



Delivering for the South West

The Cook Labor Government is delivering for the South West, 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 Bunbury.

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 South West 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

- \$973 million to expand Western Power’s network and **increase electricity capacity** for industrial and residential developments
- 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
- \$89.1 million investment to complete the **Transforming Bunbury’s Waterfront** project, delivering key marine infrastructure and coastal upgrades
- \$68.3 million towards electricity infrastructure, land acquisition and water supply studies at **Kemerton Strategic Industrial Area**
- \$45 million to allow for the **doubling of Australind train services** between Perth and Bunbury
- \$30 million increase to the **Investment Attraction Fund** for a second round of grants to support new energy projects
- \$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
- \$9.4 million to **replace bridges** in **Busselton** and **Harvey**
- \$4.8 million for a business case to **increase capacity at Bunbury Port**
- \$4.5 million for the **deferral of heavy vehicle fee increases**, supporting industry throughout the South West
- \$2.6 million to support **CinefestOZ Film Festival**
- \$1.4 million for the **Small Business Growth Grants** program

Plus we are continuing to deliver:

- Enabling infrastructure at **Coolangatta Industrial Estate**, to help fast track major new industries in Collie
- The **Collie Industrial Transition Fund** to secure job creating projects in Collie, bringing the total investment in **Collie's Just Transition** to \$692 million
- Investment to establish the **Advanced Manufacturing and Technology Hub (AMTECH)** in Picton
- Secured Power Purchase Agreements for wind energy to **support WA's transition to renewables**

Real Cost of Living Relief for South West 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 South West 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 Transbunbury, Transbusselton, Transbridgetown, Transcollie and Transmanjimup 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**, including on Transbunbury services
- \$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**
- \$5.5 million for the **KidSport program**, providing **\$300 vouchers** for eligible kids to help with club fees

Delivering Housing

- \$692 million for **regional specific housing initiatives** to boost housing and land supply, including:
 - \$75 million investment in water and wastewater **infrastructure services** to facilitate **residential lot development**, including in **Australind, Boyanup and Eaton**
 - \$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
- \$48 million to **manufacture modular housing and infrastructure in WA**, supporting **prefabricated homes for regional areas**

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 additional **specialist health services**
 - \$100.9 million additional investment in the **Bunbury Hospital redevelopment**
 - \$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
 - \$24.8 million to continue regional initiatives under the Infant, Child and Adolescent Taskforce, including the **Bunbury Hub and the Brief Crisis Intervention program**
- \$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**, including \$4.9 million to expand the **Children and Young People Responsive Suicide Support (CYPRESS)** program into the South West
- \$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 South West

Plus we are continuing to deliver:

- The **Infant, Child and Adolescents Mental Health Service Bunbury Hub**
- The **mobile Breastscreen service** and stage 2 fit-out for the **new purpose-built Bunbury clinic**
- **18 Time to Think beds in Busselton**, supporting older Western Australians to plan their next steps after leaving hospital

- 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 South West
- \$219 million **boost to school maintenance**, benefiting schools in the South West
- \$15.7 million to **expand training and support** for staff working with students with disability
- \$10.7 million to deliver a new early childhood education block at **Cowaramup Primary School**
- \$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
- \$1.8 million for new STEM facilities at **Donnybrook District High School**
- \$1.4 million for **air conditioning upgrades** at **Dardanup Primary School**, \$1 million for Picton Primary School and \$970,000 for Harvey Primary School
- \$1.4 million for student support centre upgrades at **Bunbury Primary School**

Plus we are continuing to deliver:

- A **new primary school in Vasse West** to open Term 1, 2028
- Free full-time, school-based kindy pilot at **Dalyellup Primary School**
- A **new South Regional TAFE onsite training facility in Collie**, which is set to open this year

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 Bunbury
- \$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 the South West
- \$36.1 million to continue the **Driving Access and Equity Program**, helping disadvantaged learner drivers get their licence
- \$24.2 million to continue **Operation Regional Shield**, boosting police resources when they're need in the South West

- \$31.2 million for **fire and emergency fleet replacement**
- \$29.5 million **boost for Home Stretch**, supporting young people leaving care
- \$20.3 million for **at-risk youth services around the State**

Plus we are continuing to deliver:

- Facility upgrades at **Wellington National Park** in Collie
- The rebuild of the **Argyle Irishtown Bush Fire Brigade headquarters**, currently underway
- Infrastructure upgrades to **Bunbury Trotting Club, Collie Race Club** and **Busselton Trotting Club**

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**
- \$8.2 million to upgrade **water supply infrastructure supplying water to Dunsborough**
- \$6.2 million to further support the **Healthy Estuaries WA** program, benefiting **Peel Harvey** and **Leschenault estuaries, Vasse Geographe waterways** and **Hardy Inlet**
- \$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