



WA Budget Overview

2024-25

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2024-25 Budget Overview

Acknowledgement of Country

The Government of Western Australia acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community.

We pay our respects to all members of Aboriginal communities and their cultures; and to Elders past and present.

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A message from the Treasurer

I am honoured to deliver the eighth Budget of the WA Labor Government, and my first as Treasurer.

It is a Budget presented at a time when the WA economy is firing on all cylinders.

At a time when we have record population growth, with a 94,000 increase over the year to September 2023.

And at a time when our nation emerges from a cycle of high inflation.

This Budget rises to the challenge and helps Western Australians with the cost of living.

It delivers the infrastructure to continue job creation, diversify our economy and advance economic growth.

It increases funding for housing, health and education to deliver services to our growing population.

It invests in the jobs of the future and energy transition, setting WA up for the long term.

This Budget maintains this Government's record of responsible financial management.

We will deliver a sixth operating surplus this year, and the Budget is forecast to remain in surplus across the next four years.

Relative to the size of Western Australia's economy, our net debt forecasts remain the most affordable in the nation.

We have achieved this while continuing our record investment in infrastructure that will shape our State for generations to come.



Rita Saffioti MLA
Treasurer



A message from the Premier

Our Government has transformed the economy and turned the State's finances around.

What was the nation's weakest economy eight years ago, is now the strongest. What was the nation's highest debt burden, is now the lowest.

We have overseen the creation of more than 300,000 jobs since coming to office in 2017.

While the economy is strong, and unemployment remains at an historic low, we recognise everyday expenses are impacting working families.

This year's State Budget responds to the immediate needs of Western Australians and sows the seeds for our long-term prosperity.

It includes a record cost of living package for WA families. We invest like never before in

quality healthcare that's affordable and accessible to every Western Australian.

This Budget doubles down on our efforts to boost supply of housing and rentals.

We make sure our schools and TAFEs get the immediate boost they need, while ensuring they are equipped to teach the skills needed in an evolving economy.

To ensure we remain the nation's strongest economy, we are investing in new industries and positioning our State as a global clean energy powerhouse.

Our major investment in this Budget to diversify our economy will help our State reach its potential on a global stage and create the jobs of the future.

This Budget is about doing what's right for WA.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Roger Cook". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'R'.

Roger Cook MLA
Premier

Budget highlights



Cost of living relief

\$762 million delivering record cost of living relief to WA families, including a \$400 electricity credit for all households and small businesses.



Housing

\$1.1 billion investment in housing and homelessness with a focus on boosting housing supply and affordability.



Health and mental health

Record \$3.2 billion investment in our health system, delivering more nurses, doctors and beds across the State.



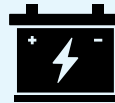
Net debt

Net debt lower than forecast at \$28.6 billion in 2023-24, more than \$15 billion lower than projected since coming to office.



Economic growth

5.25% growth in WA's domestic economy in 2023-24, and the strongest growth in business investment in more than a decade.



Diversification and energy transition

\$1.8 billion investment to attract new and grow existing industries and position WA as a global clean energy powerhouse.



Education and training

Record \$1.3 billion investment in education initiatives and training for the jobs of the future.



Infrastructure

Record \$12.1 billion investment in 2024-25 to boost our economy and meet the future needs of our growing population.



Surplus

\$2.6 billion net operating surplus forecast for 2024-25.



WA jobs

More than 300,000 jobs created since coming to office, with unemployment at 3.4%.

Key Budget initiatives

The 2024–25 State Budget provides real cost of living relief for Western Australians and delivers on the needs of our State’s strong economy, which continues to grow and power the nation.

This Budget focuses on boosting housing supply, creating the jobs of the future, investing in health and education, and delivering major infrastructure for our growing population.

At a glance:

- **An additional \$762 million in cost of living relief** providing record support to WA families, including a \$400 electricity credit for all households and small businesses, the WA Student Assistance Payment, free public transport initiatives, a \$100 boost for the Regional Pensioner Travel Card and capping airfares for regional WA residents, on top of significant targeted relief for those most in need.
- **\$1.1 billion to boost housing supply and affordability**, delivering almost 5,000 additional social homes,

supporting homelessness services, building affordable housing, reducing stamp duty for first home buyers, introducing the Vacant Property Rental Incentive Scheme, and expanding our residential construction workforce.

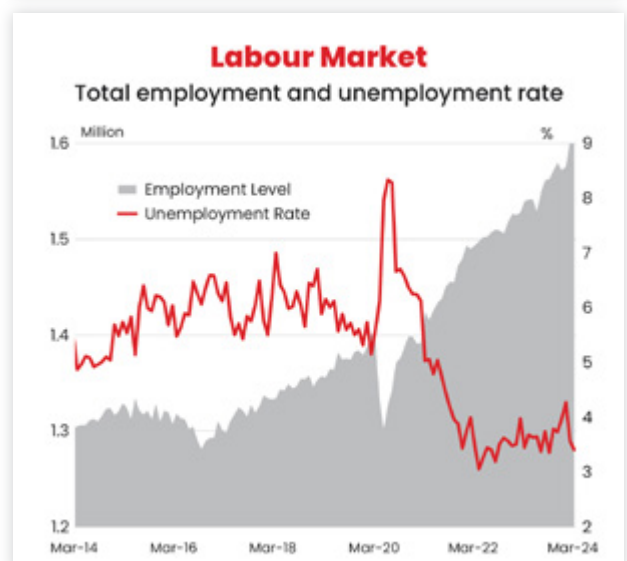
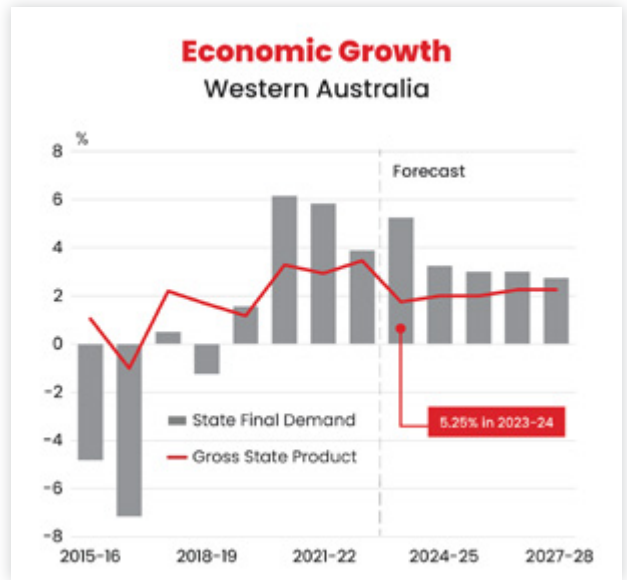
- **\$3.2 billion to boost health services** including more doctors, nurses and beds, initiatives to improve emergency access and reduce ambulance ramping, delivering the Electronic Medical Record Program, and boosting funding for mental health services.
- **\$1.3 billion for education and training initiatives**, including significant investments in new and upgraded schools, a new swimming safety program, investments in training to grow our construction sector, and providing additional Free TAFE places.
- **\$1.8 billion to diversify and set up WA’s economy for the long-term** through investments in strategic industrial areas, ports and roads, tourism infrastructure, slashing red tape for businesses, reforming our approvals system and investing in water and power infrastructure to position WA as a global clean energy powerhouse.



Economic and fiscal outlook

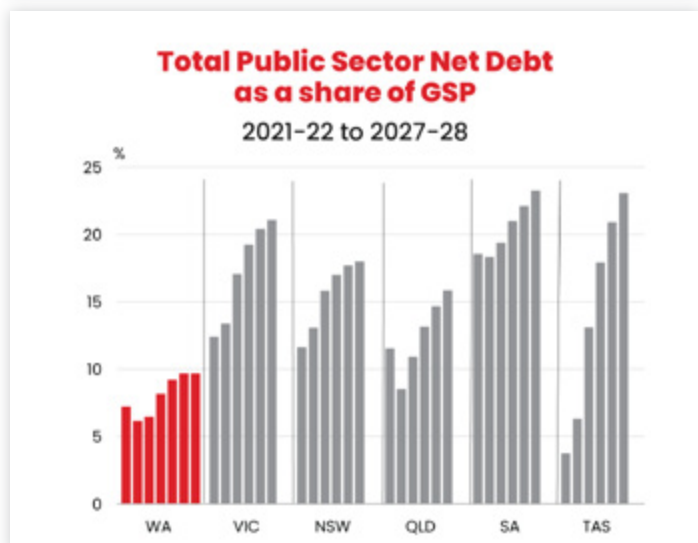
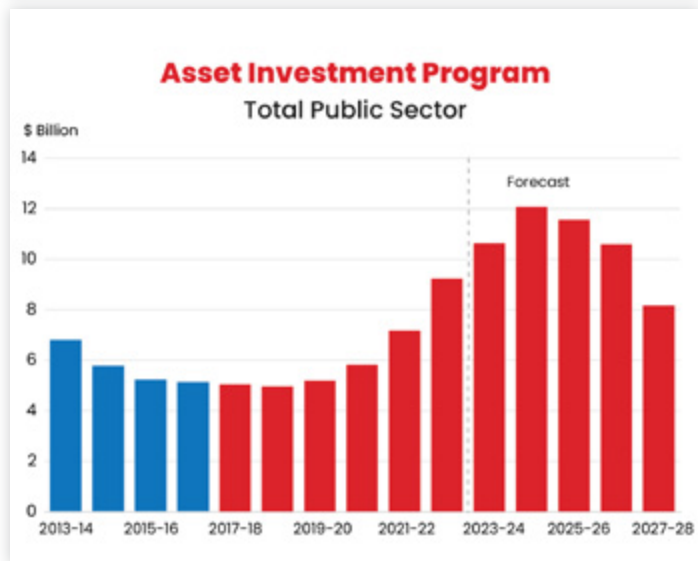
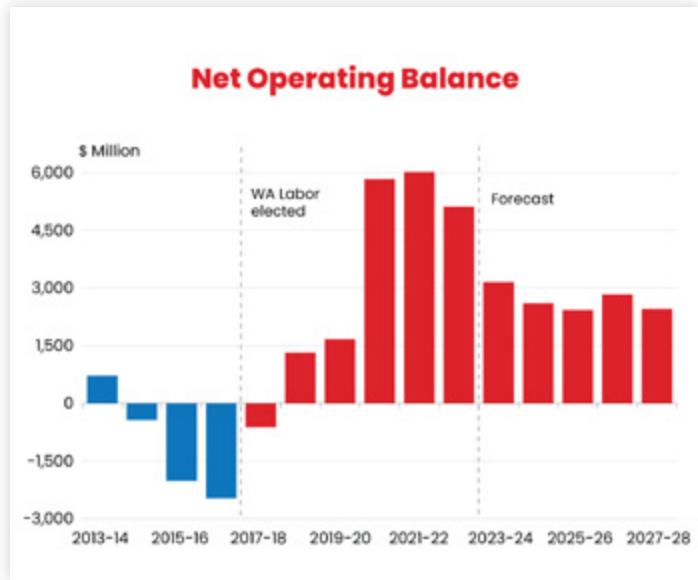
WA's economy is firing on all cylinders, with 4.7% domestic growth in 2023, more than twice the growth of the national economy.

- Our economy has been fuelled by the strongest business investment in more than a decade, record infrastructure investment by our WA Labor Government, and the strongest population growth on record - 94,000 people in a year.
- WA accounts for nearly half of national exports, generating almost \$260 billion in wealth for the nation.
- More than 1.6 million Western Australians are employed, and our WA Labor Government has now created more than 300,000 jobs since coming to office in 2017.
- Unemployment is the lowest in the nation at 3.4% and has been sustained at historic low levels for the second longest period in recorded history.
- Perth CPI has moderated to 3.4%, below national inflation of 3.6%.



The 2024–25 Budget highlights WA’s nation-leading economic and financial management.

- A sixth consecutive operating surplus of **\$3.2 billion** is forecast in 2023–24, in line with last year’s estimate.
- A **\$2.6 billion operating surplus is projected in 2024–25** with operating surpluses over the forward estimates period.
- This Budget continues our **record investment in infrastructure**, with \$42.4 billion to be spent over the next four years.
- **Net debt is expected to be lower than forecast** at \$28.6 billion in 2023–24, more than \$15 billion lower than projected when WA Labor came to office.
- Compared with other States and Territories, **Western Australia’s net debt is relatively stable** and the most affordable in the nation.
- Relative to the size of the State’s economy, **net debt as a percentage of Gross State Product is expected to remain at just 9.7% by 2027–28** – unchanged from the forecast last Budget and lower than any other jurisdiction.





Investing in housing and homelessness initiatives

The 2024–25 Budget delivers \$1.1 billion for housing and homelessness, bringing total new investment since 2021–22 to \$3.2 billion.

This includes funding for social and affordable housing, and for homelessness services, expanding the capacity of the residential construction workforce, and boosting regional land supply.

Social and affordable housing

- \$400 million additional funding for the **expanded Social and Affordable Housing Investment Fund**, bringing the total number of new social homes to almost 5,000, with more than 2,100 already delivered.
- Funding available to **support affordable housing projects** in partnership with the Commonwealth through Housing Australia funding and the community housing sector.
- \$179 million **maintenance investment** for WA's 45,000 social homes, government worker housing and other assets.
- \$144 million to **deliver new housing projects**, including at Pier Street in Perth.

Homelessness

- \$92 million to **support more than 120 critical homelessness services** across the State, as well as wrap-around services for rough sleepers to transition into permanent accommodation.

Expanding construction sector workforce

- \$85 million to **boost the capacity of our residential construction workforce**, including:
 - \$21 million for an additional 150 places to subsidise wages for new apprentices and trainees for Group Training Organisations.
 - \$37 million to provide incentives to complete apprenticeships, including tool allowances and milestone payments.
 - \$4 million to continue the Construction Migration Office to attract skilled migrants.

Affordability and rental supply

- \$82 million to **increase the stamp duty exemption threshold for first home buyers to \$450,000 and increase the concession threshold to \$600,000**, assisting almost 5,000 first home buyers per year, and increasing the total saving to up to \$15,390 in stamp duty.
- \$5 million for **\$5,000 incentive payments** to encourage owners of vacant homes to make them available on the rental market.

Delivering cost of living support

The 2024–25 Budget includes more than \$762 million in cost of living measures to support WA households and small businesses, including record support for families.

More than \$3.5 billion in cost of living assistance has now been delivered since 2017.

At a glance:

- \$492 million to deliver a **fourth electricity credit**, with \$400 of assistance to all households and more than 90,000 small businesses.
- Additional **energy bill relief** will be provided to those most in need, with \$734 of support for pensioners and at least \$1,086 for eligible families.
- \$103 million for the **WA Student Assistance Payment**, providing further support for families with \$250 available for each high school student and \$150 for each kindy and primary school student.
- \$41 million to provide **free public transport to school-aged students**, saving a family with two children up to \$560 per year, **free public transport for everyone on Sundays**, and the Summer of Free Public Transport in early 2024.

- \$65 million to continue WA Labor's **affordable airfare caps** for regional WA residents.
- \$20 million to boost the **Regional Pensioner Travel Card** by \$100, to \$675, to support pensioners in regional WA with travel costs.
- \$8 million for **free flu vaccines** in May and June for all Western Australians aged six months and older.

\$3.6 billion in 2024–25 for Social Concessions, with a range of additional targeted support including:

- KidSport vouchers
- Dependent Child Rebate
- Clothing Allowance
- Rebates on local government rates and water charges
- Vehicle licence discounts
- Free off-peak public transport for seniors and pensioners
- Subsidies on regional school and town bus services and TransWA fares, and more





A family with two school-aged kids could receive:

- \$400 Household Electricity Credit
- Two WA Student Assistance Payments totalling up to \$500
- Up to \$560 in savings through free student public transport

Total assistance: **\$1,460**

And they'll benefit from:

- Free flu immunisation
- Free public transport on Sundays



A self-funded retiree with a WA Seniors Card could receive:

- \$400 Household Electricity Credit
- \$107 Seniors Cost of Living Rebate
- 25% rebate, up to \$100, on local government rates
- 25% rebate, up to \$100, for water service charges
- Around \$180 in vehicle licence fee discounts

Total assistance: **almost \$900**

And they'll benefit from:

- Free public transport for seniors
- Up to 25% discount on the Emergency Services Levy
- Free flu immunisation



Young parents with a newborn baby who are currently renting and saving for their first home could receive:

- \$400 Household Electricity Credit
- \$300 in savings on the RSV immunisation for babies up to eight months of age

Total assistance: **\$700**

And they'll benefit from:

- Up to \$15,390 in transfer duty relief for first home buyers of established properties or
- A \$10,000 first home buyers construction grant, and up to \$8,835 in stamp duty relief for vacant land
- Free public transport on Sundays
- Free flu immunisation



A family with two school-aged kids with eligible concessions:

CONCESSION

In addition to \$1,460 in support for WA families, they could receive:

- \$334 Energy Assistance Payment
- \$444 Dependent Child Rebates
- \$470 Education Program Allowances to assist with school enrolment costs
- \$230 Clothing Allowances
- Two KidSport vouchers totalling up to \$600

Total assistance: **more than \$3,500**

And they'll benefit from:

- Free flu immunisations
- Free public transport on Sundays



A student who is studying nursing at TAFE, and is currently renting may receive:

- \$400 Household Electricity Credit
- \$2,175 saving on their free Diploma of Nursing TAFE course

Total assistance: up to \$2,575

And they'll benefit from:

- Up to \$5,000 in assistance from the WA Rent Relief Program
- Free public transport on Sundays
- Free flu immunisation



A pensioner with eligible concessions could receive:

CONCESSION

- \$400 Household Electricity Credit
- \$334 Energy Assistance Payment
- \$107 Seniors Cost of Living Rebate
- 50% rebate, up to \$750, on local government rates
- 50% rebate, up to \$600, for water service charges
- Around \$180 in vehicle licence fee discounts

Total assistance: almost \$2,400

And they'll benefit from:

- Up to 50% rebate on the Emergency Services Levy
- Free public transport for seniors
- Free flu immunisation



A pensioner with eligible concessions living in regional WA could receive:

REGIONAL

- \$400 Household Electricity Credit
- \$334 Energy Assistance Payment
- \$107 Seniors Cost of Living Rebate
- 50% rebate, up to \$750, on local government rates
- 50% rebate, up to \$600, for water service charges
- Around \$180 in vehicle licence fee discounts
- \$675 Regional Pensioner Travel Card

Total assistance: More than \$3,000

And they'll benefit from:

- Up to 50% discount on the Emergency Services Levy
- Regional water and electricity subsidies
- Free flu immunisation



A family living in regional WA with two school-aged kids could receive:

REGIONAL

- \$400 Household Electricity Credit
- Two WA Student Assistance Payments totalling up to \$500
- Around \$2,000 from capped airfares (depending on their frequency of travel)

Total assistance: almost \$3,000

And they'll benefit from:

- Free regional school buses or transport subsidies
- Regional water and electricity subsidies
- Free flu immunisation

Investing in health and mental health

This Budget continues the record investment in health and mental health, with a further \$3.2 billion to boost the capacity of our hospitals, invest in more nurses and doctors, and improve access to quality care.

WA has the **best-funded hospital system in the country**, with annual spending on health services increasing by 45% since 2017, and the highest per capita spending on hospitals of any State – 14% above the national average.

Since 2017, we have added more than **4,400 nurses and 1,800 doctors (FTE)**, and we have delivered **709 new beds** in the past three years.

We are now seeing our health system stabilise following the significant disruption of the pandemic, with **ambulance ramping down 27%** in March compared to last year, and **elective surgery wait times down 31%** since the pandemic peak.

At a glance:

- \$1.2 billion for our **public hospital services**, to meet the growing demand for services in Western Australia.
- \$405 million for **health services in the regions**, including more funding for regional workforce initiatives

and priority programs, such as the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme and Kimberley Ambulance Service.

- \$260 million on **mental health and alcohol and other drug services**, including further investment in suicide prevention initiatives.
- \$61 million to build on our previous responses to the recommendations of the **Infant, Children and Adolescent Mental Health Taskforce**, including extending Acute Care Response Teams and the Crisis Connect service, providing a rapid response to support young people in crisis.
- \$155 million for initiatives that will continue to **improve emergency access** and **reduce ambulance ramping**.
- \$39 million for **Child Development Services** to deliver an increase in assessment and intervention services.
- \$839 million in additional **infrastructure investment**, bringing total investment to \$3.3 billion. This includes funding for the redevelopments of Bunbury Regional Hospital, Geraldton Health Campus, and Peel Health Campus, as well as the roll-out of the Electronic Medical Record Program.



Economic diversification and energy transition

This Budget delivers \$1.8 billion to diversify and decarbonise our economy, including investments in economic infrastructure like strategic industrial areas, ports and roads, and electricity and water infrastructure to unlock industry growth and position WA as a clean energy powerhouse.

This Budget advances the Cook Government's economic agenda to expedite approvals reform and promote future industries, including science and innovation.

Strategic Industries Fund

- \$500 million fund to **unlock WA's strategic industrial areas** and pave the way for WA to become a global leader in clean energy.

Critical minerals

- \$200 million for a new **Critical Minerals Advanced Processing Common User Facility**, subject to joint funding from the Commonwealth.

Economic infrastructure

- \$373 million investment in our **port facilities across the State**, including delivery of the Dampier Bulk Handling Facility, plus upgrades to maintain capacity and resilience.
- \$15 million for a business case to **increase the supply of water to the Goldfields** to meet future needs and industry growth.

Energy transition

- \$324 million to undertake extensive planning and procure **long-lead transmission infrastructure** for the State's main electricity grid to unlock industry growth and connect more renewable energy.
- \$148 million to construct **common user electricity network infrastructure** in the North West Interconnected System in the Pilbara.

Economic reform

- **\$36 million to continue to reform our approvals system and slash red tape**, including establishing cross-government triage teams and accelerating the roll-out of Environment Online.

Science and innovation

- \$53 million to establish a **Founders Factory accelerator in WA** to support entrepreneurs and start-ups, as well as to continue STEM initiatives, support growth in the State's space industry and for new exhibits at Scitech.

Tourism and events

- **\$352 million boost for tourism** including a major Outdoor Adventure Tourism package to upgrade tourism facilities around the State and support regional businesses.



Investing in education and training

The 2024–25 Budget includes a record additional \$1.3 billion for education and training initiatives, delivering new and upgraded schools, as well as training to upskill Western Australians for the jobs of the future.

Since 2017, the number of educational staff in schools has increased by around 6,000, comprising 3,300 new teachers and 2,700 education assistants.

Education

- \$391 million will be invested to **meet student enrolment growth** for both public and non-government schools, and support students with disability or who speak English as an additional language.
- \$410 million to **build new schools, expand capacity, and upgrade and maintain existing schools**, including:
 - \$73 million for the second stage of the **Piara Waters Senior High School** to more than double its current student capacity to 1,650.
 - \$26 million for a double-storey permanent block to be built at **Caversham Primary School**.
 - \$22 million to relocate the Mount Hawthorn Education Support Centre to the **Lake Monger Primary School**.

- \$12 million for a new two-storey modular classroom build at **Highgate Primary School**.
- \$21 million for planning towards a new secondary school in **Brabham** and upgrades to **Como Secondary College** and **Esperance Senior High School**, plus a new **inner-city primary school in East Perth**.
- \$3 million for **swimming and water safety programs**.

Training

- \$195 million investment in training including:
 - \$85 million to expand the capacity of our **construction workforce**.
 - \$26 million for the **Year 9 Career Taster** and **TAFE Return to Industry** initiatives.
 - A \$22 million boost for **private training delivery**.
 - \$13 million to extend the **Heavy Vehicle Driver training program** in the South West and the **Skilled Migrant Job Connect program**.
 - A further \$8 million to continue **Free TAFE courses**.

The Cook Government is investing \$1.6 billion over the next four years to build, upgrade and redevelop schools across WA.

Upgrades to schools include:

- **Alkimos College:** works continue on new buildings for arts, English and maths learning areas (\$52 million)
- **Rossmoyne Senior High School:** construction underway on a new classroom block, and science and STEM labs (\$43 million)
- **Duncraig Senior High School:** construction underway on a new two-storey specialist classroom block and upgrades (\$41 million)
- **Kalamunda Senior High School:** construction underway on a new classroom block (\$38 million)
- **Ashdale Secondary College:** planning underway for new classroom blocks and a new STEM lab (\$29 million)
- **Derby District High School:** work underway on three new classroom blocks and other refurbishments (\$28 million)
- **Byford Secondary College:** planning underway for significant expansion of classroom facilities (\$22 million)
- **Springfield Primary School:** planning underway for the school redevelopment (\$19 million)
- **Greenwood College:** construction underway soon on new sports hall (\$18 million)
- **Mount Lawley Senior High School:** construction continues on new classroom block (\$15 million)
- **Roleystone Community College:** planning underway on a new sports hall and STEM lab (\$15 million)
- **Darling Range Sports College:** planning underway for five science labs and other facilities (\$12 million)
- **Halls Creek District High School:** construction underway on a new primary classroom block and admin upgrade (\$10 million)

New schools to be built include:

- **Wungong Primary School** to open in 2026 (\$47 million)
- **Eglinton South West Primary School*** to open in 2025 (\$41 million)
- **Brabham East Primary School*** to open in 2025 (\$40 million)
- **Wellard East Primary School** to open in 2026 (\$44 million)

*planning name

Plus \$88 million towards the construction of three new public primary schools, which are expected to open for the 2027 school year.



Delivering **METRONET**

Yanchep



Yanchep Rail Extension

14.5km of new rail with three new stations at Alkimos, Eglinton and Yanchep. Opening on 15 July 2024.

Morley-Ellenbrook Line

21km of new rail with five new stations at Morley, Noranda, Malaga, Whiteman Park and Ellenbrook. Works complete in late 2024.

New Midland Station

A new state-of-the-art train station in Midland's town centre, including 800 parking bays. Works complete in 2025.

New Bayswater Station

New elevated four-platform station to service the Midland, Airport and Morley-Ellenbrook Lines. Completed in April 2024.

Airport Line

8.5km of new rail with new stations at Redcliffe, Perth Airport and High Wycombe. Opened in October 2022.

Armadale Line Transformation

Removal of six level crossings and construction of five new elevated stations between Victoria Park and Canning. Works complete in 2025.

Byford Rail Extension

8km of new rail, seven level crossings removed, a new station at Byford and a new elevated station at Armadale as part of the Armadale Line Transformation. Works complete in 2025.

WA Railcar Program

246 new passenger railcars being locally built and manufactured in WA. First new train entered service in April 2024.

METRONET also includes:

Denny Ave Level Crossing Removal, Greenwood Station Multi-Storey Car Park, High Capacity Signalling, Caledonian Ave Level Crossing Removal, Canning Bridge Bus Interchange, Lakelands Station, Mandurah Multi-Storey Car Park, Morrison Road Level Crossing Removal and the WA Railcar Facility.

Thornlie Cockburn Link

17.5km of new rail and new train stations at Nicholson Road and Ranford Road. Works complete in 2025.

Connecting our State

This Budget includes \$13.8 billion on port, road, rail and transport infrastructure that will support economic growth and jobs through facilitating trade, reducing congestion and better connecting our State.

This includes the METRONET program of works, which comprises 18 projects that are delivering a world-class public transport system, supporting thousands of local jobs and opportunities for local businesses.

- **\$4.8 billion investment in METRONET** over the forward estimates, supported by \$2.9 billion in funding from the Commonwealth. This Budget includes \$254 million in additional State funding for METRONET infrastructure.
- A total of **10 METRONET projects** are expected to be completed by the end of 2024 including the Yanchep Rail Extension and Morley-Ellenbrook Line.
- \$373 million investment in our **port facilities across the State**, including delivery of the Dampier Bulk Handling Facility, plus upgrades to maintain capacity and resilience of infrastructure.
- \$116 million for **Westport**, including for early marine, civil and road works to transition container trade from Fremantle to Kwinana, unlocking future trade opportunities and economic capacity.
- \$240 million for **key freight routes** including the Brooking Channel Bridge, Bunbury Outer Ring Road, Albany Ring Road, and improvements to Great Northern Highway in the Kimberley and the Pilbara.
- \$65 million to extend the **Regional Airfare Zone Cap scheme**, which has so far delivered more than a quarter of a million capped airfares for regional residents.
- \$38 million to replace the **Congdon Street Bridge** in Swanbourne, which will increase safety and capacity for pedestrians and cyclists.
- \$19 million to revamp **Jetty One at Barrack Square**, improving the tourism precinct and supporting charter operations on the Swan River.
- \$29 million for **upgrades to airstrips in regional centres and Aboriginal remote communities**.
- \$10 million to permanently expand routes for the **Red and Blue CAT Buses**.
- \$10 million to **expand school zone speed limits** to all warden-controlled crossings.
- \$2 million to plan for an **expansion of Swan River ferry services** using locally-built ferries.



Building stronger, fairer communities

The 2024-25 Budget continues the record investment in programs and reform that support the most vulnerable in our communities and improve community safety.

Stronger communities

- \$96 million for **family and domestic violence response, prevention and reform initiatives**. This brings WA Labor's investment to \$422 million since 2021. The package includes \$54 million to expand and reform interagency FDV Response Teams, with a focus on early intervention to keep victim-survivors safe.
- \$88 million for **child protection initiatives**, including \$46 million to expand access to the Home Stretch WA program for young people leaving out of home care, providing support to the age of 21.
- \$16 million State investment towards a \$35 million boost for the **10-year Early Years Partnership** with the Minderoo Foundation and Telethon Kids Institute, to improve early childhood outcomes in communities across WA.
- \$70 million towards **reforms that will improve fairness, advocacy and services** for persons with mental impairment in the justice system, while ensuring the safety of the community.

- \$17 million to support the **historic overhaul of firearms laws**, including the development of a new Firearms Licensing and Registry System and additional resourcing to transition existing licences and manage the voluntary buyback scheme.
- \$16 million for **youth justice programs** for at-risk young people, including specialised Children's Court hearings, and a pilot court-based therapeutic program that offers intensive support to eligible young offenders as an alternative to detention.

Emergency services

The 2024-25 Budget delivers the biggest boost to frontline emergency services personnel in Western Australia in more than 50 years.

The package includes:

- \$23 million for an additional **60 Career Fire and Rescue Service firefighters**, which brings the total commitment in this term of Government to 132 extra career firefighters.
- \$9 million to support WA's essential **volunteer emergency services**.
- \$6 million to progress the **replacement of the Maddington and Armadale stations** to enhance fire and emergency service delivery.
- \$8 million to **improve facilities at fire stations**.





Investing in our regions

The 2024–25 Budget invests in what matters for regional WA, with \$4 billion allocated to Royalties for Regions over the next four years.

The Cook Labor Government has increased regional infrastructure investment by a further \$1.6 billion in this Budget to a record \$12.8 billion over the next four years. This includes \$4.5 billion on regional roads.

These investments are in addition to \$5.4 billion spent annually on regional service delivery, including health, education and training, police and more, plus more than \$700 million this year alone to subsidise water and power in regional WA.

- \$405 million investment in **regional health services**, including a funding boost to the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme.
- \$85 million for dedicated **regional cost of living support**:
 - \$65 million to extend the **Regional Air Zone Cap Scheme**.
 - \$20 million to boost the **Regional Pensioner Travel Card** by \$100 to \$675.
- \$73 million for Plan for Our Parks, including the proposed **South Coast Marine Park** and the **Fortescue Marsh Nature Reserve**.
- \$60 million in grants for **regional community housing providers** to deliver new and refurbished housing.
- \$107 million for the **Brooking Channel Bridge replacement** in the Kimberley to improve the resilience of infrastructure to future flooding.
- \$35 million investment in **regional housing**, including delivery of development-ready land in Broome, Karratha and Kalgoorlie.
- \$30 million for additional **bushfire mitigation and frontline resources** at priority locations.
- \$29 million for **upgrades to regional and remote airstrips** across the State.
- \$23 million to extend the successful **Operation Regional Shield**, to rapidly deploy additional police officers when required.

Supporting WA women

Stronger Together: WA's Plan for Gender Equality sets out how the Government will support women and drive gender equality throughout Western Australia.

The 2024-25 Budget invests in services and initiatives to improve women's health, wellbeing, safety and workforce opportunities.

Safety and justice

- \$96 million for **prevention of family and domestic violence**, bringing total investment to \$422 million since 2021. This includes:
 - \$54 million to expand operations of FDV Response Teams, including moving to 7 day a week operation.
 - \$14 million for a new FDV One-Stop Hub in the CBD.
 - \$6 million for workforce development.
 - \$585,000 to develop legislative reforms to criminalise coercive control.

Health and wellbeing

- \$173 million in additional funding for the **Bunbury Regional Hospital redevelopment**, which includes

new and expanded maternity, birthing and neonatal services.

- \$16 million State investment into **the Early Years Partnership**, with a further \$19 million from the Mindereroo Foundation, supporting initiatives that deliver better outcomes for children in the critical early stages of child development.
- Additional funding to bring the **75-bed Cockburn Mental Health Clinic formerly operated by Bethesda into the public mental health system**, which will initially include two floors for a dedicated women's mental health facility, focused on eating disorder services.
- **Free period products in primary schools** from Term 3, in addition to high schools and TAFEs.

Economic independence

- \$46 million to **extend the payment of superannuation on unpaid parental leave from 12 to 24 weeks**, for all WA public sector employees.
- **Record funding for the Women's Grants for a Stronger Future Program**, with a \$1.4 million boost over 2023-24 and 2024-25.
- In 2023-24, 57 organisations received funding for projects promoting gender equality.



- \$5 million for upgrades to **Career Fire and Rescue Station shower and locker rooms** to enable privacy for women.

Our 2024–25 investment builds on initiatives including:

- **Progressing our landmark new \$1.8 billion Women and Babies Hospital**, with expressions of interest released to design and construct the new hospital.
- **Continued delivery of the Mental Awareness, Respect and Safety program**, with the Respect in Mining Program pilot to commence in 2024, taking a whole-of-organisation approach to violence prevention.
- **Continued delivery of the Gender Equality in Procurement Pilot**, which includes the addition of a gender equality disclosure clause in selected procurement for participating agencies. As of April 2024, 312 supplier contracts with a total value of \$750 million have been awarded under the Pilot.
- **Commencing a separate pilot partnering with the construction industry** to trial gender equality targets on the Fremantle Hospital Mental Health Unit redevelopment, and extending the Gender Equality in Procurement Pilot to incorporate Government Trading Enterprises.
- Providing funding to the newly established Western Australian Chapter of the Economic Abuse Reference Group, which aims to **reduce the financial impact of family and domestic violence**.
- Commencement of the \$3 million **TAFE scholarships program for up to 400 women** to undertake training in non-traditional trade and technical occupations, including STEM and building and construction.

- Roll-out of \$2.4 million in funding through the **Women’s World Cup Legacy Grants program**, with women’s National Premier League teams eligible for up to \$300,000 each towards infrastructure and facility improvements that support women’s participation.
- The \$24 million **WA Rent Relief Program to help families and women at risk of eviction** and experiencing rental stress to stay in their rental properties, which has already provided over \$2 million in support to more than 500 WA renters.
- \$32 million investment in **eating disorder treatment programs** across the State.
- **Supporting access to sport for women**, with \$36 million allocated through the Community Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund for projects specifically supporting female participation.

Economic participation

- Of the 300,000 plus jobs created in WA since the WA Labor Government came to office, more than half – or 157,000 – were filled by women.
- **Record proportion of women participating in the workforce** in the State – 64.1% average over the year to March 2024, compared to 62.7% nationally.
- **Unemployment rate for women of 3.8%** in March 2024, compared to 7% in March 2017.
- **Increased representation of women in Senior Executive Service roles** (48.9% as at December 2023, an increase of 14.7% since 2017) and on Government Boards and Committees (54% as at February 2024 – the highest on record).



Arts, sport, recreation and tourism

The 2024-25 Budget continues to invest in tourism, recreation, sports and the arts, making WA a vibrant place to visit and live.

- \$165 million for a new **Outdoor Adventure Tourism package** that will allow Western Australians to enjoy our natural attractions and will drive regional tourism, ensuring WA remains a world-class destination for local and international visitors. Includes:
 - \$82 million for new and improved boating and maritime facilities.
 - \$46 million for new hiking and cycle trails.
 - \$17 million for new and upgraded camping facilities.
 - \$16 million investment in revitalising the Kalbarri foreshore and supporting sustainable tourism at the Abrolhos Islands.
- Record \$150 million investment **in the future of Rottnest Island**, including a massive expansion in staff accommodation for island businesses, relocation of freight from the Main Jetty, and upgrades for utilities.
- \$37 million for **other tourism initiatives to continue to attract international and interstate visitors**, secure unique and major blockbuster events, and create a new Metro Events Program to support more local events.
- \$13 million to fund a screen industry workforce development plan and encourage digital games production, bringing investment under the **WA Screen Industry Strategy** to \$32 million.
- \$233 million to progress construction of **WA's new screen production facility** in Malaga.
- \$7 million top-up to the **Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund**, bringing total investment in 2024-25 to \$26 million, supporting 35 projects across the State.
- \$6 million funding uplift for **arts organisations**, including for the Black Swan State Theatre Company, Murrageku, West Australian Ballet, WA Opera and West Australian Symphony Orchestra.

Aboriginal wellbeing

The 2024–25 Budget delivers almost \$300 million in further investments focused on Closing the Gap and which specifically or predominantly promote Aboriginal wellbeing.

Economic development

- \$73 million for Plan for Our Parks **initiatives supporting Indigenous land use agreements** with Native Title holders.
- Creating job opportunities on our major road projects, with more than 250 local Aboriginal workers engaged on the new **Fitzroy River Bridge project**, and 109 Aboriginal graduates through the Yaka Dandjoo employment program, which provided training and work placements on the **Bunbury Outer Ring Road project**.
- \$9 million for **Jobs and Skills Centres Aboriginal support funding, the Aboriginal Business Capability Building Program and financial counselling services** delivered by Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations.
- \$16 million for the Early Years Partnership to **improve wellbeing and school readiness for children aged 0 to 4** in communities including Derby and Bidyadanga.
- \$8 million for the **Driver Access and Equity Program** supporting employment and economic opportunities through better access to vehicle licence training.

Health and mental health

- \$12 million for the **Aboriginal Social and Emotional Wellbeing Program** providing mental health support

in five communities, including one youth specific program in the Kimberley, delivered by ACCOs.

- \$8 million for **additional health and mental health services** including renal dialysis, eye services and suicide prevention.
- \$5 million of additional funding for **remediation of asbestos within the Yinajalan Ngarrungunil Health and Wellbeing Campus**.

Community wellbeing

- \$6 million for Aboriginal Representative Organisation and Aboriginal Family Led Decision Making to **promote safety of children in child protection**.
- \$6 million for **Community Liaison Officers** employed by WA Police.
- \$3 million for the Aboriginal Community Connectors Program to **improve community engagement and safety**.

Justice

- \$16 million for **youth justice programs** including the Therapeutic Approaches in the Children's Court of WA, providing intensive support to young offenders as an alternative to detention, expediting cases of young people from regional areas to reduce time spent on remand, and earlier targeted interventions for offenders with disabilities.

Housing and community infrastructure

- \$25 million to **improve energy performance for housing** in Aboriginal Communities in the Kimberley and regional towns.
- \$9 million to **upgrade and maintain airstrips and municipal services** in remote Aboriginal communities.



Caring for our environment

The Cook Labor Government's commitment to protecting our environment and water security will be bolstered by a \$536 million investment in the 2024-25 Budget.

Environment

- \$73 million of additional investment in **Plan for Our Parks** including the South Coast Marine Park and the Fortescue Marsh Nature Reserve.
- \$67 million investment in the **Forest Management Plan 2024-33**, which will create new jobs, support forest monitoring, and work with Traditional Owners to protect native wildlife and forest health.
- \$30 million to **strengthen regional bushfire management**.

These investments are in addition to the measures we have delivered to protect our environment, including:

- legislating the State's commitment to **net zero**.
- **ending native forest logging**.
- continuing the biggest expansion of **WA's conservation estate** in history.

Water security

The 2024-25 Budget commits an additional \$320 million to upgrade vital water infrastructure across the State, to unlock development and secure Western Australia's water supply.

- \$80 million additional investment in **vital water and wastewater pipeline renewals**.
- \$97 million to **boost water security** in our regions, including:
 - An additional \$25 million for the **Onslow Town Water Supply**, including construction of a Desalination Plant, which will provide 1.5 million litres of clean drinking water per day to the Pilbara.
 - An additional \$39 million for **Burrup Seawater Supply upgrades**, and \$15 million for critical planning and design for future upgrades to the **Goldfields and Agricultural Water Supply Scheme**.

These investments follow the Cook Labor Government's \$2.8 billion investment to build the Alkimos Desalination Plant, which will help secure water supply for decades to come.

2024–25 Budget Overview

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Budget Paper No. 3 – Economic and Fiscal Outlook

Budget Overview

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