



Delivering for the Pilbara



The McGowan Government is delivering for the Pilbara, providing cost-of-living support for Pilbara 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
- \$6.3 million to extend regional cancer services
- \$6.7 million to continue Regional Renal Support Teams
- \$3.1 million to support the palliative care workforce and enhance end of life choices for terminally ill patients in the regions

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

Plus we are continuing to deliver...

- Residential land release through our \$166 million Regional Land Booster program, which has seen around 80 additional lots released in Karratha

Delivering a cleaner, stronger future for the Pilbara

- \$77 million funding boost to manage and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage in Western Australia, including support for new Local Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Services
- \$35 million boost to the Industrial Land Development Fund, to develop business cases and commence de-constraining activities for Strategic Industrial Areas in the Pilbara
- \$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
- \$10.4 million to boost Western Australia's emergency animal disease preparedness following overseas outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease and Lumpy Skin Disease
- \$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
- \$20 million to continue the Regional Economic Development Grants program, to drive economic development and support regional communities

Plus we are continuing to deliver...

- \$300 million in asset investment to facilitate the job-creating Perdaman urea project, including upgrading the Dampier Cargo Wharf, Burrup Seawater Supply Scheme and roads in the Burrup Strategic Industrial Area
- \$129.1m towards the expansion of Lumsden Point at the Port of Port Hedland, plus \$565 million from the Commonwealth Government to deliver new multi-user facilities and berths that will help diversify trade in the Pilbara and support the growth of renewable industries
- \$187.5 million for the Port Hedland Spoilbank Marina, currently under construction

Delivering a Pipeline of Skills

- An additional \$20.4 million towards the redevelopment of Roebourne District High School, bringing the total investment to \$72.4 million
- \$3.5 million to expand the successful Heavy Vehicle Driving Operations training program to the Pilbara and Kimberley regions
- \$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
- \$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 \$1,000 per training block in the Pilbara
- \$5.8 million to extend the successful Driving Access and Equity program to deliver driver training to disadvantaged young people

Plus we are continuing to deliver...

- \$48.9 million for a major upgrade including new trades training facilities at North Regional TAFE's Pundulmurra campus in South Hedland, under construction
- \$3.5 million expansion of Baler Primary School, planning underway
- \$4.5 million for a new classroom block at Cassia Primary School, with construction starting in 2024

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 986 kms of roads in the Pilbara region
- Free public transport on the first Sunday of every month on TransRegional Sunday bus services, including in Karratha
- \$20.7 million boost to the highly-successful Regional Airfare Zone Cap, that caps airfares at \$299 one way for regional residents living over 1,000 kms driving distance from Perth, including for travel from Perth to Karratha, Port Hedland, Newman and Paraburdoo

Plus we are continuing to deliver...

- \$380 million for the Manuwarra Red Dog Highway between Karratha and Tom Price, with Stage 3 complete and planning for Stage 4 underway
- \$107.5 million to upgrade three key rail crossings in Hedland - a joint BHP, Commonwealth and WA Government project that is currently under construction
- 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 being established in Port Hedland

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 the Pilbara
- \$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 boost for the Banned Drinkers Register, including its continuation across Pilbara towns
- \$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