



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
COLLEGE of AGRICULTURE  
*Cunderdin*

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2025



# From the Principal

I would like to acknowledge the land on which we learn, Nyoongar Ballardong country and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging in our journey toward reconciliation. 2025 was yet again another year of student achievements and success, for which all of our Year 11 and 12 students should be very proud. Our results year-in-year-out speak for themselves, and our College continues to prepare our graduates for employment, apprenticeship, training or university pathways, as they are highly sought after by industry and employers.

Some of our notable achievements include (but not limited to):

- 100% WACE Attainment
- 100% OLNA Attainment (targeted literacy and numeracy intervention support)
- 43% of graduating students attained at least one (1) Certificate III Qualification each
- The average number of full qualifications attained per graduating student in 2025 was 4.27 each
- 98% of all Year 12 students attained a minimum of X3 full Qualifications each
- Six (6) students graduated with a total of seven (7) Certificate II and III qualifications each, with four (4) students attaining six (6) full qualifications each
- 100% achievement rates for Certificate III Pork Production, and Certificates II in Wool Handling, Engineering Pathways, Construction Pathways and Automotive Vocational Preparation.
- Increased numbers participating in the ATAR Pathway—22% of 2025 graduates (16% in 2024)
- Introduction of Dormitory and Sports Captain student leadership roles (2026)
- Major infrastructure upgrades to the piggery, butcher shop, residential boarding bathrooms.

## **2025 SCSA Awards:**

- ◇ Fredrick de Beer— VET Certificate of Excellence
- ◇ Fredrick de Beer—Certificate of Merit
- ◇ Drew Hall—Certificate of Merit

Congratulations to the graduating class of 2025. I wish you all the best in your future pathways and I have no doubt you will all make a valuable contribution to the agriculture and allied industries for many years to come.



*Matt Dowell, Principal*

# 2025 Highlights

WA College of Agriculture - Cunderdin  
Published by Matt Dowell · Just now ·

As we come to the finish of yet another year of success, we are pleased to share that 100% of our Year 12's attained their WACE!!!!... See more

# 100%

## WACE ATTAINMENT FOR ALL YEAR 12's !!



WA College of Agriculture - Cunderdin  
Published by Matt Dowell · October 13 ·

\*\*\* 100% OLNA ATTAINMENT RATE FOR OUR YEAR 12's \*\*\*... See more

# 100%

## OLNA ATTAINMENT FOR ALL YEAR 12's !!



WA College of Agriculture - Cunderdin  
Published by Matt Dowell · September 30 ·

A massive congratulations to 2013 graduate, Tiffany Davey for being named the 2025 WA Rural Ambassador! We are so proud to see our Cunderdin Ag alumni leading the way!... See more

Lachlan Hunter MP · is at Perth Royal Show.  
September 29 ·



# School Pathways and Transition

## Retention

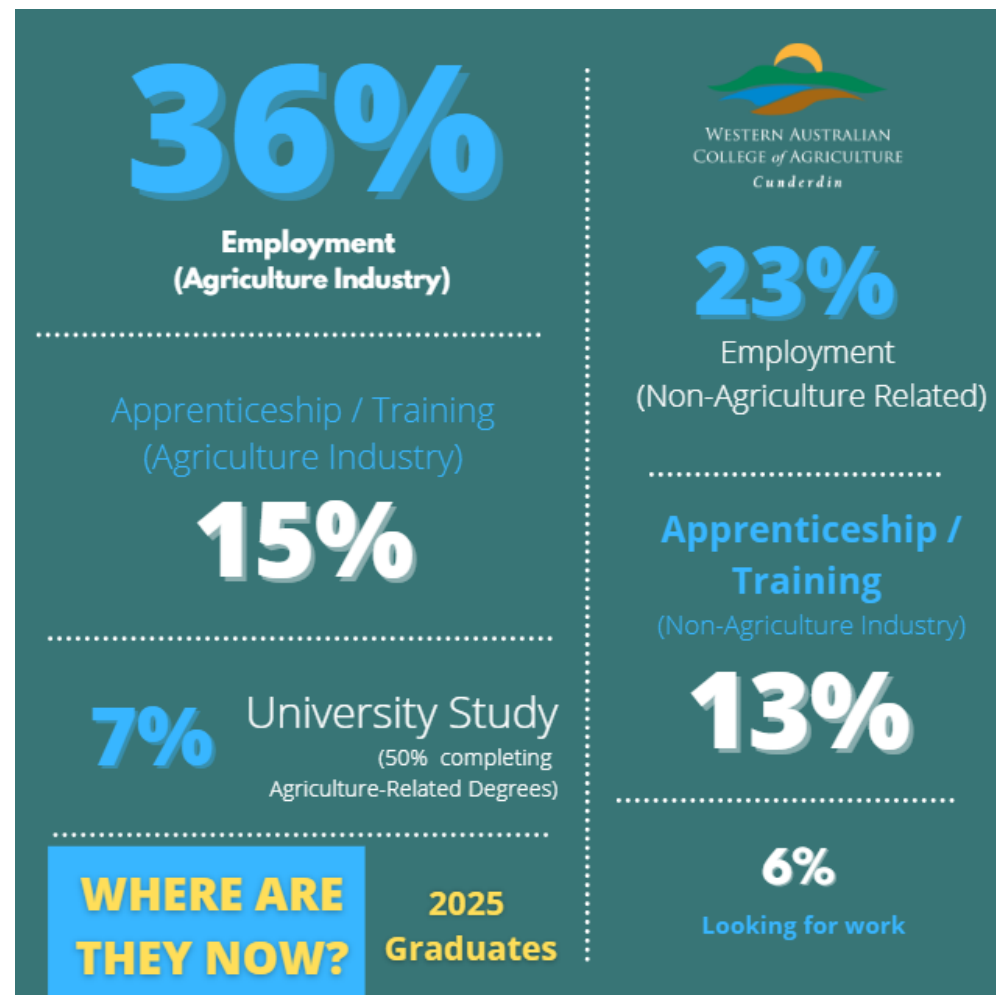
2025 saw 6 out of 62 students (10%) in the graduating cohort depart school early for an apprenticeship or full-time employment, compared to 6% in 2024. The college has embedded a number of strategies to address retention concerns that were at their peak in 2021 (19%), which occurred during COVID and workforce supply issues that captured many students who chose to return to the family farm, or take on apprenticeship opportunities created by industry to address staffing supply shortages. The college is pleased to see a stabilising trend to post-COVID retention statistics.

Table 1. Student numbers						
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Semester 1 Census	67	67	66	67	65	58
Semester 2 Census	60	60	63	61	64	56
Students reported to the Authority	62	61	63	65	65	58
Students in the cohort	69	73	76	71	68	62
Alternative pathways: count(% of students in the cohort)						
Year 11 repeat						
Left school – NOA	6	11	11	8	4	5
Left school – other verified	2	1				1
Left school – unverified		2	2			
Total (%)	8 (12%)	14 (19%)	13 (17%)	8 (11%)	4 (6%)	6 (10%)

Table 4. Secondary metrics						
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Completion rate	85.5%	68%	76.3%	78.9%	85.3%	87.1%

## Post-School Transition

The College is renowned for exceptional, ongoing post-school transition outcomes. Our data indicates that 94% of our 2024 graduates have successfully transitioned into employment, training, apprenticeships, or university study as of February 2026. 53% of graduates are currently working in the agriculture industry or completing an agriculture-related apprenticeship, traineeship or university degree. Employment on farms and mechanic-based apprenticeships continue to be popular pathway choices for graduates.



# WACE Attainment

## 2025 WACE Analysis

WACE attainment was exceptional for 2025, with 100% of WACE eligible Year 12 students achieving WACE in 2025. This places the college at 100% higher than that of Like Schools 93% and 90% higher than the State Average. Targeted OLN intervention across the College enabled 100% of students to meet the Literacy and Numeracy competency requirement. Early identification of students at educational risk, increased engagement with parents, and effective intervention implemented by all areas of the College enabled students to access the support they needed to achieve WACE requirements.

## 2025 Highlights

- 100% of students attained WACE in 2025 (54 students) which has not been achieved since 2020.
- 100% of students met C grade requirements
- 100% of students met both literacy and numeracy requirements (OLNA) which has hindered WACE attainment rates in previous years, due to support programs led by senior teachers.

## 2025 Challenges

- Staff movements made it challenging to ensure continuity of teaching and learning across a range of courses.
- Retention of students with 5 students leaving throughout the course of the year (all of these students entered full time employment)

## Future Focus

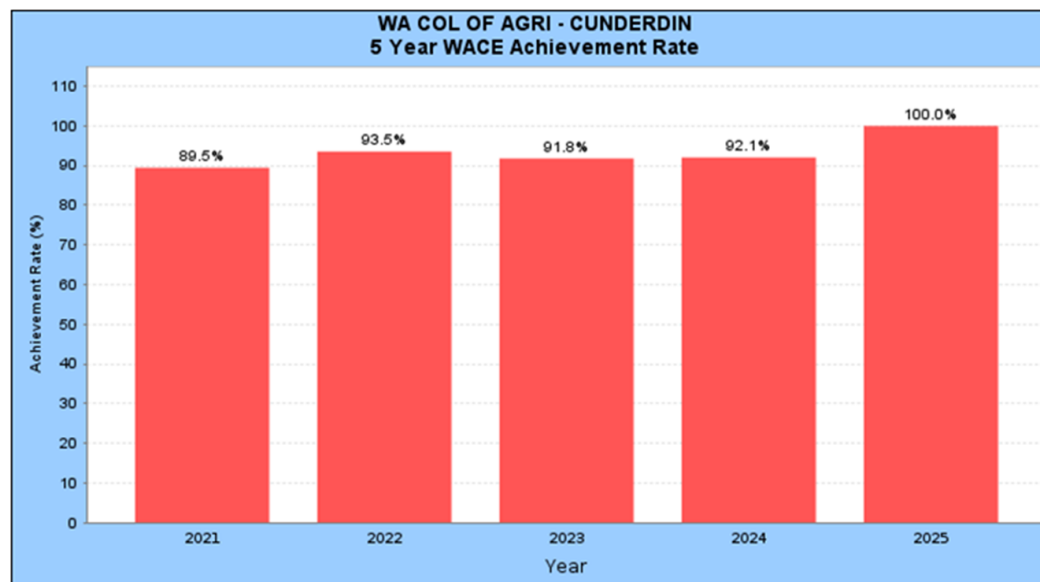
Maintaining the literacy and numeracy support programs continues to be a focus for the senior teachers and EAs through the use of small group intervention programs, OLN support online and targeted in-class support. All instructional staff will continue to support skill development through the implementation of the Whole College Instructional Model and differentiated teaching strategies. Utilising EAs across all 3 areas of the College will further support development of literacy and numeracy skills in relevant contexts, supporting student learning and increasing student success which will support C grade achievement rates for our students. The College will also continue to identify SAER students early across all areas of the College, enabling early support from Student Services.

*Leanne Sjollema, Associate Principal*

*94% of parents 'agree' or 'strongly agree' that they are "satisfied with the overall standard of education achieved at the school"*

**Table 2. WACE**

WACE eligible students: count (%)						
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
School – cohort	59 (86%)	57 (78%)	62 (82%)	61 (86%)	63 (93%)	54 (87%)
Like Schools	77%	85%	71%	79%	78%	87%
State - DOE	70%	70%	64%	68%	69%	71%
WACE achievement rate: count (%)						
School – cohort	59 (86%)	51 (70%)	58 (76%)	56 (79%)	58 (85%)	54 (87%)
School – WACE eligible	59 (100%)	51 (89%)	58 (94%)	56 (92%)	58 (92%)	54 (100%)
Like Schools (%)	92%	90%	92%	91%	93%	93%
State – DOE	89%	89%	89%	90%	90%	90%
WACE requirements met*: count(%)						
Breadth and depth	59 (100%)	56 (98%)	62 (100%)	60 (98%)	63 (100%)	54 (100%)
C grade (Achievement standard)	59 (100%)	56 (98%)	62 (100%)	60 (98%)	63 (100%)	54 (100%)
English completion	59 (100%)	57 (100%)	62 (100%)	61 (100%)	63 (100%)	54 (100%)
Literacy and numeracy	59 (100%)	52 (91%)	58 (94%)	57 (93%)	58 (92%)	54 (100%)



# ATAR Review

## 2025 ATAR Review

In 2025, we had twelve (12) Year 12 students completing full pathway, up from eleven (11) students in 2024, eight (8) in 2023 and five (5) in 2022. Our students take four (4) courses: English (ATAR), Mathematics Applications (ATAR), Agricultural Science and Technology (ATAR) and Agribusiness (ATAR). The engagement in course materials is supported by practical investigations, excursions to industry and tertiary institutions. The 2024 Year 11 group remained strong throughout the year with one student leaving the college, finishing with 13 students.

## 2025 Highlights

- Increased numbers in Year 11 ATAR (18 students)
- Industry and tertiary institution visits of high quality and relevance to students
- Updated and revised ATAR Enhancement Plan
- Introduction of Y11 ATAR transition talk for parents and students in Term 4.

## 2025 Challenges

- Retention and appointment of qualified staff
- Some students not utilising pathway for university entrance and hence not placing value on the final WACE exam.
- Significant scaling of new Agriculture subjects impacted overall ATAR scores.

## Future Focus

- Building capacity of ATAR teachers – targeted PD, moderation, data PD.
- Attracting and retaining suitably qualified teachers
- Effective utilisation of study time
- Continued implementation of the ATAR Enhancement Plan to strengthen the ATAR pathway

Annette Wells, Head of Curriculum



Table 6. Student pathways						
ATAR						
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>ATAR participation rate:</b> count (% of cohort)						
School	11 (16%)	9 (12%)	5 (7%)	8 (11%)	11 (16%)	12 (19%)
WACE eligible	19%	16%	8%	13%	17%	22%
<b>ATAR performance:</b> count (% of ATAR students)						
99+						
90-98.95						
80-89.95			1 (20%)	1 (13%)	1 (9%)	
70-79.95	2 (18%)	2 (22%)	1 (20%)	1 (13%)		2 (17%)
55-69.95	2 (18%)	4 (44%)	1 (20%)	1 (13%)	1 (9%)	
<55	7 (64%)	3 (33%)	2 (40%)	5 (63%)	9 (82%)	10 (83%)
English scaled score 50+	5 (45%)	4 (44%)	2 (40%)	3 (38%)	1 (9%)	3 (25%)

90% of students agree or strongly agree that “staff in the Class area prepare me well for post-school pathways”.

# OLNA Review

## 2025 OLNA Review

Of our eligible students, 100% passed the necessary Numeracy and Literacy standards to achieve their WACE. This is an increase of 8% (from 92%) in 2024.

## 2025 Highlights

- 100% WACE attainment rate for all enrolled Year 12 students
- Targeted Literacy and Numeracy support with specialist Level 2 Senior Teachers.
- Common goal amongst staff to achieve positive OLNA outcome for students
- Tracking of students via tiered support document and regular learning area reviews
- Students engaged with OLNA Support programme.

## 2025 Challenges

- EA funding and training to support group work
- Uptake of in-class delivery to support those with low level literacy and/ or numeracy skills.
- Interventions run during prep time – impacted on staff and student engagement.

## Future Focus

- Further development of programs to assist learners in the classroom space whilst also providing small group support to focus on specific skills.
- Embedding literacy and numeracy skills in all lessons. Explicit instruction of skills in English and Maths lessons.
- Creation of task banks for students to practice OLNA style questions.
- Embed targeted literacy and numeracy support with specialist Level 2 teachers.

*Annette Wells, Head of Curriculum*

Table 3. OLNA						
Number of students who met the standard: count (%)						
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Reading</b>						
School (Cohort)	61 (88%)	59 (81%)	60 (79%)	62 (87%)	62 (91%)	56 (90%)
School (WACE eligible)	59 (100%)	54 (95%)	59 (95%)	60 (98%)	62 (98%)	54 (100%)
<b>Writing</b>						
School (Cohort)	61 (88%)	58 (79%)	59 (78%)	61 (86%)	61 (90%)	56 (90%)
School (WACE eligible)	59 (100%)	53 (93%)	58 (94%)	59 (97%)	61 (97%)	54 (100%)
<b>Numeracy</b>						
School (Cohort)	61 (88%)	59 (81%)	60 (79%)	61 (86%)	60 (88%)	56 (90%)
School (WACE eligible)	59 (100%)	54 (95%)	59 (95%)	59 (97%)	60 (95%)	54 (100%)



*92% of students 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that "Staff in the Class area at the College assist me to achieve to the best of my ability"*

# Vocational Education and Training

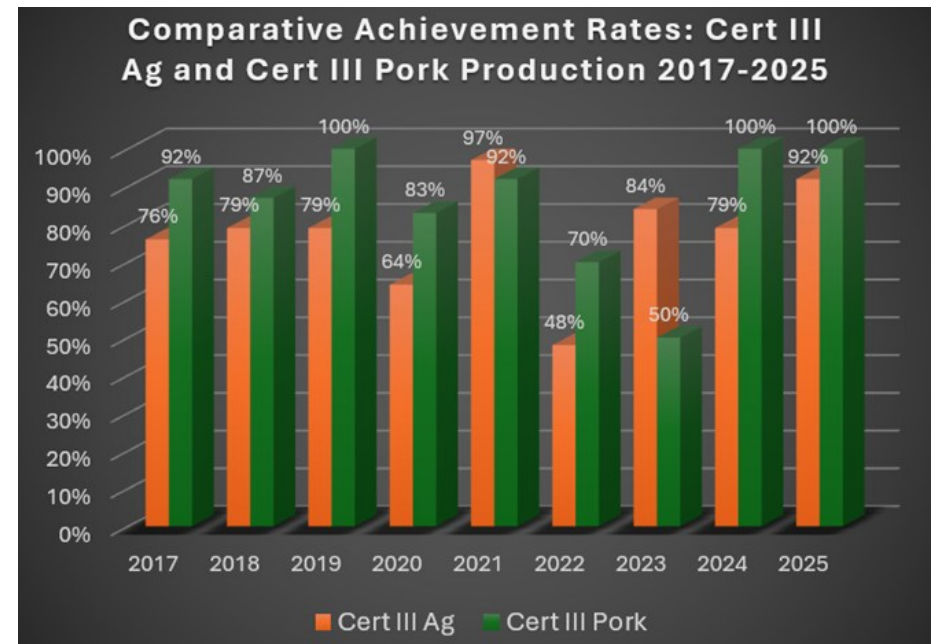
## 2025 VET Report

Cunderdin Agricultural Colleges' Registered Training Organisation (RTO-50505) has built up an excellent reputation in Vocational Education and Training for preparing young men and women to go into the work force. The College ensures an on-going commitment to making sure that training and learning programs reflect changing trends and emerging technologies in both the agricultural and trades fields.

The VET results achieved by students at Cunderdin Agricultural College in 2025 were again solid and in total, fifty-four (54) graduating Year 12s achieved 231 Certificates. Congratulations to all the students for their terrific achievements, and equally, many thanks to the training staff that have supported the students to realise their learning goals.

## 2025 Highlights

- 100% achievement of enrolled students in Certificate II in Engineering Pathways
- 100% achievement of enrolled students in Certificate II in Construction Pathways
- 100% achievement of enrolled students in Certificate II in Automotive Vocational Preparation
- 100% achievement of enrolled students in Certificate II in Wool Handling
- 100% achievement of enrolled students in Certificate III in Pork Production
- 98% achievement of enrolled students in Certificate II in Agriculture
- 97% achievement of enrolled students in Certificate II in Furniture Making Pathways
- 92% achievement of enrolled students in Certificate III in Agriculture
- 6 students achieved 7 Certificates.
- 4 students achieved 6 Certificates.
- The average number of full qualifications attained per graduating student in 2025 was **4.27**.
- The % of total Year 12 graduating students who attained a Cert III in Agriculture/ Pork Production/Advanced Wool Handling = **43%** (This is above our business plan target of 35%)
- The % of total Year 12 graduating students who attained a Cert III (Agriculture/Pork/ Advanced Wool Handling) = 42%



# Vocational Education and Training

## Analysis of the 2025 VET data (Trades and Farm)

Graduating numbers (**54**) were slightly down by 6 students compared to the previous 5-year average of 60. The lower figure is also partly due to several students gaining employment/apprenticeships during Yr 12 and moving into the workforce earlier.

The Trades area qualification achievement rates as shown in the highlights section (p1) were extremely pleasing and the high quality of work projects produced by the students is to be commended. These results are also testament to the dedication and support offered to the students by the trade teachers and vocational trainers employed at the college.

On farm the achievement rates for Certificate II in Agriculture (98%); Certificate II in Wool Handling (100%); and Certificate II in Shearing (83%) were really pleasing. In particular, both Certificate II in Wool Handling and Certificate II in Shearing achievement results were up significantly on last year's figures, however student enrolments in both these courses were approximately one third lower in 2025 compared to 2024. On an excellent note, it was fantastic to see our students perform so well and achieve great success at agricultural shows and competitions throughout Western Australia, reaffirming the great training provided to students by our farm training officers.

## 2025 Challenges

There were significantly fewer candidates undertaking Certificate III courses compared to recent years; in part, due to tightened Certificate III eligibility criteria. In response to the drop in numbers the college's RTO committee reviewed current Certificate III student application and selection processes. With notable input from Ms Leanne Sjollema (Associate Principal), some adjustments were made to the existing Grading Rubric and Rating Matrix for the 2026 intake of Certificate III students, as well as the student application form to streamline the process and to capture the appropriate target audience.

Several other strategies which the RTO committee have implemented for 2026 include:

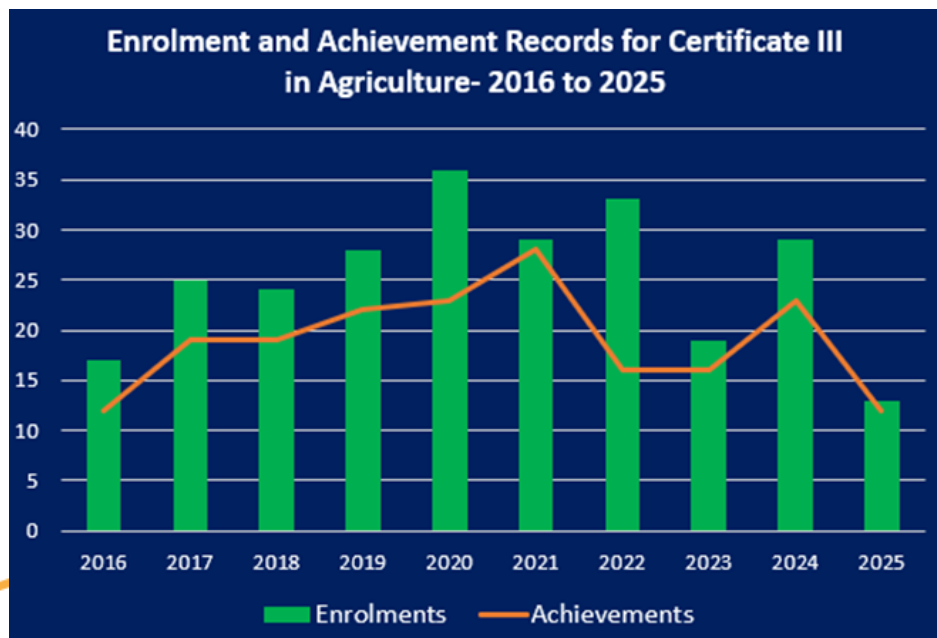
- Canvassing Year 11's earlier in Term 2 to gauge interest in Cert III.
- Target students who display high skills in Ag, and are academically strong.
- Assess students' induction paperwork to see who has previous ag experience.
- Commence the delivery of 2 Core units for Cert III in Yr 11 Term 4.
- Timetabled 2026 students into the same cycle for group delivery of theory and/or practical, including designated timetabled periods to now capture ATAR students and utilisation of period 7 in the new timetable structure.

The new changes also complemented the college's philosophy to match a student's capability with an appropriate AQF level III agricultural qualification enabling participants to challenge themselves and learn concepts in greater depth and complexity, making the most of their opportunities whilst at the college. Additionally, it also keeps us in-line with the *Certificate III Business Plan target of 35% of Year 12 students undertaking a Level 3 qualification.*

## Future Focus

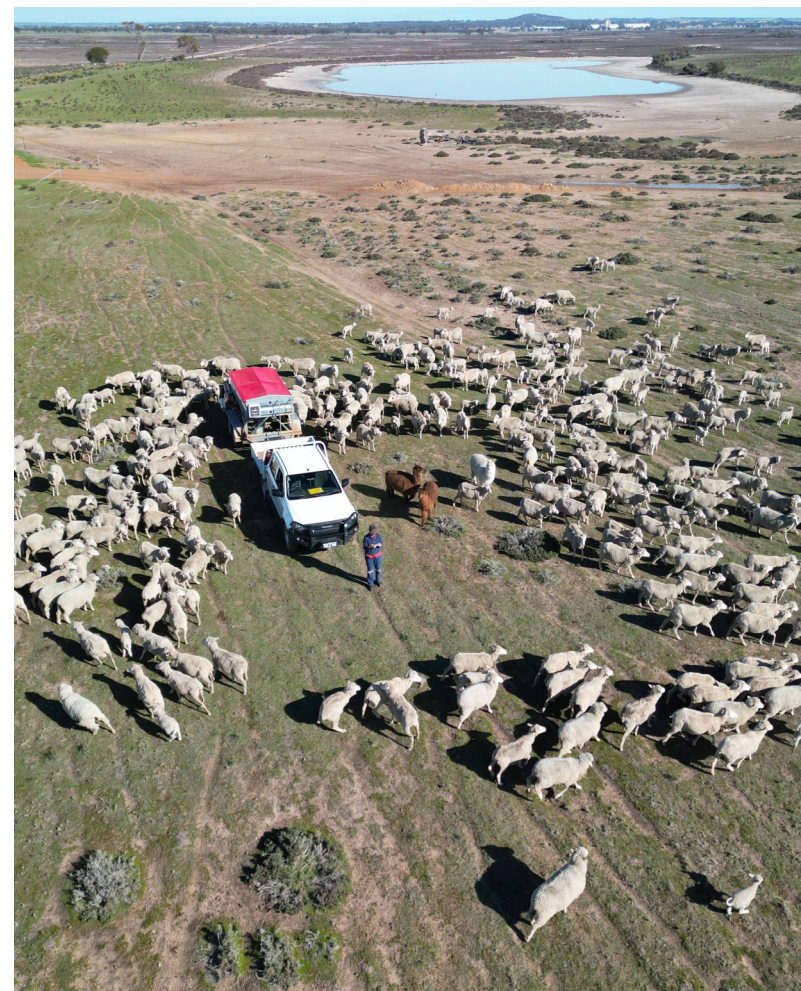
The College and its WHS Committee takes WHS matters very seriously and a key focus for next year will be ensuring that VET staff carry out routine **Take-5s/Toolbox meetings** prior to undertaking a particular work task or operating specific machinery and equipment. This is a simple, yet effective method that staff members can implement to remind their students and re-emphasize safety and risks in the workplace.

*Simon Longmire, RTO Compliance Officer*



# Vocational Education and Training

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>VET</b>						
<b>VET participation rate:</b> count (% of cohort)						
School VET enrolments	63 (91%)	62 (85%)	65 (86%)	63 (89%)	64 (94%)	57 (92%)
Funded VET students	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<b>Level of highest qualification achieved:</b> count (% of VET enrolled students)						
Diploma						
Certificate IV						
Certificate III	25 (40%)	28 (45%)	19 (29%)	20 (32%)	27 (42%)	18 (32%)
Certificate II	34 (54%)	29 (47%)	45 (69%)	40 (63%)	37 (58%)	36 (63%)
Certificate I						
No certificate completed	4 (6%)	5 (8%)	1 (2%)	3 (5%)		3 (5%)
<b>Students with more than one qualification:</b> count (% of VET enrolments)						
3+ qualifications	56 (89%)	55 (89%)	62 (95%)	60 (95%)	63 (98%)	53 (93%)
2 qualifications	3 (5%)	2 (3%)	1 (2%)		1 (2%)	1 (2%)
<b>Endorsed programs</b>						
<b>Unit achievement:</b> count (% of cohort)						
All endorsed programs	195	199	126	155	252	113



25. Our College develops pathways that assist students to access employment, training and/or further education post school.

- Strongly disagree 0
- Disagree 0
- Agree 24
- Strongly agree 28



2025 National Schools Opinion Survey—Parent response

# Trade Training Centre

## 2025 Trade Training Centre Review

The Trade Department continues to deliver exceptional outcomes for students in 2025, achieving a remarkable 99% success rate. A total of 130 Certificate II qualifications were completed across the Automotive, Construction, Engineering, and Furnishing disciplines. This outstanding result reflects our ongoing commitment to high standards and our dedication to supporting every student's success.

## 2025 Highlights

- The Learning Management System (LMS) has been a major focus for Trades this year, with full implementation of Engineering and Furnishing in 2025. The uptake by Year 11 students has been highly successful, delivering excellent outcomes for learners.
- Projects continue to be a standout feature of our trade programs, significantly enhancing student learning and engagement. Each department has demonstrated exceptional efforts to enrich the curriculum through meaningful, hands-on experiences:
  - ◊ **Engineering and Furnishing:** Personalised projects tailored to individual student interests.
  - ◊ **Construction:** The highly anticipated *Cubby House* projects, blending creativity with craftsmanship.
  - ◊ **Automotive:** The development of *Project Vehicles*, offering authentic, practical, real-world experience.
- The addition of a CNC plasma cutter to Engineering has been an exciting development and will significantly expand project opportunities for students. Access to modern technology is vital to our Trade programs, ensuring students are well-prepared with industry-relevant skills as they transition into the workforce.
- Trade Tours play a pivotal role in connecting students with industry, offering valuable insights into potential career pathways. This year, students visited prominent sites including Bruce Rock Engineering, Mader, and a range of local businesses, broadening their understanding of real-world applications and industry expectations.

## Achievements:

- 100% achievement of enrolled students in Certificate II in Engineering Pathways
- 100% achievement of enrolled students in Certificate II in Construction Pathways
- 100% achievement of enrolled students in Certificate II in Automotive Vocational Preparation

- 97% achievement of enrolled students in Certificate II in Furniture Making Pathways

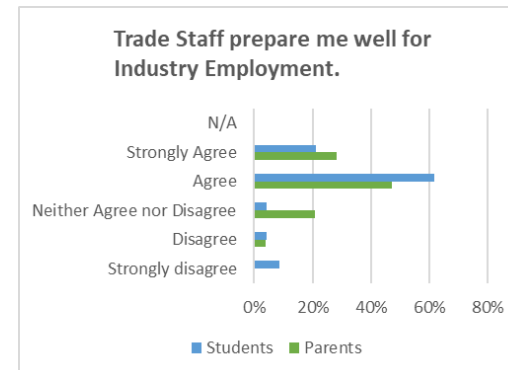
## 2025 Challenges

Staffing remained an issue for all of 2025. This impacted on not being able to introduce LMS in Construction without a regular teacher to drive implementation.

## Future Focus

Ensuring LMS is implemented in Construction is a priority for 2026. Now that we have a permanent construction teacher, this can proceed and will help bring consistency across the College.

*Stephen Prangnell, Head of Trades*



# Farm (Cropping)

## 2025 Cropping Review

The College manages approximately 2,500 hectares of arable land supporting an integrated cropping and pasture program. Each year, around 1,500 hectares are sown in rotation (wheat, barley, oats, triticale, lupins, lentils and canola), producing quality grain for the open market and feed for College enterprises.

The team also establishes and maintains productive pastures and cover crops, including clovers, serradella, saltbush and cereals, as well as producing hay and straw. A key strength of the program is its strong training focus: students gain hands-on experience with large-scale machinery across seeding, spraying, harvest and making hay, while developing capability in chemical safety, storage, handling and application. These opportunities directly support achievement of Certificate II and III in Agriculture.

## 2025 Highlights

- We seeded 372ha Wheat, 476ha Barley, 94 ha Oats, 42ha Triticale, 346ha Canola and 165ha Lupins.
- Barley yielded 3.2t/ha which is above our 7-year average of 2.8t/ha
- 90% of students achieving their Certificate II with one or more cropping-focused units of competency
- 96% of Cropping focused Certificate III in Agriculture students were successful in achieving the qualification.

## 2025 Challenges

- Later start to harvest due to seasonal conditions and multiple harvest bans and rain delays impacted training.
- Issues with the new seeder bin resulted in the Canola crop not being seeded in April. As a result, the entire program was seeded into dry conditions, with sufficient rainfall to initiate germination only occurring in the first week of June.
- We received only 237mm of growing season rain compared to 285mm in 2024.
- Canola yielding 0.9t/ha which is well below the 7 year average of 1.3t/ha
- Keeping up with technology advancements in a fast moving industry.



## Future Focus

- Keep improving our student rostering system to maintain student achievement in Cropping units and look at extending harvest opportunities for local students.
- Start seeding Canola in early April to capitalise on any early rain.
- Maintain our seeding program finishing in a timely manner before the 10<sup>th</sup> June.
- Sustain the rental program to ensure core machinery remains current.
- Maintain and periodically update a 15-year machinery replacement plan as well as oversee financial reserves to support the timely and strategic replacement of equipment.

*Daniel de Beer, Farm Manager*

*98% of Students 'Agree' or 'Strongly agree' that "Our college develops pathways that assist students to access employment, training and/or further education post-school"*

# Farm (Cattle)

## 2025 Cattle Review

Our goal at WACoA - Cunderdin is to train students in industry best practises relevant to the units of competency provided. Calving season 2025 unfortunately saw no calves born due to an unnoticed fertility or servicing issue with the bull, Quantum. The auction of the 2023 drop steers and cull heifers in the Trade Cattle sale at the Muchea Saleyards attracted between 328 and 366c/kg. This year the College had 40 cows and heifers mated in July to a Black Simmental bull generously loaned to us by WACoA – Harvey after our bull broke down. 10 of these cows and heifers were selected to take part in the Artificial Insemination program and were inseminated with superior Angus semen. Pregnancy test results for the 2026 drop have indicated an 80% conception rate.

## 2025 Highlights

- Appointment of a Cattle TO – Bethanie Moore (3 days per week)
- Sale of all excess yearlings
- Increased interest in cattle enterprise due to having a cattle TO
- 80% PTIC for 2026 drop

## 2025 Challenges

- No calves from 2024 mating – bull failure
- Sourcing a replacement bull
- No dedicated cattle TO for the end of 2024 and beginning of 2025 leading to management stumbles/failures

## Future Focus

- Selection and purchase of a new bull before the 2026 mating period
- Engage more students in the cattle enterprise
- Upgrade fencing to accommodate safe and effective management of all cattle
- Research opportunity to incorporate cattle collars for virtual fencing
- Increase in data collection for incorporation into classroom learning

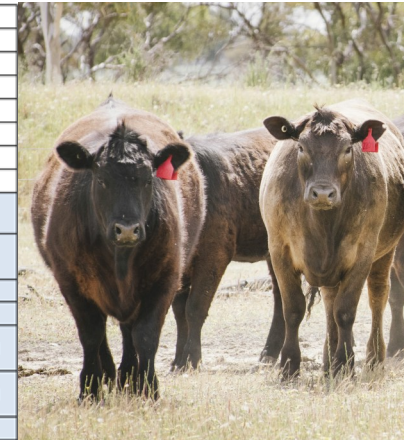
*Kylie Iles, Assistant Farm Manager*

*98% of Students 'Agree' or 'Strongly agree' that "This college fosters opportunities for students to develop knowledge, skills and values within the context of rural industries"*

## Faecal egg testing results:

Species: Cattle

Group number	1	2
ID	Pad #13	Pad #9
Age/class	Mature Cows	Heifers
% scouring	-	-
% dying	-	-
Last drench date	-	-
Drench used	-	-
Calving date	-	-
Strongyle eggs per gram of faeces	0	20
Nematodirus eggs per gram of faeces	0	0
Coccidia	Absent	Low
<u>Moniezia</u> (tapeworm)	Absent	Absent
Liver Fluke ( <i>Fasciola hepatica</i> ) eggs detected in 10 g faeces	Not requested	Not requested
Stomach fluke ( <i>Paramphistome</i> ) eggs detected in 10 g faeces	Not requested	Not requested
Larval culture above 100 epg	Not required	Not required



# Farm (Piggery)

## 2025 Piggery Review

In 2024, nine students enrolled in and successfully completed the Certificate III in Pork Production, resulting in a 100% qualification completion rate. All students studying Certificate II in Agriculture also gained units of competency through the college piggery program. Feedback from pork industry representatives and producers regarding student performance was consistently positive. For the first time, pigs and students from the College competed at the Perth Royal Show, achieving encouraging results. Certificate III students also participated in an industry-related camp for the first time, which included visits to two commercial farms.

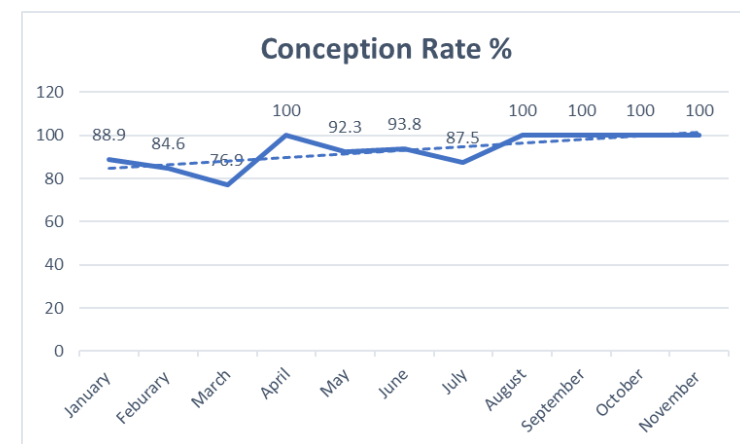
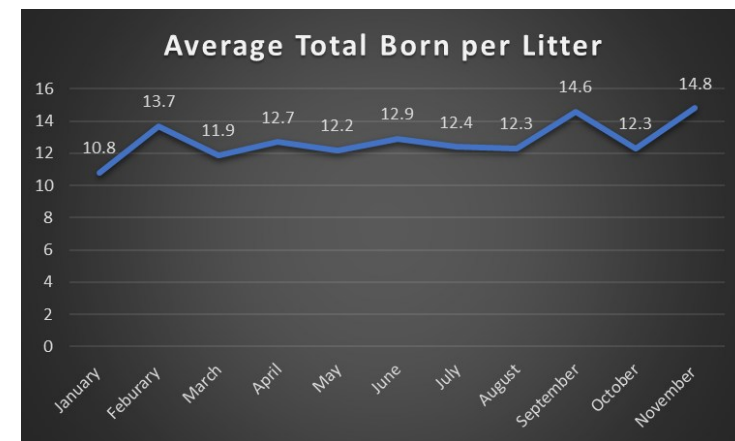
Additionally, the piggery batch transition cycle was extended from two weeks to four weeks, delivering benefits to both pig production outcomes and student learning opportunities.

## 2025 Highlights

- Zero Erysipelas related pig deaths.
- Grower pigs reaching market weight within 16 weeks.
- Use of Regumate to synchronise oestrus in gilts and sows to reduce unproductive gaps.
- Sow replacement rate up 3.2% compared to 2023
- Percentage bred by 7 days up 9.8% compared to 2023
- Conception rate up 0.4% compared to 2023
- Average total born per litter 12.6 (target 11.5)
- Average pigs weaned 10.1 (target 9.5)
- Trialled PCAI catheters with students learning to use them.
- Blood tests for Influenza returned a negative result for the farm
- Plans in motion to install 2 additional eco shelters to house grower pigs
- APIQ Audit: zero follow up corrective actions required

*89% of Students 'Agree' or 'Strongly agree' and 96% of Parents 'Agree' or 'Strongly agree' that "Farm staff prepare me well for industry employment"*

- APIQ Audit successfully retained "Gestation sow stall free" status
- Cat problem rectified, zero cat related piglet deaths since "cat proofing" farrowing shed and extensive trapping.
- Consultation with Altech nutritionist to implement improved diets.
- Good control of fly infestations reflected in vet reports.



# Farm (Piggery)

## 2025 Challenges

- Infrastructure damage and ongoing maintenance.
- Rodent population significant, subsequent infrastructure damage and feed contamination.
- Increased workload of weekend staff while the batching system transitions to 4 week (Regumate).
- Day one piglet care not happening as farrowing occurs on a weekend resulting in higher still borns, lay overs, chilled piglets and low attention to sow health post-farrowing.
- Piglets born alive down 0.5% compared to 2023.
- Blood test results returned positive for Mycoplasma.
- Several cases of greasy pig in farrowing unit.
- Summer infertility dropping conception rates below target.

## Future Focus

- Switch from DMS to Altech to better support our herds need.
- Focus gilt selection of maternal lines for litter size and lactation performance.
- Phase out the use of Duroc lines as replacement sows (unless used in student learning) .
- AI gilts as part of new batch system.
- High focus on post-weaning care.
- Implement “feed-back” routinely to gestating sows to reduce medication use and improve progeny performance.
- Increase industry involvement and excursions for cert III Pork students.
- 100% pass rate for Cert III Pork students.
- Installation of eco-shelters for grower pigs and phase out the need to tail dock piglets.
- Controlling the rodent population.
- Investigate the possibility of farrowing during the week rather than the weekend to better perform day-one care.
- Increase training of weekend staff to better identify and report welfare issues.

*Jemma Read, Piggery Technical Officers*



# Farm (Sheep)

## 2025 Sheep Review

The College runs an approximately 1500 head self-replacing Merino flock of AMS bloodlines, as well as a 50 head Poll Dorset Stud. The Sheep enterprise delivers multiple Certificates namely, Certificate II in Shearing, Certificate II in Wool Handling and facilitates Certificate III in Advanced Wool Handling which is delivered by South Regional TAFE. As well as multiple competencies for Certificate II in Agriculture and contributions towards units in Certificate III in Agriculture.

## 2025 Highlights

- Selling 85% of our saleable wether lambs before the new year.
- 85% of students enrolled in Certificate II in Shearing achieved their qualification.
- Winner of the Katanning Rabobank Merino Challenge.
- Multiple placings for students competing in Junior Judging and Shearing events. The students selected the fleece that won the Reserve Champion wool fleece at the Perth Royal Show.



## 2025 Challenges

- Increasing student interest in livestock areas of the Farm – competing with machinery and cropping interests.
- Maintaining student interest in Shearing and Wool Handling.
- Disappointing results from the Embryo Transfer program resulting in revaluation of the program.
- Reduced lambing percentages in the Merino mobs.
- Reduction of funding from AWI for shearing and wool handling programs.



## Future Focus

- Make sure we have 60 tonnes of oats, 30 tonnes of lupins and 110 large round bales available for supplementary feed.
- Tag all lambs born in 2026 with electronic NLIS tags and use the EID tag reader and TruTest scales at the College to start monitoring growth rates.
- Introduce the use of the Clipex auto drafter to draft weaner lambs into different weight ranges.
- Attending shearing competitions and shearer training days.
- Improving our lambing percentage in the Merino and Poll Dorset flocks.
- Improve record keeping for lambing and weaning percentages
- Commence pregnancy scanning for the Merino Ewes and dividing into singles and multiples mobs.

*Tameka Baker & Marika Martini, Sheep Technical Officers*

*94% of Parents 'Agree' or 'Strongly agree' that "Farm staff keep my child safe through following occupational health and safety standards"*

# Farm (Butcher Shop)

## 2025 Butcher Shop Review

The College abattoir and butcher shop allows students to be involved in the bridging aspect of “paddock to plate”, which is the humane slaughtering and high-quality processing of livestock produced at the College. It allows them to be hands-on when it comes to turning a hanging carcass into edible cuts of meat from a variety of species. The facility produces fresh lamb and pork for the College kitchen as well as currently processing beef primal cuts purchased from an outside supplier.

With a staff member now allocated to the butcher shop, it is intended to regain the ability to process 60+ pigs and 80+ lambs/sheep throughout the coming year.

## 2025 Highlights

- Appointment of a dedicated staff member to the abattoir and butcher shop with ongoing support and mentoring from former College butchers.
- Renovation of cool rooms, freezer and railings to improve facility. Selling 60% of our saleable stock before the price dive.

## 2025 Challenges

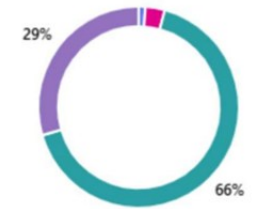
- Not being able to slaughter College cattle due to safety concerns in the knocking box.
- Having new staff member approved for slaughtering and processing through relevant authorities.

## Future Focus

- Work with relevant departments to get the abattoir suitable for slaughtering cattle again.
- Regain the ability to process 60+ pigs and 80+ lambs/sheep each year.

15. The college gives me opportunities to do interesting things.

Strongly disagree	1
Disagree	3
Agree	63
Strongly agree	28



# Student Wellbeing

## 2025 Student Wellbeing Review

In Term 2 we welcomed a Chaplain from Youth Care who serviced our College two consecutive days per fortnight (in addition to our Student Support Officer). In Term 4 we appointed a Student Support Officer from Anglicare two days per week. Students were given the opportunity to make appointments and access support. These roles were invaluable, ensuring student's needs were being met. The additional personnel allowed us to reach more students and focus on preventative strategies.

The Wellbeing Program has been enhanced this year through the regular weekly meetings of the Student Services Team, lead by the Wellbeing Coordinator and consisting of the School Psychologist, Associate Principal, Residential Manager, Student Wellbeing Officer, Assistant Farm Manager, and a representative from both Class and Trades areas.

## 2025 Highlights

- Wellio program – Wellbeing lessons were age appropriate and engaging.
- Continuation of Wellbeing Officer Role
- Reintroduction of Chaplain
- Wellbeing Day
- Teen Mental Health First Aid and PARTY program
- Growth Hunting Leadership Camp (Year 11s)
- Survey Results – Staff – What we do well at the college is 'Student Wellbeing'
- Weekly Meetings with Wellbeing Officer and School Psychologist
- Continuation of WOW
- Set up of Staff Wellbeing Committee
- Introduction of Sports Captain and Dorm Captain

## 2025 Challenges

- Inconsistent servicing from Chaplain providers
- Wellbeing coordinator only working four days a week
- Coordinating suitable times for the Staff Wellbeing Committee to meet.

## Future Focus

- Continue weekly meetings with Wellbeing Coordinator and School Psychologist
- Wellbeing Committee meetings twice a term.
- Implement the 2026 'Staff Wellbeing Plan'
- Students Services Team to meeting fortnightly, with alternate weeks scheduled planning session with Associate Principal, Residential Supervisor and Positive Culture and Wellbeing Coordinator.
- Continue WOW – What's on Wednesdays? Facilitated by student leaders. Planned activities from 7:30-8:30pm. Introduce additional activity on Monday's from 4:30-5:30pm on grassed area.
- Liaise with student leaders to organise events to promote Act Belong Commit. Encourage students out of rooms. (BBQ Breakfast Saturdays, spike ball on the grassed area, minute to win it activities)

*Kylie Squiers, Wellbeing Coordinator*



*100% of staff and parents and 86% of students surveyed in 2025 'Agree' or 'Strongly Agree' that "The College supports student wellbeing and mental health"*

# Residential

## 2025 Residential Review

The Residential Program (Boarding) continues to be an integral part of what it is to be at Western Australian College of Agriculture, Cunderdin. Boarding builds self-confidence and resilience. Our young people are given support and guidance to be the very best they can be while learning life skills and building life-long networks and friendships.

## 2025 Highlights

- Successful induction and orientation days, with Year 11 students reporting feeling welcomed and well-informed.
- Launch of the Residential Student Mentoring Pilot in Term 1, receiving highly positive feedback from students and staff; parents recommended ongoing communication beyond Term 1.
- QR codes for Student Wellbeing implemented effectively, providing a confidential channel for boarders to report concerns or issues.
- Increase in students participating in activities after school, including 'What's On Wednesday', after-school trades workshops and gym and Rec Centre usage.

## 2025 Challenges

- Aging infrastructure and limited contractor availability have delayed essential maintenance.

## Future Focus

- Expand and strengthen the Residential Student Mentoring Program, incorporating improved communication channels such as email to address previous challenges with phone contact.
- Introduce a themed dinner celebrating First Nations culture.
- Establish Dorm Captains to enhance student leadership opportunities.
- Establish a 'Senior Supervisor' role to enhance support and develop leadership.

*Kristine Van, Residential Manager*



21. Staff at the college care about my child.

Strongly disagree	0
Disagree	0
Agree	30
Strongly agree	22



*98% of parents 'agree' or 'strongly agree' that "My child feels safe at the college"*

# College Board Report

## 2025 in Review

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Matt Dowell and all of the staff at the WA College of Agriculture, Cunderdin, for yet another successful year. My sincere thanks to the board members for your input and support during 2025.

The College continues to achieve outstanding academic and training results. This year's Year 12 cohort will graduate with an average of 4.27 Certificate II or III qualifications; a fantastic result. The valedictory highlighted and celebrated the individual and collective successes for 2025. Additionally, the college's exceptional reputation for quality education and training programs was acknowledged via the outstanding achievements of all Year 12 graduates who achieved their OLN and their WACE, and once again with multiple SCSA award recipients.

The College Open Day was once again very successful, with many visitors and industry exhibitors. College participation at the Royal Show involved students competing in a range of competitions, with the College taking out several ribbons and accolades, including the overall AWI Future Sheep Breeders Challenge. Students also attended and competed at a variety of rural shows during the year, showcasing their skills and abilities, and engaging in both industry and local community.

The College continues to consult with industry to ensure programs are aligned with industry needs, and develop the knowledge and skills required for students to successfully transition into the agriculture and related industries. Additionally, it is pleasing to see great progress with the college's High Impact Teaching model agenda, and great buy-in from staff.

I would also like to highlight the phenomenal feedback provided by staff, parents and students in the 2025 National Schools Opinion Survey. This feedback validates the exceptional work undertaken to provide engaging and meaningful opportunities to students, and staff and the wider college community should be proud.

I would like to acknowledge the work that has gone into sourcing funds for several major infrastructure projects, including the piggery eco shelters, farrowing shed and effluent pond upgrades, residential bathroom upgrades and recarpeting, and a brand new science classroom scheduled to be installed mid-2026.

It is my objective as board chair to pursue political support to provide funding for a significant, much-needed improvement for residential boarding and staff housing.

My thanks to Principal Matt Dowell and the dedicated team at the college for yet another exceptional year of achievements..

*Graham Cooper, School Board Chairperson*



# Financial Summary

ONE LINE BUDGET - Dec 2025 ( Verified Dec Cash)		
	Current Budget (\$)	Actual YTD (\$)
Carry Forward (Cash):	1,035,274	1,035,274
Carry Forward (Salary):	639,845	639,845
<b>INCOME</b>		
Student-Centred Funding (including Transfers & Adjustments):	6,957,061	6,957,061
Locally Raised Funds:	2,215,228	2,220,609
<b>Total Funds:</b>	<b>10,847,408</b>	<b>10,852,789</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Salaries:	4,856,435	4,856,435
Goods and Services (Cash):	4,749,300	4,754,840
<b>Total Expenditure:</b>	<b>9,605,735</b>	<b>9,611,275</b>
<b>VARIANCE:</b>	<b>1,241,673</b>	<b>1,241,514</b>

EXPENDITURE - Dec 2025 ( Verified Dec Cash)		
	Current Budget (\$)	Actual YTD (\$)
<b>SALARIES</b>		
Appointed Staff	4,659,449	4,659,449
New Appointments	0	0
Casual Payments	168,809	168,809
Other Salary Expenditure	28,177	28,177
<b>Total Funds:</b>	<b>4,856,435</b>	<b>4,856,435</b>
<b>GOODS AND SERVICES (CASH EXPENDITURE)</b>		
Administration	103,153	103,153
Lease Payments	227,028	227,028
Utilities, Facilities and Maintenance	689,351	689,351
Buildings, Property and Equipment	142,260	142,260
Curriculum and Student Services	419,402	419,402
Professional Development	33,467	33,467
Transfer to Reserve	397,350	397,350
Other Expenditure	66,631	66,633
Payment to CO, Regional Office and Other schools	2,762	2,762
Residential Operations	294,206	294,206
Residential Boarding Fees to CO (Ag Colleges only)	0	0
Farm Operations (Ag and Farm Schools only)	1,719,976	1,725,513
Farm Revenue to CO (Ag and Farm Schools only)	653,715	653,715
Camp School Fees to CO (Camp Schools only)	0	0
<b>Total Funds:</b>	<b>4,749,301</b>	<b>4,754,840</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,605,736</b>	<b>9,611,275</b>

INCOME - Dec 2025 ( Verified Dec Cash)		
	Current Budget (\$)	Actual YTD (\$)
Carry Forward (Cash)	1,035,274	1,035,274
Carry Forward (Salary)	639,845	639,845
<b>STUDENT-CENTRED FUNDING</b>		
Per Student	1,481,049	1,481,049
School and Student Characteristics	1,210,625	1,210,625
Disability Adjustments	(6,492)	(6,492)
Targeted Initiatives	241,819	241,819
Operational Response Allocation	3,996,260	3,996,260
<b>Total Funds:</b>	<b>6,923,261</b>	<b>6,923,261</b>
<b>TRANSFERS AND ADJUSTMENTS</b>		
Regional Allocation	33,800	33,800
School Transfers – Salary	(195,493)	(195,493)
School Transfers - Cash	195,493	195,493
Department Adjustments	0	0
<b>Total Funds:</b>	<b>33,800</b>	<b>33,800</b>
<b>LOCALLY RAISED FUNDS (REVENUE)</b>		
Voluntary Contributions	0	0
Charges and Fees	362,019	362,019
Fees from Facilities Hire	28,983	28,983
Fundraising/Donations/Sponsorships	34,747	34,747
Commonwealth Govt Revenues	28,107	28,107
Other State Govt/Local Govt Revenues	1,473	1,473
Revenue from CO, Regional Office and Other school	297	297
Other Revenues	281,175	281,176
Transfer from Reserve or DGR	180,000	180,000
Residential Accommodation	0	0
Farm Revenue (Ag and Farm Schools only)	1,298,428	1,303,807
Camp School Fees (Camp Schools only)	0	0
<b>Total Funds:</b>	<b>2,215,229</b>	<b>2,220,609</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,847,409</b>	<b>10,852,789</b>



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
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*Cunderdin*