

Your State Budget 2023-24



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Budget Highlights and Key Initiatives



Cost of living support
\$715 million cost of living package, including a **\$400 electricity credit for every household** plus additional support for those who need it most



Health and Mental Health
Record \$2.7 billion new investment taking total additional spending to \$10 billion since 2021



Housing
\$750 million additional spending to boost housing and land supply and address homelessness



WA Jobs
218,621 jobs added since March 2017, with unemployment at 3.4 per cent

Budget Highlights and Key Initiatives

The 2023-24 Budget delivers cost of living support for all Western Australians and draws on WA's responsible budget management to provide further significant investments in our health system, boost housing supply, and continue WA's transition to clean energy.

The Government's strong budget position means significant investments can be made in what matters to Western Australians, while not burdening future generations with mountains of debt.

Key initiatives include

- **\$715 million to deliver further cost of living relief**, providing every WA household with a \$400 electricity credit, with targeted electricity support totalling \$826 for those households in most need
- **A record \$2.7 billion of additional investment in our health and mental health system**, bringing the total new investment to \$10 billion this term, to deliver quality healthcare for Western Australians, with more beds for our hospitals, more nurses and doctors, and reforms to ease pressure on our emergency departments
- **\$750 million of additional investment to boost housing supply and housing choice**, particularly supporting those in need, with a \$450 million top-up to the Social Housing Investment Fund, increasing our commitment to deliver 4,000 additional social houses
- **Taking action on climate change**, with a \$2 billion investment including delivering the Government's plan to decarbonise electricity production and move towards cleaner, affordable, reliable energy, as well as progressing works on Perth's third desalination plant and a range of other climate initiatives
- **An additional \$463 million in economic infrastructure and diversification initiatives** supporting ongoing and future jobs
- **The WA Budget continues to be in a strong position, with a \$3.3 billion surplus expected in 2023-24**, a sixth consecutive year of surplus, after record deficits under the previous Liberal National Government
- **The McGowan Government has now reduced state net debt by almost \$16 billion compared to the projections left by the Liberals and Nationals**, already saving WA around \$4.9 billion in wasted interest payments

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Net Debt
\$27.9 billion at 30 June 2023 – net debt almost \$16 billion lower since coming to office




\$3.3 BILLION
Surplus
\$3.3 billion net operating surplus forecast for 2023-24




Economic growth
4.25 per cent economic growth in 2022-23, strongest in nine years



Climate Action
\$3 billion towards WA's transition to cleaner, reliable and affordable energy, and to take action on climate change



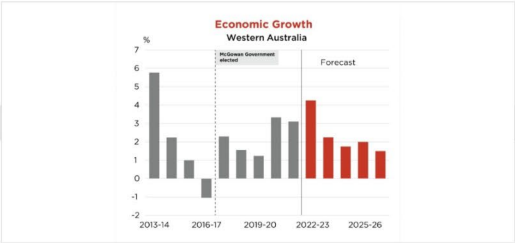
METRONET
\$5.9 billion investment over the next four years including delivery of the Morley-Ellenbrook Line



Education and Training
\$965 million additional expenditure for education initiatives and training towards jobs of the future

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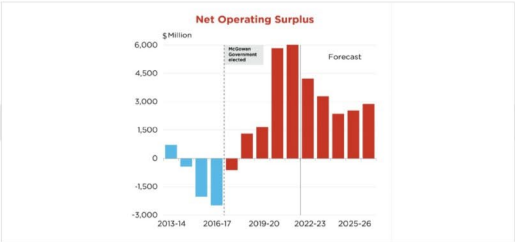
Economic and Fiscal Outlook



Economic and Fiscal Outlook

The 2023-24 Budget highlights Western Australia's sustained economic strength, with the economy expected to grow by 4.25 per cent in 2022-23, which would be the highest rate of growth in nine years.

- The strong WA economy is creating opportunities, with a **record 1.53 million Western Australians in work**, including the highest ever level of full-time employment. Since the McGowan Government came to office in March 2017, an **additional 216,621 jobs** have been created.
- **Unemployment rate remains very low at 3.4 per cent** and expected to remain low.
- Strong growth is supported by robust merchandise exports growth, at a **record \$272 billion** over the year to March 2023. WA continues to outperform the rest of the nation, accounting for **45 per cent of national goods exports**.
- WA's economy and households are not immune from global inflation and interest rates pressures – with this Budget providing cost of living relief to every WA household, with additional support to those who need it most.
- Perth's CPI was lower than other States and Territories over the year to March 2023, underpinned by much larger increases in electricity and gas prices on the east coast. Perth's CPI growth is forecast to ease to 3.5 per cent by the June 2024 quarter.



Western Australia's strong economy and finances are leading the nation:

- A \$3.3 billion operating surplus is forecast in 2023-24, with surpluses forecast to continue over the forward estimates.
- Operating surpluses support funding for the State's future, with a **record \$39 billion investment** in infrastructure investment over the next four years including new and expanded hospitals, more schools, the transformational METRO2 program, major investments in roads and decarbonizing our electricity grid.
- Surpluses also help to reduce the State's net debt, saving the State in the long run. Net debt is expected to decline for a fourth consecutive year to \$27.9 billion at 30 June 2023, **almost \$14 billion lower** than projected when the McGowan Government came to office.
- Significantly lower net debt levels have **already saved Western Australians around \$4.3 billion** in wasteful interest payments since coming to office.
- WA's forecast **net debt trajectory remains relatively flat** compared to the sharp increases in debt in other States despite Western Australia's record investment in infrastructure.

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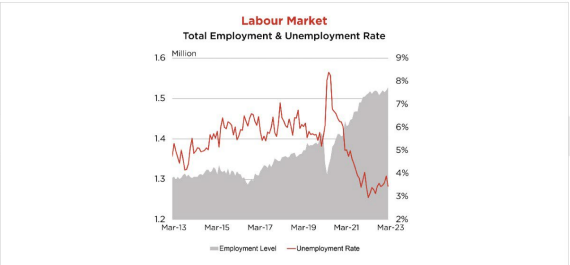
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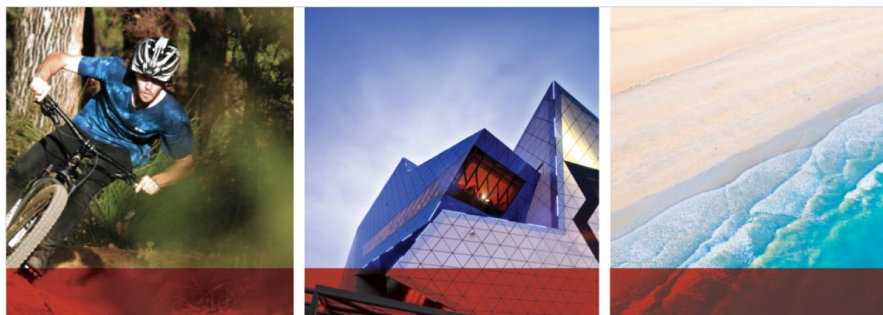




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Economic Diversification



Diversifying the Economy, Future Jobs

The 2023-24 Budget includes \$463 million in new economic infrastructure and diversification initiatives.

This brings the McGowan Government's investment in initiatives to drive economic diversification to more than \$3.8 billion in this term of Government.

We are continuing our investment to set up our State for the long-term and create the jobs of the future, supporting ongoing and new jobs, and ensuring WA is well positioned as the destination of choice for international education, tourism, business investment and trade.

At a glance:

- **\$294 million** of additional investment in road, port and electricity infrastructure that boosts the future economic capacity of our State.
- **\$40 million** Sustainable Geoscience Investments package to accelerate critical minerals discoveries, to help meet demand for minerals used in new battery technologies.
- **\$35 million** top-up of the Industrial Land Development Fund, prioritised towards planning and de-constraining initiatives to attract investment to Pilbara strategic industrial areas.
- **\$28 million** to support the State's invest and trade initiatives, including establishing a new Invest and Trade WA Hub in Texas to enhance our relationship with the Americas.
- **\$15 million** of additional funding for tourism initiatives, including attracting additional major and business events to Perth.
- **\$13 million** to continue to attract international students back to Perth, including marketing activities and support for accommodation and English-language training.

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Cost of Living



Cost of Living Support

The 2023-24 Budget includes more than \$715 million of cost of living measures to support Western Australians.

The McGowan Government has a strong track record of delivering cost of living relief for Western Australians, as a dividend of responsible financial management.

More than \$2.8 billion in cost of living assistance has now been delivered over the past five years.

- **All Western Australian households will receive at least \$400 of energy bill relief** to ease cost of living pressures faced by the community.
- **Additional support will be provided to those that are most in need**, with \$826 of total support available for around 350,000 households eligible for the Energy Assistance Payment.
- **In addition, Hardship Utilities Grant Scheme payments** will be increased by 10 per cent for those who are in financial hardship and are unable to pay their utility bills, with grants of up to \$640 per household, or \$1,060 for households in the north of the State.
- An additional \$20.7 million will be spent towards the **successful Regional Airfare Zone Cap Scheme** to support affordable flights for regional residents.
- **Public transport will be free on the first Sunday of every month**, as part of the Government's Fare Free Sunday Sessions.
- **The Seniors' Cost of Living Rebate** will also be increased in line with inflation at a cost of \$15.6 million.
- The Budget continues to deliver the Government's commitment to keep fees and charges low, with increases to fees **limited to 2.4 per cent in 2023-24 – well below forecast inflation**.
- Electricity price rises are much lower than the double-digit percentage increases being imposed on households on the east coast given WA Labor Government decisions to retain ownership of our electricity assets and our gas reservation policy.
- Small businesses across the State will receive a credit of \$650 on their power bills, in recognition of higher overheads and costs.
- Initiatives already in place include free flu vaccines for all Western Australians in May 2023, which follows WA's free flu vaccines in 2022.
- Capping Perth public transport fares to two zones has made travel in our suburbs cheaper, saving commuters up to thousands of dollars a year.

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Investing in Housing



Investing in Housing

The 2023-24 Budget delivers a \$750 million boost for housing supply and housing choice initiatives, with a particular focus on supporting those most in need.

This includes significant additional funding for social housing and homelessness initiatives, increasing the capacity of the residential **construction workforce** to deliver homes, and initiatives to encourage urban infill and regional land supply.

At a glance: social housing and homelessness

- **\$511 million** boost for social housing and homelessness in this Budget, increasing total investment to \$2.6 billion over the next four years.
- This includes a **\$450 million** increase in funding to the Social Housing Investment Fund, which increases the total number of social houses to be added to 4,000, with 1,200 already delivered.
- As part of this investment, **\$49 million** has been provisioned for a pilot 100-home Regional Supportive Landlord Model, building on a pilot program roll out in the Perth and Peel region.
- Funding for the Office of Homelessness to support the delivery of the State's first 10-year homelessness strategy.

At a glance: expanding construction sector workforce

- **\$48 million** in training initiatives to expand the residential construction workforce, which will accelerate construction of the current pipeline of homes and expand capacity to deliver new housing supply to keep pace with our growing population.
- This comprises:
 - Boosting the **Base Employer Grant** from \$10,000 to \$12,000 for apprentices.
 - Expanding the **Group Training Wages subsidy** to include residential and commercial construction sector apprentices.
 - A **\$2,000 training completion payment** for apprentices.
 - Expediting approvals of occupational licensing.
 - Targeted \$11 million visa subsidy scheme to attract more **skilled migrants** to the industry.

At a glance: boosting housing supply and choice

- **\$33 million** committed to extend the off-the-plan transfer duty rebate, and lift the exemption threshold to \$650,000 for a 100 per cent duty concession, tapering to a 50 per cent concession from \$750,000.
- **\$48 million** to facilitate remediation of the Bentley Residential Redevelopment project site that will provide a mixture of social and affordable housing.
- **\$61.6 million** in additional funding for Government Regional Officer Housing to refurbish existing homes and add new supply, plus a further freeze on GROH rents to incentivise key public sector workers to work in regional WA.
- **\$55 million** for upgrades to water infrastructure to unlock housing development in strategic sites across Perth.
- **\$12 million** increase to the Regional Development Assistance Program to boost housing and land supply in regional WA.

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Taking Action on Climate Change



Taking Action on Climate Change

This Budget invests \$3 billion to take action on climate change and achieve net zero emissions by 2050 – laying the foundations for Western Australia's cleaner, affordable and reliable energy future.

This includes \$2.8 billion to deliver on our plan to decarbonise our electricity grid and replace State-owned coal-fired power stations with renewables by 2030.

At a glance:

- **\$2.3 billion** for Synergy to deliver a 500 MW Battery Energy Storage System in Collie, the largest in the State, and a second 200 MW Battery in Kwinana.
- **\$368 million** for Synergy to build a new wind farm at King Rocks and a proposed expansion of the Warradarge Wind Farm near Eneabba, with a combined wind capacity of up to 210 MW.
- **\$126 million** for early planning for network upgrades, including the ordering of long lead-time components, to support the fast-tracking of Government and industry's transition to net zero and facilitate the green energy boom.
- Working with industry through the SWIS Demand Assessment to enable industrial users to decarbonise and support growth in new industries such as hydrogen and critical minerals.
- These investments are needed for emissions reduction and to build Western Australia's low carbon economy of the future, while at the same time ensuring the security of our electricity grid and keeping electricity prices affordable.
- To adapt to our changing climate, this Budget provides **\$196 million** to commence works for Perth's third desalination plant, and a range of climate initiatives.

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Health and Mental Health



Investment in our Health and Mental Health System

- Since coming to office, the McGowan Government has increased WA Health's annual budget significantly, up 33.4 per cent from \$8.8 billion in 2016-17 to \$11.8 billion in 2023-24.
- The Mental Health Commission's annual budget increased by a massive 57.3 per cent, from \$863 million in 2016-17 to \$1.4 billion in 2023-24.
- Western Australia has the highest per capita spending of any State on our hospitals, 18 per cent above the national average.
- In the past two years, 547 new beds have been added to the system – the equivalent of a new tertiary hospital.
- \$3 billion will be spent over 2022-23 to 2026-27 on health infrastructure, adding a further 600 plus beds.
- In the past three years, Health's workforce has increased by 22 per cent including an additional 1,784 nursing and 779 medical FTE.

Health and our Hospitals

The McGowan Government is continuing to make significant investments to strengthen and improve our health and mental health system to meet the needs of all Western Australians.

In this Budget, an additional \$2.7 billion is being invested bringing our total new investment since 2021 to an unprecedented \$10 billion.

At a glance:

- **\$841 million** is committed for hospital services, as well as **\$78 million** for costs related to WA Health's response to COVID-19.
- **\$75 million** to address emergency department pressures and ambulance ramping, increasing the total spend to **\$452.7 million** committed in this term of government.
- **\$28.5 million** for workforce attraction and retention including paying up to \$12,000 of HECS-HELP loans for 350 newly qualified nurses and midwives commencing employment in regional WA, with priority given to hard to staff sites, plus funding for wrap-around support for up to 1,200 graduates in our hospitals.
- **\$544 million** over the next four years to commence construction of the new Women and Babies Hospital – a modern, leading edge maternity hospital right next to the State's largest tertiary hospital. The \$1.8 billion project is fully funded using the State's surplus.
- **\$150 million** for the Bentley Health Service Surgicentre, co-funded with the Commonwealth, including six new surgical theatres, two procedure rooms and a 24-bed surgical ward.
- **\$99.4 million** to complete Stage 1 of the electronic medical records roll out to modernise and future-proof our hospitals across WA.
- **\$58 million** for ICT projects to improve access to specialist outpatient services through implementation of the Smart Referrals electronic referral management system, as well as enhanced cyber security protection.

Mental Health

This Budget includes a **\$420 million increase to mental health spending. The Mental Health Commission's annual operating budget has increased to \$1.4 billion in 2023-24, up from \$863 million in 2016-17.**

The new investment includes \$201 million to expand mental health services and \$219 million for the expansion of Graylands Hospital.

At a glance:

- **\$82.6 million** in additional spending has been committed for mental health hospital services.
- **\$35.5 million** to improve mental health outcomes for children and adolescents, and expand the Government's response to the Infant, Child and Adolescent Taskforce report. This includes a new Infant, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Hub pilot in Bunbury, an Acute Care Response Team pilot in the east metropolitan area, the recruitment of Aboriginal Mental Health workers to provide culturally appropriate care, and upgrading the mental health inpatient ward at Perth Children's Hospital.
- **\$24.4 million** to continue funding for the WACHS Mental Health Emergency Telehealth service.
- **\$219 million** is set aside for Stage 1 of the Graylands Hospital expansion, with 53 new forensic beds to be added. After three decades of no increases to forensic mental health bed capacity, this investment will ensure better access to secure inpatient mental health care for individuals with mental illness.

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Stronger, Safer Communities



Building Stronger, Fairer Communities

Building stronger and fairer communities results in better outcomes for Western Australians and future generations.

The McGowan Government is using its strong budget position to deliver initiatives that support the State's most vulnerable and encourage communities across the State to thrive.

At a glance:

- **\$1.3 billion** increase in State contributions to the National Disability Insurance Scheme, supporting an increase in the number of Western Australian participants.
- **\$125.5 million** increase for child protection services for children at risk of harm and their families, including investment in out of home care services.
- **\$54.6 million** in additional support for initiatives that reduce the number of youth and vulnerable people coming into contact with the justice system, including extending the Target 120 and Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy programs for at-risk youth, and continuing the Aboriginal Community Connectors Program.
- **\$52.5 million** boost for family and domestic violence (FDV) initiatives, including funding for refuge and safe house service providers; and connecting victim-survivors with the services they need, through a new FDV Hub in Broome and extending the operation of the Mirrabooka and Kalgoorlie FDV Hubs.
- **\$18.9 million** to support legal services for people in need, including funding for Community Legal Centres and to support Legal Aid WA to attract private practitioners.

Community Safety

Keeping lines of help open and available to those in need is crucial in building safe, strong and fair communities.

In response to the destructive once-in-a-generation Ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie, the Government has allocated more than \$322 million to support affected communities in the Kimberley.

Ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie response measures include:

- **\$80 million** for emergency road recovery works and to repair flood affected internal community and access roads.
- **\$42 million** for a Freight Assistance Package.
- **\$33 million** for a Temporary Accommodation Package.

Community safety is a priority and additional measures to support our frontline officers in the 2023-24 Budget include:

- **\$81.7 million** to upgrade and maintain the State's emergency radio network and equipment used by frontline officers – including police officers and firefighters.
- **\$24.4 million** to permanently appoint 29 dedicated disaster recovery officers to form WA's largest ever recovery team to respond to this and any future disasters.
- **\$11.7 million** to extend Operation Regional Shield, maintaining additional police resourcing in communities hardest hit by youth crime.

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Building METRONET and our Transport Future



Transport, Roads and Ports

The 2023-24 Budget continues our record investment in infrastructure across Western Australia, ensuring we are creating a pipeline of activity for our construction industry, supporting local jobs and delivering major projects for WA's future.

As part of this, we are investing an additional \$2.5 billion in road and rail infrastructure this Budget, jointly funded with the Commonwealth.

A further \$1.7 billion will be invested to deliver our METRONET program of works, with total investment of \$5.9 billion over the next four years.

Following the completion of Lakelands Station in June, the year ahead will see delivery across the METRONET program accelerate, with the completion of the southern concourse of the new Bayswater Station and the new Yanchep Rail Extension. In addition, the first C-series trains, built and manufactured here in Western Australia, will enter into passenger service on the Joondalup and Mandurah lines.

We are also continuing investment in our critical port infrastructure to support Western Australia's role as the engine room of the nation.

Planning is continuing on the transformational Westport project, with \$370.9 million to be invested over the next four years.

At a glance:

- **\$250 million** for procurement of electric buses and infrastructure, progressing our public transport network to a cleaner, greener future.
- **\$195 million** for the METRONET High Capacity Signalling program to increase capacity and efficiency of our rail network.
- **\$175 million** to continue the Regional Road Safety Program for safety treatments on roads across WA that reduce the risk and severity of crashes.
- **\$136 million** for essential projects that will increase port capacity and diversify exports. This includes technology investments at the Southern Ports, expansion of wharf facilities at the Port of Broome to support export of mineral sands, and important works to improve safety and reduce the risk of shutdowns.

Delivering METRONET, Connecting Perth

Building 72 kilometres of new rail, with 23 new stations, and creating more transport, housing and employment choices.

Yanchep Rail Extension

14.5km extension with stations at Alkimos, Eglinton and Yanchep. Completion due end of 2023, with services commencing in the new year.

Greenwood Station Multi-Storey Car Park

Contract out for tender, to deliver 700 additional car bays.

Morley-Ellenbrook Line

New 21km line with stations at Morley, Noranda, Malaga, Whiteman Park and Ellenbrook. Completion expected end of 2024.

High Capacity Signalling

Upgrades to the rail network's signalling and control systems to allow more trains, more often.

Caledonian Avenue Level Crossing Removal

Completed in 2022, improving safety and upgrading local roads.

New Midland Station

The centrepiece of a revitalised Midland, in an improved location. Completion expected in 2025.

New Bayswater Station

Creating a new precinct, connecting three rail lines. Completion of first platforms due 2023, with additional bridge and platforms in 2024 as part of the Morley-Ellenbrook Line.

Airport Line

Opened in October 2022, with three new stations. Connecting Perth to the airport by rail and out to High Wycombe.

Victoria Park-Canning Level Crossing Removal

Transformational elevated Armadale Line project, including six level crossing removals and five new train stations built.

Denny Avenue Level Crossing Removal

Completed in 2021, improving safety, reducing congestion and helping revitalise the local area.

Byford Rail Extension

New 8km extension of the Armadale Line, including a new elevated Armadale Station and the removal of seven level crossings. Works underway.

Thornlie-Cockburn Link

First east-west connection with stations at Nicholson and Ranford roads in Canning Vale. Completion expected in 2025.

WA Railcar Program

240 new C-series railcars manufactured locally. First new railcars undergoing dynamic testing with entry into passenger service late 2023.

Karnup Station

Future station on the Mandurah Line.

Lakelands Station

New station on the Mandurah Line to open in June 2023.

Mandurah Station Multi-Storey Car Park

Opened in 2021, delivering 782 new bays.

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Investing in Education and Training



Investing in Education and Training

This Budget includes an additional \$965 million for education and training initiatives.

This will improve educational outcomes for students, deliver school upgrades and new high-quality learning facilities, and deliver more targeted training initiatives to continue building our pipeline of skilled workers for the future.

In 2023-24, total spending to deliver quality education in Western Australian schools will increase by more than half a billion dollars to \$6.4 billion.

At a glance:

- **\$325.1 million** for delivery of primary and secondary education, including increased supports for students with a disability and eligible students with an additional language or dialect.
- **\$38.6 million** to improve the wellbeing of students through pastoral care services and student support strategies under the National Student Wellbeing Program.
- **\$227 million** for new and upgraded school infrastructure:
- **\$100 million** for major upgrades at Rockingham and Safety Bay Senior High Schools.
- **\$27.2 million** for high-priority maintenance works at public schools.
- **\$6.8 million** for upgrades at Agricultural Colleges around the State.
- **\$1.4 million** to finalise planning for a new inner-city primary school in East Perth.
- **\$93.4 million** for our training sector, including new and expanded initiatives that support students in the regions to access training, women to enter apprenticeships in non-traditional fields and for Aboriginal people to gain employment.
- **\$4.2 million** for a \$2,000 completion grant and a tool safety equipment rebate of up to \$500 for construction apprentices.
- **\$3.5 million** for the expansion of the Heavy Vehicle Driving Operations Training Program to the Kimberley and Pilbara.

The McGowan Government is delivering a significant capital works program totalling \$1.5 billion to deliver new and improved public education facilities across WA.

New school builds underway:

- Henley Brook South Primary School (\$27.1 million)
- Hillarys Primary School rebuild (\$20.4 million)
- Wattleup (East) Primary School (\$27.2 million)

Planning for new schools (to open 2025):

- Eglinton South West Primary School (planning name)
- Brabham East Primary School (planning name)

At a glance: school upgrades in progress

- **Albany Senior High School** – construction of a new English and mathematics classroom block, repurposed STEM laboratory and improved administration block (\$8.5 million)
- **Alkimos College** – construction has commenced on Stage 2 (\$51.5 million)
- **Balga Senior High School** – construction of new performing arts centre and STEM laboratory (\$6.3 million)
- **Bob Hawke College Stage 2** – construction to double student capacity with more classrooms, performing arts centre, dance and visual arts studios, music and media rooms (\$52.9 million)
- **Byford Secondary College** – planning for additional classroom accommodation, including a STEM laboratory, for a further 300 students (\$21.5 million)
- **Dampier Primary School** – planning for works including music hall refurbishment (\$1 million)
- **Derby District High School** – construction underway for major upgrades (\$25.6 million)
- **Donnybrook District High School** – classroom refurbishment to commence (\$1 million)
- **Duncraig Senior High School** – construction of new specialist classroom block, upgrades to existing specialist classrooms, and a STEM laboratory (\$38.4 million)
- **Eaton Community College** – construction to commence for a new design and technology block (\$8.2 million)
- **Halls Creek District High School** – planned new primary classroom block (\$10 million)
- **Brabham Primary School Early Learning Facility** – constructing a new off-site facility to support young children (\$15.1 million)
- **Mount Lawley Senior High School** – construction continues on a new classroom block at Mount Lawley Senior High School (\$15 million)
- **Roebourne District High School** – for significant redevelopment (\$72.4 million)

For full list, see [Budget Paper 2](#)

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Image courtesy of Department of Education.

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Feedback and Complaints

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Leave your feedback



Supporting Aboriginal Wellbeing



Initiatives to Support Aboriginal Wellbeing

The McGowan Government continues to make further investments to support the wellbeing of Aboriginal people and Close the Gap, with a \$281.5 million increase in funding in this Budget.

Aboriginal organisations play a role in delivery in up to 70 per cent of existing State Government initiatives relating to Aboriginal wellbeing, either solely or in partnership with Government agencies and other non-government organisations.

At a glance:

- An additional **\$42.6 million** over four years for the Essential and Municipal Services Upgrade for Aboriginal Remote Communities.
- **\$77 million** in ongoing operational costs associated with the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act and funding for Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services to better protect Aboriginal heritage sites and support engagement with Traditional Owners.
- **\$31.1 million** over four years to continue the Aboriginal Community Connectors Program.
- **\$27.5 million** for upgrades to the Wadjemup Burial Ground and repairs to the Quod building on Rottnest Island, including funding for consultation to develop a plan for the site.
- **\$18.3 million** grant for South West Aboriginal Medical Service Health Hub matching a funding commitment from the Commonwealth.
- **\$11.8 million** for initiatives forming part of the Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy, including continuing existing night patrols, and a Safe Space pilot in Broome.
- **\$8.3 million** for the operational costs and lifecycle maintenance for the Geraldton Aboriginal Short Stay Accommodation.
- **\$6 million** to establish the Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Peak body, and to continue to support the Aboriginal Health Council of WA.
- **\$5.8 million** for a one-year extension of the Driving Access and Equity Program, improving access to job opportunities.
- **\$5.8 million** for additional Aboriginal Mental Health Workers (10 FTE) to support Aboriginal children and families to access and engage with Infant, Child and Adolescent mental health services.
- **\$5.4 million** to continue Psychiatric Services in the East Kimberley to support Aboriginal youth wellbeing.
- **\$2.3 million** to seal the Warmun airstrip to provide for all weather landing conditions and improve safety for aircraft.

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Supporting Women



Supporting Women

The McGowan Labor Government is committed to continuing its work towards achieving gender equality.

This women's 2023-24 Budget overview highlights how the Budget targets areas of inequality experienced by women. Aligned with the priority areas of Stronger Together: WA's Plan for Gender Equality, the 2023-24 Budget includes:

Safety and Justice

- **\$52.5 million** for family and domestic violence services, including:
 - **\$16.3 million** to establish a one-stop FDV hub in Broome.
 - **\$13.4 million** to extend the operation of the Mirrabooka and Kalgoorlie FDV Hubs.
- **\$18.9 million** for community legal services and Legal Aid WA, to support access to legal services for people in need.

Health and Wellbeing

- **\$544 million** to commence construction of the new Women and Babies Hospital.
- **\$420 million** investment in mental health services, including uplifts to community and hospital mental health services.
- **\$15 million** increase to the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund, including upgrades to changerooms to ensure they are fit for women's sports.
- **\$2 million** for the expansion of BreastScreen Australia.

Economic Independence

- **\$511 million** in new social housing and homelessness investments.
- **\$3 million** for 400 scholarships for women to train in non-traditional trade and technical occupations.
- **\$826** in electricity bill relief for women most in need who are already eligible for the Energy Assistance Payment.

Leadership

- **\$700,000** for the Rural, Regional and Remote Network to represent the voice of women across the State.

This builds on initiatives including:

- The Respectful Relationships Teaching Support Program, to support students to build healthy, non-violent future relationships.
- New maternity, birthing and neonatal services as part of the **\$277.9 million** Bunbury Hospital Redevelopment.
- Ongoing investment in earlier intervention and family support initiatives, supporting children at risk and their families, with over **\$108 million** to be spent in 2023-24 alone.
- The Mental Awareness, Respect and Safety program to address sexual harassment and mine safety, including a Respect in Mining pilot program.
- Free period products in secondary schools and TAFEs.
- The Aboriginal Ranger Program – almost half of people employed so far have been women.

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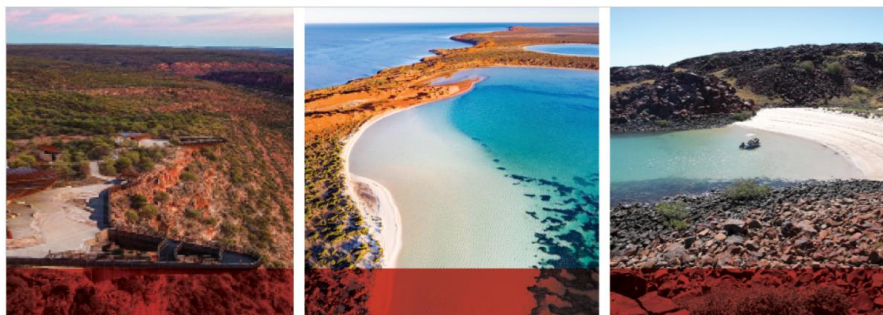
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Investing in the Regions



Investing in our Regions

The 2023-24 Budget continues to invest heavily in regional WA through Royalties for Regions, with \$4 billion allocated to the program over the next four years.

The Government has committed a massive \$11.2 billion investment in regional infrastructure, of which only 9 per cent is funded by Royalties for Regions. This includes \$5.3 billion in regional road funding.

These investments are in addition to billions spent on regional service delivery including health, education and training, police and more.

At a glance:

- **\$342 million** increase in spending on regional health and mental health initiatives, including the continuation of the Mental Health Emergency Telehealth Service and additional investment in WA Health's regional workforce.
- **\$61.6 million** additional investment in Government Regional Officer Housing to support the attraction and retention of public sector workers.
- **\$32.6 million** to protect the State's livestock industries from increasing biosecurity threats, including emergency animal disease preparedness (\$10.4 million) and an electronic identification (eID) system for sheep and goats (\$22.2 million).
- **\$31.3 million** for the Buccaneer Archipelago Marine Parks.
- **\$23.6 million** to support survivors of family and domestic violence in the regions, including a new FDV Hub in Broome.
- **\$20.2 million** for Future Drought Fund programs to build farm and regional community resilience.
- A further **\$20.7 million** for the Regional Airfare Zone Cap scheme.
- **\$6.5 million** towards implementation of the Aquaculture Development Plan for Western Australia.

For information on specific regions, please refer to the [Regional Fact Sheets](#)

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Images courtesy of Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions, Gascoyne Development Commission and Travis Hayto.

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