



Delivering our Vision for the Pilbara

The Cook Labor Government is delivering its vision for the Pilbara.

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 Boodarie, Maitland, Ashburton North and Anketell.
- \$35 million to resurface the **Utah Ring Road** at the Port of Port Hedland, which supports over 20 million tonnes of iron ore exports each year.
- \$20 million to expand the **Aboriginal Ranger Program**.
- \$1.6 million to support delivery of the **Pilbara Energy Transition Plan** to facilitate more common-use transmission infrastructure in the Pilbara and support industry.
- \$50 million **Battery Manufacturing Program** to support local businesses to make household batteries here in WA.
- \$8.9 million funding boost to the **Exploration Incentive Scheme** to encourage mining exploration and support jobs in regional WA.
- \$4.5 million to undertake **environmental regulation** and water licensing assessment and approvals for the Pilbara region.
- \$4.2 million to **accelerate water planning** to support economic development and enhance water allocation plans in the Pilbara.

Plus we are continuing to deliver:

- \$96.6 million for the new **Lumsden Point** at the Port of Port Hedland, expanding port capacity and supporting our clean energy transition.
- \$298.3 million for a new multi-user wharf at the **Port of Dampier**.

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.
- \$152 million to **cap public transport fares** at the cost of a one-zone ticket including Karratha and Port Hedland 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 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 \$299 one way for regional residents living within 1,000 kms driving distance from Perth, including Karratha, Port Hedland, Newman and Paraburdoo to Perth.

Ensuring Everyone Has a Home

- \$43.2 million towards the **Mulataga housing development** in Karratha, delivering an additional 169 residential lots, including a \$22.1 million grant from the Commonwealth.
- \$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.
- \$13.7 million to **support housing** for Water Corporation employees in the regions, including in Port Hedland, Karratha and Onslow.
- 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 towards planning for the **expansion of renal services**, including an 8-bed dialysis facility and new hostel in Karratha.

- \$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:

- \$55 million for major redevelopments at **Tom Price and Paraburdoo Hospitals**, including a \$40 million contribution from Rio Tinto.

Growing a Skilled Workforce

- \$42 million for the first tranche of funding to deliver minor upgrades at schools across the State including:
 - \$2 million for new STEM facilities at **Hedland Senior High School**.
 - \$1.2 million for outdoor sporting facility upgrades at **Pegs Creek Primary School**.
 - \$1 million to upgrade the hard courts at **Dampier Primary School**.
 - \$900,000 to upgrade shade and play equipment at **South Hedland 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 Pilbara.
- \$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:

- \$94 million for major upgrades to **Roebourne District High School**.
- \$6.1 million for upgrades to **Baler Primary School**.
- \$6.3 million for upgrades to **Cassia 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.
- An additional \$20.6 million for the **Onslow Seawater Desalination Plant**, bringing the total to \$137.6 million, in partnership with Chevron.

Building Safer and Stronger Communities

- \$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 Karratha.
- \$3 million to continue an uplift in baseline funding to **financial counselling services** across the State, including services in Hedland, Karratha, Newman, Roebourne and Exmouth.
- \$2.3 million for **additional CCTV** across the State to help combat anti-social behaviour including additional cameras in Karratha, Newman, Port Hedland, South Hedland, Roebourne and Wickham.
- \$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.
- \$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

- \$93 million for the first tranche of funding to upgrade sport and recreation facilities across the State including:
 - \$6.7 million towards the delivery of 4 new outdoor covered courts at the **Karratha Netball Association**.
- \$22.5 million towards a **new aquatic facility** in South Hedland.
- \$7.5 million towards the **Newman Youth and Community Hub**.
- \$300,000 to upgrade medical facilities at **Karting WA clubs**, including Karratha, Hedland, and Impala (Tom Price) Kart Clubs.
- \$200,000 to increase funding to **Fishability** to allow them to further expand their programs into key locations in regional WA, including the Pilbara.
- \$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.

Plus we are continuing to deliver:

- \$3.5 million for major upgrades to the **Newman Recreation Centre**, located at Newman Senior High School.