



## Western Australia State Budget 2021-22



# Keeping Geraldton Strong

**The McGowan Labor Government is delivering on its plan to keep Geraldton 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 Geraldton 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 Geraldton.

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## Strong investment in job creating projects

- \$9.9 million to upgrade firefighting capabilities at the Port of Geraldton and \$8 million to improve roads within the port
- \$7.5 million for access roads to activate the Oakajee Strategic Industrial Area as a renewable hydrogen precinct
- \$12.1 million towards regional Aboriginal Tourism initiatives
- \$100 million Investment Attraction and New Industries Fund
- \$120 million for more than 150 frontline officers to speed up project approvals
- \$15 million for the Agriculture Climate Resilience Fund
- \$15.1 million to strengthen WA's biosecurity capabilities
- \$10.1 million for the Processed Oats Industry Growth Partnership
- \$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 million in 20 projects in the Mid West, helping create over 87 local jobs
- \$12.9 million boost to regional arts programs

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## Revitalising WA's TAFE sector and addressing skills needs

- Continuing the Lower Fees, Local Skills program, which has seen an increase of 32% in enrolments in the Mid West in 2021
- Delivering the \$4 million upgrade to the visual arts building at Central Regional TAFE's Geraldton campus

- \$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
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## **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
  - \$2 million for planning for the co-location of St John of God Hospital to the Geraldton Health Campus site, with the \$82.3 million redevelopment of Geraldton Health Campus well underway
  - \$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
  - \$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
  - \$7.3 million to extend the Mental Health/Police co-response program into regional areas
  - The Mid West will share in \$2 million to support the work of regional renal support teams
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## **Investing in a quality education for young people in the Agricultural Region**

- \$3 million for new STEM classrooms at Champion Bay Senior High School and Geraldton Senior High School
  - Investing in three Virtual Power Plants at Geraldton public schools
  - \$104 million across WA to support student mental health and well-being including additional school psychologists and expanding Alternative Learning Setting programs, designed to effect positive and lasting change in behaviours for students who have been excluded from their school
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## **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
  - Over \$70 million through the Regional Road Safety Program to upgrade more than 550 kilometres of Mid West - Gascoyne roads with road safety treatments
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## **Keeping the community active, healthy and connected**

- \$19.8 million Regional Airfare Zone Cap to make airfares more affordable for regional residents
- \$9 million to support social housing revitalisation in Spalding
- \$3.2 million for upgrades at Drummond Cove to manage coastal erosion, and improve community recreation facilities
- \$2 million upgrade for Geraldton Basketball Stadium
- \$4.3 million to implement to Geraldton Cycling Network Expansion Project
- \$17.8 million for an additional 36 career firefighters across regional WA, including an allocation in Geraldton
- \$14 million to continue the Aboriginal Community Connectors program, including in Geraldton