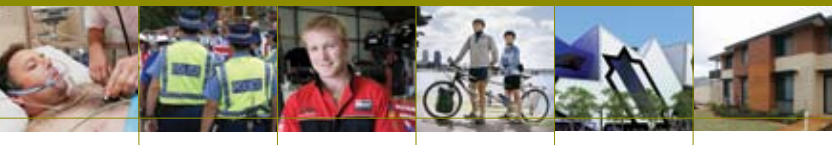


2008-09 budget at a glance





The 2008-09 State Budget is about building WA, with a massive investment in economic and social infrastructure.

Building WA

- Record Capital Works Program for 2008-09 of \$7.6 billion, including:
 - \$1.2 billion on electricity infrastructure to meet the needs of our rapidly growing economy, including commencement of over 500km of new transmission lines;
 - \$1.1 billion on water infrastructure, including commencement of the \$955 million Southern Seawater Desalination Plant;
 - \$810 million on roads;
 - \$502 million on hospitals and other health facilities;
 - \$377 million on ports to expand export capacity; and
 - \$347 million on schools and TAFE colleges.
- Massive \$26.1 billion Capital Works Program over the next four years, including:
 - New major stadium at Kitchener Park;
 - New museum on the former East Perth power station site; and
 - Perth Waterfront development.

Priority Services

- Health  \$247 million (5.8%), with increased spending on mental health, better pay for nurses, and initiatives to address emergency department demand.
- Law and order  \$138 million (8.3%), with improved pay for police officers, and Crime Regional Response Teams to investigate serious cases of child abuse and other issues facing Indigenous communities.

Building WA



- Education and training ↑ \$135 million (3.9%), with improved wages and conditions for teachers, and additional places for apprentices and trainees.
- Child protection ↑ \$48 million (16.5%), with additional caseworkers and implementation of mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse.

Tax Cuts – Fifth Year In A Row

- Building on previous rounds of tax relief, the 2008-09 State Budget provides tax cuts of \$1.2 billion over the next four years.
- Stamp duty on the purchase of a median-priced house cut by 15% or nearly \$3,000 from 1 July 2008, to assist housing affordability.
- Further land tax relief and payroll tax reform, and a bring-forward of the motor vehicle stamp duty cut announced in last year's budget (to 1 July 2008).

Responsible Management

- Eighth consecutive balanced budget.
- Using the surplus to provide infrastructure such as the new \$1.76 billion Fiona Stanley Hospital, which will be built *debt-free*.
- No increase in household electricity charges in 2008-09, with the overall increase in household fees and charges (2.4%) below inflation.
- Economy to continue growing strongly, with a third consecutive year of above 6% growth forecast for 2008-09.