



Keeping the Agricultural Region Strong

The McGowan Labor Government is delivering on its plan to keep the Agricultural region strong, with the State Budget investing billions to create quality local jobs, fund a pipeline of infrastructure works and deliver key services like health and education.

The 2021-22 State Budget includes a record \$9.1 billion investment in regional infrastructure with only 9 per cent of this funded through Royalties for Regions.

\$2 billion is being invested into electricity and water subsidies to ensure regional residents pay the same price or similar for these essential services and \$463 million for regional school bus services.

\$4.2 billion has been allocated to Royalties for Regions over next four years. On top of this we are investing billions into health, education, police and other key services in regional WA.

We're delivering our Plan for the Agricultural Region to keep the regional economy growing, while delivering on our election commitments for the local community.

The 2021-22 State Budget is working to deliver a strong and vibrant region, with quality local services that give people every reason to live, work and raise a family in the Agricultural region.

Strong investment in job creating projects

- \$14.6 million will be spent over the next three years to replace cladding on an iron ore shed at Esperance Port
- \$15 million for the Agriculture Climate Resilience Fund
- \$15.1 million to strengthen WA's biosecurity capabilities
- \$10.1 million towards the Processed Oats Industry Growth Partnership
- \$3 million towards the Wine Industry Export Growth Partnership
- \$100 million Investment Attraction and New Industries Fund
- \$120 million for more than 150 frontline officers to speed up project approvals
- \$12.1 million towards regional Aboriginal Tourism initiatives
- \$45 million to expand the Aboriginal Rangers Program
- Continuing to deliver the successful \$40 million Regional Economic Development grants program, that since 2018 has invested over \$2.2 million in 28 projects in the Wheatbelt, helping create over 312 local jobs
- \$12.9 million boost to regional arts programs

Revitalising WA's TAFE sector and addressing skills needs

- Continuing the Lower Fees, Local Skills program, which has seen an increase of 22% in enrolments in the Wheatbelt in 2021
- Delivering \$9.1 million at Muresk Institute for a Specialist Centre for Agricultural Mechanisation to train farm machinery technicians in new and emerging technologies, plus a new industry standard shearing shed

- Delivering \$2 million for Central Regional TAFE's Northam Campus for an upgraded workshop to deliver training in building and construction, metal fabrication, automotive and engineering
- \$25 million to WA TAFEs for new state-of-the-art equipment
- \$29.8 million to provide 8,000 additional VET places in schools across WA, this is on top of an additional 1,350 VET places introduced in 2021
- \$19.2 million VET career taster program for year 9 students
- \$37 million towards the Employer Incentive Scheme in regional WA

Delivering high quality healthcare for all Western Australians, regardless of where they live

- \$1.9 billion additional investment in health and mental health across WA
- More doctors and nurses in regional WA
- \$19.7 million to PATS to expand the eligibility of patient support escorts to include more patients from vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, as well as maternity patients and increase accommodation subsidies from \$60 to \$100 per night
- \$4.2 million to fund the operating costs of the adult public dental clinic at Narrogin Regional Hospital
- \$10.9 million to the Royal Flying Doctor Service to upgrade aircraft
- \$17.6 million towards social and emotional well-being services for Aboriginal people in the regions
- \$9.2 million to extend Strong Spirit Strong Mind
- An additional 2.5 paid paramedics in Merredin and 2.5 in Narrogin
- The Agricultural region will share in \$2 million to support the work of regional renal support teams

Investing in a quality education for young people in the Agricultural Region

- Delivering new and repurposed STEM classrooms across the Agricultural region including:
 - \$1 million to Northam Senior High School
 - \$1.5 million to Esperance Senior High School
 - \$1 million to Narrogin Senior High School
 - \$1.5 million to Merredin College
 - \$500,000 to Central Midlands Senior High School
 - \$300,000 to Katanning Senior High School
- \$2 million to transform existing classrooms into high school science classrooms at Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin, Mukinbudin, Narembeen and Quairading district high schools
- Primary school science classrooms and/or equipment at Gingin, Wongan Hills, Boddington, Dongara, Toodyay and Wagin district high schools, and at Merredin College
- Transformed science classrooms for primary and secondary students at Beverley, Brookton, Cunderdin, York, Dalwallinu, Jurien Bay, Northampton, Gnowangerup and Kojonup district high schools
- \$104 million across WA to support student mental health and well-being including additional school psychologists

Delivering record investment in regional roads and rail

- \$4.5 billion for major, job-creating road projects and safety programs across regional WA
 - \$200 million to improve the State's agricultural supply chain, delivering upgrades to transport infrastructure to improve the performance of the freight network including \$22 million for priority Tier 1 and 2 freight rail project upgrades for rapid rail loaders and rail siding extensions in Moora, Brookton, Broomehill and Cranbrook
 - An additional \$88 million to upgrade sections of the Wheatbelt Secondary Freight Routes, bringing the total cost of works to \$187.5 million
 - Over \$79 million through the Regional Road Safety Program to upgrade more than 850 kilometres of Wheatbelt roads with road safety treatments
 - \$2.5 million to the Shire of Moora for road upgrades in the Koojan region within the Shires of Moora and Dandaragan
 - \$250 million for upgrades to Great Eastern Highway at Coates Gully, between Walgoolan to Southern Cross, and between Ghooli to Benari
 - \$275 million for the Great Northern Highway – Bindoon Bypass upgrades
 - \$55 million to upgrade Indian Ocean Drive between Jurien Bay and Brand Highway
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Keeping the community active, healthy and connected

- \$9.7 million allocation to employ 20 staff to assist in the mammoth recovery effort from Tropical Cyclone Seroja, in addition to the \$104.5 million of joint Commonwealth-State recovery funding already made available
- \$19.8 million Regional Airfare Zone Cap to make airfares more affordable for regional residents
- \$10 million to the new Club Night Lights program for floodlighting on community facilities
- \$12 million for the Seniors Safety and Security Rebate