



# 2004-05 BUDGET

## BUDGET OVERVIEW



*Families First*

## **Budget Overview**

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**2004–05 Budget Paper** set includes:

Budget Paper No. 1 – Budget Speech

Budget Paper No. 2 – Budget Statements (Volumes 1–3)

Budget Paper No. 3 – Economic and Fiscal Outlook

Budget Overview

Reader's Guide to the 2004-05 Budget Statements

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# 2004-05 Budget Overview

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# *Budget* HIGHLIGHTS

## **Balanced Budget**

The 2004-05 Budget continues the Government's commitment to sound financial management, with a projected operating surplus for the general government sector (the budget 'bottom line') of \$243 million in 2004-05, and similar surpluses across the outyears. These surpluses help fund the Government's record infrastructure investment program and ensure that net debt is maintained at levels consistent with the State's triple-A credit rating.

## **Taxes and Charges Relief**

From 1 July 2004, Western Australian households and businesses will benefit from a substantial taxes and charges relief package targeted specifically at assisting first home buyers but which also cuts stamp duty on property conveyances and land tax and freezes key tariffs, fees and charges. The package is estimated to cost \$133 million in 2004-05, and \$585 million over the forward estimates.

## **Health**

This Budget fully funds the Government's \$1.7 billion plan to modernise the State's hospital system as set out in Professor Mick Reid's report. These initiatives are a major part of a \$2.7 billion capital program to enhance the State's health infrastructure over the next 13 years. In addition, a total of \$3.2 billion will be spent in 2004-05 delivering health services around the State, \$163 million or 5.4% more than was spent in 2003-04.

Since its election, the Government has injected \$2.9 billion in new money for health services, which is over \$1 billion more than the new money injected to the health sector in the preceding four years.

## **Disability Services**

People with disabilities will receive improved services through an additional \$68 million in recurrent funding over the next four years. This funding will facilitate the implementation of the key recommendations of the Accommodation Blueprint Report, and provide further inroads into addressing unmet demand for accommodation and services. In total, 126 new accommodation places will be provided in 2004-05, some 23 more than in 2003-04. In preventive support, 1,250 new services will be provided in 2004-05.

## Community Development

The care for children will be enhanced through the recruitment of an additional 50 caseworkers and support staff. This boost to staffing, at a cost of \$18.9 million over four years, will contribute towards ensuring that safe, quality care is provided to more than 1,900 children in State care, in line with national and international benchmarks.

## Law and Order

The Police Service's expected total spending of \$646.8 million represents an increase of \$48.8 million or 8.2% compared to 2003-04. The Government's commitment to ensuring community safety and security includes an additional 75 police officers and 10 Aboriginal Police Liaison Officers being recruited in 2004-05.

## Environment

The Government's commitment to protecting the environment is demonstrated through its increased investment over the forward estimates in:

- untied salinity funding – \$79.4 million;
- bushfire management and suppression – \$24.3 million;
- Swan River initiatives – \$15.5 million;
- air quality management – \$4.6 million; and
- commencement of greenhouse initiatives – \$2.4 million.

## Capital Works

Reflecting the Government's commitment to invest in the economic and social infrastructure that is essential to the State's development, the Capital Works Program for 2004-05 is estimated at a record \$3.9 billion. A diverse range of projects will be undertaken across public transport, education, health, port infrastructure, electricity transmission, water supply and industrial development (e.g. on the Burrup Peninsula).

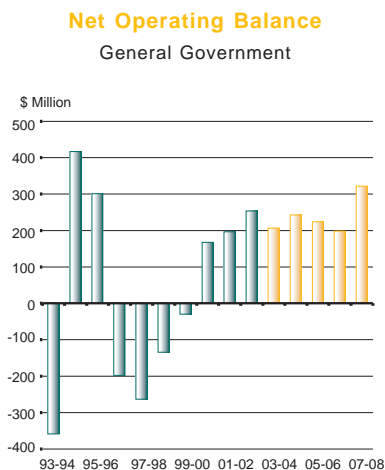
A major focus of the Capital Works Program is improving the quality, reliability and safety of electricity supply in both regional and metropolitan areas, and providing increased capacity to serve existing and new customers. In 2004-05, Western Power's capital program is \$418.6 million, which is \$82 million (or 24%) higher than 2003-04. Over the forward estimates, Western Power's capital program totals \$1.5 billion.

***Families First***

# Responsible FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

## Balanced Budgets

The 2004-05 Budget continues the Government's commitment to deliver budget surpluses.



## Managing Debt Levels

These surpluses mean the Government is covering its day-to-day operating costs from current available revenue sources. They also play a key role in funding the Government's infrastructure investment program and containing net debt to sustainable levels.

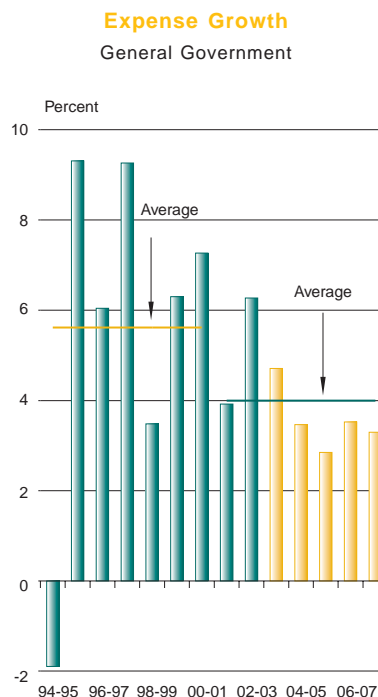
The Capital Works Program for 2004-05 at a record \$3.9 billion provides a major boost to the economy, and paves the way for improved service delivery to the Western Australian community both now and into the future.

Despite this major capital investment program, the Government's net debt to revenue financial target is expected to remain comfortably below the 47% ceiling that has

been set as a key measure for maintaining the State's triple-A credit rating.

## Controlling Expense Growth

General government expenses are projected to increase by \$417 million (or 3.5%) in 2004-05, and by an average of 3.3% per annum across the forward estimates period. Expense growth of this magnitude is consistent with the Government's target of restricting growth in expenses to real per capita growth.

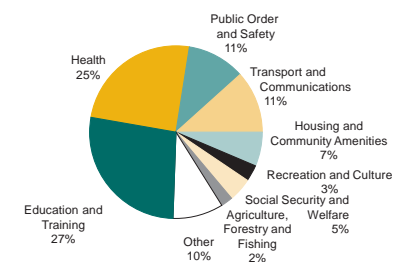


The Government is controlling expenses by prioritising its spending, eradicating wasteful expenditure and ensuring that the delivery of corporate services and the procurement of goods and services across the public sector are cost effective.

The Government's prioritisation of its spending is demonstrated by the fact that of the total projected increase in expenses in 2004-05, \$352 million – or 84% – is in the priority areas of health, education and training, law and order and community support.

In 2004-05, education and training and health alone are estimated to account for more than half of total general government expenses.

**2004-05 Expenses**  
General Government



**TOTAL EXPENSES = \$12,477 MILLION**

# Taxes and Charges

## RELIEF

- ***A major initiative of the 2004-05 Budget is the provision of a taxes and charges relief package centred around stamp duty on property conveyances, land tax and a freeze in key household fees and charges.***
- ***This package is targeted at those who need it most, including first home buyers struggling with rising house prices, and costs an estimated \$133 million in 2004-05 and \$585 million over the forward estimates.***
- ***Reflecting the taxation relief measures, and an expected slowing in housing market activity, taxation revenue is forecast to decline from 4.3% of gross State product in 2003-04 to 3.9% in 2004-05.***

### **Taxation Relief**

To ease the burden on Western Australian taxpayers, measures in this Budget (to take effect from 1 July 2004) include:

- exempting first home buyers purchasing a home up to \$220,000 or land up to \$100,000 from conveyance duty. The concession will phase out at \$300,000 for homes and \$150,000 for land (at an estimated cost of \$45.5 million in 2004-05);
  - including the existing \$7,000 First Home Owners Grant, first home buyers will now receive assistance of up to \$15,230 from the Government;
- decreasing all rates of stamp duty on property conveyances by 5% (estimated to cost \$47.2 million in 2004-05);
  - conveyance duty for anyone buying a median-priced house in Perth will fall by around \$470 as a result of this measure;
- extending the value at which the concessional rate of stamp duty on conveyances for purchases of a principal place of residence or a small business applies, from \$135,000 to \$200,000 (estimated to cost \$3 million in 2004-05);



- adjusting land tax thresholds, freeing around 55,000 taxpayers from land tax. A further 58,000 taxpayers will see their land tax payment reduced from what it would have been (foregoing revenue of around \$17 million in 2004-05); and
- exempting land under an approved conservation covenant from land tax.

These measures cost around \$113 million in 2004-05, and ensure that Western Australia's taxation revenue per capita remains competitive.

### Fees and Charges

The Government has delivered a budget that assists Western Australian households with day-to-day living expenses.

In 2004-05, the Government will freeze the Water Corporation's water, sewerage and drainage charges; Western Power's electricity charges; compulsory third party insurance premiums; motor vehicle registration costs and driver's licence fees; and Transperth fares.

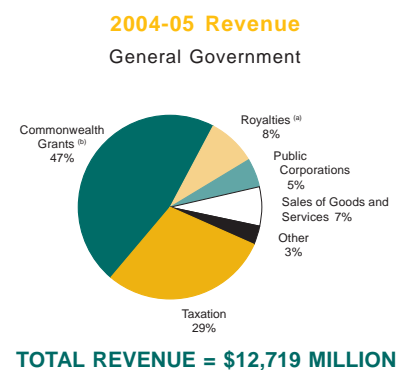
This is the fourth consecutive year the Government has not increased electricity tariffs, or public transport concession fares.

As a result, the cost of the basket of 'government' goods and services that the 'representative household' consumes will not increase, and will fall by 2% in real terms.

This initiative is estimated to cost \$20.5 million in 2004-05, bringing the total cost of the overall taxes and charges relief package to \$133 million (rising to \$160 million by 2007-08).

### Sources of Operating Revenue

In 2004-05, Commonwealth grants are estimated to account for around 47% of total general government revenue. This is up from an estimated 44% in 2003-04, largely reflecting an increase in Western Australia's share of national GST revenue following a review by the Commonwealth Grants Commission of how it distributes GST grants to the States. This increase in Western Australia's grant share follows a decade of cuts.



(a) Includes North West Shelf petroleum royalties.

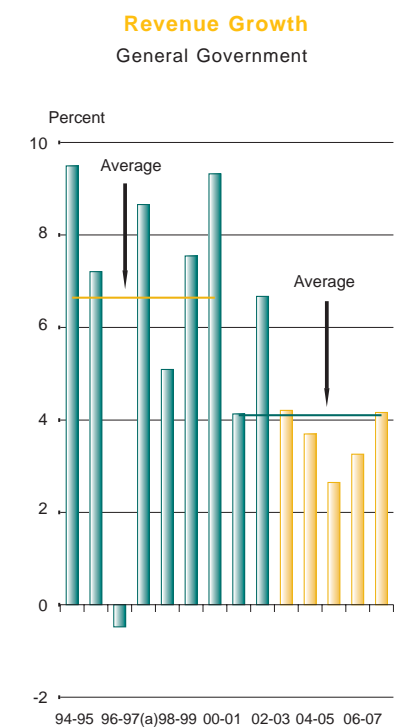
(b) Includes specific purpose payments 'through' the State.

State taxes (such as payroll tax, stamp duty and land tax) are estimated to account for 29% of total revenue in 2004-05, down from 32% in 2003-04. As a share of gross State product, tax

revenue is forecast to decline from 4.3% in 2003-04 to 3.9% in 2004-05. This reduction reflects the taxation relief measures discussed earlier, as well as an expected slowing in housing market activity and an associated reduction in stamp duty revenue.

### Revenue Growth

Total operating revenue for the general government sector is projected to grow by \$453 million (or 3.7%) in 2004-05, and by an average of 3.4% per annum across the forward estimates period. These are modest rates of growth compared to those experienced in the 1990s.



(a) Reflects the impact of \$200 million in one-off tax compensation received from the Commonwealth Government in 1995-96 for the sale of BankWest.

# Quality HEALTH CARE

- ***A total of \$3.2 billion will be spent in 2004-05 delivering health services around the State, an increase of \$163 million or 5.4%.***
- ***Since its election, the Government has injected \$2.9 billion in new money for health services, which is over \$1 billion more than the new money injected to the health sector in the preceding four years.***
- ***The health reforms recommended by the Health Reform Committee (chaired by Professor Reid) and adopted by the Government are fully funded, with \$1.7 billion committed over the next 13 years as part of a total capital program of \$2.7 billion over this period.***
- ***To address the increasing demand for hospital services in winter, the Government has allocated \$30 million in 2004-05 for the Winter Demand Strategy.***

## Health Reform

The Health Reform Committee (HRC) final report *A Healthy Future for Western Australians* puts forward a comprehensive long-term vision and blueprint for strategic reform of the State health system.

Integral to the HRC vision is a significant reconfiguration of hospitals in the metropolitan area and the revamp of clinical services to minimise clinical duplication in tertiary hospitals without compromising quality of care and patient safety.

The Government has provided new capital funding of \$1.7 billion over the next 13 years to increase health infrastructure significantly, consistent with the recommendations of the HRC. The overall aim is to ensure access to appropriate health care, in the appropriate location and at an appropriate cost.

Key reforms of the health system include:

- establishing north and south of the river tertiary hospitals by building a new 600 bed Southern Tertiary Hospital and amalgamating Royal Perth Hospital and Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital to create a Northern Tertiary Hospital;
- establishing specialist centres of excellence for major trauma, neurosurgery and heart, lung and renal transplantation at the two new adult tertiary hospitals;



- rebuilding and co-locating King Edward Memorial Hospital at a tertiary hospital;
- expanding Joondalup Health Campus, Swan District Hospital, Armadale Kelmscott Memorial Hospital and Rockingham/Kwinana Hospital to 300 bed General Hospitals and increasing the range of medical services available. These facilities will provide clinical services in areas such as general surgery, orthopaedics, emergency, cardiology, general medicine, obstetrics and general paediatrics;
- providing a range of general hospital services including rehabilitation, community care, aged care, mental health services, day surgery ambulatory care, sub-acute care and supported palliative care services at Fremantle, Bentley, Kalamunda and Osborne Park hospitals;
- building a more integrated and patient centred health system with greater emphasis on health promotion and primary and community based care. This will include:
  - implementing targeted health promotion programs for chronic and complex diseases;
  - expanding early intervention and prevention programs in mental health care;
  - improving hospital discharge processes;
  - introducing transitional care programs and home care programs; and
- introducing a system-wide clinical information system including electronic patient records;
- expanding emergency departments in each of the four metropolitan general hospitals to accommodate emergency adult and paediatric care, excluding major trauma, and establishing purpose-built facilities to provide in-patient, day and ambulatory palliative care hospice services at the four designated metropolitan general hospitals;
- developing Regional Resource Centres at Albany, Broome, Bunbury, Geraldton, Port Hedland and Kalgoorlie-Boulder to provide more locally

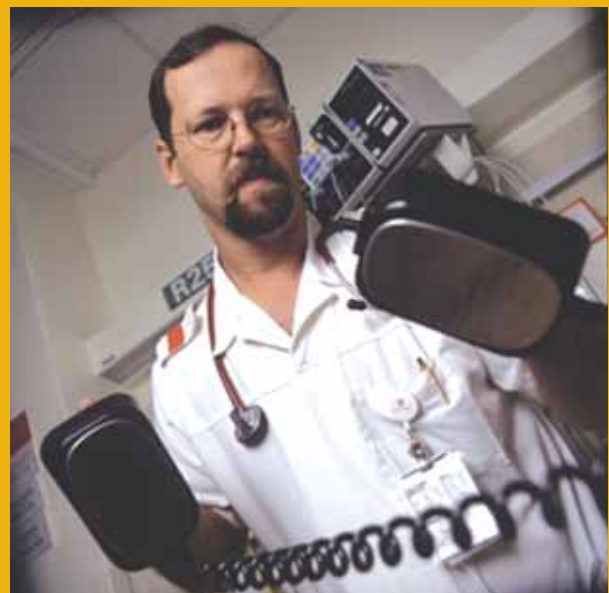
Terry Jongen is a registered nurse who works in the emergency department at Royal Perth Hospital (RPH).

The RPH emergency department treats an estimated 55,000 patients, including around 1,000 major trauma cases, each year.

“The emergency department is a highly dynamic area to work in, every day we are saving lives,” Terry said.

“Teamwork is critical here to achieve the best outcome for our patients.”

Terry is part of the campaign ‘Are You Good Enough To Be A Nurse?’ designed to recruit and attract secondary school students to nursing as a career.



accessible hospital care, where clinically appropriate;

- implementing a reduced average length of stay for a range of clinical services and targets for improving rates of day surgery admission and day procedures;
- streamlining delivery of pathology services within metropolitan health services, and reform of hospital food and pharmacy services;
- implementing improved accountability, resource allocation and governance arrangements and mechanisms, and a state-wide clinical governance framework covering clinical audit, clinical risk, consumer values and professional development and management; and
- improving financial sustainability by implementing an ongoing program that analyses cost drivers within hospitals (to enable managers to identify continuing efficiency improvements and better manage cost growth within the hospital sector), and progressing a series of revenue raising initiatives aimed at increasing the health system's per capita own source revenue to the national average.

## **New Health Care Initiatives**

### **Winter Demand Strategy**

To address the increasing demand for hospital services in winter the Government has allocated \$30 million in 2004-05 for the Winter Demand Strategy. The Strategy comprises a number of key components, aimed at reducing bed blocking, ambulance bypass and ramping, and long waiting times at emergency departments, including:

- an increase of 332 general acute beds across the metropolitan area to ensure timely access for all emergency patients requiring inpatient accommodation. The additional beds comprise the 132 additional beds opened temporarily in 2003 to cater for peak demand periods, 180 new beds across the metropolitan area in 2004 and an innovative 20 bed rehabilitation-in-the-home program; and
- enhanced ambulance service response times, through additional funding for St John's Ambulance Association, and improvements in the control and direction of ambulances.

### **Primary Care Clinics**

To achieve improved patient access to care and ease demand on emergency departments, after-hours bulk-billing medical centres will be established near Royal Perth Hospital, Fremantle Hospital, Rockingham/Kwinana District Hospital and Joondalup Health Campus.

The centres will open predominantly after-hours and be staffed and managed by the General Practice Divisions of Western Australia, and will treat people with minor injury and illness that may currently present to emergency departments due to lack of GP availability. The new centres, combined with the extra beds, form part of a strategy to reduce bed blocking, ambulance bypass and ramping, and long waiting times at emergency departments.

### **Nurses**

This Budget provides for the full-time employment of an additional 115 nurses.

Between February 2001 and February 2004 an additional 927 full-time nurses have been employed.

In 2004 a total of 90 postgraduate scholarships have been awarded to nurses to undertake clinical specialisation education. A further 114 undergraduate scholarships have been awarded to students of nursing.





The following ongoing nursing initiatives are in place:

- continuation of the *Are You Good Enough to be a Nurse* campaign, which is aimed at promoting nursing as a career path for students. In the 2004 academic year the response has been outstanding, with 2,773 applications for the 700 undergraduate nursing places in Western Australia; and
- sponsorship of the establishment of a nurse practitioner education course at Curtin University, with a total of 60 student places.

### Waiting Lists

Active management of the waiting list continues to be a high priority for the Government. In 2004-05, it is expected that some 50,000 elective waitlist admissions will be carried out.

Since February 2001, approximately 155,000 waiting list case procedures have been carried out.

At the end of February 2001 there were 15,808 reportable cases on metropolitan public hospital waiting lists. At the beginning of March 2004 the public hospital waiting lists were down to 13,974 cases.

### Capital Works

The Government has committed to expend \$2.7 billion in capital funding over the next 13 years to improve health infrastructure. This includes the \$1.7 billion of new money to significantly increase health infrastructure to facilitate the recommendations of the HRC. Specific projects include:

- \$1.4 billion for the reconfiguration of metropolitan hospitals, including the development of a \$420 million Southern Tertiary Hospital and \$95.3 million to develop the Rockingham/Kwinana General Hospital;
- \$335 million to significantly enhance information technology and communication infrastructure, including the implementation of an electronic patient record system and a range of clinical support and information management systems;
- \$260 million for an ongoing program to implement a system-wide equipment replacement program;
- a \$260 million ongoing program to undertake system-wide minor works to buildings and facilities; and
- \$167 million for Rural and South West Multi Purpose Sites and hospital redevelopments.

Health's capital works program for 2004-05 is estimated at \$162.1 million. Of this, \$73.9 million will be spent on works in progress and \$88.2 million will be spent on new works. Projects being undertaken in 2004-05 include:

- continuing the redevelopment of the Geraldton Regional Hospital, with \$20.1 million provided in 2004-05;
- undertaking minor works/upgrades at all health facilities at a cost of \$18 million in 2004-05;
- providing for an equipment replacement and redevelopment/refurbishment program at the Princess Margaret and King Edward Memorial Hospitals with funding of \$10.6 million provided in 2004-05 as part of a \$32.7 million project;
- upgrading the health facilities in the Kimberly, primarily at Derby, Fitzroy, Kununurra and Halls Creek, with funding of \$10.2 million being provided in 2004-05 as part of a \$41.7 million project over five years; and
- replacing the existing Moora Hospital with an appropriate health facility at a cost of \$6 million in 2004-05.

# A Safer COMMUNITY

- *The Police Service's budget of \$646.8 million represents an increase of \$48.8 million or 8.2% compared to 2003-04.*
- *Six metropolitan Police District stations will remain open to the public on a 24 hours by 7 days a week basis.*
- *The Government's commitment to employ an additional 250 police officers and 40 Aboriginal Police Liaison Officers (APLO's) will be completed in 2004-05.*
- *The Police Service's capital works program in 2004-05 is \$88.1 million, and includes work on eight new police stations, new remote multifunctional police facilities and a new Forensic Facility.*

## Police Services

In 2004-05 an additional 75 police officers and 10 APLO's will be recruited, which will complete the Government's commitment.

It is estimated that 20,000 persons' DNA samples will be collected in 2004-05. Since introducing the DNA legislation in 2002, 34,603 personal DNA samples have been taken and there have been 668 charges laid (as at 31 March 2004) that were linked to DNA evidence.

Additional funding of \$1.5 million has been provided to ensure the six metropolitan Police District stations remain open to the public on a 24 hours by 7 days a week basis (Perth, Fremantle, Cannington, Midland, Mirrabooka and Joondalup).

*Noranda crime-fighter Barry Nott has been battling burglars for more than 20 years through various community-based organisations.*

*Now the builder has joined the State Government's new anti-burglar campaign 'Operation Countdown' as a volunteer security consultant.*

*Barry visits people at their homes with tips to better secure their premises against burglars.*

*"Burglary is an opportunistic crime and if people take the time to properly lock their doors and windows then burglars usually leave that home alone," he said.*





Ongoing funding of \$647,000 has been provided for the expansion of the Child Abuse Investigation Unit through the creation of the Child Protection Offender Register.

The Government has provided funding of \$970,000 for the recently created Regional Operations Group, which was established to target anti-social behaviour such as out of control parties and major hotspots. This unit will have the capability to rapidly deploy police resources to locations as required.

The Government has also set aside \$1.5 million in 2004-05 to begin the implementation of the Police Royal Commission recommendations.

### Capital Works

To support the delivery of Police Services a total of \$88.1 million is budgeted to be spent on capital works in 2004-05, with the main projects being:

- work on new police stations at Albany, Laverton, Wanneroo, Newman, Carnarvon, Kimberley (District Complex), Vincent and Canning Vale;
- work on new remote multifunctional police facilities at Balgo, Bidyadanga, Kalumburu, Warburton, Jigalong, Dampier, Warakurna and Warmun;

- construction of a new Forensic Facility at a total cost of \$25 million and the \$14.4 million development of a traffic support facility as part of the Operations Support Facility at Midland;
- purchase of further specialist counter terrorism equipment at a cost of \$2 million in 2004-05, with the total estimated cost of the program being \$4.9 million; and
- building modifications at a cost of \$5.8 million in 2004-05 to address health and safety issues.

### Justice

The Government is making important changes to how it manages offenders as part of its \$5.3 million Community Re-entry for Prisoners Program. The objective is to assist prisoners to re-establish themselves back into the community, so as to reduce the likelihood of re-offending behaviour.

Since the State Government's 'Drugs Roundtable' in 2003, the Justice Drugs Plan and the prison Drugs Management Strategy have been developed. Management of the complex drug use issue involves a broad range of initiatives (\$2 million per annum), which encompass reducing the supply and demand for drugs in prison and addressing the addiction behaviours of offenders.

Within the courts system a major reform is the establishment of a Court of Appeal, which will operate as a division of the Supreme Court of Western Australia.

The Department's \$70.5 million capital works program includes \$13.9 million for the construction of a new, purpose-built District Court and superior criminal courts complex on the Hay/Irwin Street site in the Perth CBD and \$7 million for additions and alterations to the existing court building in Albany.

### Safer Train System

As new services to Clarkson and Thornlie commence in September 2004 and February 2005 respectively, an additional 21 Transit Guards will be recruited to ensure the safety of the passengers. By the end of 2004-05, 309 security personnel, including 50 Transit police, will be patrolling our trains.



# A Budget for All We

## Gascoyne

- \$3.8 million to complete the Coral Bay Access Road and boat launching facility
- \$3.3 million to construct and seal the Carnarvon-Mullewa Road between the North West Coast Highway and Gascoyne Junction
- \$2.2 million to complete the construction of a land-backed wharf in Carnarvon
- \$1.3 million for infill sewerage in Carnarvon
- \$1 million for redevelopment of Carnarvon Hospital

## Perth Metro

### East Metropolitan

- \$29.2 million for works on Great Eastern Highway, between Sawyers Valley and the Lakes
- \$17.6 million on upgrades to existing schools and TAFE colleges
- \$12.3 million for Stage 2 of the Police Operational Support Facility (Traffic Support) at Midland
- \$8.1 million on railway station upgrades at Midland, Bayswater, Gosnells, Kelmscott, Armadale and Maddington
- \$4.6 million over two years for redevelopment work at Kalamunda Hospital

### North Metropolitan

- \$39.6 million upgrades to new and existing schools and TAFE colleges
- \$30 million to extend the Mitchell Freeway
- \$13.9 million to continue the reconstruction and refurbishment of the CBD Courts and Central Law Courts
- \$6 million towards the development of a Cancer Centre of Excellence at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital
- \$2.6 million on the completion of the Greenwood train station

### South Metropolitan

- \$129 million on construction of the new Southern Suburbs railway
- \$42.3 million to construct and seal the Roe Highway from South Street to Kwinana Freeway
- \$40.8 million on upgrades to new and existing schools and TAFE colleges
- \$23.2 million for new works at the Kwinana and Cockburn power stations
- \$4.1 million for a Magnetic Resonance Imaging machine at Fremantle Hospital

## Wheatbelt

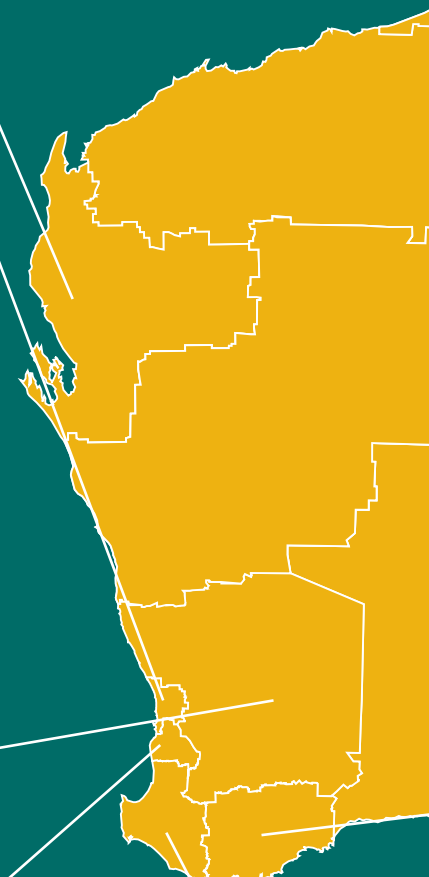
- \$11.1 million to continue reconstruction work on the Great Eastern Highway from Hines Hill to Southern Cross
- \$6 million to redevelop Moora Hospital
- \$3.2 million for the Merredin Reservoir roof
- \$3 million towards realigning and reconstructing the Great Northern Highway from Waddington to Miling
- \$2.2 million for construction of a new 28km feeder from Northam to York to improve electricity capacity to the area

## Peel

- \$20.9 million on an electricity co-generation project in the region
- \$10.3 million on a substation at Meadow Springs
- \$5.3 million on infill sewerage in the region
- \$0.8 million on the Perth to Bunbury Highway for construction and sealing work associated with the Dawesville Deviation

## Kimberley

- \$14.7 million to construct bridges over various roads on the Great Northern Highway
- \$10.2 million as part of a \$41.7 million project to upgrade health facilities primarily at Derby, Kununurra and Halls Creek
- \$4 million on the \$5 million Broome Performing Arts Cultural Centre
- \$3.4 million for Stage 2 of the Ord River Irrigation
- \$2.4 million on the Derby Highway to widen and seal the Derby Spur
- \$2.3 million to complete additions and improvements to Kununurra District High School



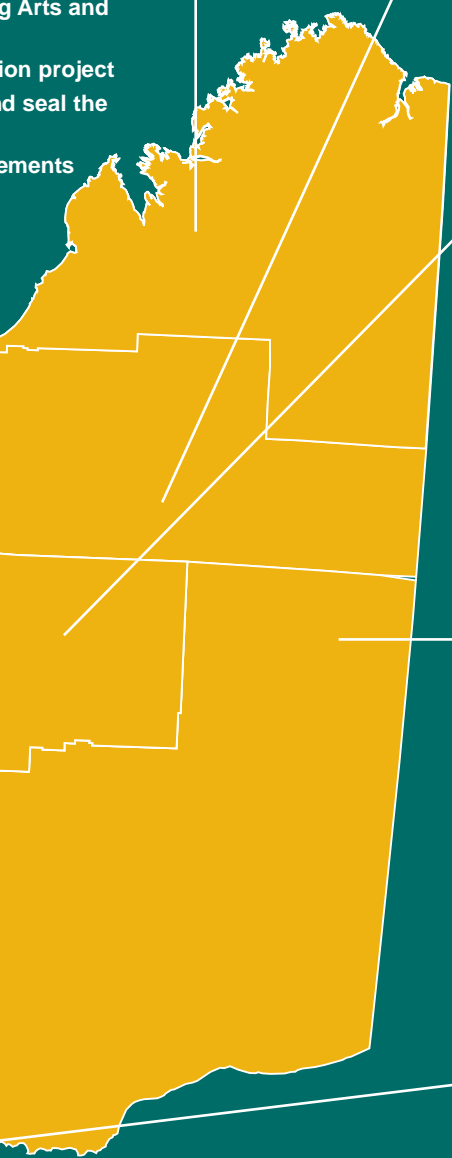
## South West

- \$15.7 million
- \$9.7 million
- \$5.6 million
- \$5.5 million
- \$4 million
- \$2 million
- \$1.4 million



# Western Australians

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## Pilbara

- \$31.4 million in multi-user infrastructure to support projects on the Burrup Peninsula in 2004-05
- \$6 million towards a new residential health care facility at South Hedland
- \$5.5 million to complete the extension of the No. 1 Wharf at Port Hedland
- \$4 million as part of a cyclical maintenance dredging program at Port Hedland to maintain declared channel depths
- \$3.1 million on a replacement Police Station for Newman
- \$1.5 million for the Port Hedland Enhancement Scheme and \$1 million for the Roeburne Enhancement Scheme, as part of the Regional Investment Fund

## Mid West

- \$42.3 million on the Geraldton Southern Transport Corridor
- \$20.1 million towards a replacement facility for the Geraldton Regional Hospital
- \$10.4 million towards a transmission line from Pinjar to Cataby to Eneabba
- \$6.6 million for water quality improvements for the region
- \$4.2 million on the Batavia Coast Marine Centre at the Central West College of TAFE
- \$3.4 million on infill sewerage in the region
- \$3 million on the Bibbawarra Road to construct a floodway over the Gascoyne River

## Goldfields-Esperance

- \$3.2 million on the \$3.5 million Laverton Police Station
- \$2.5 million for a wind-diesel project at Hopetoun
- \$2.3 million in infrastructure for the Ravensthorpe nickel project
- \$1.6 million towards replacement of the Warburton Clinic
- \$1.5 million to complete additions and improvements at South Kalgoorlie Primary School
- \$1.4 million to complete new buildings and additions at the Esperance Campus of the Kalgoorlie College
- \$1.4 million to complete the Warburton Police Station as part of the Gordon Inquiry

## Great Southern

- \$21 million to be spent by the Water Corporation on various capital works projects
- \$7 million towards the \$11.5 million Albany Justice Complex
- \$6.6 million on the replacement Albany Police District Complex
- \$5 million on a wind-diesel project at Bremer Bay
- \$4.3 million on the Albany Waterfront Development

## West

- \$11 million power procurement project at Kemerton
- \$10 million on the Muja Power Station
- \$10 million on the Bunbury Back Beach project
- \$10 million for raising the Millstream Dam in Bridgetown
- \$10 million for works in progress and \$2.2 million for new works at Port Authority
- \$10 million to reconstruct Muirs Road from Nyamup to Strachan
- \$10 million to upgrade Margaret River Hospital

# Regional DEVELOPMENT

## Local Government and Regional Development

In this Budget, the Government has committed to expanding and extending the Regional Investment Fund (RIF). An additional \$80 million will be made available through RIF in the four-year period from 2005-06 to 2008-09. This will stimulate regional development by funding many infrastructure projects and jobs, as well as enabling stronger funding partnerships between the State Government, local governments, community organisations, industry and the Commonwealth.

There is expenditure of \$21.9 million in 2004-05 for the fourth year of the initial \$75 million RIF program. Major regional projects funded for 2004-05 include:

- Shark Bay World Heritage Interpretive Centre – \$4.7 million;
- forest communities' revitalisation – \$4.5 million;
- South-West Online – \$2.1 million;
- Roebourne Enhancement Scheme – \$1 million;
- Port Hedland Enhancement Scheme – \$1.5 million; and
- regional headworks – \$1 million.

In addition to RIF, substantial expenditure is planned in 2004-05 for infrastructure projects across the State's nine regional areas. A breakdown of the major projects by region is provided in the map on pages 14 and 15.

Through the Regional Development Commissions and the Department of Local Government and Regional Development, the Government provides an integrated approach to regional development as outlined in its regional development policy. Support programs include: investment initiatives; financial assistance schemes; research and analysis; leadership and community development programs; advocacy; networking programs; community infrastructure; telecommunications services; and local government support.

## Funding for Power Supply to Remote Aboriginal Communities

The Government has committed an additional \$1.2 million in 2004-05 (\$11.6 million over five years) for the Aboriginal and Remote Communities Power Supply Project. This project is jointly funded by the State and the Commonwealth and aims to provide reliable power supply arrangements to Aboriginal communities.

This allocation will provide for continuation of the project to the five Phase One communities at Ardyaloon, Beagle Bay, Lombadina/Djarindjin, Bidadanga and Warmun, as well as an expansion to commence in 2005 to include 11 additional permanent communities.

## Tourism

The Western Australian Tourism Commission has commenced the new regional strategy of marketing tourism in Western Australia through five distinct tourism regions (rather than the previous ten). Of the \$20 million budgeted expense for destination marketing in 2004-05, the regional zones have been allocated nearly \$3 million in funding and will be responsible for their respective intrastate and destination marketing activities.

## Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture is to develop a whole-of-government 'Focus-South Korea' initiative project (\$350,000 in 2004-05 and \$200,000 per annum thereafter). It is envisaged that a focused effort into this region should result in almost doubling agricultural exports by the State to about \$600 million in three years.

# Protecting the ENVIRONMENT

- ***\$79.4 million has been committed over the next four years for the implementation of accredited regional Natural Resource Management strategies under the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality.***
- ***\$24.3 million has been provided over the forward estimates to bolster resources for bush fire management across the State.***
- ***\$2.3 million has been allocated in 2004-05 to improve the management of water resources.***
- ***The provision of an additional \$4.6 million over the forward estimates will improve the State's capacity to manage air pollution and prevent adverse impacts on public health and the environment.***

## **Salinity**

The State Government has committed \$158 million to fight salinity and improve water quality throughout the State. Through matching agreements with the Commonwealth, \$316 million will be allocated for these purposes over the next four years.

Under the bilateral agreement with the Commonwealth, Western Australia has already reached agreement on \$31.4 million of matching funding. The balance of \$126.6 million will comprise the following budget allocations over the period 2004-05 to 2007-08:

- \$79.4 million for the implementation of accredited regional Natural Resource Management strategies;
- \$15 million for the recovery of the Collie River Catchment; and
- \$32.2 million for plantation forestry.

## **Increased Investment in Firefighting**

Additional firefighting resources will be available to ensure safe and secure communities through the provision of \$3.6 million in 2004-05, increasing to \$5.6 million in 2005-06 and \$7.6 million per annum thereafter. The additional funding will also be used to improve fire fighters' working conditions.

## Swan River

Recognising the critical importance to the Western Australian community of the Swan and Canning rivers, funding of an additional \$15.5 million across the forward estimates (of which \$10 million is capital) has been provided to the Swan River Trust.

The Government has also named the Swan River as the first of the State's heritage icons, marking the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Swan River Colony.

## Greenhouse

The Government has committed additional funding of \$2.4 million over the forward estimates to establish a Greenhouse Unit and to coordinate Western Australia's contribution to global efforts to reduce greenhouse emissions.

## Old Growth Forests

The Government has committed a total of \$162.6 million under the *Protecting Our Old Growth Forests* policy to cease all logging in old growth forests.

This commitment to protecting old growth forests and reducing timber harvesting to sustainable

levels was finalised in December 2003 with the release of the Forest Management Plan 2004-2013. In particular, the plan will ensure:

- there is no more logging in old growth forests;
- 30 new national parks and two new conservation parks are created, including the new Dalgarpur National Park near Bridgetown as the result of one of the forest reviews promised under the policy;
- improved wildlife protection through the establishment of a network of fauna habitat zones across State forests;
- internationally agreed principles of ecologically sustainable forest management are adopted; and
- a reduced timber yield from regrowth forest is maintained to allow for sustainable timber production and forest regeneration.

## Sustainable Energy

### Energy Reform

The Government's electricity reform program has been designed to remove barriers and impediments to all renewable energy resources, including less stringent requirements to balance supply and demand for electricity produced from unpredictable renewable sources (such as wind generators) in the new wholesale electricity market.

In addition, as part of an ongoing program, Western Power has allocated \$25 million to sustainable energy projects including a provision for a large grid connected wind farm to bid into the Renewable Energy Power Procurement process, installation of a wind/diesel plant at Bremer Bay, and installation of high efficiency diesel generation plant to support the recently completed wind turbine at Hopetoun.





### **Sustainable Energy Development Office (SEDO)**

The SEDO has been allocated around \$4 million per annum from 2004-05 to implement the Government's sustainable energy policy. The policy focuses on greenhouse abatement; development of the sustainable energy sector; and increasing the sustainability of non-transport related energy supply and use by industry, the community and government.

Sustainable energy initiatives include the Solar Water Heating Subsidy Scheme, an incentive rebate package designed to promote renewable energy (solar thermal) uptake. New funding of \$400,000 has been committed to the scheme for 2004-05, in addition to the \$2 million already provided.

### **Zero Emission Hydrogen Fuel Cell Buses**

The Department for Planning and Infrastructure is to spend \$7.6 million in 2004-05, out of a total cost of \$10.7 million, to trial three Fuel Cell buses in Western Australia in 2004-05. This trial will investigate tomorrow's technology in a public transport environment so that informed decisions can be made with respect to the most appropriate fuel and form of motive power for the Transperth fleet. This is a key element of the Sustainable Transport Energy Program, and the State Government is collaborating with a number of European and North American cities in this worldwide trial of hydrogen-powered fuel cell buses.

*Fred, Judi and Lachlan Smith from Cranbrook are managing salinity on their Upper Kent property as part of the Water Resources Recovery Catchment program.*

*Extensive revegetation programs have freshened the Denmark River and reduced the rate of salinisation of the Kent River, but more land use change is needed to reach the target of potable water.*

*Eighty per cent of Upper Kent catchment landholders are investing in landuse change to manage salinity on their land. The community collectively manages more than 90 per cent of the catchment and has revegetated 250 hectares.*



# Skilled PEOPLE

- *\$2.5 billion in recurrent funding will be allocated to the Department of Education and Training in 2004-05, an increase of \$74.7 million or 3.1%.*
- *Since its election, the Government has increased funding for each student in government schools by 17.5% in real terms.*
- *Improving the retention and participation rates of 15-19 year olds remains a high priority for the education and training sectors. The development of more flexible and improved pathways between schools, vocational education and training, universities and the community sector is essential to support the growing demand for more diverse and varied learning opportunities.*
- *Public consultation forums on raising the school leaving age will be conducted throughout 2004.*

## Students with Disabilities

Annual expenditure on students with disabilities in Western Australian schools will be increased to \$136.9 million. The major recommendations of the Review of Educational Services for Students with Disabilities in Government Schools will be implemented, including strategies to ensure compliance with the Australian Government's *Disabilities Discrimination Act* Standards for Education.

The new strategies will include mechanisms for assessing resource requirements to support individual students based on educational need, and will allow schools to apply these additional resources to the full range of students with disabilities who are eligible to receive them. The support services will include



*Queens Park Primary School teacher Sarah Shepherd is just one of hundreds of teachers and students across WA benefiting from the State Government's \$20 million 100 Schools Project.*

*'100 Schools' has seen many needy schools provided with access to the best information and communication technology training and infrastructure and professional development available.*

*At Queens Park Primary new, upgraded technology has replaced what was previously a limited and very unreliable network at the school. Students now have reliable access to information, helping them think and learn in many different ways.*



school-based Learning Support Coordinators, learning support teams in schools as well as support from the District Office and Central Office level.

The cost of these strategies is an additional \$39.9 million over four years, including \$3.2 million in 2004-05.

### Improving Literacy and Numeracy

The *Getting it Right Literacy and Numeracy Strategy* was a pre-election commitment to train and deploy an extra 200 literacy and numeracy specialist teachers to schools by 2005. Funding of \$27.8 million was allocated to this commitment over the four years 2001-02 to 2004-05.

The focus of the strategy is on early intervention, and support for students most at risk of not meeting literacy and numeracy standards. In 2004, the program has been rolled out through 254 schools. In 2005, it is projected that the total number of primary schools involved in this strategy will reach up to 300.

### Behaviour Management

An additional \$8 million in 2004-05 and \$9.5 million each year thereafter will be spent on Behaviour Management Programs in schools. The programs will be expanded into an additional 100 primary schools in each of 2004 and 2005 and a further 30 secondary schools in 2004. The program provides additional teachers for schools with significant numbers of 'difficult to manage' students.

### Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

Key projects associated with the Department's investment in ICT in 2004-05 include:

- continuation of the Education To Community (e2c) strategy (\$30.6 million);
- ICT grants to schools (\$17 million);
- the Notebooks for Teachers project (\$14.8 million);
- the 100 Schools Project (\$4.9 million); and
- the Notebooks for Students project at John Willcock College in Geraldton (\$1 million). Student enthusiasm and behaviour has improved markedly since the commencement of this project and enrolments have increased by approximately 7% in 2004.

### Apprenticeships and Traineeships

Since its election in 2001, the Government's commitment in this area has seen a 33.5% increase in apprentices and trainees in training, from 18,800 in March 2001 to 25,100 in December 2003.

In the training sector, 26.7 million student contact hours will be delivered in 2004-05.

### Maintaining, Upgrading and Building Schools and Colleges

\$189.9 million will be spent in 2004-05 on government school and TAFE college infrastructure, including:

- the completion of four replacement primary schools and four new primary schools;
- the commencement of a further four new primary schools and three replacement primary schools;
- the commencement of a new middle school at Secret Harbour and a replacement for Kwinana Senior High School; and
- major construction works for the Joondalup Hospitality Centre, the Henderson Marine project, Fremantle Stage 1 Maritime project and the Batavia Coast Marine Centre at Geraldton.



# Supportive COMMUNITIES

- **Additional funding of \$18.9 million to allow for the employment of an additional 50 protection and care workers in the Care for Children service area.**
- **Funding in the Disability Services Commission to increase by a total of \$68 million across the forward estimates (\$17 million in 2004-05).**
- **An additional \$19.5 million over four years has been provided to allow for the introduction of a consistent approach for indexation across the Non-Government Human Services Sector.**

## Community Development

Protecting all children, and particularly those most vulnerable, is part of the Government's 'Children First' agenda. In order to ensure that safe, quality care is provided to more than 1,900 children in State care, the Government has committed \$18.9 million over four years to provide for an additional 50 protection and care workers. This staffing boost in 2004-05 brings the total number of protection and care workers to 409, compared to 294 workers in December 2000, an increase of 39%. It will enable service standards to be brought in line with international benchmarks.

The Department for Community Development (DCD) is also planning to spend around \$91.4 million in 2004-05 on children and child welfare initiatives, being:

- child protection services – \$11.5 million;
- family preservation services – \$2 million;
- out-of-home care services – \$67.1 million;
- Early Years initiatives – \$3.2 million; and
- Gordon Inquiry initiatives – \$7.6 million.

This represents an increase of \$8.6 million or 10.4% over expenditure in these areas in 2003-04.





### **Gordon Inquiry**

As part of the Government's response to the Gordon Inquiry, a total of \$26.3 million over the five years 2002-03 to 2006-07 was provided to the DCD for a range of initiatives. In 2004-05, planned expenditure on these initiatives totals \$7.6 million and includes:

- child protection workers – \$2.7 million;
- Aboriginal support workers – \$1.3 million;
- Safe Places Safe People program – \$0.3 million;
- Indigenous Families Program – \$0.2 million;
- Strong Families Program – \$1.6 million; and
- youth and family engagement workers – \$1 million.

### **Seniors and Social Concessions**

The Government is committed to improving the quality and enjoyment of life for those in their senior years, with its commitment to policies and programs that support Active Ageing. Expenditure in this area is in excess of \$68 million per annum. An additional \$293 million per annum is provided for concessions on State and local government services to support the wellbeing of seniors and pensioners.

In 2004-05, approximately \$410,000 of new funding (\$3.1 million over four years) will be invested into Active Ageing initiatives across government. Of this package, \$204,000 has been allocated to DCD for a range of initiatives, including the development of an Active

Ageing Scorecard, Community Linkage Officers, Elder Abuse Strategic Alliance and a Depression Prevention and Awareness Program.

### **Indexation Funding for the Non-Government Human Services Sector**

A revised indexation policy has been developed within the context of an Industry Plan for the Non-Government Human Services sector. The Industry Plan will define the Government's relationship with the sector and outline service delivery reforms to address financial viability of the sector. The revised arrangements recognise the effect of both wage and operating cost increases on the organisations delivering human services, and total funding to the sector will increase by \$19.5 million over four years.



*Jan Wilkinson is at the very heart of protecting Western Australia's most vulnerable children and young people from abuse and neglect.*

*As a team leader in the Department for Community Development's Response and Outreach team in Mirrabooka, it's Jan's job to follow up on allegations of abuse and work with families in crisis.*

*In 2004-05 Jan and her colleagues will be joined by 50 extra staff to work with children in State care as part of the State Government's Children First agenda.*

*"We'll be able to work much more intensively with families to empower them to make the changes necessary in their lives to successfully take care of their own children," Jan said.*

## Disability Services Commission

Funding to the Disability Services Commission will increase by \$17 million or 8.2% to \$224.1 million in 2004-05.

Around \$5.7 million of new funding will provide accommodation support for a further 107 people in 2004-05. In addition, it is anticipated that an extra 19 people will be assisted through vacancies and efficient management of existing resources. This will result in a total of 126 new accommodation places being offered in 2004-05, which is 20 places more than the 106 places recommended in the Accommodation Blueprint Report and 23 places higher than the (estimated) 103 new people who will be provided with accommodation options in 2003-04. Further, this is in addition to the 257 people who have been provided with accommodation options in the first three years of this Government.

Preventive support services will receive an additional \$5.6 million in funding in 2004-05 to provide support to people with disabilities to enable them to live meaningful and supported lives within their local communities. Services in the following areas will be increased:

- family support respite – 200 additional people;

- alternatives to employment and post-school options – 130 new services;
- therapy – 670 new services; and
- local area coordination – 250 new services.

## State Housing Commission

The State Housing Commission is planning to spend a total of \$87.5 million on its land program in 2004-05. This includes acquisitions, development and redevelopment that combined will produce more than 2,700 lots. Almost 2,000 of these lots will result from contributions of \$28 million to joint venture projects with the private sector.

The award-winning New Living Program will continue with total expenditure of \$43 million. The program, which includes upgrading parks and community facilities, has been highly successful in reducing crime rates and increasing property values. The 2004-05 program will see the refurbishment of more than 430 units including the commencement of two new projects in the suburbs of Queens Park and Hamilton Hill.

The State Housing Commission will again deliver a sizeable public housing program with a total investment of \$156.7 million on the construction of new units, an increase of \$11.8 million over 2003-04.

## Keystart

The Government continues to provide significant support to Western Australians seeking to own their own homes through low-deposit, low-cost, affordable home ownership schemes. The provision of loans to homebuyers on low to moderate incomes, people with disabilities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households, is primarily made through the Keystart scheme with funding of \$506.4 million, equating to over 4,600 loans. In addition, the Goodstart scheme will provide loan assistance of \$9.2 million.

# Growing the ECONOMY

## The State's Economy

The Western Australian economy is forecast to grow by a robust 4.5% in 2004-05, following estimated growth of 6.75% in 2003-04 – the strongest growth performance in almost a decade.

Despite the completion of several high value projects, business investment is expected to stay close to its estimated record level of \$16.5 billion in 2003-04. Investment in the \$1.4 billion Ravensthorpe nickel mine and \$1.5 billion Enfield oil project are examples of new investment coming on stream.

Exports are expected to drive economic growth in 2004-05 as production commences from projects such as the 4th train expansion of the North West

Shelf liquefied natural gas project, the Telfer Deeps gold mine expansion, the Hls melt pig-iron plant and capacity expansions in the State's iron ore industry. This will enhance the State's ability to supply product to the rapidly expanding Chinese market and an improving international economy.

## Infrastructure Projects to Support Business Investment in the State

More than \$31 million will be spent on common use infrastructure in 2004-05 for industrial projects to be established on the Burrup Peninsula. This is part of a total of \$159.4 million that the Government has budgeted for this purpose, which in turn is part of a total commitment of \$183.3 million towards

infrastructure on the Burrup that has been set aside subject to further investor commitment.

The Government recently announced a commitment of \$18.4 million over the forward estimates towards the provision of infrastructure and services to support the \$1.4 billion Ravensthorpe nickel project, of which \$2.3 million has been allocated in 2004-05. A further \$19 million is expected to be spent on upgrades at the Esperance Port Authority over the forward estimates period and \$11 million on a range of public sector housing in the region.

The Government has also budgeted \$10.9 million in 2004-05 to upgrade the Fremantle Port Authority to facilitate the Hls melt iron ore project, as part of a total

## MAJOR ECONOMIC PARAMETERS

### Western Australia

	2002-03 Actual %	2003-04 Estimated Actual %	2004-05 Budget Estimate %	2005-06 Forward Estimate %	2006-07 Forward Estimate %	2007-08 Forward Estimate %
Real Gross State Product Growth	3.9	6.75	4.5	4.0	4.0	4.0
Employment Growth	2.5	1.75	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25
Unemployment Rate	6.0	6.0	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
Wages Growth <sup>(a)</sup>	3.7	3.75	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25
Consumer Price Index Growth	2.7	2.25	2.0	2.5	2.5	2.5

<sup>(a)</sup> Growth in wages refers to growth in the Wage Cost Index.

upgrade of \$101.6 million for the project (subject to further investor commitment to Stage 2).

Western Power's total capital program of \$418.6 million in 2004-05 represents an \$82 million (or 24%) increase over the 2003-04 program and is a substantial stimulus for the State's electricity supply system. Over four years, the program totals a massive \$1.5 billion. Western Power will be retaining more of its profits to fund this expenditure.

Western Power's capital program includes \$274.6 million for transmission and distribution projects in 2004-05, a \$41 million (or 18%) increase over 2003-04. The program provides for works to enhance the capacity of the electricity system as well as to improve the quality, reliability and safety of supply. Within this allocation is a special fund totalling \$12 million to address rural reliability and safety issues, including those raised by the Director of Energy Safety. Funds have also been provided for generation works (\$34.7 million), sustainable energy projects (\$25 million) and works in the non-interconnected and Pilbara areas (\$14.2 million).

In addition, Western Power will be spending \$162.6 million in recurrent expenditure to improve the safety and reliability of the South West electricity network. These works include increased

spending on corrective and preventative maintenance, such as pole inspection and repair and vegetation clearance, as well as emergency maintenance.

A total of \$356.3 million will be invested by the Water Corporation in 2004-05 on various projects, including \$162.1 million on the distribution network to replace and augment existing infrastructure. Of this, \$16.5 million relates to the Kalgoorlie Pipeline, \$44 million is to continue the implementation of the Infill Sewerage Program and \$30.7 million is for projects focussing on securing water supply to Perth and country areas.

### Encouraging Tourism

The Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre will open in 2004-05, and will host the prestigious Australian Tourism Exchange (ATE) event in June 2005. The ATE is Australia's largest and most influential international travel trade event and is expected to attract 2,500 delegates. The Government has provided funding totalling \$2 million towards this event.

The State has also secured other events including the Hopman Cup Tennis Tournament, Ironman Western Australia, X-adventure Raid Series, Australian University Games and Rally Australia to be held throughout 2004-05.

It is estimated that in 2004-05 international and domestic visitors will spend 43.3 million visitor nights in Western Australia, an increase of 2.5% on 2003-04.

### Encouraging Exploration

An additional \$3 million per annum for four years commencing in 2004-05 will be provided to boost the Pre-Competitive Geoscience Information Program – Minerals, with the aim of reversing a decline in Western Australia's market share of world mineral exploration.

Funding of \$300,000 per annum for three years from 2004-05 has also been budgeted to help clear the backlog of mining tenement applications and stimulate exploration activity. This will be achieved by allowing applicants for mining leases to convert to exploration titles. Refunds of the first year's mining lease rentals that have been paid in advance, of \$18 million in total, are expected over the forward estimates period, including \$4 million in 2004-05.

To further stimulate exploration spending, a provision of \$400,000 per annum for three years has been made from 2004-05 to enable the release of geoscience information contained in 20,000 reports collected during past exploration activities.



# Better COMMUNITIES

- *Around \$500 million is to be invested in public transport infrastructure in 2004-05.*
- *\$10.4 million will be spent in 2004-05 implementing the SmartRider Ticketing System, with installation of new ticketing machines commencing in July 2004.*
- *\$9 million is to be invested in sport facilities through the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund.*
- *Funding of \$10.3 million has been committed across the forward estimates to purchase and provide additional resources for public libraries across the State.*

## **New MetroRail Project**

Expenditure on the New MetroRail project is planned to total \$411.5 million in 2004-05. This expenditure will provide the following:

- purchase of 18 three car sets (\$83.5 million);
- completion of the Northern Suburbs railway to Clarkson extension (\$14.1 million);
- completion of the Kenwick to Thornlie railway extension (\$51.3 million);
- continuation of the construction of the Southern Suburbs railway (\$128.6 million); and
- continuation of the City Project works (\$134 million).

## **Improvements to Stations and Facilities**

In 2004-05, \$13.5 million will be spent on upgrading stations at Gosnells, Kelmscott, Maddington and Midland, completion of the new station at Greenwood and upgrading access facilities for people with special needs.

## **SmartRider Ticketing System**

The implementation of the SmartRider Ticketing System, which replaces the existing MultiRider Ticketing System, will continue. Estimated expenditure in 2004-05 is \$10.4 million, with installation of the new ticketing machines on buses commencing in July 2004, and trains in September 2004.

## Road Works

The Government is committing \$792 million to maintaining, improving and expanding the State and local road networks (this amount does not include Main Roads' works as part of the New MetroRail project or the rail component of the Geraldton Southern Transport Corridor). Of this, \$403.7 million is allocated for maintenance projects, \$20 million for the State Black Spot program and \$54.5 million for road safety initiatives.

## Sport and Recreation

The Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund has been increased by \$1.25 million per annum since 2001-02 to bring the annual total of funding available to \$9 million. Funds allocated for 2004-05 include the following projects:

- Albany Leisure and Aquatic Centre, Stage 1: \$1.5 million towards redevelopment;
- Broome Recreation and Aquatic Centre: \$1 million towards development of sporting fields and infrastructure;
- Stirling: \$700,000 towards the upgrade of the existing aquatic centre at Balga;
- Merredin: \$500,000 towards the construction of a recreation and leisure centre including two synthetic bowling greens; and

- Roebourne: \$385,000 towards the construction of two undercover, multi-purpose sports courts with amenities.

In total, assistance has been approved to 132 projects for 2004-05 with approximately two thirds of funding being allocated to projects in regional Western Australia.

In 2003-04, the Government invested substantial funds in the development of State level sporting facilities, with \$4.5 million for soccer, rugby and other rectangular codes at the new Members Equity Stadium. A final completion payment of \$1.6 million will be made in 2004-05. In addition, a total of \$1.7 million is set aside over the next two financial years for a multi-purpose indoor 'boutique' stadium. This will house a variety of sports, including gymnastics, martial arts and billiards/snooker. An amount of \$4.8 million has been allocated over the next two financial years for a State Athletics Centre at AK Reserve adjacent to Challenge Stadium.

## Culture and the Arts

The Government has addressed the long-term occupational, health and safety issues associated with the asbestos in the Francis Street building of the Western Australian Museum with the purchase of a property in Welshpool, for the improved storage of the Museum's collections and interim accommodation of administrative and curatorial staff from Francis Street.

The Government has committed a further \$10.3 million over four years to purchase and provide additional resources for public libraries across the State.

An additional \$2 million will also be invested in developing the Western Australian film industry through WA On Screen, an initiative to develop low budget feature films, Indigenous productions, dramas and documentaries.

A two year pilot grant program to support the development of the Western Australian fashion industry has been allocated \$700,000 over two years to provide funding for marketing, mentoring, business development and professional development opportunities for designers.

The following are acknowledged with thanks for providing photographs.

Department for Community Development

Department of Conservation and Land Management

Department of Education and Training

Department of Environmental Protection

Department of Health

Department of Housing and Works

Department for Planning and Infrastructure

Disability Services Commission

Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia

New MetroRail and EDI Rail-Bombardier Joint Venture

Office of Energy

Public Transport Authority of Western Australia

Police Service

Swan River Trust

Western Power Corporation