



Delivering our Vision for the Goldfields–Esperance Region

The Cook Labor Government is delivering its vision for the Goldfields–Esperance region.

The 2025–26 Budget will see billions of dollars invested in our regions, driving economic growth, diversifying regional economies, and creating jobs for our future generations.

This funding investment is supporting the Cook Government's priorities in jobs, health and housing. It is a commitment to Western Australians – that no matter if they live in our suburbs, regional centres, towns, or remote communities – they will have local job opportunities, and access to major services and infrastructure.

The Budget will keep costs down for WA families with funding to roll out the second wave of the WA Student Assistance Payment putting hundreds of dollars into the pockets of families of school-aged children, and household fees and charges kept affordable, with below inflation increases for a sixth consecutive year.

More than \$4 billion in Royalties for Regions funding will also go towards projects which enhance regional communities, ensuring they remain exceptional places to live, work and raise a family.

Made in WA

- \$543 million to upgrade the **Goldfields and Agricultural Water Supply Scheme** to increase capacity that will improve supply reliability for the community while supporting immediate growth in mining, industry and the community more broadly.
- Additional \$500 million to the **Strategic Industries Fund**, bringing the total to \$1 billion, to attract major job-creating projects and deliver enabling infrastructure in Strategic Industrial Areas including Mungari Strategic Industrial Area.
- \$50 million **Battery Manufacturing Program** to support local businesses to make household batteries here in WA.
- \$20 million to expand the **Aboriginal Ranger Program**.
- \$8.9 million funding boost to the **Exploration Incentive Scheme** to encourage mining exploration and support jobs in regional WA.
- \$8.3 million to progress planning and negotiations to bring the **Freight Rail Network** back into Government hands.

Plus we are continuing to deliver:

- \$30.8 million to deliver the **Yilkari Industrial Park** in Kalgoorlie, construction underway.
- More than \$130 million to **secure new gas back-up generation**, upgrade West Kalgoorlie Power Station and undertake transmission network upgrades.

Supporting WA Families

- \$88.7 million in cost of living relief to families for school expenses, including \$250 for every secondary student and \$150 for every primary and kindergarten student, through the second round of the **Western Australian Student Assistance Payment**.
- \$25.7 million to deliver a further \$100 increase to the **Regional Pensioner Travel Card**, bringing the total card value to \$775 per year.
- \$18 million to **halve TransWA fares** including for the Prospector train and bus services connecting towns in regional WA, including across the Goldfields-Esperance region.
- \$152 million to **cap public transport fares** at the cost of a one-zone ticket including Kalgoorlie, Coolgardie and Kambalda bus services.
- \$8 million for the **Country Week Assistance Program**, reducing travel and accommodation costs for families.
- \$337 million towards the **WA Residential Battery Scheme**, which combined with the Commonwealth scheme, provides Synergy customers with up to \$5,000 and Horizon Power customers with up to \$7,500 towards the cost of a household battery, plus households with incomes of less than \$210,000 per annum can access no-interest loans of up to \$10,000.
- \$3.5 billion over the next four years to keep **regional water and power prices** in line with metropolitan prices.

Plus we are continuing to deliver:

- The **Regional Airfare Zone Cap Scheme** that caps airfares at \$199 one way for regional residents living within 1,000 kms driving distance from Perth, including Kalgoorlie, Leonora, Laverton, Wiluna and Esperance to Perth.

Ensuring Everyone Has a Home

- \$20 million towards the **Pringle Village stage two** project in Kalgoorlie, to build up to 40 additional two-bedroom units for seniors who are independently living in Kalgoorlie-Boulder and looking to downsize their housing.
- \$25 million over four years for the **Regional Housing Support Fund** which will provide grants of up to \$5 million to support new housing and land supply across regional WA, supporting regional subdivision and key worker and community housing projects.
- \$103.8 million to double the **Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH)** construction program with over 100 new builds, plus land acquisition, across regional WA to support key government workers such as police and teachers.
- Delivering through Keystart, a **new low-deposit modular home loan** product to assist more people, particularly in regional WA, to purchase a modular home.

Plus we are continuing to deliver:

- Increased **stamp duty** threshold for first homebuyers to \$500,000, with discounted rates applied to homes valued up to \$750,000 in regional WA.

Becoming the Healthiest State in the Nation

- \$1 million to develop the **Kalgoorlie Health Campus Master Plan**.
- \$9.9 million to transition the **Kalgoorlie Step Up, Step Down** into a publicly run sub-acute Mental Health facility.
- \$18.5 million to increase the **Patient Assisted Travel Scheme** (PATS) fuel subsidy from 26c per kilometre to 40c per kilometre.
- \$12.2 million towards the **Virtual Infant Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Hub**, providing specialist mental healthcare for children and young people via telehealth.
- \$8.2 million to establish **GP ASK** to connect WA GP's to dedicated and experienced specialists without the need for patients to travel to a hospital.

Plus we are continuing to deliver:

- \$62.4 million for the new **Laverton hospital**.

Growing a Skilled Workforce

- \$316 million committed for major infrastructure projects at 17 schools, with planning underway to deliver a \$12 million new early childhood block at **O'Connor Primary School** and integrate the new facilities with the Education Support Centre.
- \$42 million for the first tranche of funding to deliver minor upgrades at schools across the State including:
 - \$1.8 million to upgrade the oval at **Kambalda West District High School**.
 - \$850,000 to deliver pre-primary building upgrades and nature playground at **Norseman District High School**.
- \$43.3 million for the first tranche of funding to the **Cool the Schools program** that will deliver air conditioning upgrades at schools across the State including:
 - \$1 million to upgrade air conditioning at **Leonora District High School**.
 - \$800,000 to upgrade air conditioning at **Kalgoorlie Primary School**.
- \$30.3 million for the **School of Isolated and Distance Education** to support more students learning in regional Western Australia.
- \$29 million to introduce **free full-time, school-based kindy** with a trial of 10 pilot locations across the State, including regional WA.
- \$15 million to boost **Before and After School Care** in schools.
- \$28 million to expand the **School Breakfast Program** to provide free breakfasts five days a week at more than 650 schools, including in the Goldfields-Esperance Region.
- \$10 million to establish a program to boost capacity in **public school canteens** through grants for canteen staff, equipment and minor facility upgrades.
- \$5 million contribution from BHP to enable **more apprenticeship and traineeship** places in the Goldfields region through the Group Training Organisation Wage Subsidy program.
- \$8.6 million to **expand fee-free TAFE in the regions** with an additional seven construction courses fee-free from 2026.
- \$100 million to **keep TAFE course fees unchanged** in 2026.
- \$11.6 million for another round of the **TAFE Modern Equipment** program to upgrade TAFE equipment across regional WA.

Transport and Infrastructure

- \$5 million towards the **Water Bank Project** in Kalgoorlie, to boost recycled water supplies.
- \$7.7 million for upgrades to **Coolgardie Main Street**, Bayley Street.
- \$8.5 million for the first tranche of funding to the **signalised pedestrian crossings** program, including on Maritana Street, between Dugan Street and Piccadilly Street, to cater for students at Kalgoorlie Primary School and St Mary's Primary School.
- \$250 million to expand the **Regional Road Safety program** to include local government roads, delivering road safety treatments including sealing of road shoulders and the installation of audible lines, making more regional roads safer.
- \$2.5 million to expand and upgrade the **Kalgoorlie Driver and Vehicle Services Centre**.

Building Safer and Stronger Communities

- \$2.5 million to replace street lighting in Kalgoorlie with **LED lights**.
- \$15.6 million to redevelop accommodation at the WA Police Academy to provide free residential accommodation for **regional police recruits** during the six-month training period, with the option for them to be placed in their home policing districts for the first four to six years of their careers.
- \$6.7 million to support **DFES' aerial fire response capability** and establish two strike teams to mitigate the threat of crop fires during the grain harvesting season.
- \$3.5 million for expansion of the **Community Emergency Services Manager** program with six new positions across regional WA, to help local governments deliver emergency management services.
- \$3.1 million towards a new **State Bushfire Mitigation Branch** to undertake mitigation works on Unallocated Crown Land and Unmanaged Reserves.
- \$3 million to continue an uplift in baseline funding to **financial counselling services** across the State, including the Goldfields Financial Counselling Service and Escare's Esperance Financial Counselling Service.

Growing Regional Sport and Communities

- \$93 million for the first tranche of funding to upgrade sport and recreation facilities across the State including:
 - \$2.6 million towards **lighting upgrades** at Kalgoorlie sporting facilities including Oasis Playing Field 2, Digger Daws Oval and Sir Richard Moore Oval.
 - \$300,000 towards the reconstruction of the old greens of the **Coolgardie RSL** with artificial turf.
- \$1.7 million towards the development of a **mountain bike trail** in bushland around Kalgoorlie.
- \$300,000 to establish a **new drive-in theatre** in Leonora.
- \$200,000 for medical facilities at **Eastern Goldfields Kart Club** and **Esperance Kart Klub**.

- \$25.2 million to the **Regional Racing Fund** to upgrade infrastructure at regional racing clubs across the State including:
 - \$2.12 million for major upgrades at **Esperance Bay Turf Club**.
 - \$700,000 for upgrades at **Kalgoorlie–Boulder Race Club**.
- \$6 million to establish the **Boosting Women and Girls Participation in Sport** fund to encourage women and girls to get involved in community sport.
- \$4 million to establish the **Veterans Facilities Fund** to help RSL and veterans organisations upgrade their local facilities and RSL clubs.