



## Delivering for the Great Southern

The McGowan Labor Government is setting the Great Southern up for the long-term - diversifying the economy and creating jobs, boosting regional health and mental health investment by a record amount, and providing important cost of living relief for local households.

The McGowan Government's responsible financial management has enabled a record \$12 billion investment in regional infrastructure, with only 8 per cent funded through Royalties for Regions.

WA's strong financial position gives the State Budget the capacity to invest a record \$2.5 billion in health and mental health, ensuring all Western Australians receive quality healthcare, no matter where they live.

The McGowan Government is providing cost of living relief for households with the \$400 Household Electricity Credit and keeping household fees and charges below inflation. This is on top of the more than \$2 billion invested to ensure people in the regions pay the same for water and electricity as metropolitan users.

The \$4.2 billion Royalties for Regions program will continue to deliver key regional projects and services to regional communities.

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## Creating local jobs and economic diversification in our regions

- \$80 million boost to the Investment Attraction Fund, increasing the Fund to \$180 million to support industry-led diversification proposals to create local jobs in new and emerging industries
- \$50 million increase to the Industrial Land Development Fund, increasing the Fund to \$100 million to unlock private sector investment and spark new growth opportunities in our economy
- \$48.6 million to establish the WA Regional Digital Connectivity Program to improve mobile and internet coverage in regional areas across the State
- \$4.2 million for research and development at Katanning Research Station into carbon sequestration and reducing emissions from livestock
- \$25 million for the Western Australian Agricultural Collaboration to grow agriculture research and development in WA
- \$4.6 million for maintenance works on the Tree Top Walk in Walpole
- \$21.1 million boost to Tourism WA's destination marketing to implement a major marketing campaign to encourage tourists to come to WA and travel across the State
- \$17.7 million to Tourism WA to develop new tourism experiences in WA's national parks
- Bringing regional road maintenance jobs in-house to Main Roads, with 490 jobs based in regional WA, including upgrading the Albany depot
- \$12 million for the WA-Array seismic survey, providing valuable insight into Western Australia's mineral deposits
- \$14.6 million to establish an Aboriginal Empowerment Unit within the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety to ensure resources projects deliver improved outcomes for Aboriginal people

- \$6 million to Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia to pursue strategic research opportunities, including critical minerals and clean energy technologies
- \$4.5 million boost to the Local Capability Fund to assist small and medium local businesses to increase their capability and competitiveness

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## Skilling-up our regional communities

- \$113.1 million of fee reductions will be achieved in regional WA through the successful *Lower fees, local skills* initiatives, which slashes TAFE fees by up to 72 per cent across 210 high priority courses
- \$2.4 million to attract international students to live, work and study in regional WA, targeting skills shortage areas including aged care, disability, childcare, hospitality and tourism
- \$4.5 million for a new tool rebate to support building and construction apprentices and trainees in their purchase of trade-related tools and safety equipment
- \$5.1 million for a wage-gap program to support the new apprenticeship pathway for the civil construction sector and boost civil construction skills

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## Responding to COVID-19 and delivering quality healthcare in our regions

- \$13 million to build and operate a new Albany General Dental Clinic
- \$30.1 million for 18 additional paramedics and six ambulances across regional WA
- \$11 million to ensure there is a nurse 24/7 at Emergency Departments across regional WA
- \$18.5 million to expand Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services across regional WA
- \$39.6 million for COVID-19 Home Monitoring Program telehealth services
- \$10.5 million to provide video and telecommunication mental health support to children and families in the transition phase between services
- \$5.1 million to continue the Mental Health Emergency Telehealth Service to ensure regional residents can access mental health services
- \$6.1 million funding boost to the Preventing Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) project

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## Investing in our local schools

- \$31.9 million additional funding for the Education Adjustment Allocation to support more students with additional learning needs in developing their literacy and numeracy skills
- \$2.5 million for a new Year 1 phonics initiative, to support and develop students essential phonics skills and knowledge they need to learn to read
- \$33.8 million for maintenance upgrades to improve public schools across the State
- \$4.6 million to implement the Students with Disabilities and Complex Behaviour Framework to support WA schools to meet the needs of these students
- \$42.5 million to respond to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic including enhanced cleaning programs in public schools, and maintaining mask and personal protective equipment supplies and Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) distribution for all schools

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## Transforming our regional road and transport networks

- \$36 million towards the Secondary Freight Roads in the Great Southern and Mid West regions
- Delivering the \$175 million Albany Ring Road, currently under construction
- An additional \$159 million to the Regional Road Safety Program, bringing the total cost of the program to \$828 million. This program has already delivered upgraded shoulders and installed audible edges to more than 367 kilometres of Great Southern roads
- \$146 million for the Safer Roads and Bridges Program in regional WA
- \$200 million for the Resealing Program in regional WA
- From 1 July 2022, regional airfares will be capped at \$199 one way for regional residents living within 1,000 kms driving distance from Perth, including for travel between Perth and Albany
- \$59.3 million for the Clean Energy Car Fund to accelerate the use of zero and low emission vehicles, with programs including:
  - \$36.5 million to provide rebates of \$3,500 to Western Australians that buy a new, light, battery electric vehicles or hydrogen fuel cell vehicles up to a value of \$70,000
  - \$10 million to support not-for-profits and small and medium-sized businesses with grants of up to 50 per cent of installing charging infrastructure
  - \$5 million to support local governments to install charging infrastructure by providing grants of up to 50 per cent of the installation cost
- \$1.5 million to introduce the Regional Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) Taxi Service Grant Scheme to expand taxi services to people of all abilities in regional WA

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## Delivering stronger and safer regional communities

- \$11 million to secure WA's first Large Air Tanker to be based in Western Australia during bushfire season, every year from December to March
- \$15.9 million upgrade to the Emergency WA website to ensure critical information in emergency situations is more easily accessible
- \$3.1 million for the Bushfire Framework Review
- \$99.4 million to spot purchase and build new Government Regional Officer Housing across regional WA
- Additional \$2 million to Community Resource Centres to help provide important services to regional communities
- \$2.5 million towards Operation Regional Shield to tackle youth crime in regional WA