

BUDGET AT A GLANCE

2007-08

Decisions for Our Future is the driving priority of the Western Australian Government's 2007-08 Budget. Highlights include:

Tax Relief

- A tax relief package worth \$2.1 billion over the next four years that includes significant cuts to stamp duty for first homebuyers that are the most generous in the nation, reduced stamp duty for motor vehicles that will result in savings of around \$525 (or 26 per cent) on the purchase of a standard family car, and reform of the land tax scale.
- These initiatives, together with other tax measures introduced since July 2004, are expected to deliver a massive \$5.8 billion worth of tax cuts to Western Australians over the period 2007-08 to 2010-11.

Responsible Management

- The Government has used its surpluses to retire around \$2.4 billion in State debt over the last three years – saving an estimated \$150 million each year in interest payments.
- The 2006-07 surplus is being allocated to fund the debt-free construction of the \$1.09 billion Fiona Stanley Hospital in Perth's southern suburbs.
- No net debt in the general government sector.
- No increase in household electricity charges, with increases in household fees and charges kept below inflation.
- The State's economy forecast to continue to lead the nation and grow by 6 per cent in 2006-07 and 4.5 per cent in 2007-08. With record levels of business investment, the outlook remains very positive.

A Sustainable Future

- \$417 million to be spent over the next four years towards making housing in Western Australia more affordable, and \$21 million for an electronic Land Development Program.
- \$101 million over the next five years on climate change, including establishing a Low Emission Energy Development Fund to support technology breakthroughs that cut greenhouse gas emissions.

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Building Our Capacity

- The Government will invest a record \$5.8 billion on critical capital works in 2007-08. This includes \$897 million on the State's electricity infrastructure, \$766 million on water, wastewater and drainage infrastructure, \$706 million on new and improved roads, and \$99 million on upgrading and expanding port facilities.
- Over the next four years the capital works program is a staggering \$21.6 billion. This includes \$750 million for the development of new water sources for the State.
- Transforming the State's training system to make it more responsive, flexible and efficient. Funding for 34,600 apprenticeships and traineeships in 2007-08 along with \$44.5 million to deliver new and upgraded facilities and equipment for TAFEWA Colleges.

Improved Services

- Record spending of \$4 billion towards ensuring Western Australia is on track to implementing the Health Reform Committee's recommendations, and a record capital works program of \$324 million – almost double the expenditure in 2006-07.
- Record Education and Training spending of \$3.3 billion, and a capital works program of \$295 million for new schools and major upgrades to existing schools and TAFEWA Colleges.
- A \$55.3 million or 7.6 per cent funding increase for the Police Service, including an additional \$17.7 million on frontline policing.
- Creation of a new Department for Child Protection and funding of \$104.5 million over four years for structural reforms to child protection operations.
- A \$73.8 million reform package over four years to modernise vehicle licensing services and improve customer service.



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