



Delivering for Pilbara

The Cook Labor Government is delivering for Pilbara, 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 backs the Cook Labor Government's Seven Cities vision for regional Western Australia - a long-term plan to unlock the next wave of regional economic opportunities including in Port Hedland and Karratha.

Through the Budget, we're investing in the quality infrastructure and services needed to attract families, grow skilled local workforces and create quality local jobs - ensuring our Seven Cities can be everything they can be, and continue to be service delivery hubs for their regions.

The Budget will provide meaningful cost of living relief for Pilbara 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, strengthening regional WA so it remains a great place to live, work and raise a family.

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 total to be spent on regional roads over the next four years
- \$50 million to deliver the **Channel Zone 5 Bypass** at the **Port of Port Hedland**, enhancing vessel safety and port efficiency
- \$32 million to deliver Stage 4 of the **Newman Light Industrial Area**
- \$30 million increase to the **Investment Attraction Fund** for a second round of grants to support new energy projects
- \$27.1 million for planning and design for the **Boodarie Strategic Industrial Area** near Port Hedland
- \$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
- \$10.6 million to build on **clean energy training and research** as part of the **Pilbara**

Hydrogen Hub

- \$4.5 million for the **deferral of heavy vehicle fee increases**, supporting industry throughout the Pilbara
- \$3.5 million to **widen and reconstruct Stovehill Road** in Karratha
- \$2.4 million to continue the **Aboriginal Pastoral Program** in the Pilbara and Kimberley
- \$1.4 million for the **Small Business Growth Grants** program

Plus we are continuing to deliver:

- The **Pilbara Energy Transition**
- Upgrades to the **Manuwarra Red Dog Highway**
- A new multi-user wharf at the **Port of Dampier**, with Stage Two now underway
- The **Lumsden Point development**

Real Cost of Living Relief for Pilbara 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
- \$89.5 million to deliver a third round of the **Western Australian Student Assistance Payment**, providing Pilbara 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 school students**, including on Transkarratha services
- \$35 million to **increase energy concessions**, including the Energy Assistance Payment, Dependent Child Rebate, and Air Conditioning Allowance
- \$33.7 million to lock-in **free travel Sundays** on Transregional services, including in Karratha
- \$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
- \$3.8 million to further support the **Inter Regional Flight Network**, connecting **Broome, Karratha, Geraldton** and **Port Hedland**

Delivering Housing

- \$692 million for **regional specific housing initiatives** to boost housing and land supply, including:
 - \$419 million for more than **500 GROH and key government worker dwellings** through the **Seven Cities initiative**, including new houses, expansion of the GROH Investor Program, and establishment of a revamped Home Ownership Subsidy Scheme including shared equity options. This includes **305 homes for regional frontline workers in Karratha and Port Hedland**
 - \$75 million to boost the supply of residential land in the Pilbara, with **121 lots to be developed at South Hedland Western Edge**
 - \$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**

Plus we are continuing to deliver:

- The **Mulataga housing development** in Karratha

Investing in Regional Health

- \$492 million additional investment in **regional health and mental health**, including:
 - \$68.6 million funding for regional specialist health services **including the Pilbara Health Initiative**
 - \$60.8 million additional investment to deliver **Tom Price Hospital**
 - \$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, **including services in the Pilbara**
 - \$7.6 million additional funding towards the **South Hedland Step Up/Step Down facility**
 - \$3.7 million to expand the **Aboriginal Environmental Health Program**, including in the Pilbara
- \$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 boost and expand **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 Pilbara

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

Supporting Regional Schools and Students

- \$310 million increase to **support students with disability** at public schools, including in the Pilbara
- \$218.6 million **boost to school maintenance**, benefiting schools in the Pilbara
- \$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
- \$2 million for new STEM facilities at **Hedland Senior High School**
- \$1.2 million for outdoor sporting facility upgrades at **Peg's Creek Primary School**
- \$1 million for hard courts upgrades at **Dampier Primary School**
- \$900,000 for shade and playground upgrades at **South Hedland Primary School**

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
- \$91 million funding boost for **new and continuing homelessness services**
- \$61.4 million to continue the **Target 120 early intervention program**, including in **Newman** and **Karratha**
- \$60.7 million for **road safety community awareness** campaigns and **school education** programs
- \$45 million boost for **refuges and safe houses**, including \$11.6 million for **five refuges under development**, including in **Newman**
- \$36.1 million to continue the **Driving Access and Equity Program**, helping disadvantaged learner drivers to get their licence
- \$24.2 million to continue **Operation Regional Shield**, boosting police resources when they're needed in the Pilbara
- \$31.2 million for **fire and emergency fleet replacement**
- \$30.3 million for **marine infrastructure**, including upgrades and refurbishments at **Exmouth Boat Harbour**

- \$29.5 million **boost for Home Stretch WA**, supporting young people leaving care
- \$20.3 million for **at-risk youth services** around the State
- \$5.8 million to continue the **Martu Student Hostel** program in Newman
- \$2.4 million for the **Yiwarra Kuju – Martu Western Desert Justice Program**
- \$1.5 million to continue the **safeSPACE program**, including in **Roebourne**

Plus we are continuing to deliver:

- An **expanded the Safe at Home program**, supporting victim-survivors of family and domestic violence to stay in their homes, including in **Karratha**.
- The new **Port Hedland Aquatic Facility** and the **Newman Youth and Community Hub**
- Upgrades to **Nor-West Jockey Club** in Roebourne
- Support for **Fishability**, including **expanding the program to the Pilbara**

Protecting and Restoring our Environment

- \$606 million to **secure West Pilbara's water future** through a joint venture with Rio Tinto to deliver Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the **8GL Dampier Seawater Desalination Plant**
- \$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**
- \$7.9 million to **upgrade Harding Dam** in the West Pilbara and secure water supply in the region
- \$2.5 million to strengthen **climate resilience planning** and adaptation

Plus we are continuing to deliver:

- WA's first regional **desalination plant at the Onslow**, in partnership with Chevron
- Protections for **Murujuga Cultural Landscape**
- The **Healthy Oceans program**, delivering coral restoration and research.
- 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