



WA Jobs Plan A strong economy

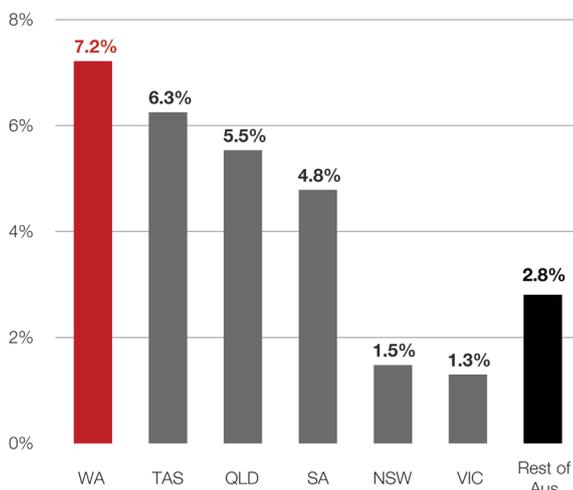
At a glance

The 2022-23 State Budget confirms the WA economy powers the nation, with the Western Australia domestic economy growing by 7.2% over the two years of the pandemic, the strongest in the nation, and among the best performing in the world.

- The McGowan Labor Government's stable and responsible Budget management and safe handling of the pandemic has positioned Western Australia's economy and finances to be among the strongest in the world.
- WA's domestic economy has grown by 7.2% since the start of the pandemic, the strongest of all States and more than double the growth of the rest of the nation.
- WA is the only mainland State to record Gross State Product growth in 2019-20 and 2020-21 and contributed almost 40% of growth in the national economy over the two years.
- WA merchandise exports reached a record \$240 billion in 2021, accounting for more than half of Australia's exports.
- Western Australia's domestic economy is forecast to grow by 5.25% in 2021-22 and a further 4% in 2022-23, fuelled by household spending, business and government investment, and housing construction.
- Treasury forecasts that Gross State Product (which includes international trade) will grow by 3.75% in 2021-22 – the fastest rate of growth since 2013-14.
- The continued strength of WA's economy throughout the pandemic, including the uninterrupted operations of the resources sector, has provided valuable support to the national economy, resulting in billions in revenue flowing to the eastern States, including through company tax collections and the GST.
- WA's strong economic and financial management has reduced net debt in 2021-22 to a seven-year low.
- WA's strong surplus is being used to set up our State's long-term future, including another record health and mental health investment, supporting Western Australians with cost of living, climate action initiatives as well as record investment in infrastructure and a range of measures to diversify our economy and boost capacity.
- The McGowan's Government's Budget management is in stark contrast to the record deficits under the Liberals and Nationals.

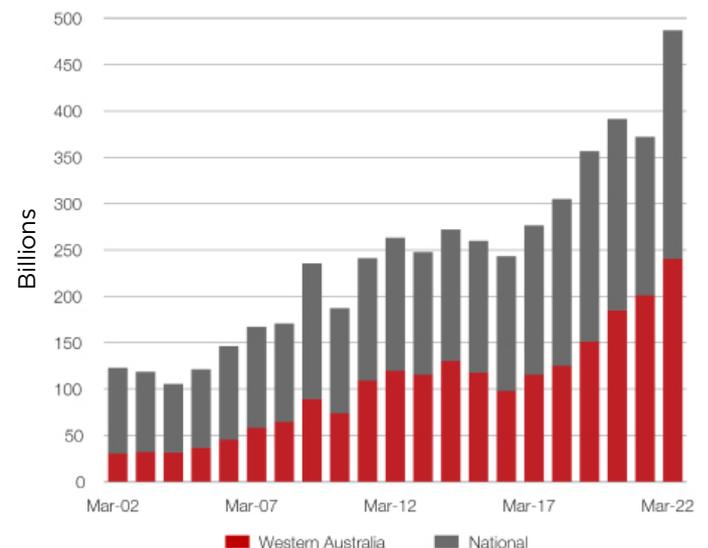
Economic growth during COVID-19

State Final Demand - 2021 relative to 2019



Merchandise Exports

Annual Levels



Economic Forecasts

Western Australia, Annual Growth

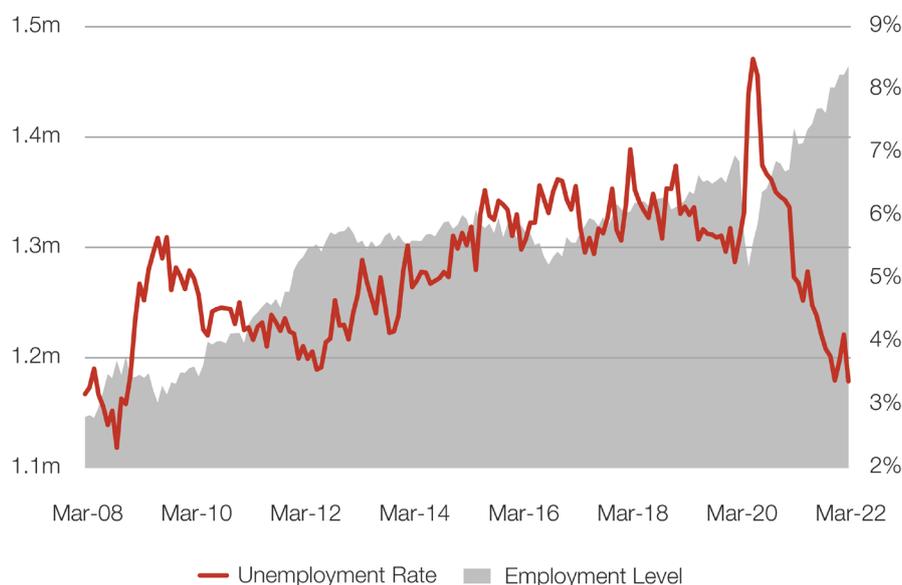
	2020-21 Actual	2021-22 Estimated Actual	2022-23 Budget Year	2023-24 Outyear	2024-25 Outyear	2025-26 Outyear
Real Gross State Product growth (%)	2.6	3.75	2.0	1.0	1.5	1.5
Real State Final Demand growth (%)	4.4	5.25	4.0	3.0	2.25	2.5
Employment growth (%)	1.8	5.0	2.0	1.25	1.25	1.25
Unemployment rate (%)	6.1	4.0	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75
Wage Price Index growth (%)	1.5	2.0	2.75	3.0	3.0	3.0
Consumer Price Index Growth (%)	1.6	4.0	2.75	2.5	2.5	2.5

WA Jobs

- Western Australia's labour market has been the strongest performing in the country since February 2020, just before the COVID-19 pandemic began.
 - Employment has increased by 5.8% or 81,000 persons, accounting for a fifth of all additional jobs over the period nationally.
 - The unemployment rate has declined to 3.4% in March 2022, the lowest in the nation and the lowest level in 13 years.
 - The share of people participating in the labour market has risen to almost 70%, the highest participation on record for any State.
- The McGowan Government's WA Jobs Plan is on track, with 160,000 jobs added since coming to office in 2017.
- Treasury estimates that an additional 28,900 people will gain employment in 2022-23, after an additional 68,700 people expected to find work during 2021-22.
- Unemployment is expected to remain very low, averaging just 3.75% in 2022-23 and over the forward estimates.

Labour Market

Monthly data



Economic diversification

The 2022-23 Budget includes a massive \$1.3 billion to further strengthen and diversify WA's economy to support sustainable, long-term growth – a key focus of the McGowan Government.

The investment across a wide range of industries includes initiatives to support our local industries to grow as we reconnect with the world, to expand export markets and develop priority sectors, as well as investing in capacity-building infrastructure, including ports and roads.

The investments further advance the Government's Diversify WA strategy and WA Jobs Plan, to play to our strengths and reduce reliance on any one particular sector.

The new investments build on the long list of economic diversification initiatives totaling more than \$1.7 billion in the 2021-22 Budget and Mid-year Review.

Tourism

An area of focus is boosting international tourism to return to the strong momentum of the sector in Western Australia prior to the pandemic.

Investments in this Budget include a \$70 million boost to the tourism sector to attract more visitors, support local businesses and operators, and boost the economy to create jobs and secure more business and investment opportunities.

This is the next stage in turbo-charging Western Australia's economic transition after the successful management of COVID-19 for more than two years.

The Budget increases the focus on events and marketing while developing new tourism products, and is on top of the multimillion dollar Reconnect WA package to support interstate tourism, aviation, working holiday makers and international students.

The success of WA's strategy has been highlighted with recent major success stories such as the NRL State of Origin, Wallabies v England Rugby Union Test match, the English football blockbusters, with WA the only jurisdiction to host all four teams, and more exciting announcements to come.

The 2023-23 Budget steps up this strategy with an extra \$30.7 million over four years to attract even more major events, including \$20 million for a Major Events Fund including business events – or \$5 million a year - and an extra \$10.7 million for the Event Tourism budget.

The 2022-23 State Budget also commits to increasing destination marketing by \$21.1 million over the next two financial years to position WA as a globally desirable holiday destination and grow leisure visitation to the State domestically and internationally.

There is also \$17.7 million over four years to deliver a National Park Tourism Experiences Development Package. This includes \$6.5 million to establish eight 'shovel-ready' sites in national parks in preparation for private investment including eco retreat accommodation and \$5 million to work with industry to activate the significant investment in trails and attractions already in National Parks and to create bookable touring options for locals, interstate and international visitors to enjoy.

Highlights

- \$31 million to attract additional major events and business events
- \$21 million for two-year marketing boost internationally and interstate
- \$18 million for a National Park Tourism Experiences Development package
- In addition to McGowan Government's \$195 million Reconnect WA package

Diversification initiatives

Other economic diversification investments in the 2022-23 Budget include:

- an \$80 million boost to the existing Investment Attraction Fund increasing the Fund to \$180 million to support industry-led diversification proposals to create local jobs in new and emerging industries;
- a \$50 million increase to the Industrial Land Development Fund to \$100 million to unlock private sector investment and spark new growth opportunities in our economy;
- An additional \$41.2 million for the international education sector, including two new scholarship programs and \$10 million to increase the number of international students who choose to study in Western Australia.
- \$25 million to establish the Western Australian Agricultural Collaboration in partnership with the CSIRO and the university sector to leverage funding from the Commonwealth and industry;
- \$17.1 million to expand Western Australia's international trade offices to open up export and investment market opportunities, as well as an invest and trade global marketing campaign;
- \$12 million for the WA-Array program providing imaging of the State's geology to assist exploration companies in identifying new resources;
- \$10 million for a second round of funding to attract business call centres and back office processing to WA;
- \$6 million for the Minerals Research Institute of WA to pursue strategic research opportunities, including critical minerals and clean energy technologies;
- \$8.7 million to implement the WA Health and Medical Life Sciences Industry Strategy
- Almost \$11 million for the continuation of grant programs to support the space sector
- supporting the development of an LNG decommissioning industry in Western Australia through a \$5 million grant to the Centre for Decommissioning Australia; and
- \$4.5 million to strengthen the local capability of our small and medium sized enterprises to compete for State Government work.
- Other measures include a 50% royalty rebate to support development of the potash industry and an additional investment in a vessel transfer path at the Australian Marine Complex for the defence industry.

Investments in economic infrastructure to expand existing industries and facilitate new industries in the State Budget comprise:

- \$332 million for a major upgrade at the Geraldton Port;
- \$250 million for Stage 1 and 2 of the Pinjarra Heavy Haulage Deviation, which will provide an alternative route for heavy vehicles around the town to reduce congestion and improve safety;
- \$120 million for Moorine Rock to Mount Holland road upgrades that will support the Covalent lithium mine;
- \$78.1 million to construct supporting infrastructure at Lumsden Point in the Pilbara;
- \$52 million for the construction of a supply base to support oil and gas operations in the Browse Basin and for base infrastructure for an associated chemical storage facility in Broome;
- \$50 million to expand capacity on the Great Northern Highway between Newman and Port Hedland;
- \$36 million for the Mid West and Great Southern Secondary Freight Network Program;
- \$15 million to undertake dredging to expand the port of Port Hedland; and
- \$10 million for the Leach Highway - Stock Road Grade Separation.



State of the Finances

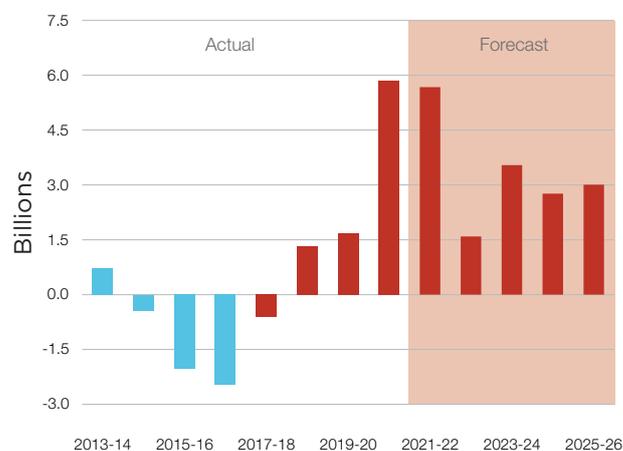
At a glance

- The State Budget confirms Western Australia's economy and finances are leading the nation.
- The State's finances remain in a strong and stable position because of WA's safe handling of the pandemic, achieving the soft landing as planned, and keeping WA's economy open and strong.
- A strong operating surplus of \$5.7 billion is expected in 2021-22 and a \$1.6 billion surplus in 2022-23.
- Net debt to decline for a third straight year to be less than \$30 billion for the first time since 2015 and almost \$14 billion lower than projected when Labor came into Government.
- This has been achieved, despite committing over \$11.2 billion to COVID-19 response measures and a record \$33.9 billion Asset Investment Program.
- This Budget continues WA's responsible financial management, while helping Western Australians with the cost of living, responding to climate change and investing in our future to keep our economy powering ahead.
- Budget management is in stark contrast to the record deficits under Liberals and Nationals.

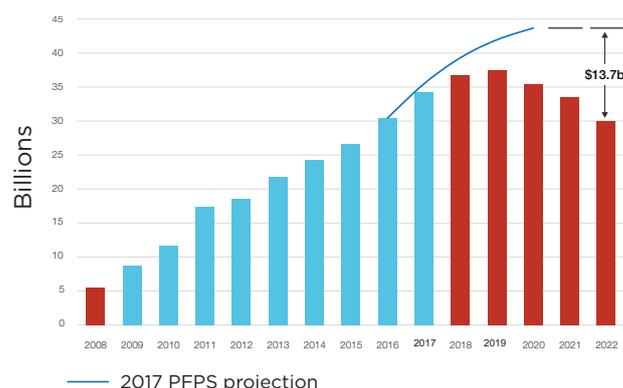
Operating Balance and Net Debt

- WA's strong economy and the uninterrupted operation of the resources sector has boosted the State's fiscal position.
 - A \$5.7 billion operating surplus is now expected for 2021-22, with an operating surplus of \$1.6 billion forecast in 2022-23.
 - Operating surpluses are forecast across the entire forward estimates period, based on conservative iron ore price forecasts.
- It is important to note that these surpluses are not 'left over' cash. They are used to fund the State's record \$33.9 billion investment in infrastructure to build WA's roads and rail, hospitals and schools.
- Net debt is expected to decline for a third consecutive year to \$29.9 billion at 30 June 2022, which is \$2.7 billion lower than forecast in the 2021-22 Mid-year Review and almost \$14 billion lower than projected under the previous Liberal-National Government. This has saved Western Australians \$2.5 billion in wasteful interest payments.
- Paying down debt reduces Western Australia's exposure to rising interest rates. The McGowan Government's strong surplus has also provided the capacity to make an early repayment of \$1.2 billion in debt, saving an estimated \$132 million in interest costs over the next four years.

General Government Operating Balance



Total Public Sector Net Debt



- Net debt as a share of Gross State Product is forecast to remain low, peaking at just 9.9% in 2024-25 before declining from 2025-26.
- Western Australia now has a stable net debt to revenue ratio of around 50% across the forward estimates period. This compares with NSW and Victoria reaching projected ratios of 123.7% and 200.5% respectively, due to the impact of large operating deficits. The Commonwealth's general government net debt to revenue ratio is projected to increase from 75.7% prior to the pandemic to 132% by 2025-26.

General Government Operating Balance
2020-21 to 2025-26



Net Debt to Revenue Ratio
2020-21 to 2025-26



Key Budget Initiatives

- The 2022-23 Budget uses the State's strong fiscal capacity to provide:
 - cost of living support for households with a \$400 electricity credit for every WA household;
 - a record \$2.5 billion investment in the State's health and mental health systems, including a \$252 million package of measures to ease pressure on hospital emergency departments;
 - an additional \$1.6 billion to respond to COVID-19 (taking the State's total investment to more than \$11.2 billion), including equipping our frontline services, supporting businesses and households;
 - \$1.3 billion investment to strengthen and diversify the economy and create jobs, including an \$80 million boost to the Investment Attraction Fund, \$70 million to support tourism, a \$50 million boost to the Industrial Land Development Fund, and \$41.2 million to support the recovery of the international education sector;
 - a further \$652 million for climate action and environment initiatives, including an extra \$500m for the Climate Action Fund (taking the total to \$1.25 billion) and \$59.3 million to accelerate the take-up of electric vehicles;
 - a further \$450 million to support safe and thriving communities, including additional investments in child protection, prevention of family violence, support for people with disabilities and helping our youth thrive;
 - a \$400 million boost to the Digital Capability Fund to ensure key agency service delivery keeps pace with public expectations and to enhance cyber security; and
 - \$350 million for a new Remote Communities Fund to provide for the regularisation and upgrade of water and electricity services and new and refurbished housing in remote Aboriginal communities.

- The 2022-23 Budget also delivers record infrastructure investment of \$33.9 billion over the next four years, including investments in roads, rail and other transport projects, hospitals and schools, ports (including a substantial \$350 million expansion of Geraldton Port), and community based infrastructure. This includes a record \$12 billion investment in regional projects.
- More details on these initiatives and other features of the Budget are available in the 2022-23 Budget Paper No. 3: Economic and Fiscal Outlook available at ourstatebudget.wa.gov.au.

Where the money comes from and where it goes

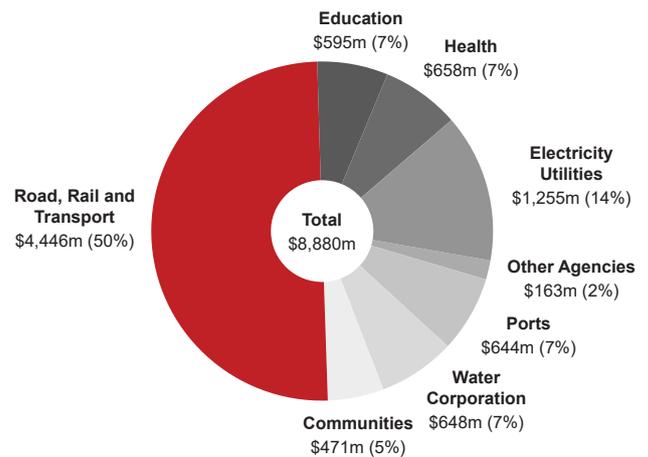
Revenue

- General government revenue is estimated to total \$38.4 billion in 2022-23.
- A stronger economy has translated through to higher revenue collections including increased taxation revenue from the strong labour and housing markets and higher royalties due to elevated commodity prices and the uninterrupted operation of the resources sector throughout the pandemic.
- Revenue is expected to contract by 8.3% in 2022-23, which largely reflects the conservative iron ore prices forecasts in the Budget, which is necessary given this highly volatile revenue source.

Expenses

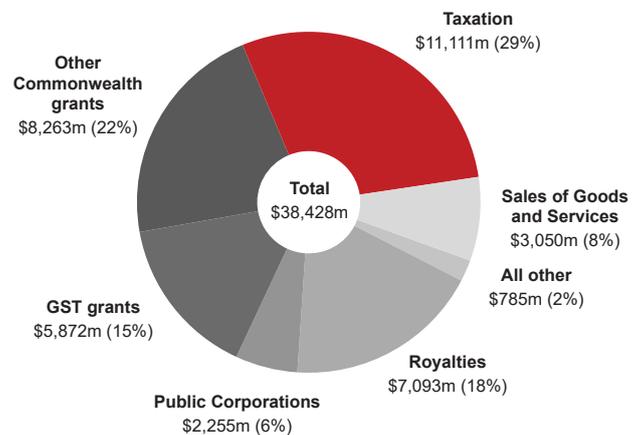
- Expenses are forecast to total \$36.8 billion in 2022-23, with health and mental health, education and training, and community safety accounting for 61% of general government expenses.

2022-23 Asset Investment Program



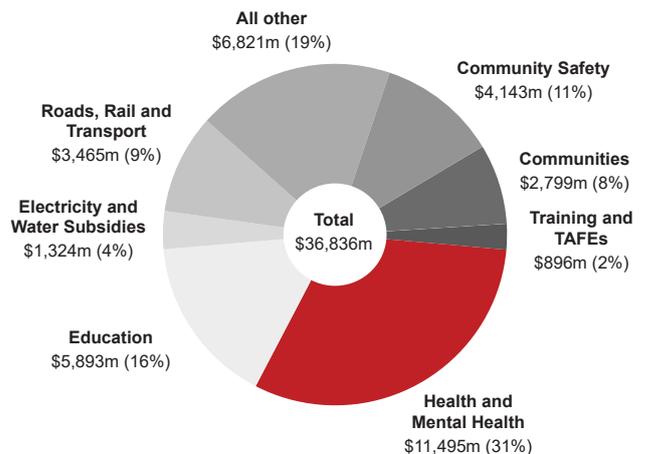
2022-23 Revenue

General Government Sector



2022-23 Expenditure

General Government Sector



Interjurisdictional Comparison

- Western Australia is expected to generate 63% of its revenue from direct State sources in 2022-23 (such as payroll tax, mining royalties, and fees and charges). Just 37% of State revenue will be provided by the Commonwealth. This is the lowest proportion of funding from the Commonwealth of any State.

2022-23 General Government Revenue

	WA	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	TAS
Commonwealth	14,135	40,973	40,351	33,733	13,125	5,094
Own-Source	24,293	58,589	41,630	33,799	9,922	2,679
Total	38,428	99,562	81,980	67,531	23,046	7,773
Commonwealth (%)	37%	41%	49%	50%	57%	66%
Own-Source (%)	63%	59%	51%	50%	43%	34%

Contribution to the Federation

- Western Australia provides the largest net revenue contribution to the Federation. Keeping the State's economy strong is vital to the country.
- Using the latest available data, Western Australia is estimated to have contributed \$30.8 billion to the Federation (or an average of \$11,541 per person) in 2020-21, more than fourteen times the contribution per capita of New South Wales, the only other net contributor. All other States were net recipients.

Contribution to the Federation (2020-21)

	WA	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	TAS	NT
Total contribution (\$m)	30,840	6,641	-9,714	-16,116	-4,179	-3,596	-3876
Per capita contribution (\$)	11,541	813	-1,458	-3,102	-2,359	-6,647	-15,736

More details on these initiatives and other features of the Budget are available in the 2022-23 Budget Paper No. 3: Economic and Fiscal Outlook available at ourstatebudget.wa.gov.au.



Building METRONET and our transport future

The McGowan Government is delivering landmark transport infrastructure right across Western Australia, creating an essential pipeline of work, local jobs and business opportunities – not to mention changing the way we get around our State.

From transformational public transport projects to essential port upgrades, building METRONET and our transport future strengthens and diversifies our State economy, while reducing the time stuck in traffic.

At a glance

The 2022-23 Budget contains substantial investments towards WA's economic future across all forms of transport.

This State Budget contains a multi-billion dollar transport investment. Since the last State Budget, more than 32 projects have been completed, which supported almost 3,400 jobs and apprenticeships for Western Australians.

From walking and cycling, to major international exports, the McGowan Labor Government's investment in transport continues to support WA's local workers and businesses, as well as our State's strong economic future, with:

- a record \$6 billion investment across METRONET, including two new projects;
- \$9 billion for major road projects and upgrades across WA;
- \$1.7 billion allocated to port projects; and
- a record \$347 million investment in pedestrian and cycling infrastructure.

METRONET transforming Perth and Peel

With a record \$6 billion allocated over the next four years across 13 projects, many at peak construction levels, METRONET is in full swing.

Since the opening of the Bellevue Railcar Facility, another two METRONET projects have been completed with passengers now parking at the Mandurah Station Multi-Storey Car Park and all road and civic upgrade works completed as part of the Denny Avenue Level Crossing Removal Project.

Milestones for the METRONET program in 2022-23 will include:

- opening of the Forrestfield-Airport Link, including new stations at the Airport, Redcliffe and High Wycombe;
- opening of Lakelands Station in mid-2023;
- peak construction activities across the Morley-Ellenbrook Line, Thornlie-Cockburn Link, Yanchep Rail Extension and Bayswater Station projects;
- commencement of major construction on the Midland Station, Byford Rail Extension, Victoria Park-Canning Level Crossing Removal, Greenwood Station Multi Storey Car Park projects and the Public Transport Operations Control Centre;
- the 'WA-made' C-series train rolling out of the Bellevue Railcar Manufacturing and Assembly Facility for testing on the network;
- awarding the contract for the Train Control and Signalling project; and

- commencement of detailed planning for the Morrison Road Level Crossing Removal.

The 2022-23 Budget includes \$1 billion in additional State and Commonwealth funding for METRONET projects, including:

- further investment in the Train Control and Signalling project, which forms part of the High Capacity Signalling program of works and is currently out to tender. This work will increase the rail network's capacity, improve safety, and allow trains to operate more efficiently;
- relocating the Canning Bridge Bus Interchange from Canning Highway to an elevated platform above the freeway and train station, to improve safety for commuters and reduce traffic congestion and travel times;
- planning for the Morrison Road level crossing removal on the Midland line, to improve safety and traffic congestion in the area; and
- further investment in the Thornlie-Cockburn Link and Yanchep Rail Extension projects to address the impacts of cost escalation and supply chain constraints impacting the construction market.

Upgrading our roads

The McGowan Government has a strong track record of investment in our roads since coming to Government, with more than \$6.5 billion in major road projects delivered since 2017-18.

This Budget includes a further \$9 billion in road projects and upgrades, boosting local jobs and busting congestion.

The Budget also includes funding allocated by the Commonwealth and State Governments for a number of new projects, including:

- \$500 million to seal Tanami Road to the WA border;
- \$290 million for Thomas Road – South Western Highway to Tonkin Highway Dual Carriageway;
- \$250 million to deliver Stages 1 and 2 of the Pinjarra Heavy Haulage Deviation;
- \$120 million for Moorine Rock to Mount Holland road upgrades to support the Covalent lithium mine;
- \$100 million for Tonkin Highway Corridor Upgrades – North Ellenbrook Interchange;
- \$80 million for the Nicholson Road and Garden Street Grade Separation;
- \$50 million Great Northern Highway Newman to Port Hedland overtaking lanes;
- \$36 million towards the Secondary Freight Roads in Mid West and Great Southern regions;
- \$35 million for the East Perth Footbridge;
- \$20 million for a new intersection and road connection at Forrest Highway and Vittoria Road in Picton; and
- \$10 million Chidlow-York Road and Forrest Street intersection.

The 2022-23 Budget also includes funding to continue delivering projects currently underway, including:

- Tonkin Highway upgrade projects, including the Tonkin Gap project;
- Mitchell Freeway Extension (Hester Avenue to Romeo Road);
- Mitchell Freeway widening southbound from Hodges Drive to Hepburn Avenue;
- Transforming (SMART) Freeways - Mitchell Freeway corridor;
- Stephenson Avenue extension;
- Queen Victoria Street - Swan River Crossings (Fremantle Road and Rail Bridge);
- Leach Highway and Welshpool Road Grade Separated Interchange;
- Bunbury Outer Ring Road Stages 2 and 3;
- Port Hedland Airport deviation project;
- sealing of the remaining lengths of Outback Way, which will provide a third sealed route across Australia;
- Great Eastern Highway upgrades at Coates Gully between Walgoolan to Southern Cross and between Ghooli to Benari;
- Albany Ring Road;

- Marble Bar Road upgrades; and
 - Bussell Highway Duplication.
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Road safety

The McGowan Labor Government is committed to delivering safer roads, no matter where you live.

The jointly funded State-Commonwealth Regional Road Safety Program will receive a further \$159 million this Budget, bringing the total investment to date to \$828 million - with around 9,000 kilometres of regional roads to be upgraded by mid-2023.

Funding has been allocated to the Safer Roads and Bridges program with \$146 million in regional WA, and \$16.2 million within Perth and Peel.

The Resealing program will see about \$200 million allocated to regional WA, and \$98 million to Perth and Peel.

More than \$118 million from the Road Trauma Trust Account will be spent on a variety of road safety programs to continue efforts to reduce the senseless loss of life on our roads.

Cycling

The 2022-23 State Budget includes investment of:

- \$47 million to further expand local bicycle infrastructure through the Western Australian Bicycle Network Grants Program and other projects;
 - \$62 million to continue to the Principal Shared Path Expansion Program;
 - \$46 million to deliver riding and walking facilities as part of major infrastructure projects including the Swan River Crossing Project, Mitchell Freeway projects (Hodges to Hepburn, Cedric to Vincent and Stephenson Avenue) and Tonkin Highway Extension;
 - \$35 million to deliver a pedestrian and cycling bridge in East Perth; and
 - \$157 million through the Perth City Deal to deliver transformational active transport projects, including the Causeway Pedestrian and Cyclist Bridge.
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Ports and our trade economy

Western Australia is a trading economy, which is why the McGowan Labor Government is committed to investing in our ports, right across our state. Investment in port infrastructure helps drive greater trade, jobs and diversification across our economy.

The 2022-23 State Budget includes \$1.7 billion in funding including:

- \$332 million towards additional capacity at Geraldton Port;
- \$78 million towards Lumsden Point at the Port of Port Hedland;
- \$52 million for a dedicated Marine Services Hub in Broome, including \$7 million for base infrastructure for a chemical processing and storage facility; and
- \$10.7 million for infrastructure and equipment at Esperance and Bunbury Ports.

In addition, the McGowan Government has allocated \$499 million towards the transformational Westport project.

Supporting local economies

The McGowan Government has announced that road maintenance staff will return in-house to Main Roads, a move that will secure 660 permanent jobs, 490 of which will be in regional WA.

Four new depots and offices will be established in regional WA, including Manjimup, Esperance, Karratha and Broome – as well upgrades to existing depots around the State. The decision will help support ongoing training and skilled workforces in our regions, supporting regional towns as well as Aboriginal employment outcomes.



Health, Mental Health and our COVID-19 response

The McGowan Labor Government is providing the biggest ever investment in the WA public health system, with a further record \$2.5 billion investment in health and mental health - towards significant targeted investments including measures to address emergency department pressures.

This brings the total new investment to \$5.7 billion since the last budget.

Under the McGowan Government, WA Health's annual budget has grown from \$8.8 billion in 2016-17 to \$11.6 billion in 2021-22, a 30.9 per cent increase.

The 2022-23 State Budget features \$1.6 billion for WA's COVID-19 response in this budget, bringing investment to date to more than \$11.2 billion since the start of the pandemic, including \$1.7 billion towards business support.

At a glance

- \$1.6 billion in new COVID-19 response and recovery measures to keep WA safe;
- \$630 million in additional hospital services spending;
- \$252 million Emergency Department Reform Package with a suite of 17 initiatives;
- \$223 million new health infrastructure investment bringing total to \$1.6 billion, in addition to the \$1.8 billion new Women and Babies Hospital;
- \$181 million additional investments in mental health including \$47 million towards an immediate response to the Infants, Children and Adolescents Taskforce Report;
- \$158 million for health and mental health initiatives in WA's regions;
- Delivered 342 new beds with a total of 530 beds to be delivered by the end of the year; and
- Over the past two years to March 2022, the WA Health workforce has increased by 15.6 per cent, including an additional 1,456 nursing and 512 medical FTE (principally doctors).

Boosting WA's COVID-19 response and recovery

WA's stable and responsible Budget management continues because of our safe handling of the pandemic, which has supported our strong economic and financial position, helping record another strong surplus.

While the global pandemic isn't over, WA secured a soft landing as planned, by putting the health and safety of the community first, with responsible border policies and achieving world-leading vaccination rates, allowing WA to transition safely, saving lives and jobs.

The McGowan Government is the only State Government that has delivered free Rapid Antigen Tests to households to help prevent further transmission and reduce the disruption to our economy and our daily lives.

Highlights:

- Massive boost with an additional \$1.6 billion for WA's pandemic response and recovery
- Initiatives in 2022-23 State Budget brings WA's investment in COVID-19 to more than \$11.2 billion since the start of the pandemic in March 2020

The almost \$1.6 billion in additional support provided in the 2022-23 State Budget comprises a suite of measures and initiatives:

- \$635 million to secure RATs and run the WA Free RAT Program;
- \$537 million in health services including for COVID-19 testing and monitoring, medical equipment, contact tracing, hotel quarantine and the vaccination roll out;
- \$61 million towards Western Australia Police Force State Emergency Management Response initiatives, including border controls, cleaning, PPE and the operation of the 13 COVID hotline; and
- \$42.5 million towards school COVID-19 measures – implementing schools ventilation strategy, enhanced school cleaning, administrative and contact tracing support, masks and distribution of RATs.

As part of a national agreement, some elements of the public health measures will receive a 50 per cent contribution from the Commonwealth Government.

Boosting health infrastructure for WA's future

The McGowan Government's investment into health and mental health prepares us for the future with additional \$223.4 million investment in health infrastructure, increasing investment in health infrastructure to \$1.6 billion over the next four years. This is on top of the \$1.8 billion set aside from the stronger than expected surplus for 2020-21 to construct the new Women and Babies Hospital.

The McGowan Government is undertaking the biggest infrastructure program in WA's history to boost jobs and the economy.

Highlights:

- \$44 million to increase the Medical Equipment and Imaging Replacement Program;
- \$38.1 million as part of Stage 1 of digital medical record keeping across the hospital system to modernise and enhance service delivery, including an initial roll out at five hospitals and regional sites;
- \$16.7 million to build a 10-bed pod to upgrade the intensive care unit (ICU) at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital;
- \$7.6 million for refurbishment works within the Neurological Intervention and Imaging Service of Western Australia unit at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital to house two new biplanar units; and
- \$5.9 million to commence site development and forward works for the Byford Health Hub.

Funding for the planning of new significant health infrastructure investments include:

- \$10 million to develop business cases for the State-wide reconfiguration of mental health services and Graylands Hospital redevelopment; and
- \$2.5 million towards the development of a business case to inform options for the proposed WA Comprehensive Cancer Centre.

This builds on the WA hospital redevelopments and expansions previously announced which include:

- \$200 million Bunbury Hospital redevelopment;
- \$14.74 million for Collie Hospital upgrades;
- \$8.6 million for Peel community alcohol and other drug integrated services;
- \$49 million for the construction of a new Meekatharra Hospital;
- \$61.6 million Newman Health Service Redevelopment; and
- \$32.8 million Tom Price Hospital Redevelopment.

Building bed capacity

Since the 2021-22 State Budget in September 2021, 342 new beds have been added to the WA hospital system, with the majority of the remaining beds to be open by the end of this year to provide a total of 530 beds committed by the Government.

Improving emergency care

A key component of the McGowan Government's health focus in the 2022-23 State Budget is a new \$252 million major reform package. Comprising 17 initiatives, it will improve access to emergency care and help address the systemic causes of ambulance ramping by enhancing system-wide coordination in the short and long term

Highlights:

- Ministerial Taskforce led by the Health Minister to oversee implementation of the reforms;
- \$18.2 million investment in real-time data capability to manage system pressures and improve the flow of patients through emergency departments;
- \$55.8 million to embed 24/7 registered nurses across 15 metropolitan and regional Emergency Department waiting rooms;
- \$74.1 million for innovative measures by securing more appropriate forms of care for long stay patients, who often have complex care needs and require suitable supports and residential accommodation;
- \$55.2 million for telehealth services which provide patient care for people who do not need emergency department support and reduces emergency department presentations;
- An additional \$5.5 million injection to extend the Virtual Emergency Medicine pilot program in the South Metropolitan Health Service and an additional \$5 million to expand the program across the other metropolitan health services – to better triage incoming patients in ambulances to appropriate services;
- \$10.8 million to continue the Active Recovery Teams Pilot Program for another year;
- A further \$10.1 million to expand the capacity of the Complex Needs Coordination Team;
- \$7.3 million to continue the Perth Sobering Up Centre and Low Medical Withdrawal Service; and
- \$3 million to prepare a business case for a State Health Operations Centre, which would seek to deliver better patient outcomes by ensuring better coordination for those people in need of emergency care.

Staffing and recruitment

In the past two years to March 2022, the WA Health workforce has increased by 15.6 per cent, including an additional 1,456 nursing and 512 medical full-time equivalents (principally doctors).

The McGowan Government is continuing to invest heavily in initiatives to build our health care workforce, which has already grown by 1,101 FTE since the WA Health Belong recruitment campaign was launched in October 2021.

The health workforce will be further bolstered with initiatives in the 2022-23 State Budget including:

- \$8.1 million for the International Medical Graduates registration project;
- \$7 million to deliver Aboriginal midwifery services, delivering on an election commitment;
- \$3.5 million to establish the final year of neurology training in WA to help retain neurologists locally; and
- \$3.7 million pilot program to establish and commence the Aboriginal Health Practitioners profession in WA.

Health and mental health investments in the regions

WA's regions will benefit from a \$158.3 million health boost in the 2022-23 State Budget.

There are wide-ranging initiatives and major investments over the next four years which highlights how big Western Australia's footprint is and reflects the far-reaching health care and services delivered to Western Australians each and every day.

- An additional \$49.4 million towards the Geraldton Health Campus Redevelopment to bring total investment to \$122.7 million;
- \$30.1 million for 18 additional paid paramedics and six additional ambulances in regional WA, delivering on an election commitment;

- \$18.5 million to expand the WA Country Health Service Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service frontline workforce across seven regions by 11.6 FTE;
- \$14.1 million towards newborn emergency transport services;
- \$13 million to build and operate a new Albany General Dental Clinic;
- \$10 million to expand Pilbara Health Initiatives to deliver specialist paediatric, cancer, haematology, stroke and neurology services at the Karratha Health Campus and surrounding sites;
- \$11 million, of a total \$55.8 million investment, to ensure there is a registered nurse 24/7 at major regional Emergency Departments;
- \$5.1 million to continue the WACHS Mental Health Emergency Telehealth Service;
- \$5 million in additional funding to address the most urgent critical staff accommodation issues;
- An additional \$2.3 million for the Broome Step Up/Step Down facility and an additional \$1.6 million for the Karratha Step Up/Step Down facility to address construction cost pressures; and
- \$920,000 for the planning and design of a new renal dialysis centre in Halls Creek.

Significant mental health investment and priorities

Highlights:

- \$1.3 billion, allocated for Western Australia's mental health, alcohol and other drug services in 2022-23;
- Almost 13 per cent increase in funding on the 2021-22 State Budget; and
- An additional \$181 million to fund new and expanded mental health services, includes \$47.3 million to support immediate Infants, Children and Adolescent Taskforce recommendations.

The McGowan Government's continued increased investment to mental health, alcohol and other drug services in WA prioritises initiatives for people to receive the mental health care they need as demand for services across the country continues to increase.

As part of this new bolstered investment, the Mental Health Commission will be allocated an additional \$181 million for new and expanded mental health, alcohol and other drug services.

This increase includes a dedicated \$47.3 million allocation to respond to recommendations of the Taskforce into Infants, Children and Adolescent (ICA) mental health including:

- \$18.5 million to expand the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service frontline workforce across seven regions by 11.6 FTE;
- \$12.9 million for additional Peer Support Workers;
- \$10.5 million to deliver a two-year virtual support service for at risk children;
- \$4 million to establish an interagency program office, undertake service model design and develop an implementation plan; and
- \$1.3 million for mental health workforce development initiatives.

Other initiatives in the 2022-23 State Budget which will prioritises mental health, alcohol and other drug support includes:

- \$10.8 million to extend the Active Recovery Teams pilot which aims to reduce unplanned hospital readmission and emergency department presentations;
- \$5.1 million towards Mental Health Emergency Telehealth Service operated by the WA Country Health Service;
- \$6.1 million to continue a range of Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder prevention initiatives;
- \$3.5 million for suicide prevention services; and
- \$3.5 million to support the development of a pilot alcohol-related violence prevention program at Royal Perth Hospital Emergency Department.

The State Government will spend an additional \$16 million and provide \$10.5 million of in-kind contributions to support the WA Bilateral Schedule to the National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement, which is a \$61.5 million joint investment into mental health and suicide prevention.



Investing in education and training

The McGowan Labor Government continues to invest in Western Australian schools to ensure all students, regardless of where they live, have the best possible opportunities to learn. We are delivering on this by investing in high-quality infrastructure, increasing support for students with disabilities and additional learning needs and boosting the overall education budget for the benefit of all students. This year's budget focuses on providing students with the best possible learning experiences to prepare Western Australians for the jobs of the future.

At a glance

The McGowan Government is increasing funding for WA education in the 2022-23 State Budget – delivering a total of almost \$6 billion for Western Australian schools. This includes new schools and facilities, support for students with disabilities and additional learning needs and keeping schools open and safe during the pandemic.

Our strong budget management provides the capacity to invest in a fair education system. In this year's State Budget, WA students will benefit from:

- \$595 million to be invested in new and upgraded school facilities in 2022-23;
- \$54.6 million increase in support for students with disabilities and additional learning needs;
- \$42.5 million for COVID-19 measures in schools, in line with health advice;
- \$2.5 million to support phonics skill development for Year 1 students; and
- \$263.7 million funding increase for delivery of education this financial year.

Investing in our schools

From 2023, the Education Adjustment Allocation will expand to support more students with additional learning needs in developing their literacy and numeracy skills. This will provide public schools with \$31.9 million in extra funding over the next four years.

The 2022-23 State Budget will also invest \$595 million in new and upgraded school facilities throughout Western Australia. This includes the expansion and upgrade of public schools in growing Perth suburbs:

- \$39.1 million for the second stage of construction works at Alkimos College;
- \$36.2 million for upgrades to Brabham Primary School;
- \$22.9 million for Harrisdale Primary School;
- \$19.1 million Anne Hamersley Primary School in Ellenbrook; and
- \$10.3 million Caversham Valley Primary School.

The McGowan Government invests about \$1.5 billion each year to provide access to a quality education for about 87,000 students, enrolled in more than 340 schools, in regional WA.

In addition to this, the McGowan Government is investing \$349.2 million in regional primary and secondary schools over the next four years for refurbishments, upgrades and new builds.

An additional \$33.8 million in funding will go towards maintenance upgrades to improve public schools.

Funding of \$3.8 million in 2022-23 and an additional \$5.5 million asset investment from the 2021-22 land acquisition program will secure three additional sites for future primary schools and a site for an education support facility.

In response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, \$42.5 million has been provided to ensure schools can remain open and safe. This funding will support the continuation of enhanced cleaning programs in public schools, and maintaining mask and personal protective equipment supplies and Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) distribution for all schools.

Supporting additional learning needs

As part of our work to improve education outcomes, our 2022-23 State Budget commits significant resources to new and expanding initiatives to support students with disabilities and additional learning needs. This includes:

- \$18.2 million investment in WA's in-demand Specialist Learning Programs for students with autism spectrum disorder will enable their expansion to eight additional schools;
- \$2.5 million for a new Year 1 phonics initiative to assess and support the development of students' phonics skills; and
- \$4.6 million will fund the implementation of the Students with Disabilities and Complex Behaviour Framework.

Investing in TAFE and training

The McGowan Government is providing more targeted training opportunities for Western Australians to take up quality jobs.

We continue to deliver our *Lower fees, local skills* initiative to keep TAFE fees low and annual fee caps across 210 high priority courses. This successful program is restoring and revitalising WA's TAFE sector after years of neglect from the former Liberal National Government.

This initiative has helped training enrolments grow to a record of more than 150,000 places and increased apprenticeships and traineeships by a massive 31 per cent last year.

Record course enrolments in TAFE courses in 2021 as a result of this initiative are helping to address the State's skills needs and prepare Western Australians for local jobs.

The 2022-23 State Budget focuses on building a skilled workforce for the future to support the McGowan Government's WA Jobs Plan and work to diversify the WA economy and create local jobs.

Training at a glance

The McGowan Government continues to invest in the training sector and deliver on election commitments to keep training affordable and accessible, provide new opportunities for Western Australians to reskill and find work in local jobs throughout the State.

The 2022-23 State Budget funds initiatives to meet skill shortages, informed by ideas generated from the Perth and Regional Skills Summits.

The \$76.5 million in training initiatives in the 2022-23 State Budget includes:

- \$38.4 million additional funding for Lower fees, local skills initiative;
- \$14.3 million to support training in WA's in-demand construction industry;
- \$11 million boost for defence industry's workforce;
- \$5.5 million to help mature-aged jobseekers and ex-offenders into jobs;

- \$4.9 million in support for Collie workforce transition; and
- \$2.4 million to attract international students to the regions to help address skills shortages.

The McGowan Government also continues to rollout the TAFE capital works program, with \$216 million committed to deliver state-of-the-art facilities providing high-quality, industry-relevant training across the State.

Retraining for the jobs of the future

The McGowan Government will invest \$11 million to further build WA defence industry's professional and para-professional workforce, which is estimated to need more than an additional 1,000 workers by 2027.

An additional \$4.9 million has been provided for the Collie Just Transition Plan, which includes the establishment of a new Jobs and Skills Centre in Collie and a TAFE Transition Team to support affected employees through career and training services.

A new \$5.5 million program will provide expanded jobseeker support to 500 mature-age jobseekers and pilot support for 100 ex-offenders to help them into employment and support their safe transition back into the community.

International Education

The McGowan Government has provided a massive \$41.2 million boost to support Western Australia's international education sector as part of the 2022-23 State Budget.

The additional funding has been allocated following extensive consultation with the sector, including a roundtable with the Premier, Minister for International Education and key stakeholders.

Priority areas include building a pipeline of future onshore international education students, reengagement of the international education agent network and providing financial support to assist the sector to recover.

The McGowan Government is also investing \$2.4 million in the Regional TAFE International Student Strategy, which responds to feedback received at the 10 Regional Skills Summits held across WA and aims to attract international students to live, work and study in regional Western Australia. This will help alleviate critical skill shortages being experienced by regional business in targeted occupations such as aged care, disability care, childcare and hospitality and tourism.

In addition, the McGowan Government's multimillion dollar Reconnect WA package includes support for the return of international students following the reopening of the international borders.



Stronger, safer communities

At a glance

The McGowan Labor Government is using its strong budget position to invest in local and regional initiatives that support safe, strong and fair communities - no matter where you live.

The 2022-23 State Budget significantly invests in community safety and wellbeing with more funding for community service providers to support our most vulnerable and additional funding to enhance community safety, reduce family and domestic violence and support justice services.

The 2022-23 State Budget includes:

- \$408 million of additional funding towards housing and homelessness measures;
- \$160.1 million in new funding for community service providers and not-for-profits;
- \$106 million of additional funding to enhance policing and community safety;
- \$95.7 million funding boost to support Western Australians with disability;
- \$67 million increase for emergency services to keep Western Australians safe;
- \$40.4 million Kimberley Youth and Community Justice Response;
- \$34.4 million has been allocated to a range of family and domestic violence prevention and support measures;
- \$114 million to boost child protection and support services to help keep Western Australian children safe; and
- \$11.1m to expand the Target 120 program from 11 to 20 locations across WA.

Investing in police and justice

The McGowan Government's police investment in the 2022-23 State Budget is delivering a record increase in the number of officers on the beat, while equipping them with world leading capabilities to keep the community safe.

An additional \$16.4 million will be invested in new staff to support the extra 950 new police officers being employed, above attrition, as part of the State Government's work to boost overall officer numbers by 15 per cent.

The record recruitment drive will also be backed by a further \$3.6 million advertising campaign ensuring the Western Australian police force continues to attract the very best candidates.

This year's State Budget also includes:

- \$60.9 million for additional COVID-19 related policing measures to keep WA safe;
- \$11.1 million towards the new Armadale courthouse and police complex;
- \$2.5 million for Operation Regional Shield, targeting youth crime as part of the Kimberley Youth and Community Justice Response;
- \$12.3 million across the forward estimates to deliver Police Compensation Scheme;

- \$47.9 million to upgrade police information and communications technology; and
- \$118 million through the Road Trauma Trust Account for road safety programs to continue efforts to reduce the senseless loss of life on our roads.

Funding for social housing and homelessness

The McGowan Government will invest an additional \$408 million towards housing and homelessness measures in the 2022-23 State Budget to build safe, strong and fair communities.

The additional \$408 million takes the housing and homelessness investment from the last two State Budgets to \$1.3 billion.

This year's State Budget includes:

- \$350 million Remote Communities Fund to support improved water, electricity and municipal services, and increase availability of appropriate housing in remote Aboriginal communities;
- \$19.7 million for the delivery of a Perth Aboriginal Short Stay Accommodation;
- \$19.1 million for the development of new residential land in key regional locations of Karratha and Kalgoorlie;
- 50 per cent land tax concession for new build-to-rent developments;
- Enhancing the transfer duty rebate for off-the-plan apartment purchases, to help promote more investment in high density developments, including a 100 per cent rebate for apartments valued up to \$500,000; and
- New Keystart pilot product aimed at supporting medium and high density living around transport hubs.

Funding initiatives to prevent family and domestic violence

The McGowan Government continues to fund initiatives that support survivors of family and domestic violence (FDV) and hold perpetrators to account.

Allocated as part of the 2022-23 State Budget, the funding will improve the way FDV services are delivered in the suburbs and the regions, aim to change the underlying attitudes that lead to domestic violence and protect those at risk.

The McGowan Government has made addressing FDV a priority with an additional \$34.4 million invested this year – taking the total of new funding committed since coming into government to more than \$150 million.

The 2022-23 State Budget invests:

- \$7.7 million boost for the Family and Domestic Violence Response Teams, which includes an additional \$2.1 million to extend the Co-ordinated Response Service (CRS);
- \$7.5 million to fund a range of initiatives in the family, domestic and sexual violence sector, as part of Western Australia signing on to the Commonwealth's National Partnership on Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Responses;
- \$14.7 million to create WA's third one-stop FDV hub in Armadale, building on the success of similar FDV hubs in Mirrabooka and Kalgoorlie. Another FDV hub is also set to be established in the Kimberley; and
- \$4.5 million to help address family and domestic violence in the Kimberley through two programs – the Derby Family Violence Service and the Change Em Ways Kimberley Project.

Responding to and preparing for natural disasters

The McGowan Government's 2022-23 State Budget continues to deliver major investment in emergency services to keep Western Australians safe in response to a number of recent natural disasters.

Western Australia is the largest emergency management jurisdiction in the southern hemisphere, which is why our Government continues to significantly invest in our emergency services.

This year's State Budget includes:

- \$15.9 million for major upgrades to the State's emergency website, Emergency WA;
- \$12.5 million to establish a new aviation and maintenance facilities base at the Jandakot Airport precinct;
- \$11 million for WA's first locally-based Large Air Tanker during bushfire season;
- an additional \$4.2 million for the deployment of more officers and contractors to assist in the recovery from recent natural disasters, including Severe Tropical Cyclone Seroja and the Wooroloo bushfire; and
- \$3.9 million to upgrade the Direct Brigade Alarm Network for building alarms across the State from 3G to 4G connectivity.

Support for fair and thriving communities

The 2022-23 State Budget includes significant investments to programs that will assist communities, families, seniors and young people, including:

- \$160.1 million in new funding for community service providers and not-for-profits;
- \$95.7 million funding boost to support Western Australians with disability;
- \$40.4 million Kimberley Youth and Community Justice Response package;
- \$114 million to boost child protection and support services to help keep Western Australian children safe;
- \$11.1 million to expand the Target 120 program from 11 to 20 locations across WA;
- \$4.5 million boost to community legal services;
- \$2.5 million for the Banned Drinkers Register (BDR) and Takeaway Alcohol Management System (TAMS); and
- \$2.2 million funding boost for Cadets WA.

An additional \$152.8 million has been committed to the WA Government's ongoing response to the recommendations handed down by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, including funding to meet costs associated with the National Redress Scheme and civil litigation.

Ensuring positive outcomes for Aboriginal people

The 2022-23 State Budget invests in initiatives to support the McGowan Government's Aboriginal Empowerment Strategy and Closing the Gap Implementation Plan, targeting initiatives that will improve economic and social opportunities for Aboriginal people.

More than \$600 million has been committed in the State Budget to strengthen services that deliver positive outcomes for Aboriginal people and communities.

The funding has been targeted at priority reform areas, which align with the Closing the Gap Implementation Plan: formal partnerships and shared decision making; building the community-controlled sector and transforming government organisations.

Key initiatives in the 2022-23 State Budget include:

- \$350 million Remote Communities Fund to support improved water, electricity and municipal services, and increase availability of appropriate housing in remote Aboriginal communities;
- \$19.9 million 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;
- \$19.7 million to deliver on an election commitment to construct an Aboriginal Short Stay Accommodation facility in the Perth metropolitan area, with additional funding for planning similar facilities in regional areas;

- \$16.6 million to expand earlier intervention services into regional areas, including Aboriginal Support Services and Family Support Networks;
- \$12.4 million for implementation of the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2021, including the ongoing co-design process.
- \$11.7 million to extend the Kimberley Schools Project to keep young people engaged with the education system;
- \$11 million for enhancement and management of Murujuga National Park, including supporting the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation's central role in Murujuga Rock Art Monitoring program and the formal training of two Aboriginal Rangers, and a new access bridge for the Murujuga National Park; and
- \$7 million to implement an Aboriginal Midwifery Group Practice and Stronglinks, delivering on an election commitment to improve the uptake of antenatal care and improve maternity health outcomes for Aboriginal women.



Investing in climate action

At a glance

The McGowan Labor Government is committed to responding to climate change and setting up WA for a prosperous low-carbon future.

This budget invests in sustainable WA jobs and industry innovation, while protecting and enhancing the State's unique environmental heritage values and assets, supporting our transition to net zero by 2050.

Our strong budget management gives us the capacity to deliver more funding to support new and exciting initiatives that will protect our environment, including:

- \$500 million boost to Climate Action Fund taking the total to \$1.25 billion;
- Almost \$60 million to accelerate the use of zero emission vehicles;
- \$62 million to power Rottnest Island with 75 per cent renewables and upgrade water assets;
- \$31 million for climate action research and planning; and
- \$30 million boost to Just Transition Plan to support the end of native logging in 2024.

Delivering a prosperous low-carbon future

The 2022-23 Budget includes a \$652 million investment to respond to climate change and protecting the environment. This includes an additional \$500 million for the Climate Action Fund that was unveiled by the McGowan Government in last year's budget, taking the total in this fund to \$1.25 billion.

The \$500 million will be invested in delivering priorities in our climate change policy, helping drive new sustainable WA jobs.

In addition, this year's State Budget also includes:

- \$62 million to power Rottnest Island with 75 per cent renewables and upgrade water assets;
- \$36.5 million to provide 10,000 rebates of \$3,500 to Western Australians that buy a new electric or hydrogen fuel cell vehicle up to a value of \$70,000;
- \$31 million for climate action research and planning to support various initiatives to assist State Government agencies to reduce carbon emissions; and
- \$22.6 million for new charging infrastructure to expand WA's electric vehicle recharging network, including:
 - \$10 million in grants to not-for-profits and small and medium-sized businesses;
 - \$5 million in grants to local governments;
 - \$4 million for the Public Transport Authority to trial the installation of electric vehicle recharging infrastructure; and
 - More than \$2.9 million to ensure WA's charging network extends to South Australia and is the longest in the world.

Creating climate-resilient communities

With climate change impacting communities across the globe, it's essential we take action to ensure that communities are protected from the impact.

The State Budget includes:

- An additional \$30 million allocated to the Just Transition Plan to create a new program to assist regional communities to transition to new industries when native forest logging ends in 2024;
- \$31 million for climate action research and planning across various initiatives to assist State Government agencies reducing carbon emissions;
- \$3.3 million for the industry-funded Port Hedland Ambient Air Quality Monitoring project;
- \$3.1 million to support the delivery of the Gngangara Groundwater Allocation Plan;
- \$3.3 million for the implementation of the soon-to-be-released Native Vegetation Policy; and
- \$2.6 million to support the establishment of the Exmouth Gulf Coordinating Body.

Building on our strong record

The McGowan Government has a strong record of climate and environmental action. From our Plan for Our Parks initiative which will deliver five million hectares of new national parks, marine parks and other conservation reserves, our nation leading Plan for Plastics, our Aboriginal Rangers Program, support for manufacturing of green energy technology, to the massive expansion of our softwood plantation estate, the WA Government is proud of its record of achievement.

This Budget we invest more in growing that record, with:

- An additional \$19.9 million for the Plan for Our Parks initiative to implement joint management activities with the Traditional Owners of the Matuwa Kurarra Kurarra National Park and the Lake Carnegie Nature Reserve;
- \$1.6 million for the Murujuga Rock Art Strategy, including funding two Aboriginal rangers to assist in the rock art monitoring; and
- \$800,000 for the marine research and management planning associated with the proposed Exmouth Gulf Marine Park.

Protecting South West forests from logging

The McGowan Government continues to progress its historic commitment to end native forest logging from 2024 in response to ongoing impacts of climate change. The decision will save an additional 400,000 hectares of karri, jarrah and wandoo forests, resulting in the protection of almost two million hectares of native forest for future generations.

We have been working with workers, businesses and communities linked to the forestry industry to transition from 2024. This includes a record \$350 million investment to expand WA's softwood timber plantations, to create and support sustainable jobs in the South West.

This year's State Budget also includes a \$30 million boost to the existing \$50 million Just Transition Plan to further support workers, business and communities through the transition from native forestry to softwood plantations.

The now \$80 million Just Transition Plan includes:

- \$30 million Industry and Community Development Program;
 - Supporting those businesses indirectly affected by the closure of the native forest industry;
- \$26.4 million Business Transition Program;
 - Providing grants to support regional native forestry businesses to transition out of the industry; and

- \$19.3 million Workforce Transition Program;
 - Providing payments of up to \$45,000 to eligible workers, and support reskilling and retraining, so that workers can transition to other industries.

Plan for Plastics

Western Australia's Plan for Plastics continues to lead the nation and has been fast-tracked by four years. WWF Australia has twice voted Western Australia the leading jurisdiction in the nation for reducing plastics. The Plan includes:

- Single-use plastic bowls, cups, plates, cutlery, stirrers, straws, polystyrene food containers, thick plastic bags and helium balloon releases were banned at the end of 2021; and
- Single-use plastic coffee cups and lids now included in the plan and to be phased out by the end of 2022.

The plan builds on the lightweight plastic bag ban in 2018 and the Containers for Change container deposit scheme, which has been operating since October 2020.

Aboriginal Ranger Program

Under the program, existing and emerging Aboriginal organisations can employ and train rangers to carry out land and sea management and tourism activities across a range of tenures in Western Australia.

The Aboriginal Ranger Program is delivering economic and social benefits for regional and remote areas by providing job and training opportunities for Aboriginal people.

It has enabled rangers to build connections between communities and has created strong networking opportunities.

Latest reported figures show the program has resulted in the employment of more than 600 Aboriginal rangers and support staff, almost half of whom are women.