



Delivering for the Gascoyne



The McGowan Government is delivering for the Gascoyne, providing cost-of-living support for Gascoyne residents while investing significantly in health, housing, and WA's transition to cleaner, stronger, reliable, and affordable energy.

The 2023-24 Budget features a massive \$11.2 billion investment in regional infrastructure, as well as billions more in regional service delivery.

The State Budget includes \$4 billion in Royalties for Regions expenditure over the next four years, supporting important initiatives right across the regions. This includes new spending of \$358 million towards initiatives that strengthen regional communities and ensure services remain close to where people live.

Regional Western Australians will benefit from the McGowan Government's \$715 million commitment to deliver further cost-of-living relief, including **providing every WA household with a \$400 electricity credit** and additional targeted support totalling \$826 for households who need it most.

As part of its commitment to keeping power and water affordable for all Western Australians, the McGowan Government will spend \$2.7 billion over the next four years to subsidise the costs of providing water and electricity to regional residents.

Investing in Regional Health and Mental Health

- More than \$2.2 billion per annum on regional health and mental health services
- \$28.5 million for initiatives to attract and retain key health and mental health professionals, primarily to work in regional WA, including paying of up to \$12,000 of HECS-HELP loans for newly qualified nurses and midwives commencing employment in regional WA
- \$24.4 million to extend the Mental Health Emergency Telehealth Service, providing 24/7 mental health support and allowing country doctors to make referrals whenever needed

Delivering Regional Housing

- \$61.6 million boost to Government Regional Officer Housing to refurbish existing properties and add new supply
- \$49 million to partner with community housing providers to provide 100 homes across regional WA in a supported landlord model, for people in regional WA experiencing rough sleeping
- \$450 million into the Social Housing Investment Fund to boost social housing across the State
- \$12 million over four years to deliver more development ready land throughout regional Western Australia, through the Regional Development Assistance Program

Delivering a cleaner, stronger future for the Gascoyne

- \$10 million to super-charge Exmouth's transition to renewable energy
- \$77 million funding boost to manage and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage in Western Australia, including support for new Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services

- \$40 million Sustainable Geoscience Investments package to accelerate critical minerals discoveries, ensuring Western Australia is well-placed to grasp economic opportunities as the world works towards a net zero future
- \$2.2 million to deliver an Electric Vehicle Smart Charger and Vehicle-to-Grid trial through Horizon Power
- \$7 million to expand the Southern Rangelands Revitalisation project, supporting pastoralists in Gascoyne to manage climate change impacts
- \$10.4 million to boost Western Australia's emergency animal disease preparedness following overseas outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease and Lumpy Skin Disease
- \$22.2 million to assist industry transition to the mandatory sheep and goat electronic identification (eID) system to bolster WA's animal biosecurity defences
- \$20.2 million to extend vital drought resilience initiatives helping future-proof Western Australian farms
- \$7.6 million towards the Feral Cat Strategy to bolster the management of feral cats throughout regional WA
- \$6.5 million to implement the Western Australian Aquaculture Development Plan
- \$2 million from the New Industries Fund to support regional entrepreneurs in the innovation sector
- \$3 million to extend the Affordable Airfares program for a further twelve months, subsidising over 34,000 airfares from Perth to Exmouth, Broome and Kununurra to stimulate visitation
- \$20 million to continue the Regional Economic Development Grants program, to drive economic development and support regional communities

Plus we are continuing to deliver...

- \$10 million for upgrades to tourism infrastructure at Mount Augustus, currently underway
- \$7.4 million towards upgrades at the Carnarvon fascine, with 16 new floating pens complete, and planning underway for dredging at the fascine entrance

Delivering a Pipeline of Skills

- \$2.5 million to increase the travel and accommodation allowance for WA apprentices and trainees who are required to travel long distances off-the-job for their training, doubling the travel subsidy to 40c per km and increasing the accommodation allowance from \$110 to \$150 per night above the 26th parallel, and \$70 to \$100 per night below the 26th parallel
- \$2.9 million to provide eligible regional Diploma of Nursing students with financial support to undertake up to 400 hours of practical placement, including an allowance of \$350 per week with a travel allowance of up to \$500 per training block in the Gascoyne
- \$5.8 million to extend the successful Driving Access and Equity program to deliver driver training to disadvantaged young people

Upgrading roads and transport networks

- A further \$407 million on regional road projects and initiatives being invested in this budget, bringing the total investment over the next four years to \$5.3 billion
- \$175 million boost to the jointly Commonwealth-State funded Regional Road Safety Program, to continue to deliver life-saving works on regional roads, which has to date sealed shoulders and installed audible edges to 1,021 kms of roads in the Gascoyne - Mid West region
- \$20.7 million boost to the highly-successful Regional Airfare Zone Cap, that caps airfares at \$199 one way for regional residents living within 1,000 kms driving distance from Perth, including for travel from Perth to Monkey Mia and Carnarvon, and \$299 for residents living over 1,000 kms, including travel between Perth and Exmouth

Plus we are continuing to deliver...

- Continuing work to bring regional road maintenance jobs back in-house to Main Roads, which will see 490 jobs created across regional WA, with a new depot established in Carnarvon

Building Stronger, Safer Communities

- \$11.7 million to extend Operation Regional Shield, continuing to deliver police into regional communities experiencing youth crime issues
- \$11.7 million to continue the successful Target 120 youth early intervention program, including in Carnarvon
- \$24.4 million to bolster the Department of Fire and Emergency Services natural disaster recovery team
- \$1.1 million to continue the Respectful Relationships Teaching Support Program and the provision of culturally appropriate services for victims of Family and Domestic Violence in regional areas
- \$10.4 million to support the extension and enhancement of the Banned Drinkers Register, including its rollout into Carnarvon
- \$2.3 million to support Gwoonwardu Mia Aboriginal Cultural Centre in Carnarvon
- \$4.9 million to continue the Regional Athlete Support Program to help regionally-based talented athletes meet their full potential
- An additional \$42.6 million for upgrades to water and wastewater systems in remote communities
- \$700,000 to continue the Rural, Regional and Remote Network program to support regional women

Plus we are continuing to deliver...

- \$8.7 million towards repairing the Carnarvon One Mile Jetty with planning underway