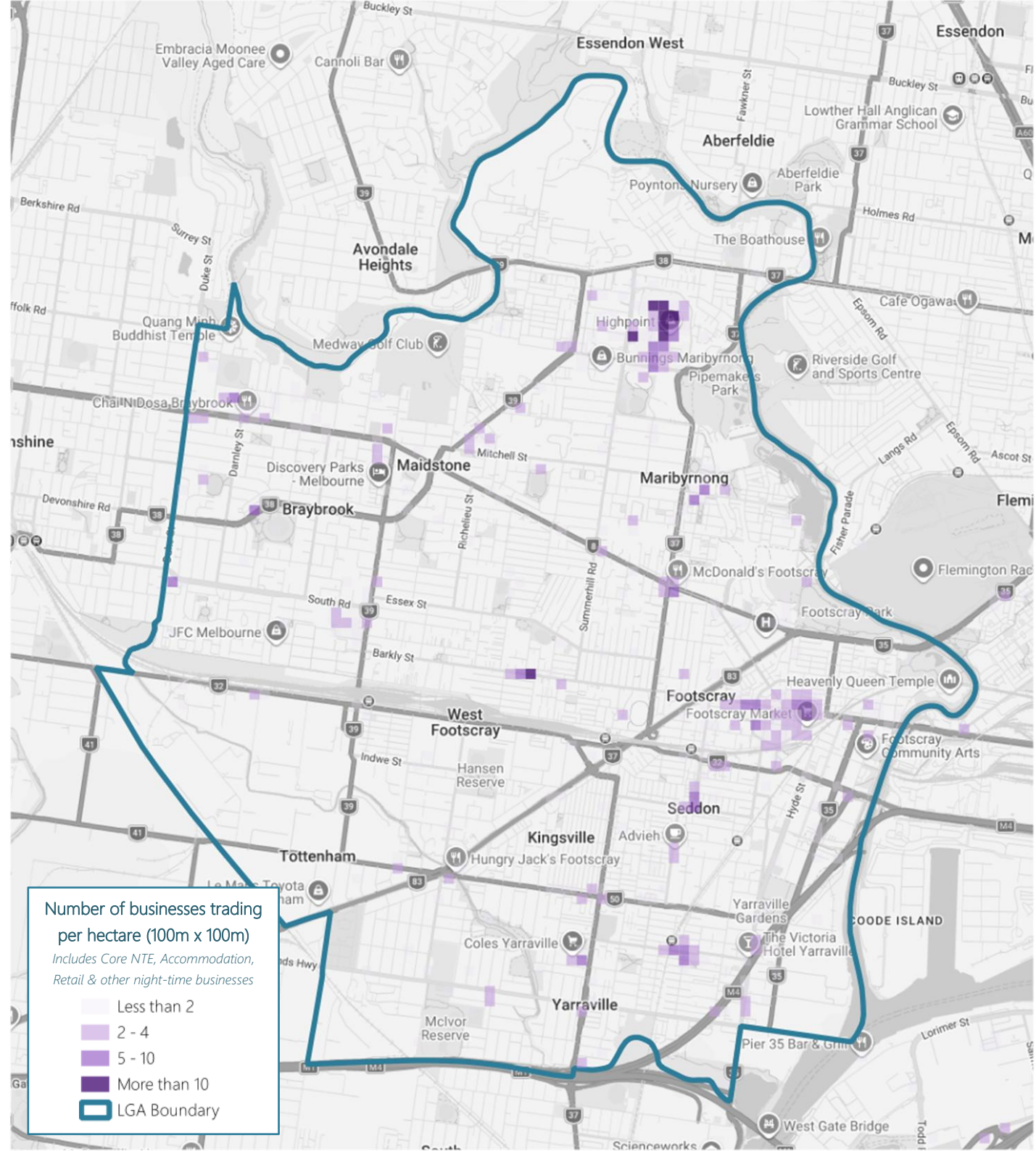
Where is Maribyrnong's NTE located?

In May 2026, the City of Maribyrnong's evening economy (6pm-9pm) is anchored by two strong clusters of night-time business activity:

- Highpoint Shopping Centre to the north of the LGA, and
- Footscray town centre and the Footscray Market precinct to the east, with activity concentrated along Barkly Street.

Smaller pockets of activity are also visible across the inner suburbs, including around the Charles Street-Victoria Street intersection in Seddon, and along Anderson Street near Yarraville Station.

An interactive map can be viewed online [here](#).



Maribyrnong's City Initiatives

The night-time economy in the City of Maribyrnong is a rapidly evolving sector, increasingly defined by its live music scene and a diversifying range of evening economy activities. From the hustle, bustle and colour of Footscray, to the quieter and cosier village vibes of Yarraville, Seddon and West Footscray, through to the powerful retail pull of Highpoint Shopping Centre, there is something on offer for everyone.

Strategic direction

Maribyrnong City Council has a strong focus on supporting our evening economy through a range of initiatives.

While the region was historically known for its cheap eats and a limited set of evening entertainment, current Council strategies - such as the Live Music Action Plan 2026-2028 - are actively working to transform it into a thriving destination that capitalises on the trend of visitors moving into inner-city areas away from the Melbourne CBD.

Live music and creative activity

Live music is a significant driver, contributing approximately \$36m in economic output according to the 2019 census. Beyond traditional bars and pubs, the economy is expanding to include pop-up raves, late-night markets like the Little Africa Night Market, and creative workshops through the Neighbourhood Nights program.

Marketing and promotion

Council's Love Your West campaign has continued to promote the municipality's Visitor Economy assets, with a strong emphasis on the evening economy.

Grants and funding

Council continues to support and empower local businesses and community groups to plan and deliver events, festivals and activations, many of which are focused on activating the City's business precincts in the evening. Funds and in-kind support are provided through two Grants Programs:

- **Signature Festivals and Activations Grants Program** incorporating:
 - Signature Festivals (biennial grants)
 - Place based initiatives (annual grants)
- **Love Your West Grants Program** incorporating:
 - Place-based initiatives (quick response grants)
 - Night-time diversification (quick response grants)

In 2025/26, Council awarded more than \$500,000 across these grant streams to fund 62 events during the financial year.

Events and partnerships

In addition to supporting these community-led activities, Council also partners with a range of major Melbourne events and some of our surrounding western region councils to present activities in festivals such as the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival, Midsumma Festival, Melbourne Fringe Festival and Melbourne International Jazz Festival.

Signature events

Council also delivers a number of signature events throughout the year with a strong focus on activating the evening economy. The annual highlight was the New Year's Eve fireworks event in Footscray Park, which attracted over 15,000 people in 2025.

Maribyrnong's NTE performance

Maribyrnong's Core NTE is growing on all fronts, more businesses, more jobs, and – nominally – more sales turnover. Leisure & Entertainment is expanding at twice the national rate.

Maribyrnong's Core NTE grew to 722 establishments in 2024/25, up 2% (+16) - ahead of the Victorian state average (+1.2%). Employment rose 4% (+135 jobs) to 3,525, outpacing the national rate (+1.4%) and contributing to a broader Victorian NTE surge of +10%. The city's NTE has expanded significantly since the pandemic, with establishments up 19% and employment 16% above 2018/19 levels, one of the strongest recoveries in the report. Core NTE sales turnover grew 2% in nominal terms to \$474m but slipped 1.2% in real terms, the only Core NTE metric not to grow in real value.

Food added seven venues (+1.7% to 422) and 75 jobs (+3%), growing steadily if slightly below the national Food establishment rate of +2%. Leisure & Entertainment was the standout, adding 10 businesses (+4% to 252) - double the national L&E growth rate - with employment up 5% (+40 to 810). L&E accounts for 35% of Maribyrnong's Core NTE, above the national share of 32%, giving the city a slightly more entertainment-oriented profile. Drink lost one venue (-2% to 48), broadly consistent with the national decline of -1.2%, though Drink employment grew 5% (+15 to 340).

Retail establishments bucked the national trend, growing +1.7% (+8 to 488) against a national decline of -0.7%. Accommodation was unchanged at 13 venues.

Measure	FY25	City	National	City	National
Core NTE overview		%Change FY24-25		% Total Economy	
 Establishments	722	+2%	+1.8%	8%	5%
 Employment	3,525	+4%	+1.4%	9%	8%
 Sales Turnover	\$474m	+2%	+4%	3%	4%
 Indexed trend	City Core NTE FY2019 to FY2025 (Inflation Adjusted)				
Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Core NTE	
 Drink	48	-2%	-1.2%	7%	7%
 Leisure & Entertainment	252	+4%	+2%	35%	32%
 Food	422	+1.7%	+2%	58%	62%
Non-Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Non-Core NTE	
 Retail	488	+1.7%	-0.7%	35%	31%
 Accommodation	13	0.0%	-2%	1%	5%

Maribyrnong's trading patterns

In May 2026, Thursday is Maribyrnong's busiest evening for Core NTE trade, with 72% of businesses open between 6pm and 9pm. This is the equal highest peak evening figure across all seventeen cities. Friday is close behind at 70%, with both days well above the weekly average of 62%.

Trading builds consistently through the week from 55% on Monday to the Thursday-Friday peak, before settling at 60% on Saturday and 52% on Sunday. The strong Sunday figure is notable, reflecting Maribyrnong's active hospitality and café culture.

Early-night (9pm-midnight) trade reaches 41% on Friday and 40% on Saturday - among the higher levels experienced by cities in this report.

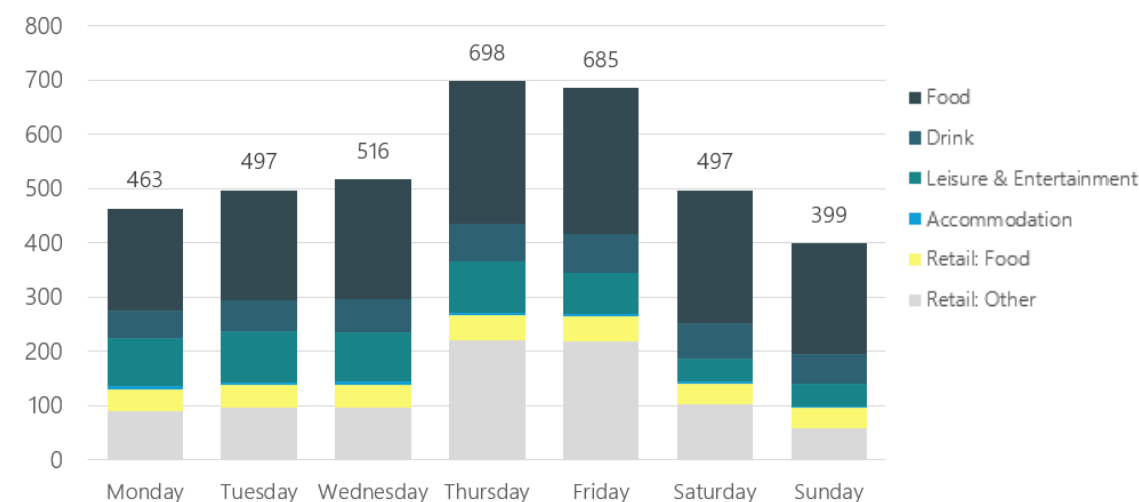
Late-night (12am-3am) activity peaks at 10% on Friday and Saturday, in line with the broader average across all cities. Early-hours (3am-6am) trade is similarly modest, reflecting Maribyrnong's primarily residential and suburban character.

Retail businesses show a sharp Thursday/Friday peak, with around 50% of retailers open in the early evening on those days; roughly double the weekday average of 24-26%.

Proportion of all **Core NTE** and **Retail** businesses open

Sector	Weekday (6pm-6am)	Evening 6pm-9pm	Early-Night 9pm-12am	→ Night rolls into next day →	
				Late-Night 12am-3am	Early-hours 3am-6am
Core NTE	Monday	55%	28%	7%	9%
	Tuesday	60%	29%	7%	9%
	Wednesday	63%	30%	8%	9%
	Thursday ★	72%	35%	8%	9%
	Friday	70%	41%	10%	9%
	Saturday	60%	40%	10%	6%
	Sunday	52%	29%	7%	5%
Retail	Monday	24%	11%	5%	6%
	Tuesday	26%	11%	5%	6%
	Wednesday	26%	12%	5%	6%
	Thursday ★	50%	12%	5%	6%
	Friday	50%	13%	5%	6%
	Saturday	26%	11%	5%	5%
	Sunday	18%	9%	4%	4%

Number of businesses open at night (at some point 6pm and 6am)



Melbourne

VICTORIA

Renowned for laneways, coffee culture and arts. Australia's sporting capital and most liveable city - ranked by the Economist Intelligence Unit four years running.

2025 CORE NTE SNAPSHOT

3,284

Businesses
▲ 6%

36,965

Employees
▲ 9%

\$5.1bn

Turnover
▲ 6%

NTE AT A GLANCE

Peak night

Thursday

Growth sector

Drink

Open 6pm to 9pm

62%



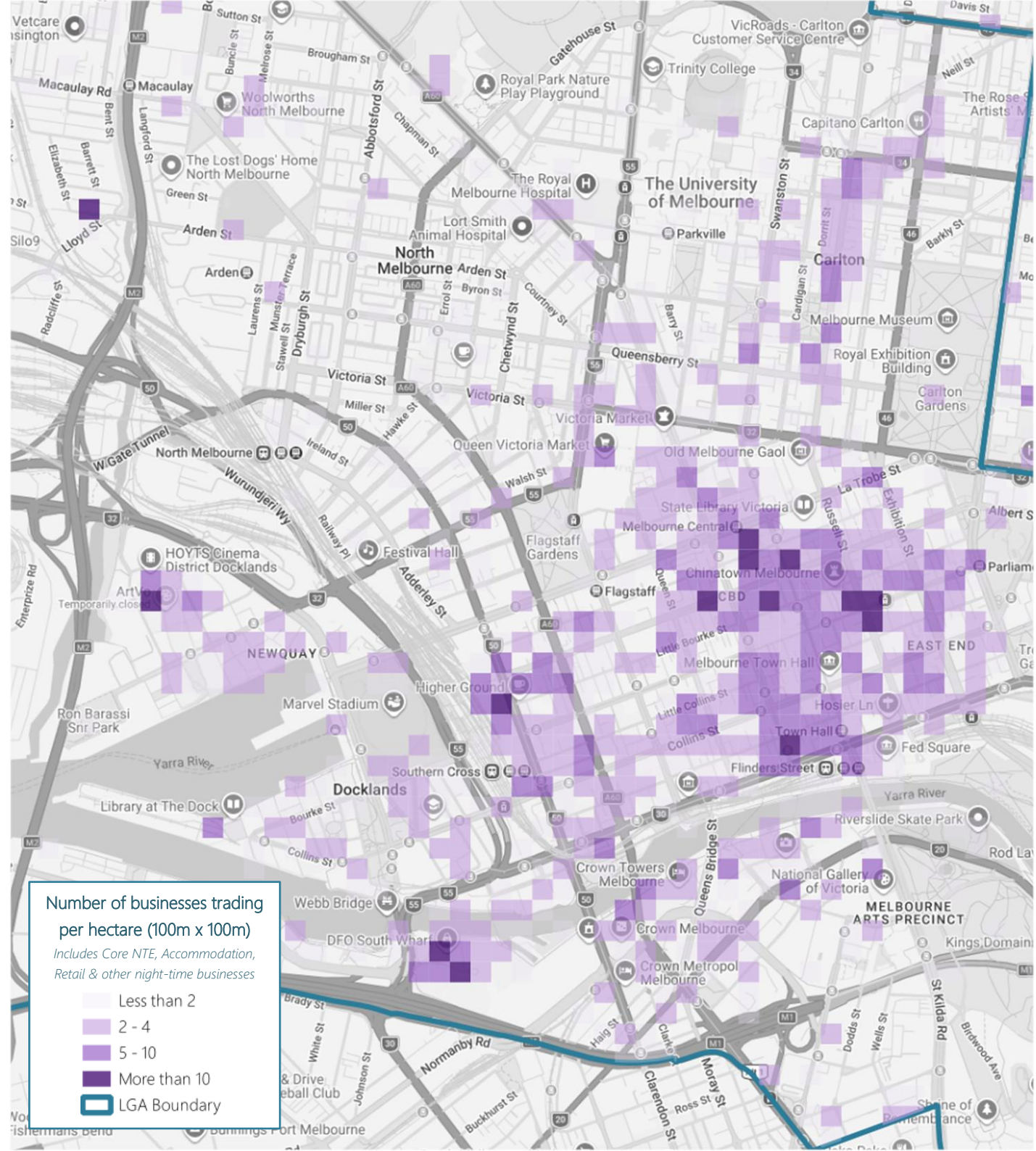
Where is Melbourne's NTE located?

In May 2026, City of Melbourne hosts one of the most dispersed and densely active evening economies (6pm-9pm) in Australia, with night-time businesses spread across the LGA.

The CBD remains the heart of the city's NTE, with particularly strong concentrations around Flinders Street, Swanston Street, Chinatown and the East End. Beyond the CBD, key clusters include:

- Queen Victoria Market to the north
- Southbank and South Wharf along the river,
- Docklands and NewQuay to the west,
- Lygon Street in Carlton to the north-east,
- Errol Street in North Melbourne, and
- The Melbourne Arts Precinct along St Kilda Road.

An interactive map can be viewed online [here](#).



Melbourne's City Initiatives

In 2024-25, Melbourne continued to strengthen its position as a leading 24-hour city, with strong momentum across events, tourism, precinct activation and industry support contributing to a vibrant and resilient night-time economy. The City of Melbourne focused on enabling businesses, industries and precincts to respond to evolving visitor behaviour and city rhythms after dark, reinforcing Melbourne's reputation as a world-class destination for culture, dining, music and entertainment.

Strategy and policy

This work was guided by The Melbourne Advantage - Economic Development Strategy 2030, which sets a long-term framework for Melbourne's economic growth across five pillars: innovation, attracting global talent and enterprises, supporting a vibrant city life, boosting business competitiveness, and enhancing liveability. Within Strategic Pillar 4: Melbourne's competitiveness, the strategy outlines a specific priority to *'Nurture Melbourne's 24-hour economy by adapting regulatory frameworks and processes, aligning Council operations and supporting traders to meet evolving city rhythms.'*

The Mainstreaming Twilight Trade Project received a prestigious Economic Development Australia National Award for Excellence, recognising it as the leading economic development initiative for regions with populations over 15,000. Delivered in partnership with the Australian Retailers Association, the project concluded in April 2024 and continues to influence Council efforts to support businesses to align trading hours with evolving patterns of visitation and activity across the city.

Events and promotion

The City of Melbourne delivered a bold program of premier events that activated the city into the evening and night, attracting more than 4.3 million visitors across major events including Moomba Festival, Melbourne Fashion Week, the Christmas Festival, New Year's Eve and the second edition of Now or Never. Collectively, these events generated \$310m in economic impact for the municipality. Now or Never was a standout success in its second year, attracting 250,000 visitors, a 66% increase year on year, with 14 sold-out performances across 17 days in August. The festival was recognised nationally, receiving Best New Event at the 2024 Australian Event Awards.

The award-winning Only in the City destination marketing campaign continued to showcase Melbourne's unique night-time appeal, driving an estimated \$99.6m in additional visitor spending. What's On Melbourne digital channels amplified evening and night offerings, attracting 8.4 million website users and generating 1.5 million business leads.

Business and precinct support

Targeted economic development initiatives supported businesses trading into the evening and night. The Small Business Grants Program attracted 370 applications, with 31 businesses sharing \$700,000 in funding to support innovation, activation and resilience across hospitality, retail and creative sectors. Industry roadmaps for hospitality, retail and live music venues were developed through stakeholder consultation, identifying safety, accessibility, consumer trends and business ease as priorities for the city.

The Business Precinct Program continued to support associations to deliver public activations and marketing campaigns that boosted foot traffic and extended trading hours. The retail environment continued to strengthen, with municipal vacancy falling to 9.1% and central CBD retail vacancy dropping to 5.5%, the lowest level since 2020.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate Melbourne's continued leadership in delivering a coordinated, inclusive and economically strong night-time economy, underpinned by a clear and long-term strategy.

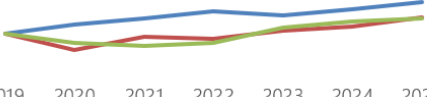
Melbourne's NTE performance

Melbourne is this year's standout performer, adding 177 businesses and nearly 3,000 jobs, with growth across every Core NTE sub-sector - the strongest result of any capital city.

Melbourne's Core NTE grew to 3,284 establishments in 2024/25, up 6% (+177) - more than three times the national average (+1.8%). Employment surged 9% (+2,910 jobs) to 36,965, consistent with the broader Victorian NTE boom (+10%). Core NTE sales turnover rose 6% to \$5.1bn, surpassing national growth average and reflecting a real terms gain of +3% – the strongest of the capital city NTEs.

Food led in absolute terms, adding 136 establishments (+6% to 2,328) and 2,290 jobs (+9%), both well ahead of national Food growth. Food accounts for 71% of Melbourne's Core NTE establishments, notably higher than the national share of 62%, reflecting the city's dense café and restaurant culture. Drink grew strongly on both counts - up 15 venues (+7% to 235) and 380 jobs (+12%) - against a national Drink decline of (-1.2%). Leisure & Entertainment added 26 venues (+4% to 721) and 240 jobs (+4%), with growth at double the national L&E establishment rate.

Retail establishments eased marginally (-0.5%), outperforming the national Retail decline of -0.7%. Accommodation was essentially stable (-0.3%), well ahead of the national fall of -2%.

Measure	FY25	City	National	City	National
Core NTE overview		%Change FY24-25		% Total Economy	
 Establishments	3,284	+6%	+1.8%	7%	5%
 Employment	36,965	+9%	+1.4%	10%	8%
 Sales Turnover	\$5.1bn	+6%	+4%	4%	4%
 Indexed trend	City Core NTE FY2019 to FY2025 (Inflation Adjusted)				
Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Core NTE	
 Drink	235	+7%	-1.2%	7%	7%
 Leisure & Entertainment	721	+4%	+2%	22%	32%
 Food	2,328	+6%	+2%	71%	62%
Non-Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Non-Core NTE	
 Retail	1,541	-0.5%	-0.7%	32%	31%
 Accommodation	306	-0.3%	-2%	6%	5%

Melbourne's trading patterns

In May 2026, Thursday is Melbourne's busiest evening for Core NTE trade, with 59% of businesses open between 6pm and 9pm. Friday is virtually identical at 59%, giving Melbourne a very flat Thursday/Friday peak.

Melbourne's most distinctive trading feature is the depth of its early-night activity. On Friday and Saturday nights, 45% of Core NTE businesses remain open past 9pm and through to midnight. This is among the highest proportions in the report, matched only by Adelaide, Yarra and Sydney. This reflects Melbourne's role as a national benchmark for sustained nightlife and its culture of late dining and entertainment.

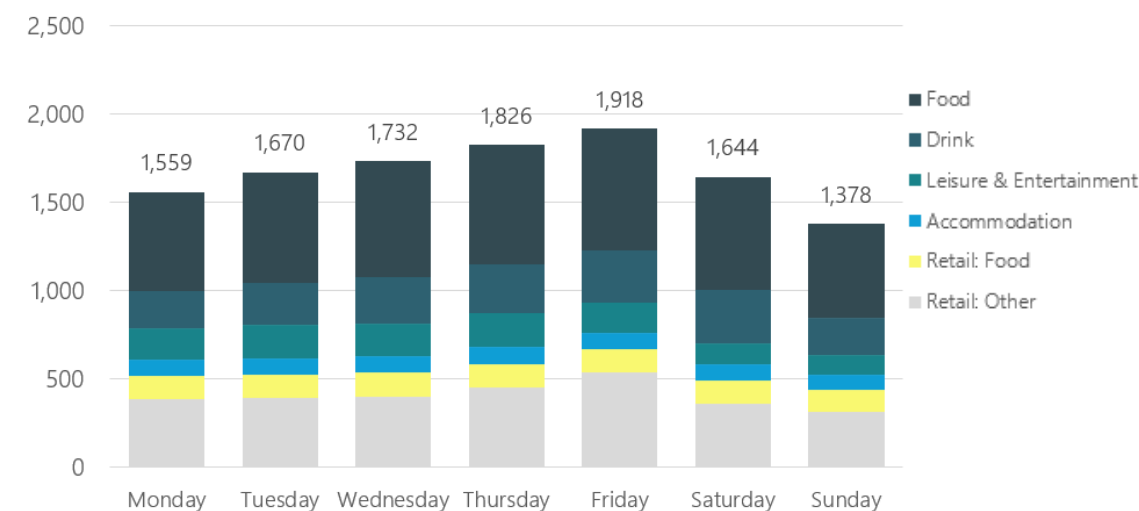
Late-night (12am-3am) activity is the second highest of any city on a weekly average basis, with 15% of Core NTE businesses trading on Friday nights and 16% on Saturdays. By contrast, early-hours (3am-6am) trade is relatively modest at around 7%, lower than Brisbane, Newcastle, Parramatta and Penrith, reflecting the concentration of activity in the late-night rather than the pre-dawn window.

Retail businesses are more active after dark in Melbourne than in most other cities, with 40-52% trading in the early evening depending on the day. Friday retail reaches 52%, and the weekend retail evening figure of 38-34% is among the higher levels recorded across cities in this report.

Proportion of all **Core NTE** and **Retail** businesses open

Sector	Weekday (6pm-6am)	Evening 6pm-9pm	Early-Night 9pm-12am	→ Night rolls into next day →	
				Late-Night 12am-3am	Early-hours 3am-6am
Core NTE	Monday	49%	33%	9%	6%
	Tuesday	54%	37%	9%	6%
	Wednesday	57%	40%	9%	6%
	Thursday ★	59%	42%	10%	7%
	Friday	59%	45%	15%	8%
	Saturday	54%	45%	16%	7%
	Sunday	45%	32%	9%	5%
Retail	Monday	40%	22%	9%	9%
	Tuesday	41%	22%	9%	9%
	Wednesday	42%	22%	9%	9%
	Thursday	45%	22%	10%	9%
	Friday ★	52%	23%	10%	9%
	Saturday	38%	23%	11%	10%
	Sunday	34%	20%	10%	9%

Number of businesses open at night (at some point 6pm and 6am)



Newcastle

NEW SOUTH WALES

The beating heart of the Hunter region - coastal living meets a city rich in restaurants, live music, theatre and festivals along Honeysuckle and Darby Street.

2025 CORE NTE SNAPSHOT

1,027

Businesses
▼ 5%

13,600

Employees
▼ 6%

\$2.3bn

Turnover
▲ 3%

NTE AT A GLANCE

Peak night

Thursday

Top sector

Food

Open 6pm to 9pm

66%



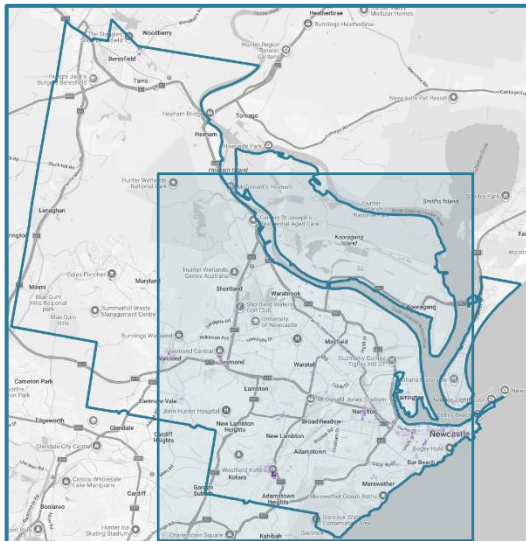
Where is Newcastle's NTE located?

In May 2026, Newcastle's evening economy (6pm-9pm) is anchored to the south-east of the LGA. The city centre, spanning the CBD, Hunter Street, Honeysuckle Drive and the Darby Street precinct, forms the strongest and most concentrated cluster of night-time activity.

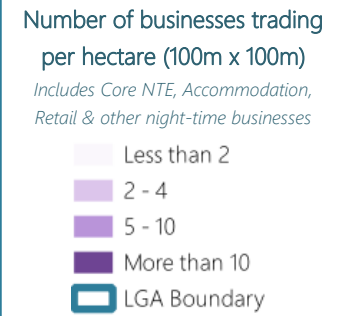
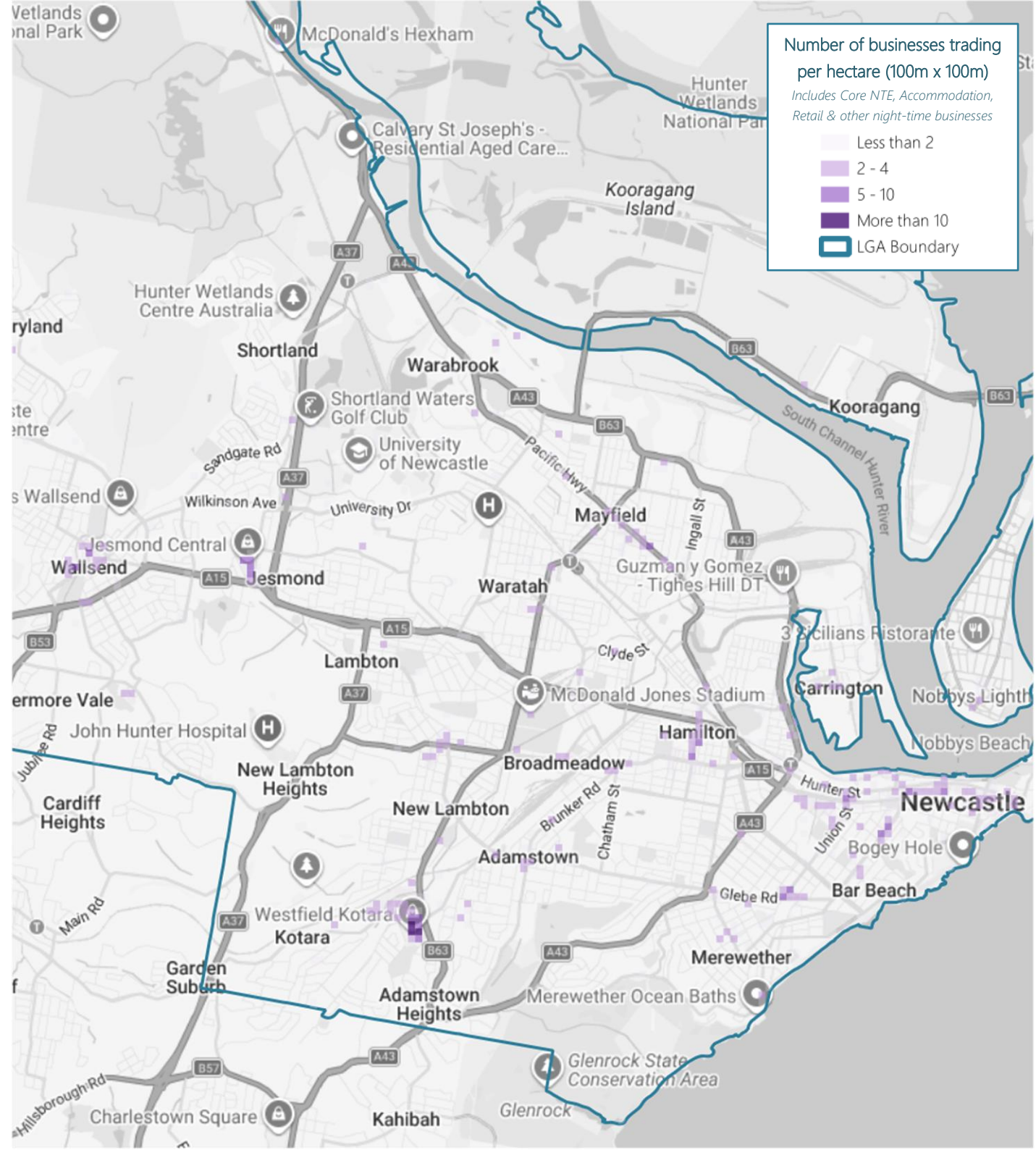
Beyond the city centre, key clusters include:

- Hamilton, along Beaumont Street south of the station,
- Westfield Kotara and the surrounding retail area,
- Jesmond Central to the west,
- Wallsend, along - and to the north of - Cowper Street, and
- South-east Mayfield along the Pacific Highway.

An interactive map can be viewed online [here](#).



MEASURING THE AUSTRALIAN NTE 2026 | CITY PROFILE | NEWCASTLE, NSW



Newcastle's City Initiatives

The beating heart of the Hunter region, Newcastle blends the best of laid-back coastal life, with a city bustling with restaurants, events and nightlife. Hubs like Honeysuckle, Midtown Newcastle, Hamilton and Darby Street host live music, theatre, and festivals, while many enjoy the local craft beer scene and evening waterfront strolls. This unique mix of lifestyle and activation continues to position Newcastle as a vibrant destination after dark.

Newcastle is a vibrant, safe, and inclusive place to be after dark. Over the 2024/25 period, the city saw further expansion of night-time offerings beyond traditional alcohol-centred nightlife with a growing focus on diverse, family-friendly and culturally rich experiences.

The City of Newcastle continued to work with Business Improvement Associations, liquor accords, and industry associations to strengthen collaboration and support initiatives that enhance the city at night.

Events and activation

Significant funding through various grant streams, including the Special Business Rates program, supported a range of events and activations designed to stimulate the night-time economy.

The return of much-loved events such as Newcastle Food Month and Newcastle Fringe Festival demonstrated strong community appetite and economic impact, with further programming planned for the 2025/26 financial year.

This year also saw the return of the Winter Heat festival. The free, family-friendly festival brought energy back into the city centre, featuring four stages of live music, fire shows, comedy, a silent disco, and a popular chilli eating contest, drawing strong attendance and positive community feedback.

Council-led events

Council-led events continued to play a key role in activating the city. The New Annual festival, Newcastle's flagship arts and cultural event, attracted more than 26,000 attendees across the 10-day program and contributed approximately \$2.2m into the Newcastle economy.

Similarly, Newcastle's New Year's Eve celebration delivered a spectacular night of colour, entertainment and family-friendly activities with attendance reaching 35,000 and an estimated 55,000 people enjoying the 9pm fireworks display across the city.

Outdoor dining and precinct activation

Visitors and locals alike are increasingly enjoying vibrant outdoor dining opportunities, supported by a 13% increase in permits issued by the City of Newcastle in 2024/25 compared with the previous year. This reflects a continued shift towards alfresco and street-based activation that enhances the city's evening atmosphere.

Precinct development and partnerships

Following their formation in 2023/24, the City of Newcastle has continued to work with the emerging NSW Government-funded Uptown Accelerator groups, supporting their efforts to enhance local precincts and establish them as vibrant going-out hubs.

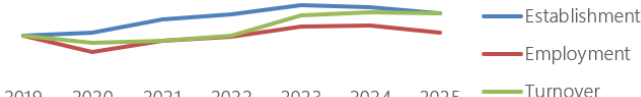
Together, these initiatives reinforce Newcastle's reputation as a dynamic, inclusive and thriving night-time economy.

Newcastle's NTE performance

Newcastle's Core NTE contracted sharply in 2024/25 with declines across all three sub-sectors - but Drink venues being hardest hit, with a decline of 9%, the steepest of any city.

Newcastle's Core NTE fell to 1,027 establishments in 2024/25, down 5% (-52) - the second-largest decline among the 16 cities after Hobart. Employment dropped 6% (-870 jobs) to 13,600, broadly in line with the wider NSW employment contraction of -9%. Core NTE sales turnover edged up 3% in cash terms but slipped 0.7% in real terms, consistent with the broader contraction in venue and job numbers. Despite this difficult year, Newcastle's NTE retains 20% more businesses than in 2018/19, and employment remains 3% higher.

All three Core NTE sub-sectors contracted. Drink recorded the sharpest decline, losing 10 venues (-9% to 104) and 180 jobs (-9%), far exceeding the national Drink decline (-1.2%). At 10% of Core NTE establishments, Drink plays a larger role in Newcastle than nationally (7%). Food lost 30 establishments (-5% to 568) and 535 jobs (-7%), against a backdrop of national Food growth of +2%. Leisure & Entertainment shed 12 venues (-3% to 355) and 150 jobs (-3%), counter to the national L&E growth trend. In the Non-Core sector, the picture was more positive. Retail grew 3% (+17 to 552) and Accommodation added two venues (+3%), both outperforming their respective national trends.

Measure	FY25	City	National	City	National
Core NTE overview		%Change FY24-25		% Total Economy	
 Establishments	1,027	-5%	+1.8%	6%	5%
 Employment	13,600	-6%	+1.4%	11%	8%
 Sales Turnover	\$2.3bn	+3%	+4%	5%	4%
 Indexed trend	City Core NTE FY2019 to FY2025 (Inflation Adjusted)				
Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Core NTE	
 Drink	104	-9%	-1.2%	10%	7%
 Leisure & Entertainment	355	-3%	+2%	35%	32%
 Food	568	-5%	+2%	55%	62%
Non-Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Non-Core NTE	
 Retail	552	+3%	-0.7%	28%	31%
 Accommodation	79	+3%	-2%	4%	5%

Newcastle's trading patterns

In May 2026, Thursday is Newcastle's busiest evening for Core NTE trade, with 63% of businesses open between 6pm and 9pm. Friday follows at 60%, and the weekly pattern builds steadily from 52% on Monday before easing to 45% on Sunday.

Newcastle's most notable characteristic is its early-hours economy. Around 15% of Core NTE businesses trade between 3am and 6am on weekday mornings, the third highest early-hours figure across all participating cities, behind Brisbane and Penrith.

Early-night (9pm-midnight) activity reaches 33% on Friday and Saturday, consistent with other regional and outer metropolitan centres. Late-night (12am-3am) trade is around 10% on peak nights, placing Newcastle in the mid-range for cities within this report.

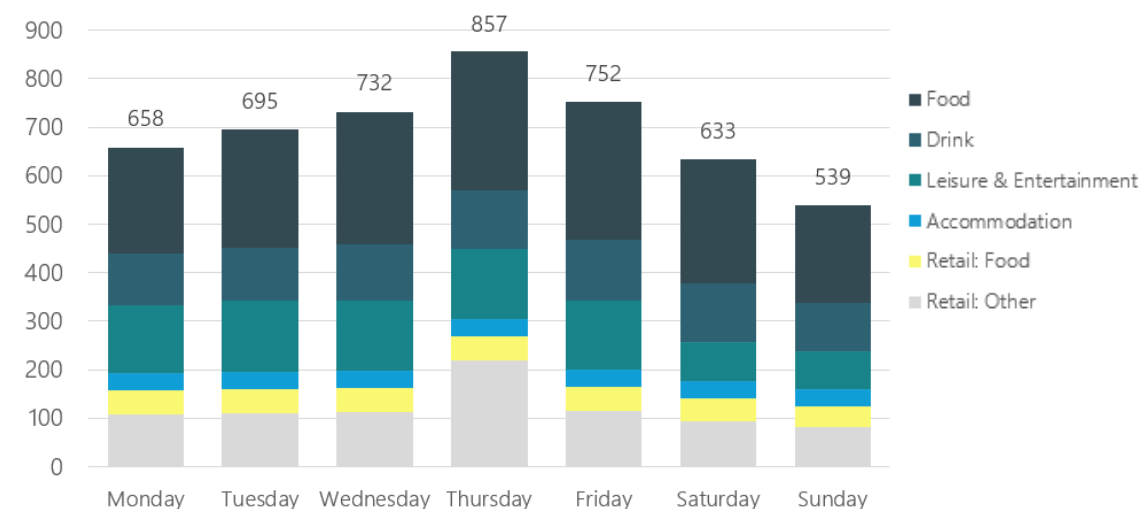
Sunday trading is relatively active at 45% of Core NTE businesses in the evening, which is above several larger cities in this research.

Retail businesses show the now-familiar Thursday spike: 40% of retailers open in the evening on Thursdays, compared with around 24% on other weeknights.

Proportion of all **Core NTE** and **Retail** businesses open

Sector	Weekday (6pm-6am)	Evening 6pm-9pm	Early-Night 9pm-12am	→ Night rolls into next day →	
				Late-Night 12am-3am	Early-hours 3am-6am
Core NTE	Monday	52%	24%	7%	15%
	Tuesday	56%	25%	7%	15%
	Wednesday	60%	27%	7%	15%
	Thursday ★	63%	29%	8%	15%
	Friday	60%	33%	10%	15%
	Saturday	54%	33%	10%	8%
	Sunday	45%	24%	6%	6%
Retail	Monday	24%	11%	5%	6%
	Tuesday	24%	11%	5%	6%
	Wednesday	24%	11%	5%	6%
	Thursday ★	40%	11%	5%	6%
	Friday	24%	11%	6%	6%
	Saturday	21%	11%	6%	5%
	Sunday	19%	10%	5%	5%

Number of businesses open at night (at some point 6pm and 6am)



Parramatta

NEW SOUTH WALES

The rising star of Greater Sydney, with the fastest establishment growth of cities participating in this research, a diverse dining scene, growing arts and culture, and world-class health and education institutions at its heart.

2025 CORE NTE SNAPSHOT

1,647

Businesses
▲ 7%

8,740

Employees
▼ -0.7%

\$1.63bn

Turnover
▲ 4%

NTE AT A GLANCE

Peak night

Thursday

Growth sector

**Leisure &
Entertainment**

Open 6pm to 9pm

70%



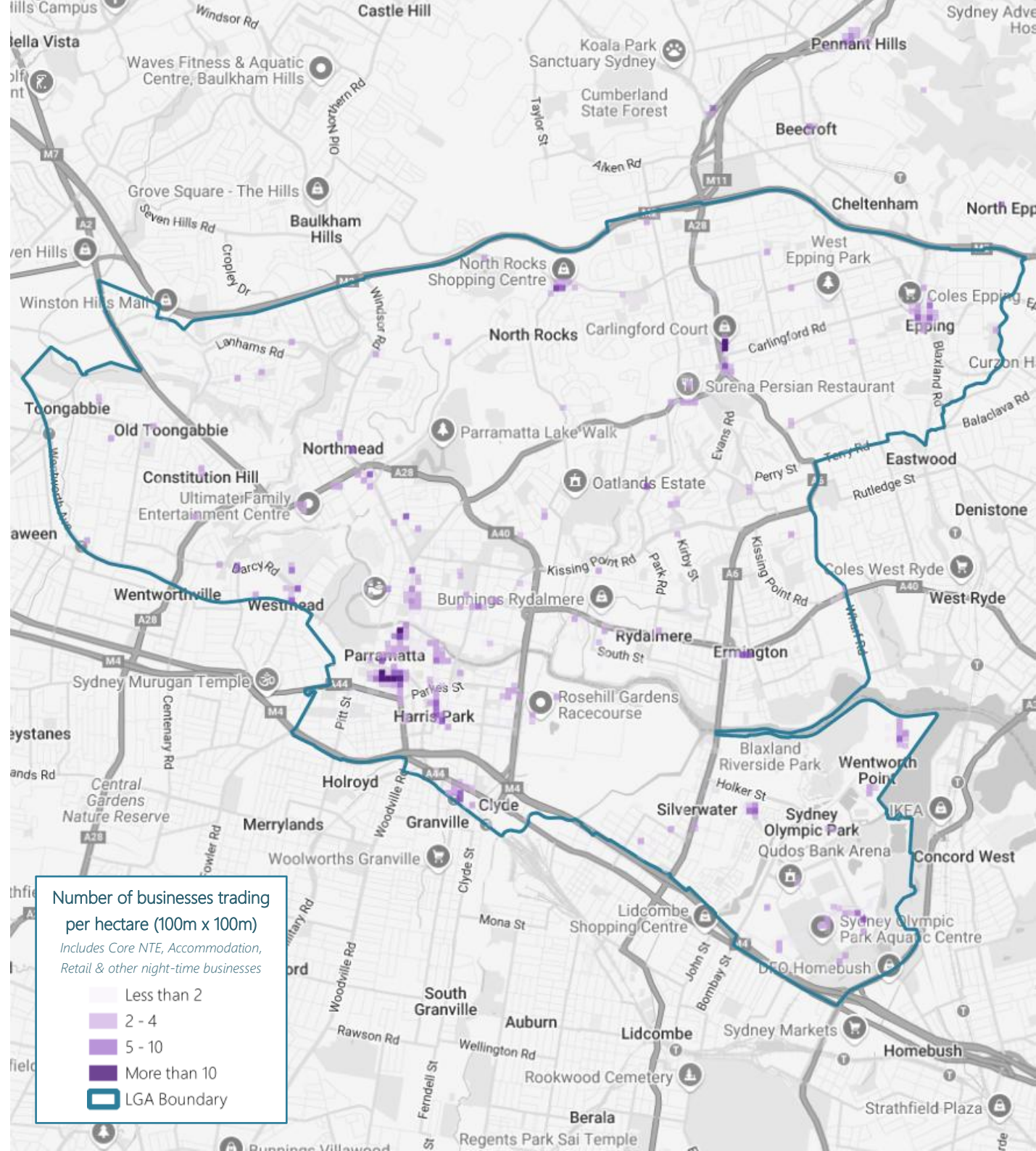
Where is Parramatta's NTE located?

In May 2026, the City of Parramatta's evening economy is dominated by a dense central cluster around the Parramatta CBD - concentrated in the Westfield precinct along Church Street, extending south into the Harris Park dining strip.

Beyond the city centre, clusters of activity are visible across the LGA, including:

- North Parramatta, along Church Street north of the river,
- Carlingford in the north-east of the LGA,
- Pockets of activity north-east of Clyde,
- Epping, near the station, and
- Sydney Olympic Park, near the station.

An interactive map can be viewed online [here](#).



Parramatta's City Initiatives

Parramatta's night-time economy continues to strengthen and diversify through coordinated investment across events, places, planning and business capability. Council is driving a more connected night-time, visitor and creative economy by supporting local businesses, enabling longer trading opportunities, and delivering major cultural moments that attract large audiences into the CBD.

Grants and extended trading

In June 2025, Council received New South Wales Government Purple Flag grant funding. With this support, Council delivered an extended trading hours program that helped CBD businesses align their offerings and activations with Parramatta Lanes programming, enabling them to benefit from increased foot traffic and business spend. The funding also supported community-engaged programming and extended opening hours at PHIVE, increasing access to safe community spaces at night.

Major events and activation

At the same time, Parramatta Lanes continues to grow as a cornerstone night-time festival for Western Sydney, with 335,000 people attending across four nights in October 2025. The Parramatta CBD came alive after dark through multiple music stages, food markets and artistic installations across the city. The festival drives visitation, showcases local and international creativity, and generates significant foot traffic and increased spend for businesses within the festival footprint.

Business and creative support

Complementing these flagship activations, Council has continued to refine its grant offerings to better connect the night-time economy, visitor economy and creative economy. This includes aligning objectives and outcomes across the Creative and Night-Time Economy grants, which opened in early 2026, to support businesses, artists and operators to collaborate, test new ideas and activate the city after dark.

Strategy and planning

In May 2026 the City Economy Strategy was endorsed. It will set the direction for, and support the development of, Council's Night-Time Economy Strategy, which commenced in early 2026.

Special entertainment precinct

To support this direction, in March 2026 Council endorsed plans to deliver a trial Special Entertainment Precinct for the Parramatta CBD. This is an important step in delivering Council's vision for a 24 Hour CBD. The approach has been informed by extensive business and community engagement and will deliver benefits for businesses

and residents alike, supporting a well-managed and vibrant centre of Parramatta.

Future catalyst investment

In late 2026, Powerhouse Parramatta is scheduled to open. Around two million visitors are estimated in its first year, providing an anchor for the night-time economy and creating opportunities to deliver benefits across the Parramatta local government area.

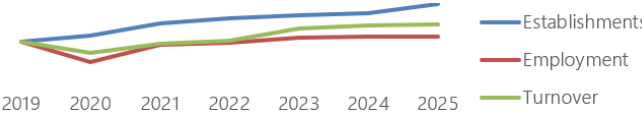
Parramatta's NTE performance

Parramatta recorded the strongest establishment growth of any city in this report (+7%), with Drink and Leisure & Entertainment venues both surging 11% - yet employment dipped slightly.

Parramatta's Core NTE grew to 1,647 establishments in 2024/25, up 7% (+105) - the highest growth rate of any participating city and nearly four times the national average of +1.8%. Employment eased marginally (-0.7% / -60 to 8,740), a much milder result than the broader NSW decline of -9%. Core NTE sales turnover grew 4% to \$1.6bn (+1.0% real), tracking the strong establishment growth. Parramatta's NTE has expanded dramatically since the pandemic, with 34% more businesses than in 2018/19.

Food drove the bulk of new venues, adding 64 establishments (+5% to 1,245), though employment dipped marginally (-0.7%). Food dominates Parramatta's Core NTE accounting for 76% of establishments, well above the NSW share of 61% and national share of 62%. This reflects the LGA's dense multicultural dining precincts and a growth of 5% in Food establishments versus an increase of just 2% NSW. Leisure & Entertainment and Drink both surged 11% in establishment numbers, contrasting with NSW growth of 1.3% and decline of 1.7% respectively. Drink employment also grew 6% (+25 to 430), bucking the national and NSW Drink decline. L&E employment, however, fell -1.7%, consistent with the NSW-wide pattern of L&E job losses.

Accommodation was the Non-Core standout, adding eight venues (+11%) against NSW and national declines (both -2%), while Retail eased slightly (-0.9%).

Measure	FY25	City	National	City	National
Core NTE overview		%Change FY24-25		% Total Economy	
 Establishments	1,647	+7%	+1.8%	5%	5%
 Employment	8,740	-0.7%	+1.4%	7%	8%
 Sales Turnover	\$1.63bn	+4%	+4%	3%	4%
 Indexed trend	City Core NTE FY2019 to FY2025 (Inflation Adjusted)				
Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Core NTE	
 Drink	51	+11%	-1.2%	3%	7%
 Leisure & Entertainment	351	+11%	+2%	21%	32%
 Food	1,245	+5%	+2%	76%	61%
Non-Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Non-Core NTE	
 Retail	1,155	-0.9%	-0.7%	31%	31%
 Accommodation	79	+11%	-2%	2%	5%

Parramatta's trading patterns

In May 2026, Thursday is Parramatta's busiest evening for Core NTE trade, with 67% of businesses open between 6pm and 9pm. Friday follows at 64%, both among the highest of any participating city.

One of Parramatta's most stand out patterns is its Sunday performance. At 54%, Sunday evening trade in Parramatta is the highest of any city in the study reflecting the depth of Parramatta's hospitality and dining economy and its role as a major activity centre with strong seven-day demand.

Early-night (9pm-midnight) activity reaches 38% on Friday and Saturday, moderately above the NSW regional average, while late-night (12am-3am) activity is around 12% on peak nights, consistent with the capital city average.

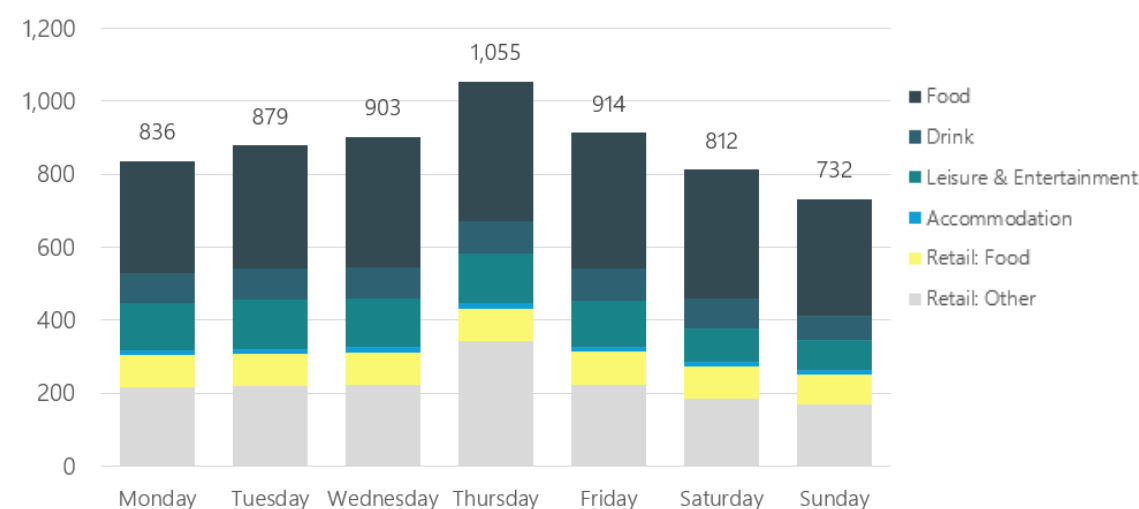
Early-hours (3am-6am) trade is elevated at around 14% on weekdays, the third highest of cities in this report.

Retail businesses are active well into the evening in Parramatta, with 37-38% open on most weeknights and a Thursday spike to 53% under extended trading provisions. Sunday retail at 31% is also high relative to other cities, consistent with the broader pattern of strong Sunday demand in this LGA.

Proportion of all **Core NTE** and **Retail** businesses open

Sector	Weekday (6pm-6am)	Evening 6pm-9pm	Early-Night 9pm-12am	→ Night rolls into next day →	
				Late-Night 12am-3am	Early-hours 3am-6am
Core NTE	Monday	57%	31%	9%	14%
	Tuesday	61%	32%	9%	13%
	Wednesday	63%	34%	9%	14%
	Thursday ★	67%	36%	10%	14%
	Friday	64%	38%	12%	15%
	Saturday	59%	38%	12%	10%
	Sunday	54%	33%	8%	8%
Retail	Monday	37%	17%	8%	9%
	Tuesday	38%	16%	8%	8%
	Wednesday	38%	17%	8%	8%
	Thursday ★	53%	17%	8%	8%
	Friday	38%	18%	9%	8%
	Saturday	33%	16%	8%	7%
	Sunday	31%	15%	7%	7%

Number of businesses open at night (at some point 6pm and 6am)



Penrith

NEW SOUTH WALES

Not your usual destination. Nature, adventure, culture and thriving dining hubs - with major events including Real Festival drawing over 45,000 visitors annually.

2025 CORE NTE SNAPSHOT

751

Businesses
▲ 0.8%

4,240

Employees
▼ 6%

\$701m

Turnover
▲ 5%

NTE AT A GLANCE

Peak night

Thursday

Growth sector

**Leisure &
Entertainment**

Open 6pm to 9pm

76%



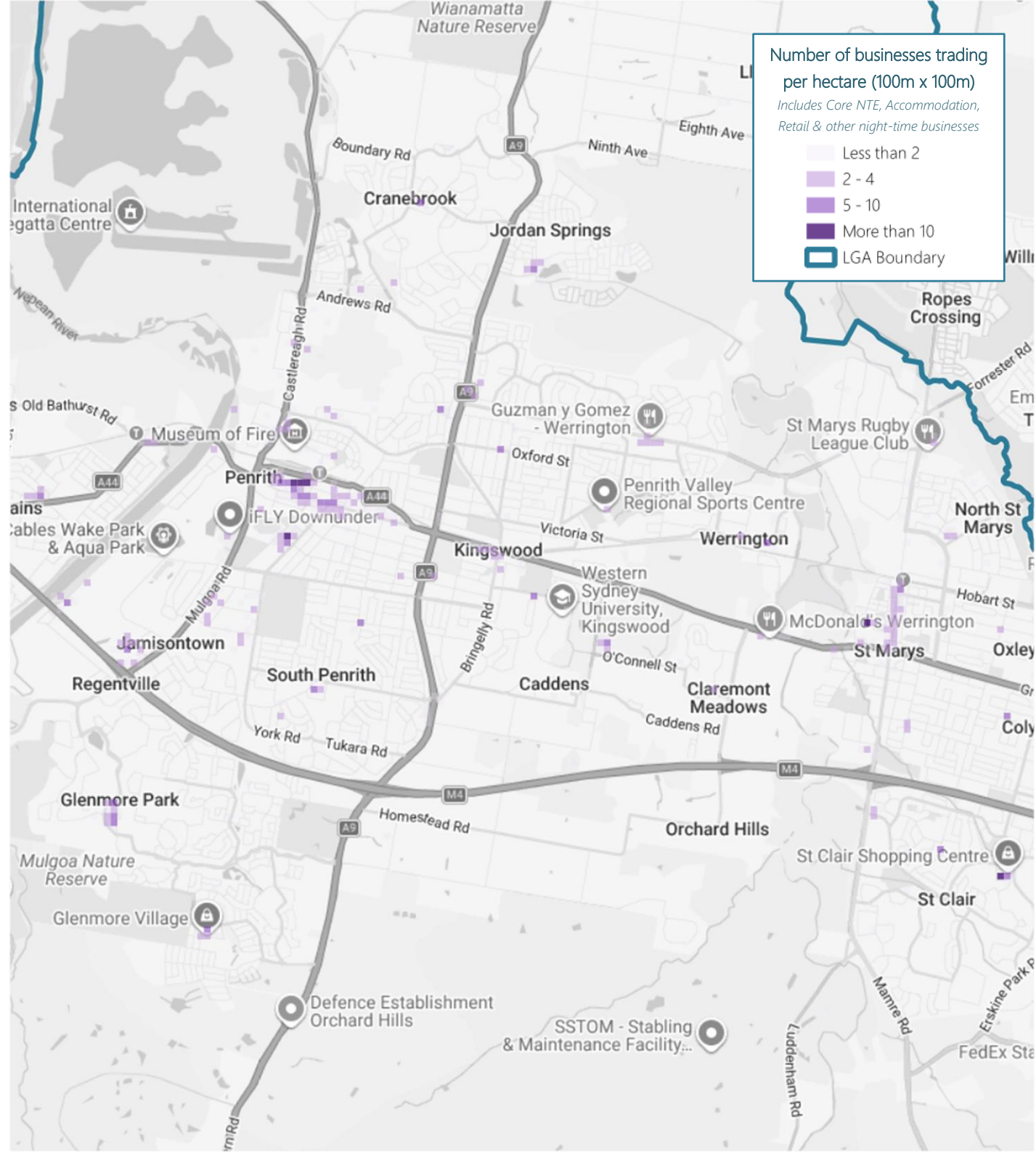
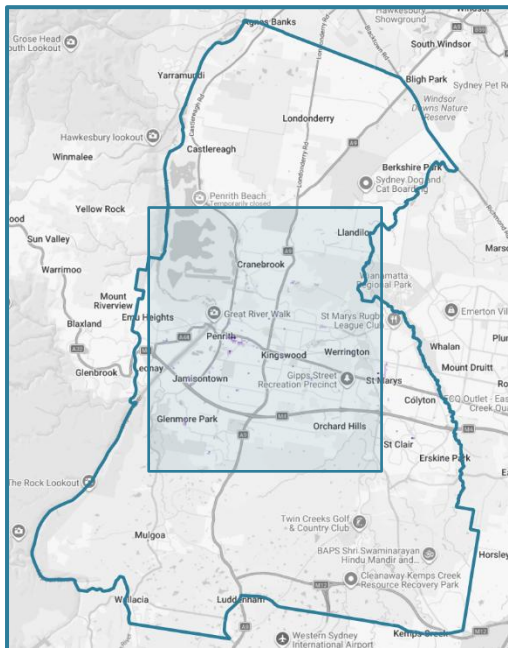
Where is Penrith's NTE located?

Penrith City LGA covers a large area, but in May 2026 evening business activity (6pm-9pm) is concentrated in a small number of centres spread across the LGA:

- The Penrith city centre, including Westfield Penrith, High Street and the Panthers Precinct, is the dominant cluster,
- Queen Street in St Marys Town Centre, and
- Kingswood, around the Western Sydney University precinct.

Smaller pockets of evening activity are also visible in Glenmore Park and St Clair.

An interactive map can be viewed online [here](#).



Penrith's City Initiatives

Penrith is a vibrant, world-class city with quality amenity, connected to a diverse range of opportunities for employment, leisure and lifestyle. Penrith provides a range of offerings by day, and after the sun goes down, including events, activities and diverse businesses with a compelling and expanding dining, beverage, entertainment, arts and cultural scene and a growing accommodation sector.

Strategy and policy

Penrith City Council is committed to creating a safe, welcoming, and vibrant environment for all residents, with a focus on enhancing the 24-hour economy. Recognising the importance of an active and vibrant night-time scene, Council has initiated several projects, events and placemaking initiatives to support this objective.

Council's recently endorsed *OPEN: Penrith and St Marys 24-hour Economy Strategy 2025-2029* profiles both Penrith and St Marys as key strategic centres in enhancing the 24-hour economy in the Penrith local government area. It is underpinned by six strategic priorities and accompanying actions to build a safer, more diverse and thriving 24-hour economy in Penrith and St Marys that is open to opportunities, open to new ideas and open in engagement with business and community.

The six objectives are:

- Facilitating vibrant precincts
- Coordinated planning for future 24-hour precincts
- Fostering strong collaboration

- Amplifying Penrith and St Marys reputation as a destination
- Connecting Penrith's Neon Grid
- A leading 24-hour economy

St Marys investment

St Marys sits within Western Sydney, one of Australia's fastest-growing regions. With over half of New South Wales' population growth expected to occur here by 2041, the region is being reshaped by transformational public investment. The new Sydney Metro will deliver a fast and reliable 15-minute link to Western Sydney International Airport, opening access to jobs, visitors and global markets while reinforcing St Marys as a multi-directional hub within Sydney's T1 rail and road networks. Investment in St Marys also includes the delivery of council-led projects, namely the multi-million-dollar central park project and public realm upgrades that elevate amenity. Together they will support a vibrant, 24-hour urban centre where hospitality, culture and daily activity thrive.

Major events and activations

The Council and its City Centre Corporations have been actively involved in the delivery of several major events and activations. The annual flagship festival for Penrith is Real Festival which is a multi-day event drawing a crowd of over 45,000. Other significant Council events include Culture Fusion in St Marys, which attracts approximately 15,000 participants; the St Marys Town Centre's Spring Festival which attracts approximately 15,000 people; and the Penrith CBD Corporation's Magical Christmas Tree Lighting event, which draws approximately 10,000 visitors. These events not only boost local businesses but also enhance the cultural and social vitality of Penrith and St Marys, making them attractive destinations for evening activities.

Through these initiatives, Penrith City Council is taking important steps towards creating a vibrant and thriving night-time economy, ensuring that Penrith remains an inviting and lively place for all residents and visitors during the evening hours.

Penrith's NTE performance

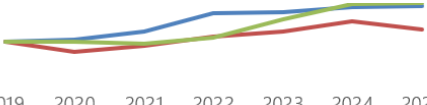
Penrith saw venue numbers grew modestly while employment fell 6% across all three sub-sectors.

Penrith's Core NTE grew marginally to 751 establishments in 2024/25, up +0.8% (+6) but below the national growth rate of +1.8%. Employment fell more sharply, down 6% (-285 jobs) to 4,240, consistent with the broader NSW decline of -9%. Core NTE sales turnover grew a solid 5% to \$701m (+1.1% real), despite the 6% fall in employment.

Outside this year's job losses, Penrith's NTE has been one of the fastest-growing in the report over the longer term, with 33% more businesses than in 2018/19 and employment still 11% above pre-pandemic levels.

Drink was hardest hit, losing four venues (-11% to 33) and 35 jobs (-13%). Leisure & Entertainment added four businesses (+1.7% to 240) but shed 140 jobs (-9%). Food grew marginally in venues (+1.3% / +6 to 478) while losing 105 jobs (-4%).

Retail declined marginally (-0.8%) in line with national trends, while Accommodation businesses held steady.

Measure	FY25	City	National	City	National
Core NTE overview		%Change FY24-25		% Total Economy	
 Establishments	751	+0.8%	+1.8%	5%	5%
 Employment	4,240	-6%	+1.4%	6%	8%
 Sales Turnover	\$701m	+5%	+4%	3%	4%
 Indexed trend	City Core NTE FY2019 to FY2025 (Inflation Adjusted)				
Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Core NTE	
 Drink	33	-11%	-1.2%	4%	7%
 Leisure & Entertainment	240	+1.7%	+2%	32%	32%
 Food	478	+1.3%	+2%	64%	62%
Non-Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Non-Core NTE	
 Retail	518	-0.8%	-0.7%	32%	31%
 Accommodation	29	0.0%	-2%	2%	5%

Penrith's trading patterns

In May 2026, Thursday is Penrith's busiest evening for Core NTE trade, with 72% of businesses open between 6pm and 9pm. This performance matches only Maribyrnong of the cities in this report and is the highest level recorded across all seventeen cities. Friday follows at 67%, and Penrith's weekly average of 63% is the highest of any participating city.

Penrith's Sunday evening figure is also the joint highest in the study at 53%, alongside Parramatta, indicating that the city sustains strong seven-day demand across both the mid-week peak and the weekend.

Early-hours (3am-6am) trade is the second highest in the study at around 13-16% across weekdays and above the metropolitan average.

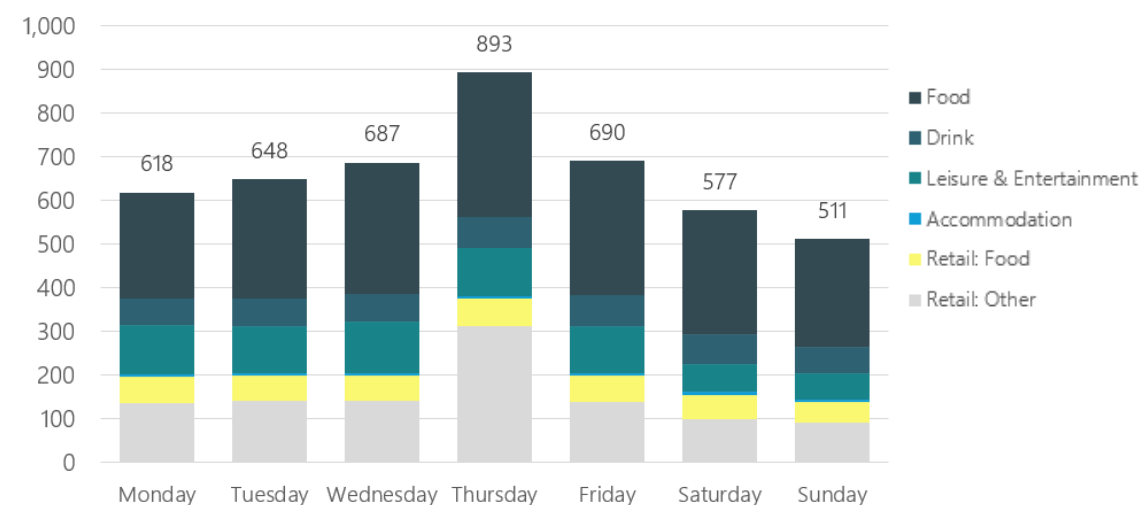
Early-night (9pm-midnight) activity reaches 38% on Friday and 37% on Saturday, while late-night (12am-3am) trade is around 11-12% on peak nights.

Retail businesses show the characteristic Thursday evening spike, with 51% of retailers open between 6pm and 9pm on Thursdays, which is almost double the weekday average of 27%. This reflects extended trading hours provisions and Penrith's role as a major regional retail centre.

Proportion of all **Core NTE** and **Retail** businesses open

Sector	Weekday (6pm-6am)	Evening 6pm-9pm	Early-Night 9pm-12am	→ Night rolls into next day →	
				Late-Night 12am-3am	Early-hours 3am-6am
Core NTE	Monday	58%	27%	9%	15%
	Tuesday	62%	28%	9%	15%
	Wednesday	68%	32%	10%	16%
	Thursday ★	72%	34%	10%	15%
	Friday	67%	38%	12%	16%
	Saturday	60%	37%	11%	9%
	Sunday	53%	28%	8%	7%
Retail	Monday	27%	9%	5%	6%
	Tuesday	27%	10%	5%	6%
	Wednesday	27%	10%	5%	6%
	Thursday ★	51%	10%	5%	6%
	Friday	27%	10%	5%	6%
	Saturday	21%	9%	5%	5%
	Sunday	19%	9%	5%	5%

Number of businesses open at night (at some point 6pm and 6am)



Perth

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Western Australia's capital - a vibrant mix of culture, cuisine and commerce, actively investing in public space activation and a thriving night-time economy.

2025 CORE NTE SNAPSHOT

666

Businesses
▲ 0.6%

12,335

Employees
▲ 1.9%

\$1.78bn

Turnover
▲ 3%

NTE AT A GLANCE

Peak night

Friday

Growth sector

**Leisure &
Entertainment**

Open 6pm to 9pm

58%



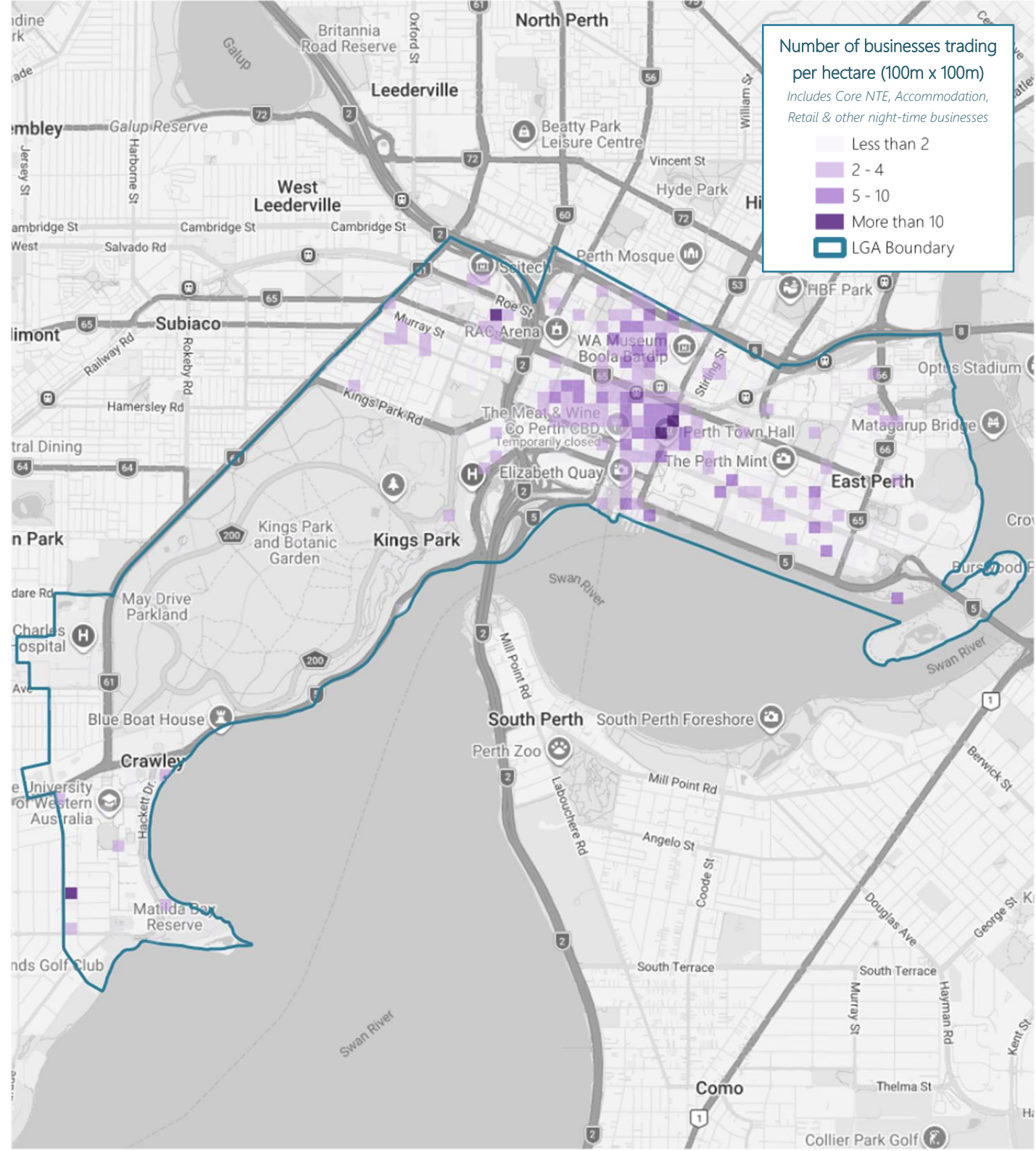
Where is Perth's NTE located?

In May 2026, the City of Perth's night-time business activity is concentrated in a continuous band running from Northbridge in the north through to the CBD along St Georges terrace - together forming the city's most active evening precinct (6pm-9pm).

East Perth is emerging as a notably active secondary cluster along Adelaide and Hay Streets, with other pockets including:

- Along Barrack Street,
- Elizabeth Quay, and
- Crawley in and around the University of Western Australia.

An interactive map can be viewed online [here](#).



Perth's City Initiatives

Perth is a thriving city with a vibrant mix of culture, cuisine and commerce that increasingly extends into the evening. With a new university campus in the CBD bringing up to 10,000 more people each day into the city, and a growing residential community, there is a strong focus on activating public spaces and providing a range of community services. The City continues to invest in the night-time economy through strategic planning, partnerships and precinct-based initiatives that support businesses.

Night-time economy strategy

The State Government, in consultation with the City is formulating a night-time economy strategy. This will focus on activation and access to encourage visitation and boost dwell times in the city and drive regulatory reform to modernise liquor laws and simplify compliance processes for tourism and hospitality businesses. A 'Special Entertainment Precinct' has been created in Northbridge, designed to boost night-time activity and bring developers greater certainty in mixed-use areas.

The City will invest more than \$22m to revitalise James Street in Northbridge with improved lighting, public art, street furniture and wider footpaths to encourage visitation and increase dwell time.

Affordable parking

The City of Perth continues to support the night-time economy through parking incentives. Free night-time parking will continue to be available in certain on-street bays from 6pm, while all City of Perth car parks are capped at \$5 for night parking.

Grants

Matched funding of up to \$20,000 is available through business improvement grants for public

facing enhancements such as outdoor dining, façade upgrades, and creative lighting. These improvements increase patronage, and activate underused spaces. The program supports a more dynamic and attractive city centre at night. Local activation grants of up to \$20,000 are available for events, arts and culture, and community activity with a public outcome. Supported events have inclusive and widespread appeal, attract additional visitation, and support engagement with local businesses. The grant prioritises weekend or night-time activity, and activation of quieter periods.

Major events

The City of Perth's 2025/26 Events Plan continues to bolster the night-time economy by delivering a carefully curated calendar of activations that drive visitation and spending after dark.

The Christmas Lights Trail 2025 attracted 380,000 attendees, generating \$17m in economic impact, with the event's large-scale lighting installations and festive entertainment activating the CBD and enhancing the sense of vibrancy and safety.

The Summer Elizabeth Quay events, including the New Year's Eve celebrations and an Multicultural

Festival, attracted 120,000 people and contributed \$20m to the economy, with fireworks, drone shows, live performances, and family entertainment.

The Twilight Food Market remains a permanent fixture in the city's event calendar, drawing over 60,000 people, and creating consistent Friday evening foot traffic that supports the CBD's retail.

'Lightscape 2025' transformed the WA Botanic Gardens in Kings Park into a trail of light, sound and art comprising more than 20 luminescent displays, and attracting 115,000 visitors in June and July.

The August 'Plateful Perth' dining campaign continues to draw crowds, with over 7,590 tickets sold and a 4.1% year-on-year increase in spend on dining and entertainment in 2025. The 2026 program will offer more exciting dining experiences, and curated food and beverage promotions across Perth's hospitality venues to stimulate the night-time activity in winter.

Across the 2025/26 event season, over 800,000 people attended City-led events and activations, delivering nearly \$60m in economic impact and reinforcing Perth's position as a vibrant destination for families and late-night crowds.

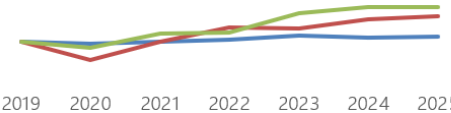
Perth's NTE performance

Perth's Core NTE is defined by two contrasting stories, Leisure & Entertainment is booming, with venues up 12% and employment surging 17%, while Food venues and jobs are declining.

Perth's Core NTE grew modestly to 666 establishments in 2024/25, up +0.6% (+4) below both the national rate (+1.8%) and the strong Western Australian state average (+5%). Employment grew +1.9% (+225 to 12,335), broadly in line with the national rate of +1.4%. Perth's NTE workforce is now 23% above its pre-pandemic level, the strongest employment recovery of any capital city, even though establishments have grown only 4%. Core NTE sales turnover rose 3% in cash terms to \$1.8bn but edged down -0.5% in real terms, reflecting a more subdued result than the employment recovery suggests.

Leisure & Entertainment was the clear growth driver, adding 12 establishments (+12% to 116) and 270 jobs (+17%). This aligns with the broader WA trend. Despite this growth, L&E accounts for just 17% of Perth's Core NTE, well below the national share of 32%, suggesting significant room for further expansion. Drink held steady at 102 venues, outperforming the national decline of -1.2%, while employment grew 5% (+150 to 3,055). At 15% of Core NTE establishments, Drink plays a notably larger role in Perth than nationally (7%). Food moved in the opposite direction, losing eight venues (-1.8% to 448) and 195 jobs (-3%).

Accommodation grew 3% (+3 to 96), bucking the national decline of -2%. Retail fell more sharply (-6%), well below the national Retail trend of -0.7%.

Measure	FY25	City	National	City	National
Core NTE overview		%Change FY24-25		% Total Economy	
 Establishments	666	+0.6%	+1.8%	5%	5%
 Employment	12,335	+1.9%	+1.4%	9%	8%
 Sales Turnover	\$1.78bn	+3%	+4%	3%	4%
 Indexed trend	City Core NTE FY2019 to FY2025 (Inflation Adjusted)				
Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Core NTE	
 Drink	102	0.0%	-1.2%	15%	7%
 Leisure & Entertainment	116	+12%	+2%	17%	32%
 Food	448	-1.8%	+2%	67%	62%
Non-Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Non-Core NTE	
 Retail	266	-6%	-0.7%	19%	31%
 Accommodation	96	+3%	-2%	7%	5%

Perth's trading patterns

In May 2026, Friday is Perth's busiest evening for Core NTE trade, with 55% of businesses open between 6pm and 9pm. Perth is the only capital city where Friday leads over Thursday (53%) although the weekly average of is the lowest of all seventeen participating cities.

Trading builds steadily through the week from 41% on Monday to the Friday peak. Sunday is Perth's quietest evening at 37%, which is the lowest Sunday reading of any city in the report.

Despite the lower evening participation rate, Perth shows relatively strong early-night depth on weekends. Around 39% of Core NTE businesses remain open until midnight on both Friday and Saturday, which is comparable to several cities with higher overall evening figures.

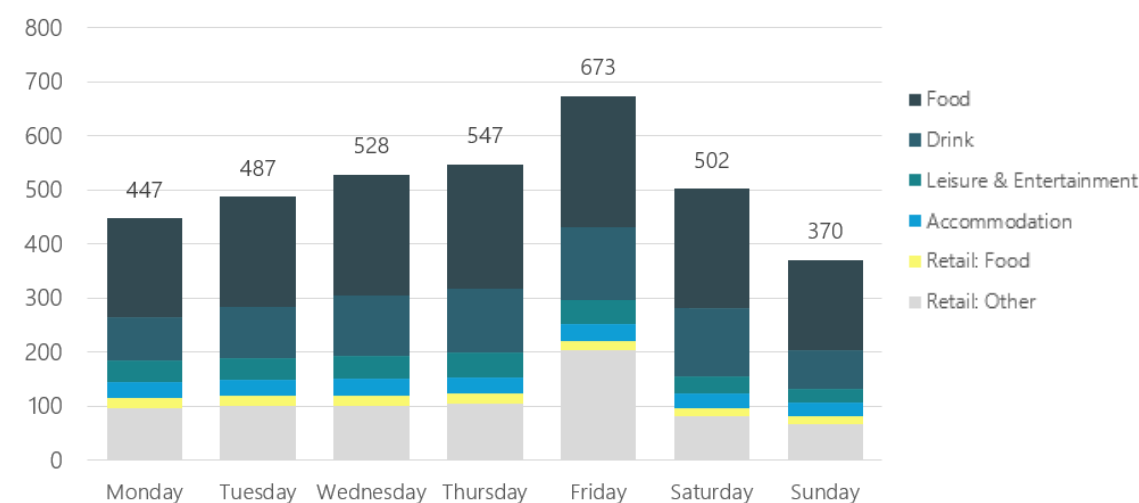
Late-night (12am-3am) activity reaches 13% on Friday and Saturday, which is above the 16-city average. Early-hours (3am-6am) trade is modest in Perth, with around 6-7% of Core NTE businesses open before 6am during weekdays.

Retail businesses are relatively subdued at night, with 25-27% open on weekday evenings, with a Friday spike to 48% reflecting extended trading hours. Saturday retail drops to 21% and Sunday to 18%, which are among the lower weekend retail results of cities in this year's report.

Proportion of all **Core NTE** and **Retail** businesses open

Sector	Weekday (6pm-6am)	Evening 6pm-9pm	Early-Night 9pm-12am	→ Night rolls into next day →	
				Late-Night 12am-3am	Early-hours 3am-6am
Core NTE	Monday	41%	22%	5%	7%
	Tuesday	46%	26%	6%	6%
	Wednesday	51%	30%	7%	7%
	Thursday	53%	32%	7%	7%
	Friday ★	55%	39%	13%	10%
	Saturday	51%	39%	13%	8%
	Sunday	37%	23%	6%	4%
Retail	Monday	25%	16%	9%	8%
	Tuesday	26%	16%	8%	8%
	Wednesday	26%	16%	9%	9%
	Thursday	27%	16%	8%	9%
	Friday ★	48%	18%	11%	10%
	Saturday	21%	17%	11%	10%
	Sunday	18%	13%	7%	7%

Number of businesses open at night (at some point 6pm and 6am)



Stonnington

VICTORIA

Home to Chapel Street one of Melbourne's most iconic hospitality and entertainment strips, spanning South Yarra, Prahran and Windsor.

2025 CORE NTE SNAPSHOT

1,186

Businesses
▼ 3%

7,535

Employees
▲ 0.9%

\$986m

Turnover
▼ 0.9%

NTE AT A GLANCE

Peak night

Thursday

Top sector

Food

Open 6pm to 9pm

70%



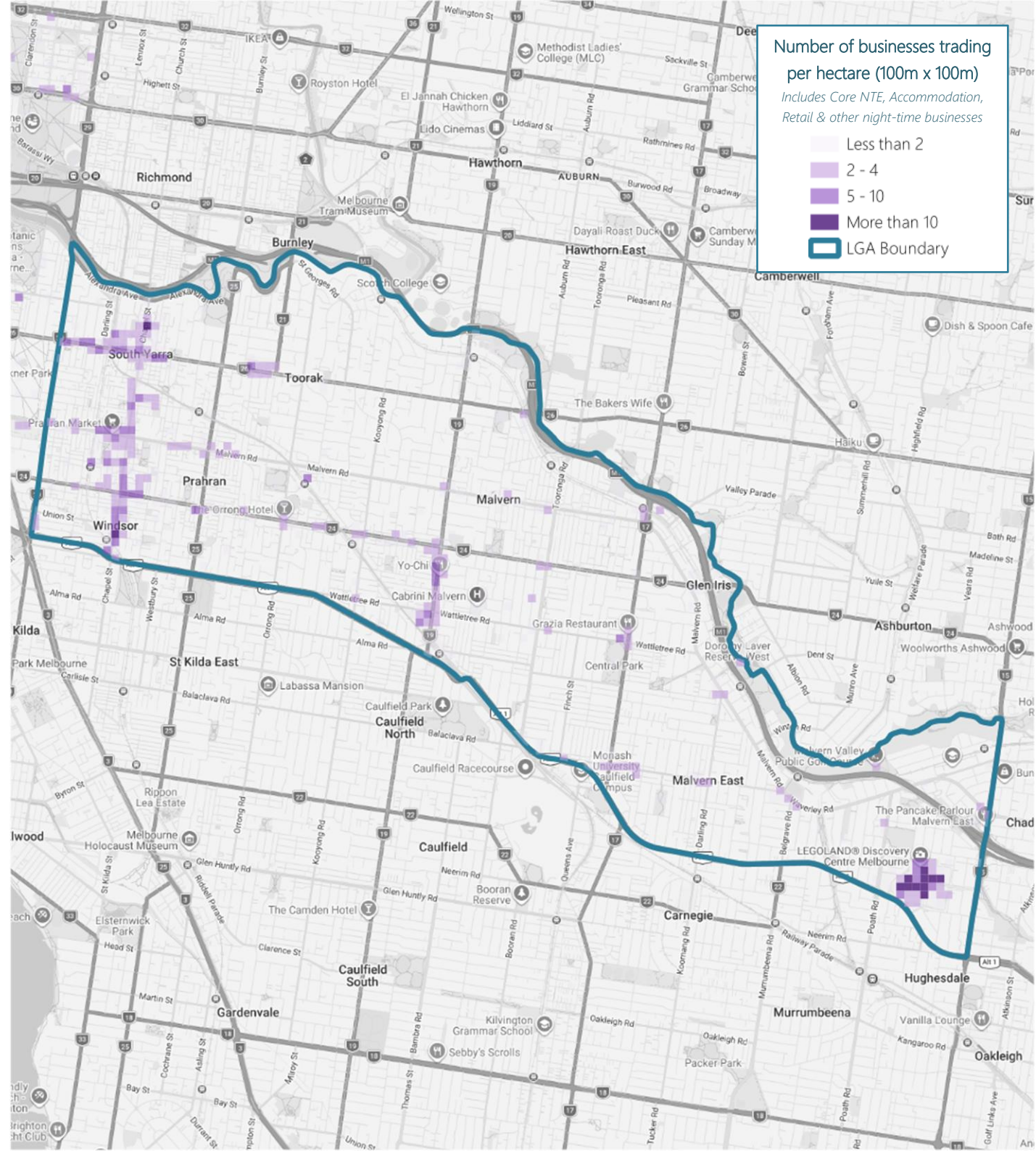
Where is Stonnington's NTE located?

In May 2026, the City of Stonnington's evening economy (6pm-9pm) is anchored along the Chapel Street corridor, which runs through South Yarra, Prahran and Windsor, forming one of Melbourne's most active and continuous NTE strips.

Other clusters of evening activity are visible across the LGA, including:

- Toorak Road both to the east of Chapel Street and within Toorak itself,
- Glenferrie Road, south of High Street, with pockets along High Street within Armadale, and
- The Chadstone Shopping Centre to the south-east of the LGA.

An interactive map can be viewed online [here](#).



Stonnington's City Initiatives

The City of Stonnington supports its night-time economy through a combination of targeted funding, place activation, strategic planning, and public realm improvements. These initiatives are designed to increase visitation, extend dwell time, and enhance the vibrancy and safety of key precincts after dark.

Chapel Street

A key focus area is the Chapel Street Precinct Improvement Plan, which provides a coordinated framework to revitalise one of Melbourne's most prominent entertainment and hospitality strips. The plan includes a strong emphasis on enhancing the night-time economy through targeted public realm upgrades, improved lighting, safety initiatives, and increased activation. It prioritises reducing vacancy, supporting local businesses, and repositioning Chapel Street as a premier destination for both day and night experiences. The plan integrates marketing, events, and infrastructure improvements to create a more cohesive and appealing precinct, recognising Chapel Street's critical role in Stonnington's and Melbourne's night-time economy ecosystem.

Precinct partnerships

At a precinct level, the Council continues to work closely with businesses through their dedicated Chapel Street precinct team in South Yarra, Prahran and Windsor and four funded Business Associations in Armadale, Toorak, South Yarra and Malvern. This includes marketing support, business training, economic insights, and coordinated activation planning.

Special Rates

Council's support of the major precincts is driven through Special Rates. Funding raised by Council through five levies funds the marketing, promotion, business support and increased amenity uplift of Stonnington's major precincts – Chapel Street precinct, High Street Armadale, Glenferrie Road Malvern, Toorak Village and Toorak Road South Yarra.

An upcoming grant program will provide up to \$15,000 for businesses to deliver activations in smaller precincts that stimulate local activity. Grants will support night-time activations, including festivals, performances, markets, and late-night shopping events.

Events and activations

Complementing this is a strong focus on creative and place-based activation. Initiatives such as vacant shopfront activations and Armadale's 'Fashion After Dark' after-hours shopping event improve the visual appeal of precincts after-hours, reduce the impact of empty tenancies, and contribute to a stronger sense of safety and activity beyond traditional retail trading times.

Strategy and evidence base

Strategically, Council's Place-Led Economic Development Strategy underpins its approach, prioritising vibrant, experience-based precincts supported by data and research. Insights from 'High Street Armadale Fashion After Dark' highlight the significant contribution of evening trade to the local economy and identify opportunities to diversify night-time offerings, improve safety perception, and better support businesses operating after-hours.

Overall, Stonnington's approach reflects a balanced model that combines funding, creativity, strategic direction, and infrastructure to support a thriving and sustainable night-time economy.

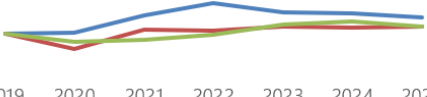
Stonnington's NTE performance

Stonnington joins the report for the first time, revealing a mature inner-suburban NTE that is consolidating, losing 43 businesses but adding 65 jobs – while sales turnover decreased 0.9%.

Stonnington Core NTE comprised 1,186 establishments in June 2025, down 3% (-43) on the previous year, against the national growth trend of +1.8%. Employment, however, grew +0.9% (+65 to 7,535), suggesting the LGA's NTE is consolidating around a smaller number of more labour-intensive businesses. These businesses are facing turnover challenges, however, with Stonnington the only city in the report to record a nominal fall in turnover (-0.9%) – driven by the Food sub-sector (-1.4%) – with a real fall in turnover (adjusting for inflation) of over -4%.

Drink presents the most distinctive story. Establishments fell 8% (-10 to 108), well beyond the national Drink decline of -1.2%, yet employment surged 9% (+85 to 1,030). At 9% of Core NTE establishments, Drink plays a larger role in Stonnington than nationally (7%). Food lost 15 venues (-2% to 672) while employment was essentially flat (+0.3%). Leisure & Entertainment declined on both counts, down 18 venues (-4% to 406) and 35 jobs (-2%), counter to the national L&E growth trend. L&E accounts for 34% of the Core NTE, slightly above the national share of 32%.

Accommodation bucked the national trend, growing 10% (+6 to 69), while Retail fell 4%.

Measure	FY25	City	National	City	National
Core NTE overview		%Change FY24-25		% Total Economy	
 Establishments	1,186	-3%	+1.8%	6%	5%
 Employment	7,535	+0.9%	+1.4%	10%	8%
 Sales Turnover	\$986m	-0.9%	+4%	4%	4%
 Indexed trend	City Core NTE FY2019 to FY2025 (Inflation Adjusted)				
Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Core NTE	
 Drink	108	-8%	-1.2%	9%	7%
 Leisure & Entertainment	406	-4%	+2%	34%	32%
 Food	672	-2%	+2%	57%	62%
Non-Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Non-Core NTE	
 Retail	747	-4%	-0.7%	34%	35%
 Accommodation	69	+10%	-2%	3%	5%

Stonnington's trading patterns

In May 2026, Thursday is Stonnington's busiest evening for Core NTE trade, with 67% of businesses open between 6pm and 9pm, following closely by Friday (65%) - with trade building progressively from 48% on Monday across the week before easing to 51% on Sunday.

Stonnington is one of the stronger performers on early-night activity. Around 45% of Core NTE businesses trade through until midnight on Friday and Saturday, placing Stonnington among the top performers in this year's report, alongside Adelaide, Melbourne, Yarra and Sydney. This reflects Stonnington's dense hospitality and dining precinct, centred on South Yarra, Prahran and Chapel Street.

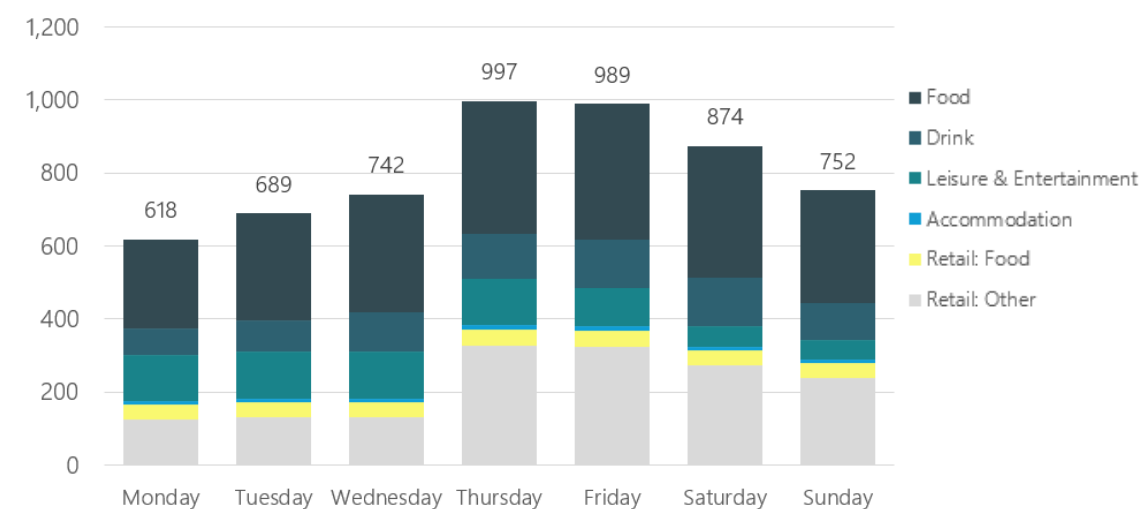
Late-night (12am-3am) activity reaches 14-15% on Friday and Saturday, the fourth highest of any city after Adelaide, Yarra and Melbourne, reinforcing Stonnington's position as one of Melbourne's key late-night hubs.

Retail businesses show a Thursday and Friday peak, with 41% and 40% respectively open in the early evening, which is roughly double the weekday average of 18-19%. Saturday retail sits at 34%, which is relatively high compared with other inner-suburban LGAs.

Proportion of all **Core NTE** and **Retail** businesses open

Sector	Weekday (6pm-6am)	Evening 6pm-9pm	Early-Night 9pm-12am	→ Night rolls into next day →	
				Late-Night 12am-3am	Early-hours 3am-6am
Core NTE	Monday	48%	26%	6%	8%
	Tuesday	55%	30%	6%	8%
	Wednesday	61%	35%	7%	8%
	Thursday ★	67%	40%	9%	9%
	Friday	65%	45%	14%	10%
	Saturday	59%	45%	15%	8%
	Sunday	51%	31%	7%	5%
Retail	Monday	18%	9%	5%	5%
	Tuesday	19%	10%	5%	6%
	Wednesday	19%	10%	6%	6%
	Thursday ★	41%	10%	5%	5%
	Friday	40%	10%	6%	6%
	Saturday	34%	10%	6%	5%
	Sunday	31%	9%	5%	5%

Number of businesses open at night (at some point 6pm and 6am)



Sydney

NEW SOUTH WALES

A global night-time city - positioning itself for cultural vibrancy and international status, led by a dedicated 24-Hour Economy Commissioner and Night-Time Economy Minister.

2025 CORE NTE SNAPSHOT

6,196

Businesses
▲ 4%

34,135

Employees
▼ 6%

\$6.4bn

Turnover
▲ 4%

NTE AT A GLANCE

Peak night

Thursday

Growth sector

Food

Open 6pm to 9pm

66%



Where is Sydney's NTE located?

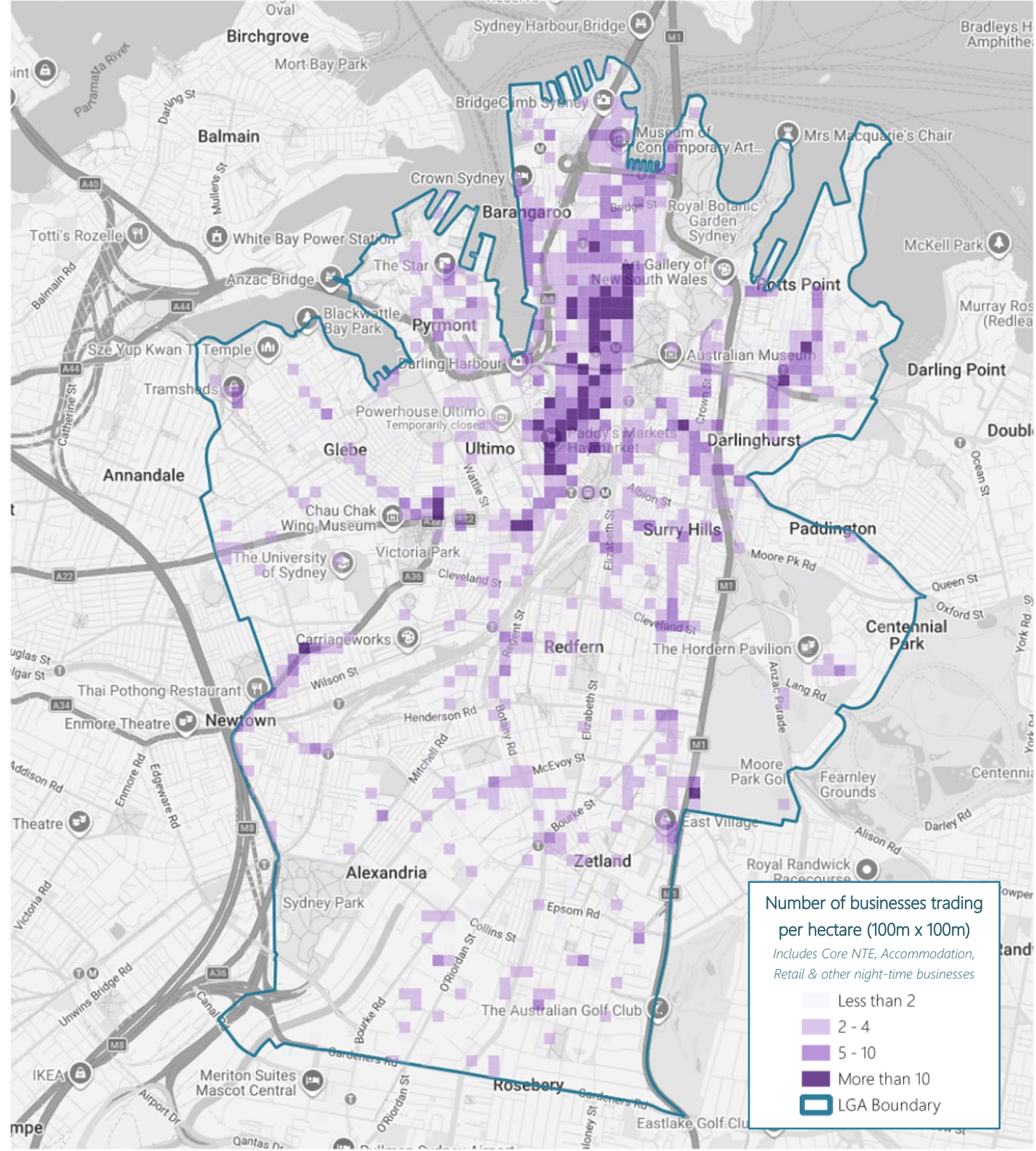
In May 2026, the City of Sydney hosts one of the most expansive and densely active evening economies (6pm-9pm) in Australia, with night-time activity spread across a wide set of inner-city suburbs.

The strongest concentrations are in the inner city, where several distinct precincts merge into a continuous band of activity:

- The CBD core, stretching from Haymarket and Central through to the Rocks and Barangaroo,
- Kings Cross (Victoria Street and Darlinghurst Road) form a dense cluster to the east,
- Oxford Street and Surry Hills, extending south from Darlinghurst,
- King Street, Newtown, to the south-west, and
- Redfern and the Carriageworks.

Smaller but notable clusters are also present in Glebe, Pyrmont, and the Zetland-Green Square corridor in the south.

An interactive map can be viewed online [here](#).



Sydney's City Initiatives

The City of Sydney continued to support Sydney's night-time economy in 2024-25 through targeted initiatives aligned with Sustainable Sydney 2030-2050, Continuing the Vision, the Economic Development Strategy 2025-2035, and the Cultural Strategy 2025-2035. Implementation of these strategies supports a diverse, inclusive and vibrant night-time economy across key cultural and nightlife precincts, encouraging residents and visitors to experience Sydney after dark.

During 2024-25, the City focused on strengthening the night-time economy and supporting inclusive cultural and economic participation through the following initiatives.

Special entertainment precincts

The City supported the NSW Government's Vibrancy Reforms by transitioning existing late-night trading areas into Special Entertainment Precincts (SEPs). These precincts reduce regulatory barriers for businesses by allowing extended trading hours without a development application, providing access to liquor licence fee discounts and enabling tailored sound settings that reflect local context. SEPs support live music, performance and cultural activity, reduce operating costs for businesses, and help create lively, mixed-use precincts with a strong night-time identity.

Advisory panel

In 2025, the City established the Nightlife and Creative Industries Advisory Panel to provide independent, high-level advice on policies and strategies that support a strong, inclusive and culture-led nightlife. The panel also supports better coordination across government and industry to advance a well-functioning 24-hour city.

Sydney Streets

The Sydney Streets program continued in 2024-25, with fourteen events delivered across neighbourhood precincts. These community-focused events brought people together after dark, supported local artists, and enabled local businesses to trade beyond their shopfronts, contributing to vibrant local night-time activity.

Outdoor dining

The City continued to support outdoor dining as a key driver of night-time street life. Since November 2020, around \$20m in support has been provided to businesses through fee waivers and permit flexibility. In 2024-25, almost 1,000 outdoor dining approvals supported more than 860 businesses and created approximately 13,000 square metres of additional dining space across roads and footpaths.

Oxford Street pride charter

The City continued its partnership with Oxford Street businesses and the LGBTIQ+ community to deliver the Oxford Street Pride Charter, launched in June 2023. The Charter recognises the cultural significance of the precinct and its contribution to a 24-hour Sydney. Bespoke online diversity and

inclusion training continued to support staff capability and inclusive business practices.

Grants and sponsorships

In 2024-25, the City provided more than \$1m in cash and value-in-kind support through its Grants and Sponsorship Program to stimulate night-time activity and strengthen local nightlife and culture.

Business capacity building

The City delivered the 2024-25 Reboot webinar series, offering free lunchtime sessions for small businesses, creatives and retailers, focused on practical skills such as digital marketing, emerging technologies, and resilient business models.

Collaboration with NSW Government

The City participates in the NSW Office of the 24-Hour Economy Commissioner's Community of Practice Working Groups and Advisory Council to promote a safe, connected, and equitable 24-hour city. The City supports and delivers on actions from the NSW Night Worker Action Plan 2025-2028 and works closely with Uptown districts and Purple Flag precincts.

Sydney's NTE performance

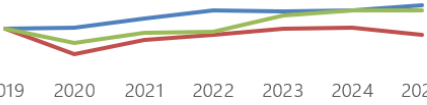
Sydney's Core NTE is expanding in businesses but shedding jobs at pace driven by losses in Leisure & Entertainment employment, although more recent data suggests this should recover.

Sydney added 251 Core NTE establishments in 2024/25 (+4% to 6,196), more than any other city in absolute terms and well above the national growth rate of +1.8%. Yet employment fell 6% (-2,205 jobs to 34,145), making Sydney one of the most significant contributors to the NSW-wide employment decline of -9%. Core NTE sales turnover rose 4% to \$6.4bn even as employment fell 6%, leaving real-terms growth marginal at +0.5%

The city now has 22% more Core NTE businesses than before the pandemic, but employment remains 6% below its 2018/19 level, making Sydney the only capital yet to recover to pre-COVID levels.

Leisure & Entertainment is where the employment story is concentrated. Venues grew 2% (+24 to 1,081), in line with the national rate, but employment plunged 16% (-1,430 jobs to 7,550). Food added 193 establishments (+5% to 4,359) - the largest absolute gain of any sub-sector in any city - though employment dipped 3% (-735). Drink grew 5% (+34 venues to 756), notably against the national decline (-1.2%), while employment eased marginally (-0.8%).

Retail grew strongly (+7% / +182 to 2,922), sharply outperforming the national Retail decline of -0.7%. Accommodation fell -2%, in line with the national trend.

Measure	FY25	City	National	City	National
Core NTE overview		%Change FY24-25		% Total Economy	
 Establishments	6,196	+4%	+1.8%	10%	5%
 Employment	34,135	-6%	+1.4%	6%	8%
 Sales Turnover	\$6.4bn	+4%	+4%	4%	4%
 Indexed trend	City Core NTE FY2019 to FY2025 (Inflation Adjusted)				
Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Core NTE	
 Drink	756	+5%	-1.2%	12%	7%
 Leisure & Entertainment	1,081	+2%	+2%	17%	32%
 Food	4,359	+5%	+2%	70%	62%
Non-Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Non-Core NTE	
 Retail	2,922	+7%	-0.7%	33%	31%
 Accommodation	546	-2%	-2%	6%	5%

Sydney's trading patterns

In May 2026, Thursday is Sydney's busiest evening for Core NTE trade, with 64% of businesses open between 6pm and 9pm, with Friday following closely at 63%.

Sydney's early-night profile is among the strongest in the study. Around 46% of Core NTE businesses remain open until midnight on both Friday and Saturday, with this performance matched only by Adelaide, Melbourne and Yarra. This consistency across both weekend nights, rather than a Friday spike followed by a Saturday drop, points to the depth of Sydney's late-dining and entertainment offering. Similarly late-night (12am-3am) activity reaches 12% on Friday and Saturday above the 16-city average.

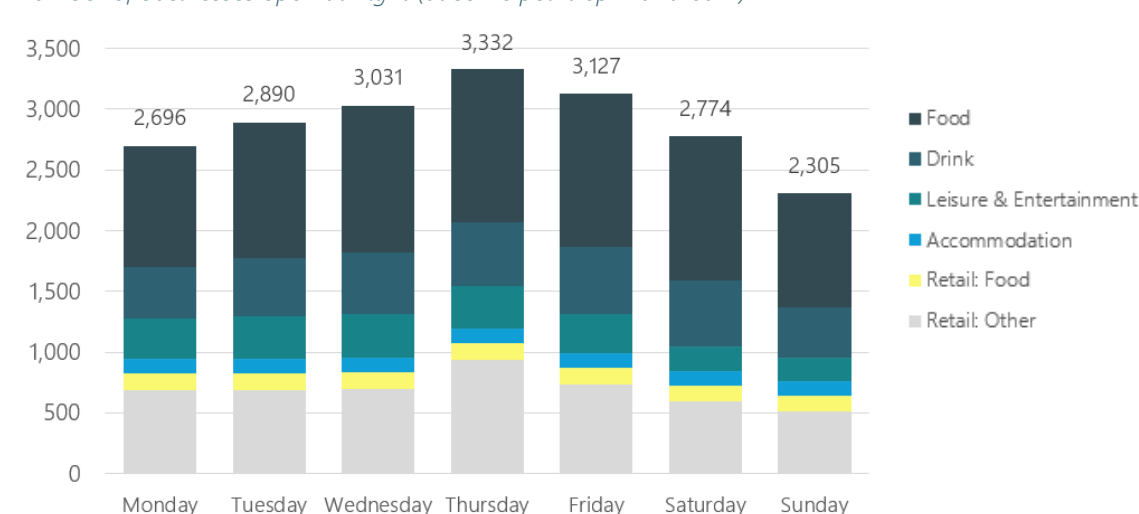
Sunday evening trading at 47% is the highest of any capital city after Perth, reflecting Sydney's size and the diversity of its NTE across multiple centres.

Retail businesses are more active after dark in Sydney than most other cities, with 36-48% of retailers open in the early evening depending on the day. The Thursday spike to 48% is the highest retail evening figure outside of Friday.

Proportion of all **Core NTE** and **Retail** businesses open

Sector	Weekday (6pm-6am)	Evening 6pm-9pm	Early-Night 9pm-12am	→ Night rolls into next day →	
				Late-Night 12am-3am	Early-hours 3am-6am
Core NTE	Monday	52%	32%	7%	9%
	Tuesday	58%	37%	8%	9%
	Wednesday	62%	40%	8%	9%
	Thursday ★	64%	42%	9%	9%
	Friday	63%	46%	12%	10%
	Saturday	58%	46%	13%	8%
	Sunday	47%	32%	7%	5%
Retail	Monday	36%	17%	9%	8%
	Tuesday	37%	17%	9%	8%
	Wednesday	37%	17%	9%	8%
	Thursday ★	48%	18%	9%	9%
	Friday	39%	18%	10%	9%
	Saturday	32%	17%	9%	8%
	Sunday	28%	16%	9%	8%

Number of businesses open at night (at some point 6pm and 6am)



Willoughby

NEW SOUTH WALES

Anchored by Chatswood CBD - home to The Concourse performing arts centre, the Zenith Theatre and a rich mix of multicultural dining and entertainment.

2025 CORE NTE SNAPSHOT

695

Businesses
▲ 4%

3,645

Employees
▼ 0.1%

\$592m

Turnover
▲ 8%

NTE AT A GLANCE

Peak night

Friday

Growth sector

**Leisure &
Entertainment**

Open 6pm to 9pm

68%



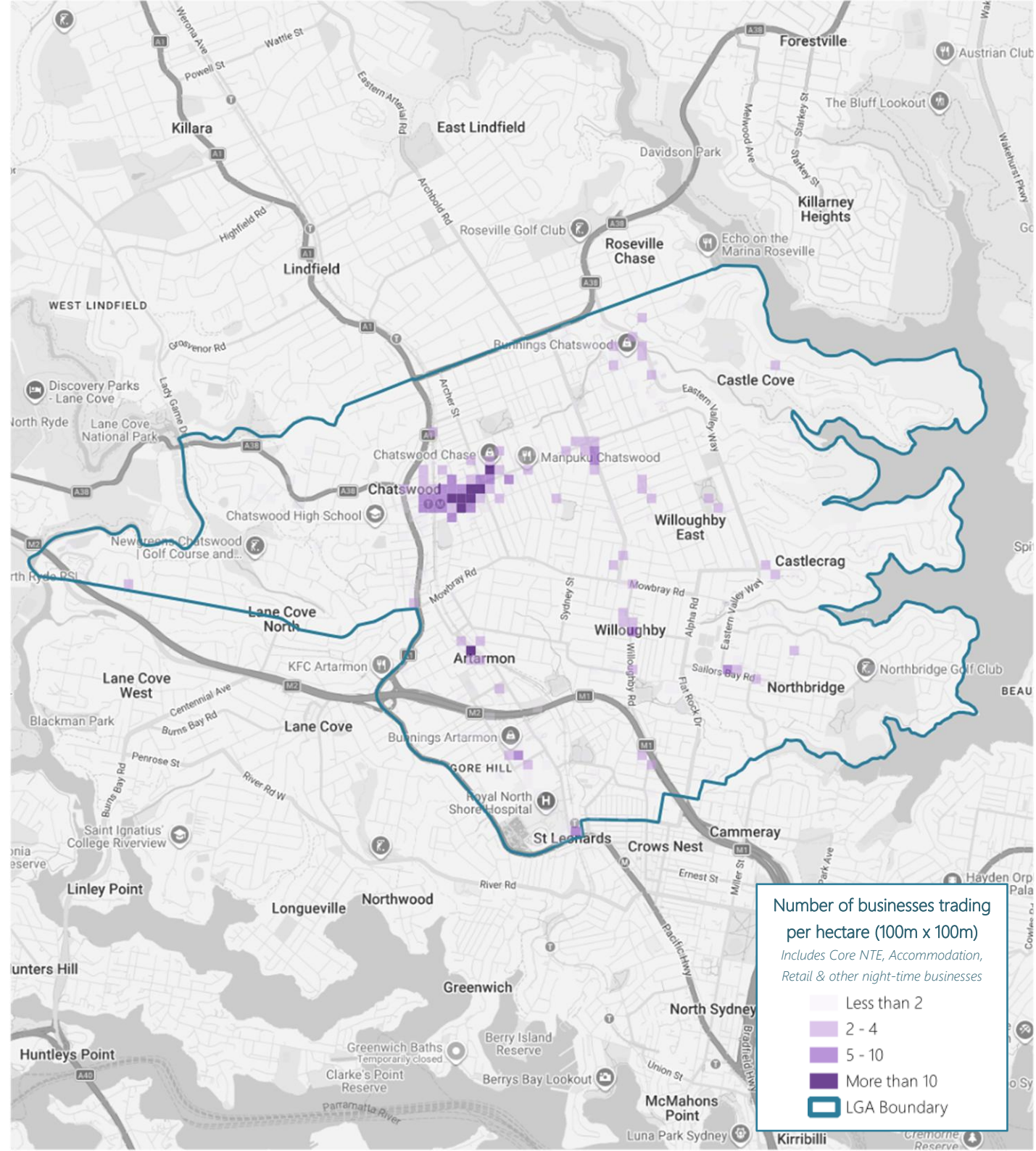
Where is Willoughby's NTE located?

In May 2026, Willoughby City's evening economy (6pm-9pm) is dominated by Chatswood, home to The Concourse performing arts complex and Zenith Theatre. Westfield Chatswood, Chatswood Chase, the Interchange, Chatswood Place and the Mandarin Centre combine to form the LGA's densest concentration of night-time businesses by a considerable margin.

Beyond Chatswood, there are smaller, growing clusters in other local centres across the LGA:

- Artarmon town centre, near the station,
- Willoughby, including the Bridgeview Hotel precinct, and
- St Leonards, centred around the station.

An interactive map can be viewed online [here](#).



Willoughby's City Initiatives

Located in Northern Sydney, Willoughby is anchored by the vibrant Chatswood CBD - the economic, cultural, and retail heart of the North Shore. Chatswood offers a family-friendly atmosphere, home to The Concourse performing arts centre, the Zenith Theatre, diverse shopping precincts, and a rich mix of multicultural restaurants, cafés, and entertainment venues.

The City of Willoughby is a culturally diverse local government area situated in Northern Sydney, 10km from the Sydney CBD. It is made up of distinct local centres and residential suburbs covering 23 square kilometres and has a population of over around 80,000. With a gross regional product of \$13bn, the area provided 71,834 jobs in 2024 and is home to over 13,500 local businesses.

Chatswood CBD is regarded as the economic and cultural heart of Sydney's North Shore. It is a family orientated destination, with The Concourse performing arts complex and the Zenith Theatre, a diverse retail offering and array of multi-cultural restaurants, cafes and entertainment venues, a well-educated and skilled work force, and excellent and accessible transport options.

Chatswood is experiencing rapid growth. The population is forecast to increase from approximately 80,000 to 104,000 by 2041, including an additional 15,000-20,000 residents expected within the next 5-10 years, driven by a strong pipeline of residential developments.

Strategic direction

Willoughby's Economic Development Strategy identifies six economic outcomes for the city:

- Facilitate the development of all businesses.
- Build and support a night-time economy.
- Create memorable food destinations.
- Attract visitors and promote local, destination-based tourism.
- Diversify the economy including creative and innovative industries.
- Facilitate the viability and vibrancy of Willoughby's village centres.

The Council is delivering its Night-Time Economy Strategy 2022-2028, focused on strengthening the Chatswood CBD. Council is working closely with the local business community to grow the night-time economy by increasing evening activities, events, employment opportunities, and the number of businesses operating after hours. For example, the revitalised Chatswood Chase shopping centre, has introduced later evening opening.

Cultural and night-time activation

The Council has developed a range of cultural initiatives and programs that contribute to a vibrant and growing night-time economy, including:

- Chatswood Mall Market, operating weekly on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 9am to 9pm, providing an extended trading and activation opportunity into the evening.
- Year-round performances at The Concourse and Zenith Theatres, featuring regular programming by the Willoughby Symphony Orchestra, Willoughby Theatre Company and visiting performers.
- Council's curated Culture Bites program, delivering year-round events, including the month-long Emerge Festival.
- Expanded Lunar New Year celebrations, now a month-long program culminating in a two-day festival in Chatswood CBD.
- The Chatswood Public Art Walk, featuring murals alongside exhibitions at The Concourse.
- Cultural food trails highlighting Chatswood's dining offer, including Japanese, Korean, Taiwanese, vegetarian and dessert precincts.

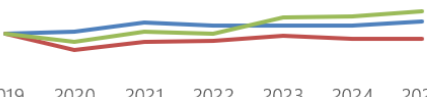
Willoughby's NTE performance

Willoughby's NTE is diversifying - Leisure & Entertainment venues surged 12%, the strongest L&E growth of any city, while Food and Drink held steady.

Willoughby's Core NTE grew to 695 establishments in June 2025, up 4% (+27), while employment was essentially flat (-0.1% / -5 to 3,645), a notably resilient result in the context of the broader NSW employment decline of -9%. Core NTE sales turnover grew strongly, increasing 8% to \$592m (+3.9% in real terms), well ahead of the city's flat employment.

Leisure & Entertainment was the standout, surging 12% (+21 venues to 193) - the strongest L&E establishment growth of any city in the report and six times the national rate. L&E employment also grew 8% (+60 to 870). Despite this expansion, L&E accounts for 28% of Willoughby's Core NTE, below the national share of 32%. Food added five venues (+1.1% to 475), slightly below the national Food growth rate of +2%, while employment dipped -2% (-65 to 2,550). Food dominates at 68% of Core NTE establishments, above the national share of 62%. Drink gained one venue (+4% to 27), bucking the national decline, though from a small base. Drink employment eased -1.7%.

Retail held steady (+0.2%), outperforming the national Retail decline. Accommodation fell -5%, steeper than the national trend of -2%.

Measure	FY25	City	National	City	National
Core NTE overview		%Change FY24-25		% Total Economy	
 Establishments	695	+4%	+1.8%	5%	5%
 Employment	3,645	-0.1%	+1.4%	6%	8%
 Sales Turnover	\$592m	+8%	+4%	3%	4%
 Indexed trend	City Core NTE FY2019 to FY2025 (Inflation Adjusted)				
Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Core NTE	
 Drink	27	+4%	-1.2%	4%	7%
 Leisure & Entertainment	193	+12%	+2%	28%	32%
 Food	475	+1.1%	+2%	68%	62%
Non-Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Non-Core NTE	
 Retail	429	+0.2%	-0.7%	28%	31%
 Accommodation	36	-5%	-2%	2%	5%

Willoughby's trading patterns

In May 2026, Thursday is Willoughby's busiest evening for Core NTE trade, with 66% of businesses open between 6pm and 9pm. The gap between Thursday and Friday is notable with a drop in evening participation to 61%, one of the larger mid-week-to-Friday declines in the study. Trading builds from 54% on Monday before the Thursday peak and eases through to 51% on Sunday, maintaining a solid seven-day activity relative to its size.

Early-night (9pm-midnight) activity is more modest than its evening figures suggest, reaching 30% on Friday and 29% on Saturday, which is lower than other cities in this report. This suggests that while the early evening is active, many businesses close before midnight. Late-night (12am-3am) activity peaks at around 7% on weekends and is the second lowest of all participating cities, consistent with Willoughby's predominantly residential and suburban character.

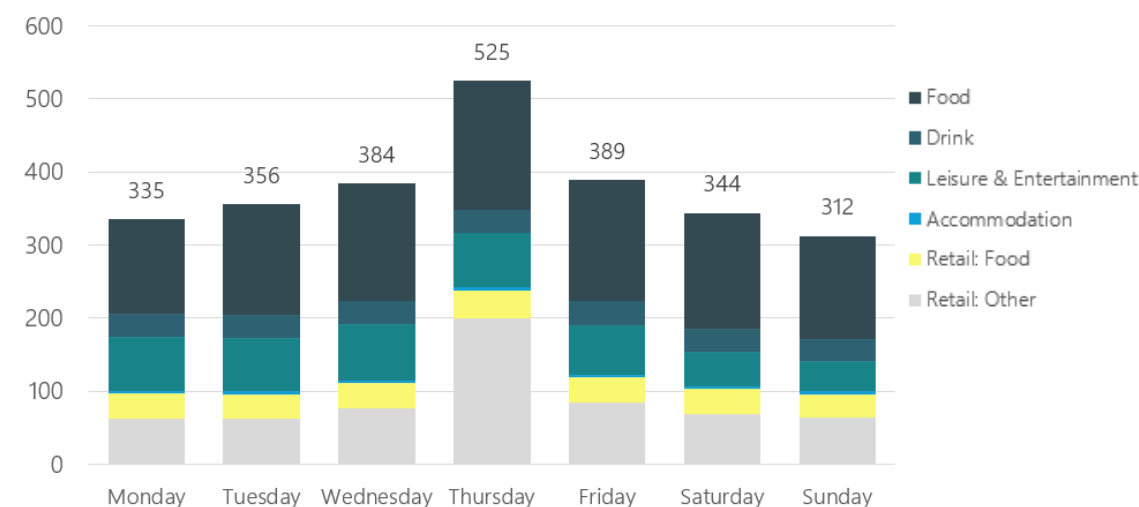
Early-hours (3am-6am) trade, however sits at around 10-11% on weekdays, which is higher than several larger cities in this study.

Retail businesses show the characteristic Thursday spike, with 48% of retailers open in the early evening on Thursdays, compared with around 19-22% on weekday nights. Friday retail at 24% and weekend retail of 19-21% are broadly consistent with a suburban retail centre.

Proportion of all **Core NTE** and **Retail** businesses open

Sector	Weekday (6pm-6am)	Evening 6pm-9pm	Early-Night 9pm-12am	→ Night rolls into next day →	
				Late-Night 12am-3am	Early-hours 3am-6am
Core NTE	Monday	54%	22%	7%	11%
	Tuesday	59%	25%	6%	11%
	Wednesday	63%	26%	6%	11%
	Thursday ★	66%	28%	6%	10%
	Friday	61%	30%	7%	11%
	Saturday	56%	29%	7%	7%
	Sunday	51%	21%	6%	5%
Retail	Monday	19%	7%	3%	3%
	Tuesday	19%	7%	3%	3%
	Wednesday	22%	7%	3%	3%
	Thursday ★	48%	8%	3%	3%
	Friday	24%	7%	3%	3%
	Saturday	21%	7%	3%	3%
	Sunday	19%	7%	3%	3%

Number of businesses open at night (at some point 6pm and 6am)



Yarra

VICTORIA

Home to some of Melbourne's most celebrated NTE precincts, with a thriving independent venue culture, late-night hospitality and live music scene

2025 CORE NTE SNAPSHOT

1,525

Businesses
▼ 0.4%

9,800

Employees
▲ 3%

\$1.39bn

Turnover
▲ 1.0%

NTE AT A GLANCE

Peak night

Thursday

Top sector

**Leisure &
Entertainment**

Open 6pm to 9pm

68%

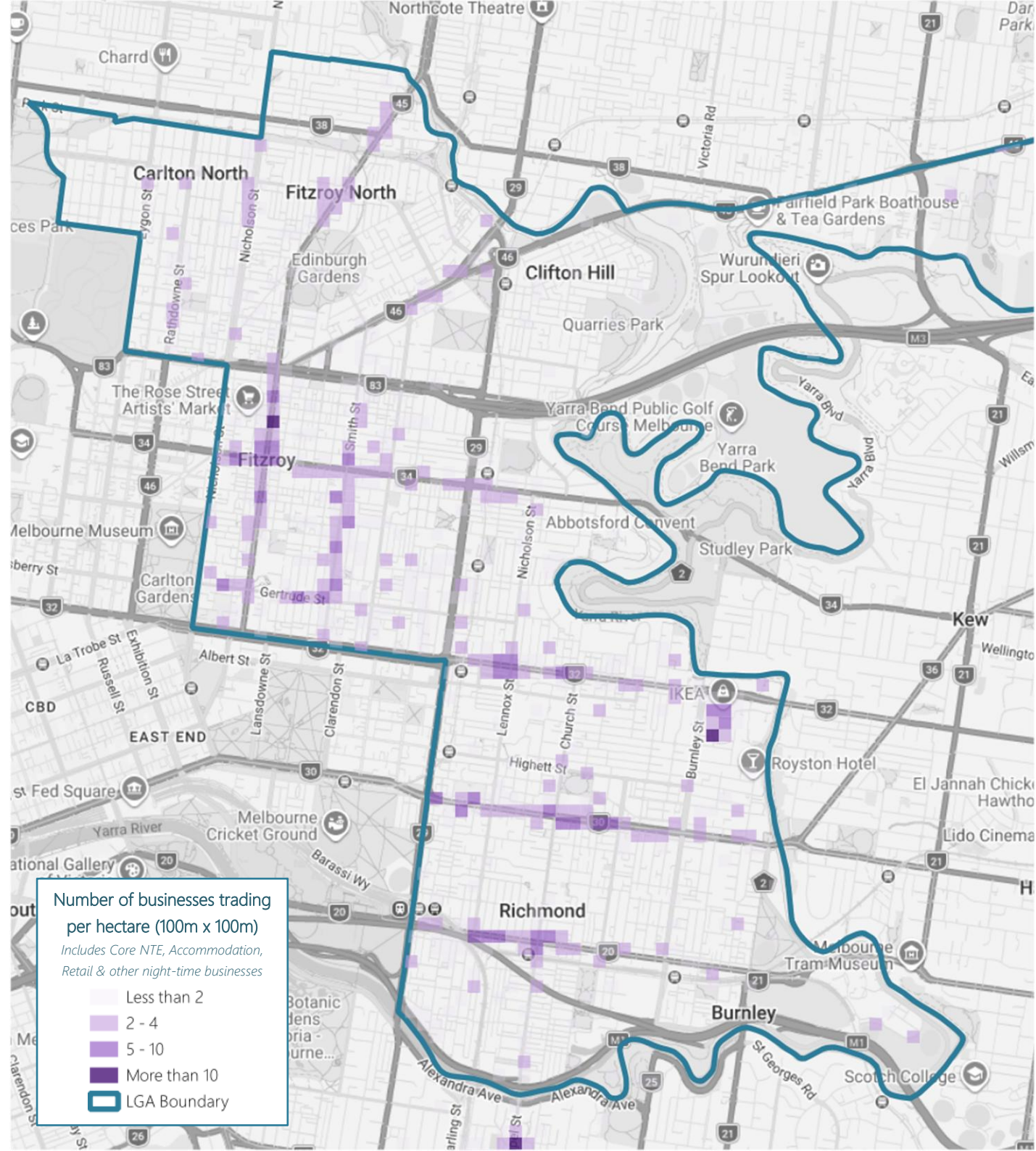


Where is Yarra's NTE located?

In May 2026, the City of Yarra's evening economy (6pm-9pm) is concentrated across several of Melbourne's most celebrated hospitality strips:

- Brunswick Street in Fitzroy and Smith Street on the Collingwood-Fitzroy border form the densest clusters,
- Swan Street and Bridge Road in Richmond are particularly active,
- Victoria Street in Richmond and the Victoria Gardens Shopping Centre, and
- Fitzroy North along St Georges Road north of Edinburgh Gardens.

An interactive map can be viewed online [here](#).



Yarra's City Initiatives

The City of Yarra is one of Melbourne's most significant destinations for after-dark activity. Encompassing the iconic suburbs of Fitzroy, Collingwood and Richmond, Yarra's concentration of live music venues, bars, restaurants and cultural experiences underpins its identity as a place to live, work and play.

Despite being the smallest local government area in metropolitan Victoria by land area, Yarra plays a critical role in Inner Metropolitan Melbourne's economy. The municipality supports more than 98,000 jobs and generates approximately \$37 billion in economic output. Its inner city location and proximity to the Melbourne CBD position Yarra to capture strong evening and night-time visitation, supporting local businesses and precinct activation.

A diverse night-time economy

Yarra's night-time economy supports a broad mix of industries, including hospitality, arts and culture, live music, tourism, retail and health services. Healthcare is one of Yarra's largest employing sectors and plays a critical role in the city's night-time economy. Hospitals, community health services and social support providers operate 24/7, generating substantial overnight employment and demand for transport, food services and local amenities.

Retail precincts

Yarra's retail precincts are the backbone of its night-time economy, anchored by five Major Activity Centres: Brunswick Street, Smith Street, Bridge Road, Swan Street and Victoria Street. These centres serve as key social and economic hubs, supporting visitation, employment and local spending. Together, they generate more than half of all local expenditure, with night-time trading accounting for a significant share.

Live music

Live music is a defining feature of Yarra's economy. The municipality hosts 77 small and medium sized venues delivering an estimated 20,000 gigs each year. These attract around 2.5 million attendees, generate more than \$160 million in expenditure and support close to one million hours of employment annually. Council is seeking State Government support for live music precinct planning controls to protect venues and support industry sustainability.

Arts and culture

Arts and culture are central to Yarra's identity and make a strong contribution to night-time activity. Council supports programs and events that activate streets and public spaces after dark, including the annual Leaps and Bounds Music Festival, which supports venues during winter. Events such as the Victoria's Pride Street Party, Victoria Street Lunar Festival, Johnston Street Fiesta and LuliePalooza further strengthen place identity, drive visitation and support local businesses.

Economic Development Strategy 2026-2031*

The Economic Development Strategy 2026–2031 identifies the night-time economy as a strategic focus. Council's role focuses on place led economic development, data driven policy and advocacy, and collaboration with businesses, industry and government to support a safe, vibrant and resilient night-time economy aligned with Yarra's long term vision.

* To be adopted by Council in August 2026

Yarra's NTE performance

Yarra's Core NTE is unlike any other city in the report - Leisure & Entertainment matches Food at 44% of establishments each, giving it the most entertainment-rich NTE profile in Australia.

Yarra's Core NTE edged down to 1,525 establishments in 2024/25, a marginal decline of -0.4% (-6) against the national growth rate of +1.8%. Employment, however, grew 3% (+315 to 9,800), outpacing the national average of +1.4% and contributing to Victoria's strong overall NTE performance. Core NTE sales turnover growth was among the weakest of the cities in this year's report, up just 1.0% nominally and down 2% in real terms.

What distinguishes Yarra from every other city in this report is its sub-sector composition. Leisure & Entertainment and Food each account for 44% of Core NTE establishments, a split found nowhere else. L&E added 30 venues (+5% to 664) and 125 jobs (+5%), reinforcing Yarra's position as Melbourne's live music and creative precinct heartland. Food lost 16 establishments (-2% to 671), against the national growth trend of +2%, though employment grew +1.8% (+95 to 5,425). Drink declined more sharply in venue numbers, down 20 establishments (-10% to 190) - well beyond the national Drink decline of -1.2%. Yet Drink employment grew 5% (+95 to 1,945).

Retail was essentially flat (-0.1%), outperforming the national decline, while Accommodation eased -1.4%, better than the national fall of -2%.

Measure	FY25	City	National	City	National
Core NTE overview		%Change FY24-25		% Total Economy	
 Establishments	1,525	-0.4%	+1.8%	9%	5%
 Employment	9,800	+3%	+1.4%	10%	8%
 Sales Turnover	\$1.39bn	+1.0%	+4%	4%	4%
 Indexed trend	City Core NTE FY2019 to FY2025 (Inflation Adjusted)				
Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Core NTE	
 Drink	190	-10%	-1.2%	12%	7%
 Leisure & Entertainment	664	+5%	+2%	44%	32%
 Food	671	-2%	+2%	44%	62%
Non-Core NTE establishments		%Change FY24-25		% Non-Core NTE	
 Retail	798	-0.1%	-0.7%	31%	31%
 Accommodation	71	-1.4%	-2%	3%	5%

Yarra's trading patterns

In May 2026, Thursday is Yarra's busiest evening for Core NTE trade, with 64% of businesses open between 6pm and 9pm, with Friday following at 61%. The weekly average of 56% reflects Yarra's concentrated inner-city hospitality base.

Yarra is one of the standout performers for late-night activity. Around 48% of Core NTE businesses remain open until midnight on Friday and Saturday, which is the highest early-night (9pm-midnight) figure of any participating city. Late-night (12am-3am) activity reaches 18% on Friday and Saturday, which is second only to Adelaide and comfortably above all other Melbourne LGAs in this report. This reflects the concentration of late-night bars, clubs and restaurants across Collingwood, Fitzroy, Richmond and Abbotsford.

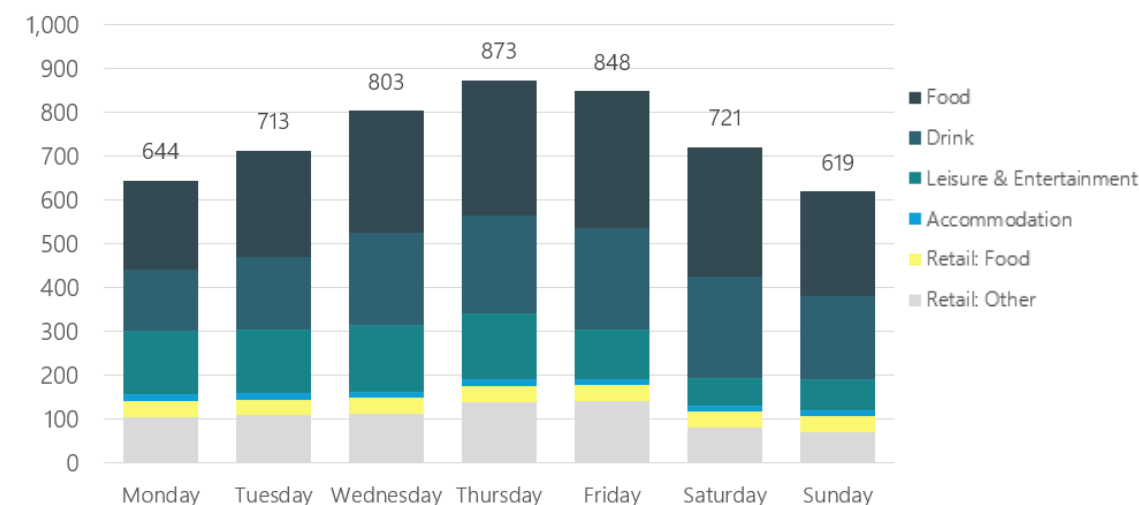
Trading on Wednesday (61%) shows a notable mid-week lift which is not typically seen in other cities in this report. Sunday evening trade at 48% is also very strong for an inner-city LGA. Early-hours (3am-6am) trade is modest at around 8-9%, consistent with Yarra's profile as a late-night economy rather than an early-morning one.

Retail businesses are primarily daytime traders, with 18-22% open in the early evening on weeknights. Thursdays and Fridays see a modest lift to 22% trading, highlighting that the retail sector in Yarra is less dominant than hospitality in shaping the night-time trading profile.

Proportion of all **Core NTE** and **Retail** businesses open

Sector	Weekday (6pm-6am)	Evening 6pm-9pm	Early-Night 9pm-12am	→ Night rolls into next day →	
				Late-Night 12am-3am	Early-hours 3am-6am
Core NTE	Monday	46%	28%	7%	9%
	Tuesday	53%	33%	7%	9%
	Wednesday	61%	41%	8%	9%
	Thursday ★	64%	44%	10%	9%
	Friday	61%	48%	18%	10%
	Saturday	56%	48%	18%	7%
	Sunday	48%	34%	7%	6%
Retail	Monday	18%	8%	4%	4%
	Tuesday	18%	8%	4%	4%
	Wednesday	18%	8%	4%	4%
	Thursday	22%	8%	4%	4%
	Friday ★	22%	9%	4%	4%
	Saturday	15%	9%	4%	4%
	Sunday	13%	8%	4%	4%

Number of businesses open at night (at some point 6pm and 6am)



Appendix

Economic performance data

The data used in this report was acquired from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) via bespoke request to their Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits (CABEE), June 2021 to June 2025 datasetⁱ. Developed through a collaborative approach with the ABS, the bespoke request covers a selection of key ANZSICs for 88 of the most populous and economically active Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Australia. This dataset was analysed and modelled using additional ABS datasets including labour force dataⁱⁱ and industry sales and service incomeⁱⁱⁱ data (sales turnover).

In some cases, ANZSIC level data can be provided; in other cases, the numbers can be small. This can be problematic, because the ABS applies perturbation^{iv} techniques when dealing with smaller numbers to maintain confidentiality of businesses in the dataset, which may lead to large percentage swings when comparing between years.

Important notes / limitations of the CABEE dataset

The CABEE dataset captures actively trading establishments with an Australian Business Number (ABN) that are registered for Goods and Services Tax (GST) as of the 30th of June each year. Establishments

without an ABN or that are not registered for GST are excluded from the dataset.

Most establishments are counted as a single unit, at the location of their registered address, or at the address with the highest employment. Establishments operating from multiple locations (for example large cinema chains) may only be counted once. Conversely, establishments that have registered separate ABNs on account of their legal structures, may be counted multiple times. For larger businesses with complex and diverse legal structures, the ABS liaises directly with the businesses to determine [Type of Activity Units](#) - the ABS terminology for producing business or branch of a larger business.

Each establishment is classified to a single ANZSIC code based on the main source of industry value added (using sales of goods and services, wages and salaries or number of employees as a proxy), which is generally based on a description provided by the business. ANZSIC classifications may therefore not reflect all the activities carried out at an establishment, particularly where the establishment is counted as a single unit, but different activities are undertaken at different locations.

All employment and turnover estimates refer to the total employment and sales turnover in each specified

ANZSIC or sub-sector, and as a result includes both day and night-time activity. Ingenium Research is currently exploring opportunities to determine the temporal split of sales turnover and employment for future research. Please note also that sales turnover figures in this document reflect the nominal value and do not isolate or identify the impact of inflation into account, unless stated.

Inflation considerations

Prior to 2024, *Measuring the Australian NTE* has presented sales turnover figures in a *nominal* fashion. Since the COVID-19 pandemic and associated world events such as the war in Ukraine, costs of living have seen substantial increases across the globe. As a result, since 2024, the analysis in this report has considered the impact of inflation on sales turnover figures to point to a *real* view of change.

Inflation impacts in this report are calculated using the [ABS Producer Price Indexes](#) Output measures, as this index reflects the actual increases in costs that businesses are facing, rather than what consumers are paying. When inflation adjusted figures are presented, historical sales turnover figures are rebased to 2024/25 prices.

ⁱ [ABS Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, Jun 2020 to Jun 2024](#)

ⁱⁱ [ABS Labour Force, Australia](#)

ⁱⁱⁱ [ABS Australian Industry](#)

^{iv} The ABS CABEE explains the use of perturbation in the context of business counts. Additional information on the perturbation technique

is available in the Census of Population and Housing dataset ([ABS Catalogue 2011.0.55.001](#))

Trading patterns and clustering

To provide a more detailed view of where businesses are based and the times that establishments are operating, Ingenium Research utilised the Google Maps/Places API^v. This involved developing detailed geographic search criteria across each city to identify relevant night-time businesses to understand where they are clustering and then analysing their hours and days of trading. The results of these searches were dynamically geocoded to standard geographic boundaries (LGA, Postcode and SA2, SA1) and then presented as GIS maps and aggregated data tables to comply with Google's terms of reference.

Trading pattern analysis demonstrates the proportion of all businesses in an area or sector that are operating at a specified point in time or day of the week. For the purposes of this report, analysis focused on businesses trading on at least one day of the week during the periods of 6pm-9pm, 9pm-12am, 12am-3am and 3am-6am.

Important notes / limitations of Google Places

Although Google's activity descriptors differ to ANZSICs, they align well. As a result, Google's activity descriptors have, where possible, been mapped to the ANZSIC categories comprising Core NTE and Non-Core NTE used in the economic performance analysis (refer to Tables 2, to 4 below) providing a consistent activity view. It is also important to note that Google stores multiple activities per establishment (up to twenty) and therefore

an establishment could map to multiple NTE sub-sectors based on information provided by the establishment. For example, a pub that offers food might classify itself as a 'pub' primarily, with a secondary activity of 'restaurant'. Like ABS CABEE, this analysis focuses only on the primary activity (e.g. pub) of the establishment.

It should be noted that only businesses with a web presence are captured via the Google Places API and as such, the results of the analysis process **should not be considered a census of business activity**. That being said, comparison with the ABS CABEE dataset suggests that Google establishment counts for the Core NTE and consumer facing Non-Core NTE activities are approximately 90% of CABEE business counts, representing an excellent sample of activity.

The results reflect the opening hours stored in Google at the time of analysis (May 2026) and may or may not be impacted by seasonality changes or other factors. Similarly, the accuracy of the data relies on business owners updating opening hours within their Google account in a timely and accurate manner.

In 2024, Google introduced a new version of its Places API, which provides a much greater detail on businesses and associated place types (business activity). This increased activity detail has led to reclassification of some venues between Drink and Food and some between Retail Food and Retail Other, leading to a shift in business counts and, in some cases, reducing the direct comparability between years for these sectors.

NTE definition

As noted in the Glossary of Terms, night-time economy activity is broken down into Core, Non-Core and Supply sectors. These NTE sectors are defined using the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) system, which are aligned with definitions used in previous work in the United Kingdom and New Zealand. The definition of the NTE was originally developed by TBR Ltd and MAKE Associates, using granular analysis of [Dun & Bradstreet](#) business data in 2008/9. This definition was adapted through the comparison of the United Kingdom's Standard Industrial Classifications (SICs) to Australia's ANZSICs for the [City of Sydney's 2011 Cost Benefit Analysis Study](#). It has been employed in the annual NTE research for CCCLM ever since.

A similar approach was adopted by the Greater London Authority (GLA) for the purpose of measuring London's NTE with equivalent data from the [United Kingdom's Office for National Statistics \(ONS\)](#). The GLA's [analysis](#) utilised data from the ONS' Labour Force Survey to understand which industries have the highest proportion of employees working at night. This was used to select industries with a higher propensity of night-time workers and group them into similar activities (e.g. cultural and leisure). The GLA's analysis aligns well with the NTE ANZSICs shown below in Tables 2, 3 and 4.

^v This is based on data behind Google Maps (a free service for businesses), rather than paid-for Google Ads.

Important note / limitations of the NTE definition

The ANZSIC codes used to define Core, Non-Core and Supply are provided below. It should be noted that temporal (24-hour) breakdown of economic activity is not recorded in official economic data sources. Therefore, ANZSICs have been selected based on businesses with a propensity to operate at night, but establishment counts may include some businesses that operate solely during, or for part of, the day. As such, employment and sales turnover figures may also include daytime activity. Looking beyond the Core NTE classifications, it is estimated that more than [four million](#) Australians work at night across a wide range of industries.

^{vi} It should be noted that each state and territory has its own liquor licensing regulations/laws. As such, liquor retailing activity may be more likely to occur during the night in some states and territories than in others.

^{vii} This level of ANZSIC detail is not normally available at LGA level via ABS request due to small numbers that would not pass confidentiality rules. For City of Sydney, the Floor and Employment Survey in the original Sydney Cost Benefit Analysis work (2011) allowed further

ANZSIC definitions

Table 2: Core NTE ANZSIC definition

NTE Sub-Sector	ANZSIC	Description
Drink	4123_ ^{vi}	Liquor Retailing
	4520	Pubs, Taverns & Bars
Leisure & Entertainment	5513_ ^{vii}	Motion Picture Exhibition
	900	Creative & Performing Arts Activities
	911_ ^{viii}	Sports & Physical Recreation Activities
	912	Horse & Dog Racing Activities
	913	Amusement & Other Recreation Activities
	920_ ^{ix}	Gambling Activities
	4530	Clubs (Hospitality)
	9534	Brothel Keeping & Prostitution
Food	4511	Cafes & Restaurants
	4512	Takeaway Food Services

Table 3: Supply NTE ANZSIC definition

NTE Sub-Sector	ANZSIC	Description
Drink	12	Beverage & Tobacco Product Manufacturing
	3606	Liquor & Tobacco Product Wholesaling
Entertainment	551	Motion Picture & Video Activities
	552	Sound Recording & Music Publishing
Food	11	Food Product Manufacturing
	4513	Catering Services

disaggregation of this ANZSIC 551 (Motion Picture and Video Activities) to arrive at Motion Picture Exhibition (ANZSIC 5513), i.e. cinemas, meaning this ANZSIC can still be presented separately for Sydney. For all other LGAs the wider grouping of Motion Picture and Video Activities (ANZSIC 551) is captured as a Supply NTE activity.

^{viii} ANZSIC 911 (Sports and Physical Recreation Activities) includes ANZSIC 9114 (Sports and Physical Recreation Administrative Service) and so could potentially over estimate night-time related activity within this industry. ANZSIC 9114 accounts for 5% of establishments within ANZSIC 911, although associated sales and employment may be higher.

^{ix} ANZSIC 920 (Gambling Activities) includes ANZSIC 9209 (Other Gambling Activities), which captures internet gambling operation and TAB operation, that may occur during the day.

Table 4: Non-Core NTE ANZSIC definition

NTE Sub-Sector	ANZSIC	Description
Care	771	Public Order & Safety Services
	840	Hospitals
Arts Education	8212	Arts Education
Libraries & archives	601	Libraries & Archives
Design	692	Architectural, Engineering & Technical Services
Food	411	Supermarket & Grocery Stores
	4121	Fresh Meat, Fish & Poultry Retailing
	4122	Fruit & Vegetable Retailing
	4129	Other Specialised Food Retailing
Accommodation	4400	Accommodation*
Infrastructure	29	Waste Collection, Treatment & Disposal Services
	751	Central Government Administration
	753	Local Government Administration
	772	Regulatory Services
	9531	Laundry & Dry-Cleaning Services
Other Education	8219	Adult, Community & Other Education not elsewhere classified
Promotion	694	Advertising Services
Research	695	Market Research & Statistical Services
Retail/Other	422	Electrical & Electronic Goods Retailing
	425	Clothing, Footwear & Personal Accessory Retailing
	426	Department Stores
	427	Pharmaceutical & Other Store Based Retailing
	4241	Sport & Camping Equipment Retailing
	4242	Entertainment Media Retailing
	4243	Toy & Game Retailing
	4244	Newspaper & Book Retailing
	4245	Marine Equipment Retailing
Sports Education	8211	Sports & Physical Recreation Instruction
Transport	472	Rail Passenger Transport
	482	Water Passenger Transport
	4621	Interurban & Rural Bus Transport
	4622	Urban Bus Transport (including Tramway)
	4623	Taxi & Other Road Transport
	9533	Parking Services

* This consists of businesses mainly engaged in providing accommodation for visitors, such as hotels, motels and similar units. Please note that this will not include all share accommodation such as Airbnb and Stayz.



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