



Delivering our Vision for the Great Southern

The Cook Labor Government is delivering its vision for the Great Southern.

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

- \$8.3 million to progress planning and negotiations to bring the **Freight Rail Network** back into Government hands.
- \$10.8 million to undertake a business case for the **upgrades of Berths 1 and 2 in Albany**, to underpin grain exports and the increase in cruise ships to Albany.
- \$50 million **Battery Manufacturing Program** to support local businesses to make household batteries here in WA.
- \$6 million to double the State Government's contribution to the **Wine Industry Partnership** to help grow the volume of WA wine exports, particularly into the East Coast market.
- \$20 million to expand the **Aboriginal Ranger Program**.
- \$5 million to the **Healthy Oceans Fund** to establish a seagrass restoration grant program to support seagrass planting projects across WA waters.
- \$5.9 million for the **Great Southern Regional Dry Season** water carting, to support the agricultural sector through dry conditions.

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 bus services connecting towns in regional WA, including across the Great Southern.
- \$152 million to **cap public transport fares** at the cost of a one-zone ticket including TransAlbany 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 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 Albany to Perth.

Ensuring Everyone Has a Home

- \$825,000 to support planning for an additional 2,500 affordable homes in **McKail North**, Albany.
- \$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:

- \$25 million to deliver new affordable homes as part of the **Spencer Park** mixed-use development.
- 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 towards planning for the expansion of **Albany Health Campus**, with a new 30 bed modular ward.
- \$12.4 million to deliver an **adult residential rehabilitation and withdrawal centre** in the Great Southern.
- \$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.

Growing a Skilled Workforce

- Planning funding has been allocated to progress major school upgrades at 17 schools across the State including:
 - \$22 million for an expansion and new General Area Learning block at **North Albany Senior High School**.
 - \$12 million to redevelop the **Spencer Park Education Support Centre**.
- \$42 million for the first tranche of funding to deliver minor upgrades at schools across the State including:
 - \$400,000 to upgrade the car park at **Denmark 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 Great Southern Region.
- \$10 million to establish a program to boost capacity in **public school canteens** through grants for canteen staff, equipment and minor facility upgrades.
- \$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

- \$25 million for a major upgrade to the **South Coast Highway**, between Cheyne's Road and Kojaneerup, including reconstruction, widening and the installation of audible lines, making the road safer and more efficient.
- \$11.5 million towards upgrades at **Albany Airport** to cater for larger aircraft to support the tourism industry, bringing the State's total contribution to the project to \$14 million.
- \$8.5 million for the first tranche of funding to the **signalised pedestrian crossings** program, including on North Road, near Beaufort Road to cater for students at John Calvin School in Albany.
- \$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.

Building Safer and Stronger Communities

- \$1.4 million to support planning and business case development for the expansion of refuge capacity across the State, including additional **family and domestic violence refuge** units in Albany to provide emergency accommodation for vulnerable victim-survivors and their children.
- \$11.5 million to **expand the Safe at Home program** that supports victim-survivors of family and domestic violence to stay in their homes, including expanding the service to Albany.
- \$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.

Growing Regional Sport and Communities

- \$3.5 million towards upgrades at **William Bay National Park** near Denmark, including pedestrian access to Elephant Rocks and Greens Pool and to realign the Munda Biddi trail.
- \$200,000 for planning towards a new **all-abilities fishing jetty** in Albany.
- \$1.5 million towards the construction of a further four courts and lighting at **Albany Regional Tennis Centre**.
- \$93 million for the first tranche of funding to upgrade sport and recreation facilities across the State including:
 - \$400,000 towards upgrading the safety wall and catch fence at **Albany Speedway**.
- \$100,000 for medical facilities at **Albany City Kart Club**.
- \$25.2 million to the **Regional Racing Fund** to upgrade infrastructure at regional racing clubs across the State including:
 - \$3.84 million for major upgrades at **Albany Racing Club**.
 - \$853,000 for upgrades at **Albany Harness Racing Club**.
 - \$200,000 for upgrades at **Mount Barker Turf Club**.
 - \$77,000 for upgrades at **Pingrup 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.
- \$3 million to continue an uplift in baseline funding to **financial counselling services** across the State, including the Great Southern District Financial Counselling Services.

Plus we are continuing to deliver:

- \$5.8 million for tourism infrastructure works at **Torndirrup National Park**, including at the Gap and Cable Beach, under construction.