



## Bedourie Station



**Herbert Street, Bedourie Qld 4829**

**Contact: PoliceLink 131444**

**[www.police.qld.gov.au](http://www.police.qld.gov.au)**

### **Introduction:**

Town population 140; Divisional population approx 200. Average seasonal temperatures : Highest 51 degrees, Lowest 11 degrees, Average 40 degrees. Average rainfall 1 inch per year. Distance from Brisbane 1755 km. Distance from nearest major centre Mt. Isa 495 km., Boulia, 191 km., Birdsvillle 185km. Bedourie is the main centre of the Diamantina Shire, the second largest shire in Queensland. Population in the Diamantina Shire is approximately 400 with 140 persons living in Bedourie. It has been noted that with more housing available a growth rate of six percent has taken place in the Shire. Many new babies have been born in the Shire as people become settled and encourage people to come and work and make Bedourie their home.

### **Locality:**

Bedourie is located approx 1600km west of Brisbane It is only 100km from the Northern Territory Border and 200km from the South Australian Border. Nearest capital city is Adelaide which is 1400km south. The nearest shops are located in Mount Isa 500km to the North. Basic supplies can be obtained from Bedourie Roadhouse although they are exorbitantly expensive and \$9 for a cauliflower is not uncommon. Other supplies can be obtained from the general store in Boulia 191km to the North.

During the tourist season, which is from April to October, the days can be pleasant with temperatures in the mid 20C. At the height of summer it often reaches over 45C

for weeks on end with no relief. Climate is semi arid and the temperatures can vary from brisk cold weather at night during winter to hot and dry during summer. The Shire lies within the Channel Country, which is a network of western Queensland rivers. This country can be subject to massive flooding caused by rain in northern Queensland filling the river systems that in turn spread to the many channels to create an inland sea of hundreds of square kilometres. The town is usually cut off during this flooding for up to 8 weeks and the only access to the town is by plane. Average rainfall in the area is 190mm annually most of which falls in summer. Quite often The average rainfall will fall in one night. The "Dry Season", April to October normally brings a very dry heat unless floodwaters remain. Humidity can be quite high over the year, as more water evaporates from this hot landscape than falls in rain.

The town's ample water supply is artesian but does not have a pungent odour. Eyre Creek runs through town with the Georgina and Hamilton Rivers flowing into Eyre Creek. The surrounding area varies between huge red sand hills (home to cane grass) and floodplains supporting Mitchell and other local grasses. Channels and waterholes abound with Coolabah trees. The region is spectacular featuring limestone ranges and vast gibber stone plains. Many rare and threatened species can be found, not least the Freckled Duck, Peregrine Falcon, two rare species of Skinks (lizards), Western Taipan (most venomous land snake in the world) and The Bilby. The Channel Country supports an abundance of bird life including the Yellow Chat, Hall's Babbler, Black Falcon, Oriental Plover and the Plain's Wanderer.

#### **Education:**

Nil Child Minding facilities, Kindy available Mon, Wed and Fri (9am - 12pm), and excellent State pre-school by correspondence program available. Primary school only, grades prep-7. Single teacher school.

#### **General information:**

Nil banking facilities in town, nearest Commonwealth bank agent and Post office is Birdsville and Boulia. Mail delivered 2 times weekly by plane from Mount Isa. Town is serviced by Skytrans flying to Brisbane 2 times weekly.

Tourist season is generally between months of March and October. Travel outside of these months is very hazardous due to the extreme heat. Numbers of tourists is gradually increasing and include more bus/camping style tours routed north from Birdsville to Boulia. The vast majority of tourists travel this route prior to travelling from Boulia to Alice Springs via the Plenty Highway. This area is becoming increasingly more popular with 4WD travellers and is filled with excellent camping areas and areas of scenic beauty.

The area also has abundant wildlife. 'Ethabuka' Station is recognised world-wide as an important zoological area for numerous species of desert marsupials. 'Diamantina Lakes' Station is Queensland's most recently declared National Park and is home of the famous Bilby and numerous species of birdlife. It is situated on the Diamantina River between Bedourie and Winton and it is expected that travel to this area particularly will increase in the future once the park becomes fully operational.

The Channel country area is unique and contains, arguably, the best cattle fattening, toxin free country in Australia. Beef trucked from this area generates yearly export revenue in excess of 18 million dollars. The channel country is steeped in history being especially related to the cattle empire of Sir Sydney Kidman. Two of the cattle stations in the division are still owned by the Kidman company.

Other attractions are huge fresh water lakes Machattie, Phillipi, Torquinie, Mumbleberry just to name a few. These lakes and the Mulligan, Georgina and Diamantina River systems allow good recreational fishing with yellowbelly, bream and yabbies abundant in good seasons.

### **Policing:**

The Bedourie people have a very pro Police attitude. Crime rate is of the lowest in the state and locals will support Police so long as they are heavily involved in the community. No unemployment in the division with about 70% of the population working for the Diamantina Shire Council. The remainder are private contractors and ringers from the surrounding cattle stations. There is one Hotel in town and one Roadhouse. Fortnightly pay weekends are relatively busy but there are rarely any altercations and most situations can be fixed by just a Police presence. During the Summer, the town can be cut off for months at a time, during the flood most of the residents leave town and the population drops by 50%. During the tourist season The majority of Policing involves desert rescues EPIRB activations and traffic crashes. Patrols can sometimes last for 2-3 days where you are sleeping in a swag by a campfire.

Police from Bedourie work in very close with Boulia and Birdsville Police and often conduct joint operations throughout the year.

### **Recreation:**

Hunting is exceptional with abundant pigs, feral camels and dingoes. Current bounty on Dingoes is \$10. The cattle stations are on side with Police and usually allow you to shoot on their properties.

Fishing is good with Yellowbelly and Yabbies abundant in the creeks. Waterskiing is also popular with permanent deep waterholes dotted all over the division.

The town has a large town common for motorbike and horse riding. Horses and cattle can be kept on the town common for a small fee paid to the Diamantina Council. Good quality stables are available to use and fencing is in good condition.

Overview: Policing in Bedourie is very rewarding and you will find that working in a pro police town will make you more involved in town events and activities.

Contact the Shire Council for more information on (07) 4646 1202 or <http://www.diamantina.qld.gov.au>.

If you need to telephone this station or to contact police regarding any non-urgent matters, please call Policelink on 131 444.

**In an emergency, dial Triple Zero (000).**