



Western Australia State Budget 2021-22



Keeping North West Central Strong

The McGowan Labor Government is delivering on its plan to keep North West Central 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 North West Central 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 North West Central.

Strong investment in job creating projects

- \$12.1 million towards regional Aboriginal Tourism initiatives
- \$3.5 million towards operating costs at the Gwoonwardu Mia Aboriginal Cultural Centre
- \$10 million for tourism infrastructure at Mount Augustus
- \$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
- \$45 million to expand the Aboriginal Rangers Program
- \$13 million towards joint management over the Badimia Conservation Reserves and the adjoining Thundelarra Conservation Park
- Continuing to deliver the successful \$40 million Regional Economic Development grants program, that since 2018 has invested over \$2.4 million in 20 projects in the Gascoyne, helping create over 80 local jobs
- \$12.9 million boost to regional arts programs
- \$11.8 million to refurbish Denham Power Station

Revitalising WA's TAFE sector and addressing skills needs

- Continuing the Lower Fees, Local Skills program, which has seen an increase of 101% in enrolments in the Gascoyne in 2021
- \$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
- Begin delivery of the \$48.5 million Meekatharra Hospital upgrade, which will include acute care, emergency services, mental health, community aged care and other primary care services
- \$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
- An additional paid paramedic in Meekatharra

Investing in a quality education for young people in North West Central

- Delivering new STEM classrooms to schools including:
 - \$1 million to Carnarvon Community College
 - \$600,000 to Tom Price Senior High School
 - \$1 million to Kalbarri District High School
- Investment into science resources grants and new classrooms for schools across the region, including Exmouth District High School, Carnarvon Community College, North Tom Price Primary School, Kalbarri District High School, Cue Primary School, Yalgoo Primary School, Useless Loop Primary School, Ngaanyatjarra Lands School and Pia Wadjarri Remote Community School.
- \$104 million across WA to support student mental health and well-being including additional school psychologists

Delivering record investment in regional roads

- \$4.5 billion for major, job-creating road projects and safety programs across regional WA
 - \$500,000 towards widening the Quobba-Gnaraloo Road
 - Over \$70 million through the Regional Road Safety Program to upgrade more than 550 kilometres of Mid West - Gascoyne roads with road safety treatments
 - \$14 million towards the Minilya Exmouth Road upgrade
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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
- \$8.7 million for works on Carnarvon One Mile Jetty
- \$19.8 million Regional Airfare Zone Cap to make airfares more affordable for regional residents
- \$14 million to continue the Aboriginal Community Connectors program, including in Carnarvon, Meekatharra and Mullewa
- \$10 million to the new Club Night Lights program for floodlighting on community facilities
- \$12 million for the Seniors Safety and Security Rebate