



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.