



## Delivering for the Gascoyne

**The Cook Labor Government is delivering for the Gascoyne, with the 2026–27 State Budget focused on real cost of living relief while funding the housing, health, infrastructure and jobs that regional communities rely on.**

The 2026–27 State Budget strengthens regional cities and communities by investing in the infrastructure and services needed to attract families, grow skilled local workforces, create quality local jobs and drive new economic opportunities – ensuring regional Western Australia remains a great place to live, work and raise a family.

The Budget will provide meaningful cost of living relief for Gascoyne families with funding to roll out the third WA Student Assistance Payment and delivering the Fuel Support Payment, offering a \$100 payment to all Western Australians with a valid driver's licence.

More than \$4 billion in Royalties for Regions funding will be invested across regional communities, and \$9.5 billion in regional infrastructure over the next four years.

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### Delivering a Strong Economy and Local Jobs

- More than \$150 million for the **Made in WA Energy Affordability Investment Program**, backing manufacturers to lower energy costs
- \$113.5 million additional investment in **road maintenance across WA**, with \$3.6 billion in total to be spent on regional roads over the next four years
- \$30 million increase to the **Investment Attraction Fund** for a second round of grants under the New Energies Industries Funding Stream
- \$19.6 million to expand the **Group Training Organisation Wage Subsidy Program**, supporting construction businesses to hire more apprentices and trainees
- \$18 million for **Aboriginal tourism initiatives**
- \$13.1 million to extend the **Construction Visa Subsidy Program** and **Build a Life in WA** incentive, boosting the number of skilled tradespeople in our workforce
- \$4.5 million for the **deferral of heavy vehicle fee increases**, supporting industry throughout the Gascoyne region
- \$1.4 million for the **Small Business Growth Grants** program

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### Real Cost of Living Relief for Gascoyne Families

- \$198 million for the **\$100 Fuel Support Payment** for all Western Australians with a valid driver's licence
- \$124 million to continue **lower fee and Fee-Free TAFE** in 2027, including in **Carnarvon**

- \$89.5 million to deliver a third round of the **Western Australian Student Assistance Payment**, providing Gascoyne families with **\$150 for each primary and kindergarten student, and \$250 for each secondary school student**
- \$36.4 million to lock in **free public transport for students** travelling to and from school, including on Transcarnarvon services
- \$35 million to **increase energy concessions**, including the Energy Assistance Payment, Dependent Child Rebate and Air Conditioning Allowance
- \$33.1 million contribution to the Fuel Excise Relief Program, **reducing fuel by 32 cents per litre**
- \$23.7 million boost to the **foster carer subsidy**
- \$16 million to **extend the Energy Ahead program**, helping those experiencing financial hardship to **improve energy efficiency** and **save on power bills**
- \$14.5 million to establish a new **Foster and Grand Carer Gold Card**, providing benefits including **\$377 of energy bill relief this year**
- \$13.5 million to **extend the WA Rent Relief Program**
- Ongoing support for the **Regional Airfare Zone Cap Scheme**, saving regional residents hundreds of dollars on flights to Perth
- \$5.5 million for the **KidSport program**, providing **\$300 vouchers** for eligible kids to help with club fees

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## Delivering Housing

- \$692 million for **regional specific housing initiatives** to boost housing and land supply, including:
  - \$50 million increase to the **Regional Housing Support Fund**, taking it to \$75 million for **local housing** and **residential subdivision projects**
- \$297 million for a housing tax package to **support first home buyers** and boost housing supply
- \$250 million First Home Buyer Commercial Financing Facility to provide **concessional loans for affordable housing projects**
- \$250 million for **Keystart's Pre sale Guarantee**, helping developers meet pre sale thresholds for apartment projects with at least 30 per cent affordable dwellings
- \$127 million top up to the **Remote Communities Fund**, including \$82 million of additional housing investment in remote Aboriginal communities
- \$48 million to **manufacture modular housing and infrastructure in WA**, supporting **prefabricated homes for regional areas**

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## Investing in Regional Health

- \$492 million additional investment in **regional health and mental health**, including:
  - \$68.6 million funding for **WA Country Health Service**, including for **specialist health services**
  - \$48.6 million to continue culturally appropriate social and emotional **wellbeing support for Aboriginal people**
  - \$43.8 million investment in **community mental health** and alcohol and other drugs services

- \$214 million **increase to hospital maintenance** funding
- \$143 million additional investment for **medical equipment and imaging upgrades**
- \$49.8 million for **Child Development Services**
- \$29.7 million to extend **suicide prevention initiatives**
- \$27.1 million to deliver the **free flu vaccination** program and the **RSV immunisation program**
- \$4.1 million to **train pharmacists** to diagnose, treat and prescribe everyday conditions, including in the Gascoyne

Plus we are continuing to deliver:

- The **largest-ever expansion to the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme**, including a 54 per cent boost to the fuel subsidy and expanding eligibility to cover more dental and allied health services

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## Supporting Regional Schools and Students

- \$310 million increase to **support students with disability** at public schools
- \$219 million **boost to school maintenance**, benefiting schools in the Gascoyne
- \$15.7 million to **expand training and support** for staff working with students with disability
- \$7.7 million to **support swimming lessons** across the State, particularly in regional areas
- \$5 million through the **Schools Clean Energy Technology Fund** to provide solar panels and LED lighting upgrades at public schools across WA

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## Building Strong and Inclusive Communities

- \$421 million for child protection services plus \$52.4 million additional **support for foster and grandcarers**
- \$361 million for **Foundational Supports – Thriving Kids services over the next five years**, to provide support for children aged 8 and under with developmental delays or autism
- \$61.4 million to continue the **Target 120 early intervention program**, including in **Carnarvon**
- \$60.7 million for **road safety community awareness** campaigns and **school education** programs.
- \$45 million for **refuges and safe houses** across the state
- \$36.1 million to continue the **Driving Access and Equity Program**, helping disadvantaged learner drivers to get their licence
- \$91 million funding boost for **new and continuing homelessness services**
- \$31.2 million for **fire and emergency fleet replacement**
- \$30.3 million for **marine infrastructure**, including at the **Carnarvon Boat Harbour, Denham Maritime Facility, and Exmouth Boat Harbour**
- \$29.5 million **boost for Home Stretch**, supporting young people leaving care
- \$24.2 million to continue **Operation Regional Shield**, boosting police resources when

they're needed in the Gascoyne

- \$20.3 million for **at-risk youth services** around the State
- \$7.2 million to continue **Aboriginal Family Led Decision Making** sites, including in the Gascoyne
- \$3.7 million for the **Gwoonwardu Mia – Gascoyne Aboriginal Heritage and Cultural Centre**

Plus we are continuing to deliver:

- Infrastructure upgrades to **Carnarvon Race Club**
- Upgrades at **Exmouth Eagles Football Club, Exmouth Tennis Club** and **Truscott Memorial Club**

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## Protecting and Restoring our Environment

- \$52.9 million to establish the **Regional Water Source Fund** for planning and investigation in regional WA
- \$24.7 million for **biosecurity** and **animal disease preparedness**
- \$8.5 million towards the **Fisheries Support Package**, including funding for an **enhanced science program** and **FishCatchWA app upgrades**
- \$2.5 million to support the **Hamelin Pool Boardwalk** Replacement project
- \$2.5 million to strengthen **climate resilience planning** and adaptation

Plus we are continuing to deliver:

- Support for **community-led conservation efforts** through our Community Stewardship Grants
- The **Aboriginal Ranger Program**, creating ranger jobs and caring for land and sea Country
- Progressing consultation and work to **establish the Exmouth Gulf Marine Park**