OUHENSLAND TOOWOOMBA WESTBROOK nown as 'The Garden City', Toowoomba is 127km west of Brisbane in southern Queensland. With an /100 Kestimated district population of 131,258, Toowoomba is Australia's second-most populous inland city VERALL RATING and the most populous non-capital inland city. It is the gateway to billions of dollars worth of investment in both mining and agriculture, and is one of Australia's best-performing regional cities. **KEY INDICATORS** INFRASTRUCTURE VACANCY ଞା EASE INVESTMENT RATES Vacancy rates are tight for a regional city of this size (roughly 1%), and tightening. \$3bn is being spent on transport upgrades. POPULATION PROJECTED GROWTH **CAPITAL GROWTH** Expect 10% population growth over the next few years. Growth will be slow initially and will remain steady for an inland service centre. ESTIMATED RENTAL YIELDS PROJECTED **RENTAL GROWTH** Mining workers can outbid most others, pushing up rents in the process. Because the incoming population is likely to exceed housing supply, yields should have a good run. DIVERSITY **AFFORDABILITY OF ECONOMY** The city has fewer services than Brisbane but has important agriculture and mining sectors. Price growth hasn't yet recovered from the 2011 flooding, presenting awesome buying opportunities. COUNCIL SUPPLY & ÷ PLANNING DEMAND There are more mine workers coming in over the next few years than there are houses for. There are multiple issues for the council to manage, but it is doing a reasonable job. WHY IT'S HOT **STATS & FACTS** Queensland's 'Garden City' and gateway to Darling Traditionally the gateway to the rich Darling Downs **Downs and Surat Basin** agricultural region, this is now the gateway to the Surat Basin coal and CSG fields. Property pricing has not moved • Surat Basin is the key supplier for Gladstone's massive LNG projects significantly since the floods of 2011 despite many problems being resolved and the arrival of thousands of • 'Enterprise Area' at Charlton, which supports mining resources workers imminent. Bear in mind that the Surat services, is expected to employ 12,000 Basin serviced by Toowoomba will be the main supplier to Gladstone's massive CSG-LNG projects. • Australia's largest regional Chamber of Commerce, -NextHotSpot expecting GDP to increase over 30% 0 Over \$3bn of rail and road infrastructure in development Toowoomba as a whole has a great future, but be wary of some of the city's lower-priced suburbs. Units in these areas O Pricing still at pre-2011 flood levels, with many have lost a lot of value in recent times and arguably have houses under \$300k the greatest danger of falling into oversupply, precipitating further price falls. The best Toowoomba performers, Over 15,000 additional workers expected in region historically, have been suburbs with good public transport. over next three years Over \$350m expansion of TO GET THE FULL REPORT GO TO: retail centres underway -Your Investment Property nexthotspot.com.au/YIP JUNE 2013 Vourinvestmentpropertymag.com.au