



# Western Australia State Budget 2022-23

**Budget Paper No. 1**  
Treasurer's Speech

## **2022-23 Treasurer's Speech**

© Government of Western Australia

### **Acknowledgement of Country**

The Government of Western Australia acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of Aboriginal communities and their cultures; and to Elders past and present.

**Cover image courtesy** of WA Police Force.

Excerpts from this publication may be reproduced, with appropriate acknowledgement, as permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968*.

For further information please contact:

Department of Treasury  
Locked Bag 11 Cloisters Square WA 6850  
Telephone: +61 8 6551 2777  
Email: [info@treasury.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@treasury.wa.gov.au)  
Website: [www.ourstatebudget.wa.gov.au](http://www.ourstatebudget.wa.gov.au)

Published May 2022

ISSN 1448-2630

**2022-23 Budget Paper** set includes:

Budget Paper No. 1 – Treasurer's Speech  
Budget Paper No. 2 – Budget Statements (Volumes 1-2)  
Budget Paper No. 3 – Economic and Fiscal Outlook  
Reader's Guide to the 2022-23 Budget Statements  
(available in digital format from [www.ourstatebudget.wa.gov.au](http://www.ourstatebudget.wa.gov.au))

**Speech by**

**Hon Mark McGowan MLA**

**Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Public Sector Management;  
Federal-State Relations**

**Thursday 12 May 2022**

Madam Speaker, I move that this Bill be read a second time.

**INTRODUCTION**

Today, I am proud to deliver my Government's sixth Budget.

A fair and responsible Budget.

A Budget that helps families through the challenges of today.

And sets up Western Australia for tomorrow.

For a bright future, beyond the pandemic.

Madam Speaker, it is undoubtedly and unashamedly a Labor Budget.

It eases cost of living pressures on households.

It supports workers and small businesses, investing in WA jobs and a diversified economy.

It invests heavily in our health system.

It takes essential action to protect our environment and respond to climate change.

It supports regional Western Australians.

It's in surplus, and pays down Liberal and National debt.

Because that's what Labor Governments do.

For the last two and a half years, we have taken drastic action to respond to the defining challenge of our time – the COVID-19 pandemic.

Today, twenty-six months since the pandemic began, I can stand in this House and definitively say – WA has secured the soft landing our Government set out to achieve.

The soft landing Western Australians deserved.

Across the two years of the pandemic, WA has achieved the best health outcomes, the best social outcomes, and the best economic outcomes in Australia, and potentially the world.

This Budget is evidence that our soft landing has left WA with the best financial outcomes as well.

Financial outcomes that let us boldly invest in the future of our State.

## **WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ECONOMY**

Madam Speaker, the Western Australian economy continues to carry the country.

Our domestic economy grew by 7.2% over the two years of the pandemic, two and a half times the rate of growth of the rest of the nation.

This growth has been underpinned by strong household spending. Annual retail turnover increased by a massive 22.5% between February 2020 and March 2022.

Western Australia's unemployment rate of 3.4% is the lowest in the nation, and our best result since 2008.

More than 1.46 million Western Australians are now employed, which is more than any time in our history, along with the highest ever levels of full-time employment and women in the workforce.

It is clear our WA Jobs Plan is working, with more than 160,000 jobs created since coming to Government.

We pledged to always put WA jobs at the forefront of our economic agenda. That approach has succeeded.

The WA Government's actions in dealing with COVID allowed the mining sector to operate uninterrupted, while our competitors were significantly impacted.

The value of sales achieved by Western Australia's resources sector was a record \$230 billion in 2021, up a massive 30% from the year prior.

Western Australia's goods exports accounted for more than half the value of the entire nation's in 2021, further proof that our State drives the national economy.

While activity has been very strong in the building industry, supported by State and Commonwealth grants, global supply chain bottlenecks and rising input costs are placing significant pressure on this industry and others.

There are also increased cost of living pressures for households, including higher fuel prices and grocery bills.

Pressures we help address in this Budget.

But despite these challenges, our economic outlook is bright with Treasury forecasting our domestic economy will grow by 5.25% this year, our strongest growth in a decade.

## **STATE FINANCES**

Madam Speaker, our strong economy has again underpinned our strong financial management.

The uninterrupted operation of the resources sector has allowed it to take advantage of elevated commodity prices, while the strong labour and housing markets have also boosted revenue.

Western Australia is expected to record an operating surplus of \$5.7 billion in this financial year.

The Budget will remain in surplus over the forward estimates period, including a \$1.6 billion surplus in 2022-23, based on cautious and conservative commodity price forecasts.

Net debt is expected to fall below \$30 billion this financial year, our third consecutive year of debt reduction and the lowest level of net debt since 2015.

Despite committing more than \$11.2 billion in responding to COVID-19 and investing a record \$33.9 billion in infrastructure in this Budget, net debt is now almost \$14 billion lower than projected when we came to office.

This is a remarkable achievement.

Our declining debt levels are in stark contrast to the financial management around the rest of the country, where debt levels are skyrocketing.

The Commonwealth Government alone is projected to quintuple debt, that is, a five-fold increase since 2013.

This WA Labor Government is the only Government in Australia delivering surpluses and paying down debt.

Indeed, we have responsibly used part of this year's surplus to retire \$1.2 billion of existing borrowings, reducing our interest costs by an estimated \$132 million over the next four years.

Madam Speaker, we always want to spend taxpayer money on better services rather than wasteful interest payments.

Across our first four years in Government, reducing State debt has saved the taxpayer \$2.5 billion in interest costs that were projected under the former Government.

At a time of rising interest rates, paying down debt reduces our State's exposure to ongoing rate rises – an exposure that will be keenly felt by the Commonwealth and other States, who are dramatically increasing their debt.

We all remember the experience in Western Australia of the previous Liberal-National Government, when debt was tracking towards an eightfold increase after just two profligate terms of Government.

It's this WA Labor Government that has the right priorities, and the iron discipline to properly manage the finances.

### **FAIR SHARE OF THE GST**

All States and the Commonwealth have benefited from WA's economic performance throughout the pandemic, with billions of dollars in additional revenue flowing eastward, through the GST system and higher company tax collections, right when it was needed most.

While we have provided the most support to the Federation throughout the pandemic, we have also required, and received, far less than our population share of Commonwealth support.

When it comes to the GST, WA will continue to receive way below our per capita share at 70 cents in the dollar, which continues to be, by far, the lowest per capita share in the country.

If not for the reforms we secured, WA would receive just 15.8 cents in the dollar in 2022-23.

Even with the reforms, WA will still provide a subsidy to other States of \$2.5 billion this year, adding to the \$32.4 billion delivered over the last decade.

The political noise from over east over the GST deal hides the truth that no State has been worse off as a result of the GST reforms.

In fact, all States have benefited from the higher royalties generated in Western Australia.

While other Governments will blame the GST deal for their own financial mismanagement, not one would willingly take our baseline share of 70 cents in the dollar, that they say is too generous.

The GST system failed to recognise that the structure of the WA economy and revenue base is different from the rest of the nation.

If WA mining royalties were treated like other sources of revenue, WA would receive closer to its full population share of the national GST pool, and we would not have this endless debate.

Mark my works – the threat to our fair share of the GST is real.

But I won't stand by and allow our hard fought reform be destroyed.

## **HOUSEHOLD ELECTRICITY CREDIT**

Madam Speaker, this WA Labor Government has always worked to ease the cost of living for all Western Australians.

We understand the pressures on households to make ends meet, in an environment of global challenges on everything from supply chains to fuel prices.

In this Budget, I am proud to announce that every household in Western Australia will receive a \$400 Household Electricity Credit on their power bill.

This credit will invest \$445 million into Western Australian households to assist with cost of living pressures.

This follows my Government's \$600 electricity credit delivered in 2020 to support households earlier in the pandemic.

This relief is in addition to free Rapid Antigen Tests we have provided households, the two-zone fare cap for public transport and capped regional airfares.

We have delivered again on our commitment to keep increases in household fees and charges to below inflation, going above and beyond this year, with a 3.8% reduction.

This is the second time our Government has reduced the cost of living, and even without our \$400 credit, it will be the third consecutive year we have delivered below-inflation increases in household charges.

It takes a WA Labor Government to ease the cost of living, while still reducing debt.

This is what responsible Budget management can deliver.

## **COVID-19 RESPONSE**

This Budget includes \$1.6 billion to continue our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing the total spend to over \$11.2 billion since the pandemic began.

The \$635 million invested in the purchase and distribution of RATs has helped to limit the spread and ensured our testing systems were not overwhelmed by Omicron. Our Government was the only Government in Australia providing free RATs to households, saving families at least \$150.

The Budget includes a further \$42.5 million to minimise the spread of COVID-19 in schools, including purchasing air purifiers, improving ventilation, providing masks and RATs, and continued enhanced cleaning.

Since the start of the pandemic we have committed almost \$1.7 billion in support for businesses, including more than \$237 million since the Mid-year Review as part of our Safe Transition Plan, and Reconnect WA package, fuelling recovery in sectors such as international tourism, aviation and education as we re-open to the world.

We have also made it easier for impacted WA businesses to access our support packages, which have been amongst the most generous in the nation.

In addition, we have invested more than \$2.1 billion in projects to boost economic activity since the pandemic began to drive industry development, encourage workers to upskill and boost housing supply, primarily through our nation-leading WA Recovery Plan.

## **INVESTING IN OUR HEALTH SYSTEM**

Madam Speaker, the 2022-23 Budget delivers a record additional \$2.5 billion investment in health and mental health, taking new spending on our health system to a total of \$5.7 billion since the last Budget was handed down, just eight months ago.

In this time, 342 new beds have been added to our hospitals, with an additional 188 beds to be added this year.

In the last two years, the WA Health workforce has increased by 15.6%. This includes an additional 1,456 nursing and 512 medical full-time equivalents – the largest growth in our health workforce on record.

This has eased system pressures and ensured that our health system was equipped to respond to COVID-19.

The Budget includes a \$1.3 billion increase in funding for WA Health, \$995 million for health-related spending in response to COVID-19 and a further \$181 million boost in resourcing for the Mental Health Commission.



While more beds and more nurses are essential in responding to record demand, staffing alone will not fix the systemic issues facing our emergency departments.

Better emergency care can only be achieved by doing things smarter. That's why this Budget includes \$251.7 million to improve ED capacity and address ambulance ramping.

A new Ministerial Taskforce will oversee this important work, which includes:

- \$55.8 million to provide registered nurses – around the clock – in 15 metropolitan and regional Emergency Department waiting rooms;
- \$28.8 million to better triage incoming patients in ambulances to appropriate services, and improve the collection of real-time data to manage system pressures;
- \$20.9 million to provide intensive support for patients with complex needs, who frequently attend EDs;
- \$74.1 million for a number of initiatives to help transition long-stay hospital patients – including the elderly and patients with a disability – into appropriate settings; and
- \$55.2 million for expanded telehealth services, including for regional and remote patients, and home monitoring of COVID-19.

We have also committed \$5.4 million to identify and design system-wide solutions to emergency care, and plan for a State Health Operations Centre to better coordinate emergency services.

We will continue to invest in our hospital workforce, with new initiatives such as the \$8.1 million International Medical Graduates registration project, \$3.5 million to retain neurologists locally and \$3.7 million to establish the Aboriginal Health Practitioners profession in Western Australia.

This Budget includes \$47.3 million to respond to recommendations of the Taskforce into Infant, Child and Adolescent Mental Health. This increase will expand the frontline workforce of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service in rural and remote areas, as well as provide additional peer support workers. It includes \$15.8 million to bolster virtual support services for at-risk children, develop new models of care and further develop our mental health workforce.

This Budget sets Western Australia's health system up for the future, with an additional \$223 million investment in health infrastructure – taking the total infrastructure investment to \$3.4 billion over the next four years.

The intensive care unit at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital will be upgraded and two biplanar imaging units will be installed at a cost of \$24.3 million, while \$44 million has been provided to continue the statewide Medical Equipment and Imaging Replacement Program.

Hospitals throughout the State will continue to be upgraded and expanded, with \$2.5 million for a business case to inform options for the proposed WA Comprehensive Cancer Centre. Planning for the new Women and Babies Hospital is scheduled for completion this year, with enabling works to commence in 2023.

In regional Western Australia, the Government will significantly expand its investment in health services. This includes:

- \$30.1 million to expand regional ambulance services – including new ambulances and an additional 18 paramedics;
- an additional \$49.4 million to deliver the Geraldton Health Campus redevelopment project, bringing the total project cost to \$122.7 million;
- \$5.1 million to continue the WA Country Health Service’s Mental Health Emergency Telehealth Service;
- \$13 million to build and operate a new Albany General Dental Clinic; and
- \$10 million to deliver a wide range of specialist services at the Karratha Health Campus and in surrounding sites.

My Government is committed to providing the quality health care Western Australians deserve, right across this State. With a total investment of nearly \$50 billion across the next four years, no one can question our commitment to delivering a quality public health system.

## **WA JOBS PLAN – DIVERSIFYING OUR ECONOMY**

Madam Speaker, as we re-open to the world, my Government will double down on its commitment to expand and diversify our economy as part of our WA Jobs Plan.

The 2022-23 Budget includes \$1.3 billion in additional investment across a wide range of industries and economic infrastructure projects to create jobs and drive deeper economic diversification. This includes:

- a further \$80 million towards the Investment Attraction Fund to support industry-led diversification proposals from new and emerging businesses;
- doubling the Industrial Land Development Fund from \$50 million to \$100 million to unlock private sector investment and spark new growth opportunities in our economy;
- a \$41.2 million package to accelerate WA’s international education sector, with a range of initiatives including increased marketing and student incentives;
- \$25 million has been allocated to establish an agricultural research collaboration with the CSIRO and the university sector to leverage funding from the Commonwealth and industry;

- Tourism WA's Destination Marketing budget will receive a \$21.1 million boost, as well as an additional \$30.7 million to secure additional blockbuster and business events, and \$17.7 million for a National Park Tourism Experiences Development Package;
- WA's defence shipbuilding industry will be boosted with upgrades at the Australian Marine Complex to facilitate vessel transfers;
- \$17.1 million has been invested to expand Western Australia's international trade offices for greater export and investment market opportunities for WA businesses, as well as an invest and trade global marketing campaign;
- \$28 million will be invested in diversifying WA's resources base, capitalising on emerging opportunities and industries;
- a further \$39.1 million will be spent on a range of other diversification initiatives, including:
  - a second round of funding to attract business call centres and back office processing to WA;
  - developing our offshore oil and gas decommissioning industry;
  - growing our health and medical life sciences industry;
  - growing our fledgling space industry including autonomous and remote operations technologies; plus
  - strengthening the local capability of our small and medium sized enterprises to compete for State Government work.

This Government knows a diversified economy is a resilient economy that will generate quality WA jobs and opportunity, long into the future.

## **ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE**

WA has always been a trading State. Which means we require the very best in port and transport infrastructure.

Our \$1.3 billion investment in economic diversification includes investments in infrastructure that are critical to expanding existing industries and facilitating the development of new ones, including:

- \$332 million for a major upgrade to expand Geraldton Port;
- \$78 million for Lumsden Point to facilitate the future development of additional cargo facilities and a logistics hub at Port Hedland port;
- \$52 million for the construction of a supply base, and a chemical processing and storage facility to support oil and gas operations in the Browse Basin;
- \$223 million for the Pinjarra Heavy Haulage Deviation;

- \$120 million for the Moorine Rock to Mount Holland Road Upgrades that will support the Covalent lithium mine; and
- \$50 million to expand capacity on the Great Northern Highway between Newman and Port Hedland.

In total, this Budget invests an additional \$2.4 billion in roads and rail infrastructure, jointly funded with the Commonwealth.

Construction of our world-class METRONET public transport system is progressing well, with three projects now delivered and a fourth, the Forrestfield Airport Link, to begin operation later this year. A further \$1 billion has been invested including additional projects in this Budget, comprising:

- additional funding for the Train Control and Signalling project to expand the capacity of our rail network;
- the new Morrison Road Level Crossing Removal and upgraded Canning Bridge Bus Interchange;
- as well as bus replacement services as we undertake a number of major upgrades along the Armadale line.

## **HOUSING SUPPLY AND TAX REFORM**

Madam Speaker, following the massive investment in social housing in last year's Budget, this Budget delivers a range of tax reforms and incentives to further boost housing supply, particularly in the regions and for urban infill areas.

Land tax will be reduced by 50% for new build-to-rent projects, removing investment barriers and supporting the future supply of rental properties.

Off-the-plan apartment purchases in multi-storey dwellings below \$500,000 will receive a 100 per cent rebate of stamp duty until October 2023 to create a pipeline of more affordable homes into the future.

A density bonus will also be offered for multi-storey developments that include a minimum of 5% social housing.

A new Keystart loan product will be offered for medium and high density residential units in METRONET precincts and priority urban infill areas.

In addition, Keystart's income eligibility limits will be permanently increased to \$105,000 for singles and \$155,000 for couples and families, following the introduction and extension of the temporary higher limits in 2019.

Regional housing supply will be supported with \$19.1 million committed to subsidise the development of residential lots in Kalgoorlie and Karratha, while Keystart's property price limits will be increased for the Pilbara to assist households in gaining access to finance.

There is considerable demand for housing right across our State, and indeed the nation. By thinking outside the box, we can assist in boosting our housing supply and housing choice to ensure more Western Australians have an affordable roof over their heads.

## **ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE**

Madam Speaker, last year's Budget included a massive \$750 million allocation to take action on climate change.

This Budget builds on that down-payment with a further \$500 million allocated to our Climate Action Fund.

In addition, \$59.3 million will go towards our Clean Energy Car Fund, providing \$3,500 rebates for up to 10,000 cars with a purchase price below \$70,000 to encourage greater uptake of electric vehicles in WA.

Grants of up to 50% will also be available for not-for-profits, small and medium sized businesses and local governments to install workplace recharging infrastructure, plus funding for a trial of recharging infrastructure at train stations.

After announcing the longest electric vehicle highway in last year's Budget stretching from Kununurra to Esperance, recharging stations will be added across four locations to connect our network to South Australia.

Madam Speaker, just a few months ago, WA was separated from South Australia by a hard border. Soon, you'll be able to make the trip in an electric car.

In line with some other States, a distance-based road user charge for electric vehicles will commence from 1 July 2027 as fuel excise revenues are expected to decline.

This Budget provides \$31 million to help reduce emissions across a range of sectors, including agriculture, heavy industry and transport, identifying further opportunities for carbon sequestration and carbon farming.

We will invest \$61.8 million to upgrade the ageing electrical and water infrastructure on Rottnest Island, allowing us to deliver 75% of the Island's power from renewable sources of energy.

As part of our Plan for Our Parks initiative, \$19.9 million has been committed for the implementation of joint management arrangements with the Traditional Owners of the proposed Matuwa Kurarra Kurarra National Park and the Lake Carnegie Nature Reserve.

This Budget also includes an additional \$30 million to deliver the Industry and Community Development Program, as part of the Native Forest Just Transition Plan, to assist regional communities to transition to new industries when native forest logging ends in 2024.

Climate change will be one of our dramatic challenges in the years ahead. In order to guarantee our State's prosperity for future generations, we have to meet that challenge, head on.

## **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

Madam Speaker, my Government believes in providing our children with the best opportunities for a quality education. This Budget includes an additional \$505 million for Education and Training in WA, with:

- \$189.5 million towards providing WA children with 15 hours per week of preschool programs following signing of the National Preschool Reform Agreement;
- \$31.9 million to increase the Educational Adjustment allocation, providing additional funding to schools with students in the lowest 15% of the NAPLAN reading assessment, providing more support for students and schools where it is needed most;
- \$50.7 million for the construction of additional permanent accommodation for the Harrisdale, Anne Hamersley and Caversham Valley primary schools, as well as \$39.1 million for Stage 2 of Alkimos College;
- \$36.2 million to increase permanent accommodation, and provide a new education support facility for high needs students, and an off-site early childhood facility at Brabham Primary School;
- and \$2.5 million for a new Year 1 phonics initiative to assess and support the development of students' phonics skills.

My Labor Government is proud to have slashed TAFE fees by up to 72%, making training more affordable. This Budget continues this commitment with a further \$38.4 million to keep TAFE fees low.

We have also committed \$14.3 million to a range of programs being delivered by the Building and Construction Industry Training Board to encourage more workers into the sector.

## **SAFE, STRONG AND FAIR COMMUNITIES**

Madam Speaker, my Government is committed to enabling local and regional communities to thrive. This is why in this Budget we are proud to deliver:

- \$114 million for a Child Protection Reform Package and supporting services, to support vulnerable children and their families and steer at-risk children away from the justice system, including 36 additional child protection workers, increased spending on early intervention and Aboriginal family support services, and expanding Target 120 across nine additional locations;

- \$94.8 million to index funding for services delivered by community service organisations such as for homelessness, mental health, family and domestic violence, and care for children at risk of harm;
- \$78.5 million to support growth in the number of participants in the National Disability Insurance Scheme;
- \$63.9 million to the Department of Communities to meet its commissioning plan priorities for delivery of out-of-home care, homelessness, and family and domestic violence services;
- \$40.4 million for a package of Kimberley Youth and Community Justice initiatives. The cross-agency package includes a \$15 million provision for an on-country residential youth diversionary facility, initiatives to better engage youth and improve school attendance, and expanding the Target 120 family support program across the region;
- \$25.1 million to address critical safety and security issues at the Banksia Hill Detention Centre;
- \$34.4 million to build and operate a Family and Domestic Violence Hub in Armadale, establish an Enhanced FDV Response Team capability and continue the Kimberley FDV grants program for local community service providers; and
- \$19.7 million will be spent to deliver the Perth Aboriginal Short Stay Accommodation facility to provide temporary housing for up to 100 Aboriginal people travelling to Perth.

This Budget also includes measures to enhance the vibrancy of the CBD with \$49 million of additional funding allocated to the ECU Inner City Campus, an additional \$16 million for the redevelopment of the Perth Cultural Centre, \$7 million to rejuvenate Yagan Square, and a further \$5 million recently announced to activate the CBD.

Our emergency services will be boosted with \$12.5 million for the Department of Fire and Emergency Services to lease and fit out new aviation and maintenance facilities at Jandakot Airport and \$11 million for a Large Air Tanker to be based in WA during the bushfire season.

## **INVESTING IN REGIONAL WA**

Madam Speaker, my Government understands the massive contribution made by regional Western Australia to our great State.

We continue to invest in regional WA through Royalties for Regions with \$4.2 billion allocated to the program over the next four years, plus billions more invested in regional service delivery and a massive \$12 billion investment in regional infrastructure projects.

Of that remarkable regional infrastructure investment, only 8% is funded by Royalties for Regions, showing our deep commitment to improving the lives of regional Western Australians, and the economic opportunities on offer.

Madam Speaker, we are the Government for regional Western Australians.

We continue our record spend on regional roads, with \$5.6 billion committed over the next four years.

In this Budget, we have committed to in-source Main Roads' road maintenance program, bringing in-house more than 660 employees over the next four years, of which 490 will be based in the regions. This will not only generate savings to the taxpayer, but also provide an ongoing economic boost to regional towns across WA.

This Budget also includes funding of \$555 million to upgrade and seal Tanami Road and Outback Way, both of which are vital links between western and central Australia and will see total investment of \$1 billion to 2028-29, as well as delivering a further \$175 million uplift in funding for the Regional Road Safety Program that we know saves lives on our roads.

We have committed \$48.6 million to enable the State to leverage Commonwealth and industry co-funding for the expansion of mobile broadband and other digital connectivity solutions in regional, rural and remote areas.

\$30.4 million will be invested in a new District Support Facility to accommodate additional police officers in Broome, with a further \$3.4 million to expand leased police facilities in Kununurra.

This is in addition to the hundreds of millions of dollars already mentioned in regional health, community services and economic diversification.

## **REMOTE COMMUNITIES**

Madam Speaker, in this Budget, my Government has allocated \$350 million to establish a new Remote Communities Fund, for the regularisation and upgrade of water and electricity services, and new and refurbished housing in remote Aboriginal communities.

While the current Commonwealth Government talks about Closing the Gap Initiatives for Aboriginal people, it cut hundreds of millions of dollars in key services, widening the gap in living standards.

All Australians deserve these fundamental services and we call on the next Federal Government to match this important commitment.



## **ADDITIONAL MEASURES**

Madam Speaker, this Budget also includes funding for a range of essential and moral imperatives:

- an additional \$400 million committed to the Digital Capability Fund to improve digital service delivery across government and mitigate operational risks with 23 ICT projects funded in this Budget;
- a further \$185 million has been allocated to the National Redress Scheme and Civil Litigation for Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Account to meet forecast payments;
- \$130 million has been allocated to remediate aluminium composite panel cladding across government buildings; and
- \$97.9 million has been committed for increased payments under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act, given a concerted effort by the Department of Justice to reduce processing times and clear the backlog of claims.

## **CONCLUSION**

Madam Speaker, I think it's fair to say, there's a lot in this Budget.

That's the result of strong financial management, for six consecutive Budgets.

At its core, our Budget ensures that Western Australians, who have given so much over the past two years, see the fruits of their labours.

People who despite facing the uncertainty, challenges and heartbreak of a once in a century pandemic, ensured WA had the best health, social, economic and financial outcomes in the world.

In this Budget, we deliver:

- genuine cost of living relief;
- record investment in our public health system;
- concrete action in addressing climate change;
- a substantial reduction in State debt;
- and targeted tax relief.

Not to mention genuine progress in the ongoing endeavor of diversifying the WA economy.

This WA Labor Budget helps families, workers and small businesses,

Through the challenges of today.

And sets up WA for tomorrow.

For an even stronger future, beyond the pandemic.

Madam Speaker, I'm proud to commend this Budget to the House.

I would now like to proceed with the formalities.

Appropriation (Recurrent 2022-23) Bill 2022 is for recurrent services, which comprise the delivery of services and administered grants, subsidies and other transfer payments.

Recurrent service estimates of \$27,587,351,000 include a sum of \$2,428,570,000 permanently appropriated under Special Acts, leaving an amount of \$25,158,781,000 that is to be appropriated in the manner shown in the Schedule to Appropriation (Recurrent 2022-23) Bill 2022.

Madam Speaker, I commend the Bill to the House.

