

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION  
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2005-2006 BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING  
30 ,31 MAY and 3 JUNE 2005**

**EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Outcome 3: Increased workforce participation**

**Output Group3.2: Labour Market Strategies**

**Outputs3.2.2: Industry and Labour Supply Strategies**

**Question Number: W121-06**

**Question:**

Senator Carr asked in writing: In evidence to the committee, officials stated that the move of AES into Dubbo was predicated on their being significant labour market opportunities in that region. Can DEWR provide any advice about the labour market opportunities that exist in Wagga Wagga?

**Answer:**

There has been substantial development into a diverse range of industrial and business enterprises, with major national and international companies establishing operations and expanding employment opportunities in Wagga Wagga. These include, for example, Cargill Foods, Heinz, Riverine Wool Combing, Laminex Industries, Charles Sturt University and the Toll Group.

According to the DEWR Small Area Labour Market estimates, the unemployment rate for Wagga Wagga LGA for the year ended December 2004 was 4.1%. The unemployment rates for NSW and non-Sydney NSW over the same period were 5.4% and 6.6% respectively. For the year ended December 2003, the unemployment rate for Wagga Wagga was 5.2%.