



# Delivering for the Gascoyne



The Cook Labor Government is doing what's right for the Gascoyne, with the 2024-25 State Budget delivering significant cost of living relief while investing in health facilities and services, housing, quality jobs and targeted training programs.

The 2024-25 State Budget is focused on WA's regions, with a record \$12.8 billion investment in regional infrastructure, and billions more to fund regional service delivery.

This Budget delivers measures that will drive regional economic growth, diversify regional economies and create jobs for our kids in the regions.

In addition, \$4 billion in Royalties for Regions funding will go towards projects which enrich regional communities, ensuring they remain great places to live, work and raise a family.

## Cost-of-Living Relief for Gascoyne Residents

### A family living in the Gascoyne with two kids could receive:



- \$400 Household Electricity Credit
- Two WA Student Assistance Payments totalling up to \$500
- Around \$2,000 from capped airfares (depending on frequency of travel)

**Total assistance Almost \$3,000**

#### And they'll benefit from:

- \$147m for free regional school buses or transport subsidies
- \$706m for regional water and electricity subsidies
- Free flu immunisation

### A pensioner living in the Gascoyne could receive:



- \$400 Household Electricity Credit
- \$334 Energy Assistance Payment
- \$107 Seniors Cost of Living Rebate
- 50% rebate, up to \$750, on local government rates
- 50% rebate, up to \$600, for water service charges
- Around \$180 in vehicle licence fee discounts
- \$675 Regional Pensioner Travel Card

**Total assistance More than \$3,000**

#### And they'll benefit from:

- Up to 50% discount on the Emergency Services Levy
- \$706m for regional water and electricity subsidies
- Free flu immunisation

- \$492.4 million to provide a **\$400 electricity credit** for every WA household and small business, including across the Gascoyne
- \$103.5 million **WA Student Assistance Payment** to ease the pressure of school expenses, which provides \$150 for WA kindergarten and primary school students and \$250 for secondary school students
- \$64.5 million in additional investment to continue the popular **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 for travel from Perth to Monkey Mia and Carnarvon, and \$299 for residents living over 1,000 kms, including travel between Perth and Exmouth
- \$20.3 million to increase the value of the **Regional Pensioner Travel Card** (formerly the Country Age Pension Fuel Card) by \$100, bringing the total annual amount to \$675, from 1 July 2024

- \$8.2 million to provide **free flu vaccinations** to all Western Australians in preparation for the 2025 flu season
- \$8 million to extend the highly successful **Fee Free TAFE program** through the 2025 training year
- \$3 billion to subsidise the cost of providing **water and electricity to regional Western Australians**, including Gascoyne residents, to keep services affordable for everyone

### Plus we're continuing to deliver:

- \$147.3 million in 2024-25 to provide **free regional school bus services** and the Student Transport Allowance – which has more than doubled from 25.24c per kilometre to 55.6c per kilometre – to assist kids in regional and remote areas who aren't able to access free regional school bus services

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## Delivering Regional Housing

- **Massive \$1.1 billion additional investment** to boost housing supply and affordability
- \$400 million for **social and affordable housing** projects, including in the Gascoyne
- \$60 million for a **Regional Community Housing Grants Program**, to support community housing providers to deliver new dwellings or refurbish existing dwellings
- \$43.8 million in additional investment for **Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH)**, to fund new builds, spot purchases, refurbishments and land acquisitions
- \$8.9 million to **strengthen protections for renters** following the passing of the Residential Tenancies Act, and to support the Consumer Protection Commissioner in dispute resolution processes

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## Investing in Regional Health and Mental Health

- \$2.6 billion per annum in **regional healthcare** investment
- \$405 million to **boost regional health service delivery**, including \$11.9 million to incentivise nurses and midwives to work in regional WA
- \$32.5 million boost to the **Patient Assisted Travel Scheme**
- \$10.9 million to **vaccinate young babies** under eight months old, against respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)
- \$8.6 million to expand **Child Development Services** in the regions
- \$4.7 million to extend the WA Country Health Service **Brief Crisis Intervention Service**, providing virtual post-ED follow up for children, adolescents and their families or carers who have been discharged from a regional ED following a mental health-related presentation
- \$7.7 million to refurbish outdated **staff accommodation**
- \$2.5 million to develop an extension plan for the **Ronald McDonald House facility**, supporting families travelling to Perth for medical treatment

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## Diversifying Regional Economies and Creating Local Jobs

- \$300,000 for the **Shark Bay Terrestrial Reserves** for heavy fleet vehicles to enable joint management operational requirements
- \$70,000 for the for the installation of radio towers within the **Kennedy Range National Park**

- \$36.4 million to **slash green tape and facilitate approvals** for job-creating projects in the regions
- \$23.2 million over the next three years for **biosecurity management**
- \$3 million to manage the significant impact of **wild dogs, feral deer and pigs** on the environment and farming communities

### Plus we're continuing to deliver:

- \$10 million to **super-charge Exmouth's transition** to high-renewable energy system
- \$8.7 million towards restoring the **Carnarvon One Mile Jetty**, with planning underway and construction to expected to commence later this year
- The **Affordable Airfares Program** for discounted flights between Perth and Exmouth to cut the cost of travel and encourage more regional visitation
- Funding for **events to attract visitors** to the region, such as the Gascoyne Food Festival, Kickstarters Gascoyne Dash, and GAMEX

## Delivering a Pipeline of Skills

- **\$1.7 billion per annum** to provide regional Western Australian students with access to a quality education
- \$10 million boost to the **School of Isolated and Distance Education**, to ensure the highest quality learning experiences to students, no matter their location
- \$224.3 million **boost to individual disability loading allocations**, to enable schools to help support and educate students with a disability
- Extending the provision of **free period products** to WA public primary schools, with students being able to access them from Term 3, 2024
- **\$1.1 billion in training programs** across regional WA, to prepare Western Australians for the jobs of the future
- \$11.6 million to continue and expand the **Driving Access and Equity Program** to help disadvantaged people in remote and regional locations access a driver's licence, including the continuation of the program in the Gascoyne
- \$21.2 million for the **Apprenticeship Support Package** to provide building and construction apprentices with an annual \$1,000 milestone payment during their training
- \$15.1 million to provide additional support to employers in the **building and construction industry** with increased grant amounts to assist with the cost of training an apprentice
- \$16 million for the **Apprentice Tool Allowance** to provide eligible building and construction apprentices with a \$1,000 rebate to help them purchase tools or safety equipment at commencement and completion of their training
- \$470,000 to provide **regional building and construction apprentices** with an increased travel and accommodation allowance when required to travel for training
- \$5 million to the Capital Grant Program so private registered training organisations can invest in facilities and equipment to **expand their training capacity**

### Plus we're continuing to deliver:

- \$1 million to upgrade Home Economics facilities at **Exmouth District High School**, underway

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## Investing in our Regional Roads and Infrastructure

- \$169 million in additional funding for **regional roads**, which forms part of our \$4.5 billion investment in regional roads over the next four years
- \$29.3 million towards upgrades at regional and remote airstrips across the State including \$8 million for upgrades to the **Carnarvon Airport** to support larger planes to use the runway

### Plus we're continuing to deliver:

- \$23 million to upgrade 136 kilometres of roads in the Mid West Gascoyne Region through the **Regional Road Safety Program**

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## Building Strong and Fair Regional Communities

- \$460 million per annum to provide **police services** across regional WA
- \$23.4 million to extend **Operation Regional Shield**, which allows WA Police to rapidly deploy officers to the regional areas where they are needed most
- \$8.6 million to support WA's vitally important **emergency service volunteers** with communications equipment, road crash rescue equipment and station upgrades
- \$46.3 million to continue the successful **Home Stretch WA program**, which provides support for young people leaving Out of Home Care, including in the Gascoyne
- \$26.4 million for programs and initiatives to address **family and domestic violence** across regional WA
- \$5.9 million to continue programs that support Aboriginal children in care, including the **Aboriginal Family Led Decision Making program** in Gascoyne
- \$3.1 million to continue delivering the **Aboriginal Community Connectors Program** to provide place-based support to street-present community members including in Carnarvon