



Delivering our Vision for the Mid West

The Cook Labor Government is delivering its vision for the Mid West.

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

- 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 Oakajee.
- \$3.5 million to progress detailed design for Berth 8 and 9 at the **Port of Geraldton**, providing capacity to support renewable energy projects such as wind turbine blades.
- \$50 million **Battery Manufacturing Program** to support local businesses to make household batteries here in WA.
- \$20 million to expand the **Aboriginal Ranger Program**.
- \$8.3 million to progress planning and negotiations to bring the **Freight Rail Network** back into Government hands.
- \$8.9 million funding boost to the **Exploration Incentive Scheme** to encourage mining exploration and support jobs in regional WA.

Plus we are continuing to deliver:

- The next stages of the \$350 million **Geraldton Port Maximisation Project**, including a breakwater to reduce wave surge action and improve port productivity by up to 10 per cent.

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 Mid West.
- \$152 million to **cap public transport fares** at the cost of a one-zone ticket including Geraldton 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 Geraldton, Meekatharra and Mount Magnet to Perth.

Ensuring Everyone Has a Home

- \$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 begin planning for an **expansion of renal services**, including additional chairs in Geraldton.
- \$1 million to begin planning for a **radiation oncology service** and linear accelerator in Geraldton.

- \$1 million to upgrade the **Kalbarri Health Centre** air-conditioning system.
- \$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:

- \$190.2 million for the **Geraldton Health Campus** redevelopment.

Growing a Skilled Workforce

- Planning funding has been allocated to progress major school upgrades at 17 schools across the State including:
 - \$8 million for classroom refurbishments, LED lighting and air conditioning upgrades at **Geraldton Senior High School**.
 - \$23.5 million for a new gymnasium at **Champion Bay Senior High 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 Mid West.
- \$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.

Plus we are continuing to deliver:

- \$9 million for upgrades to the Education Support Facility at **Waggrakine Primary School**.

Transport and Infrastructure

- \$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.
- \$8.5 million for the first tranche of funding to the **signalised pedestrian crossings** program, including on Brand Highway in Tarcoola Beach to cater for students at Wandina Primary School.

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 Geraldton 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 Geraldton.
- \$3 million to continue an uplift in baseline funding to **financial counselling services** across the State, including the Geraldton Financial Counselling Service.
- \$1 million to PCYC to deliver **youth diversion programs** in Geraldton.
- \$2.3 million for **additional CCTV** across the State to help combat anti-social behaviour including additional cameras in Geraldton.
- \$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.
- \$250,000 towards planning for of a **new multipurpose evacuation centre** in Kalbarri.
- \$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 million towards new toilets and changeroom facilities, including for women, at **GBSC Sport Park**.
- \$2.8 million to the **Geraldton Netball Association** for upgrades to its Wonthella facility.
- \$450,000 to support the **Backroads Gravel Festival** cycling event in the Mid West for the next three years.
- \$100,000 for medical facilities at **Midwest Kart Club** in Geraldton.
- \$25.2 million to the **Regional Racing Fund** to upgrade infrastructure at regional racing clubs across the State including:
 - \$1.9 million for upgrades at **Geraldton Turf Club**.
 - \$92,000 for upgrades at **Dongara-Irwin 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.