



Delivering for the Goldfields- Esperance



The Cook Labor Government is doing what's right for the Goldfields-Esperance region, 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 Goldfields-Esperance Residents

A family living in the Goldfields-Esperance region 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 Goldfields-Esperance region 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 Goldfields-Esperance region
- \$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 Kalgoorlie, Leonora, Laverton, Wiluna and Esperance

- \$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 Goldfields–Esperance 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

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 Goldfields–Esperance region
- \$16.8 million to deliver an additional 32 residential lots in Stage 5 of **GreenView at Karlkurla** in Kalgoorlie
- \$15.7 million additional funding for **Housing First Support Services**, including investment to roll out the Regional Supported Landlord Model in Kalgoorlie
- \$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

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

Plus we're continuing to deliver:

- \$28 million to deliver a new **Laverton Hospital**, with planning underway

Diversifying Regional Economies and Creating Local Jobs

- \$20.8 million to expand the **Anzac Drive Industrial Estate** in Kalgoorlie–Boulder by developing 22 new industrial lots, including power and water and a new intersection with Anzac Drive, enabling new economic development and creating more jobs
- \$500 million to **unlock Strategic Industrial Areas** across the State, including the Mungari Strategic Industrial Area in the Goldfields, driving investment in job-creating clean energy industries in the regions
- \$15 million towards future upgrades to the **Goldfields and Agricultural Water Supply Scheme** to meet future demand, including for the Goldfields Strategic Industrial Areas
- \$36.4 million to **slash green tape and facilitate approvals** for job-creating projects in the regions
- \$18 million for 50 **Standalone Power Systems** to be installed in regional WA, including Esperance, and manufactured in WA
- \$7.5 million to **rebuild the power station in the Blackstone** community
- Royalty relief for the **nickel industry**, to support producers and jobs
- \$43.4 million to support the implementation of the **South Coast Marine Park**, including 33 new full time, ongoing jobs – including trainee and Aboriginal rangers, marine park rangers and coordinators, and joint management coordinators
- \$1 million to upgrade the Saint Mary’s Inlet campgrounds in the beautiful **Fitzgerald River National Park**
- \$16.4 million over the next three years for **biosecurity management**,
- \$6.8 million to **upgrade biosecurity border facilities** to improve traffic flow and install power generation systems and CCTV surveillance, including at Eucla
- \$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:

- Funding for **events to attract visitors** to the region, such as WA PGA Championships, Kalgoorlie Desert Race, Goldfields Cyclistic, and Leonora Golden Gift

Delivering a Pipeline of Skills

- **\$1.7 billion per annum** to provide regional Western Australian students with access to a quality education
- \$650,000 to undertake planning for the upgrade of **Esperance Senior High School**
- \$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 Goldfields–Esperance region

- \$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**
- \$4.2 million to continue **providing specialist services for Aboriginal People** at Jobs and Skills Centres, including in Kalgoorlie

Plus we're continuing to deliver:

- \$12.6 million for a new **Heavy Plant and Engineering Trades Workshop** at Central Regional TAFE's Kalgoorlie campus, recently opened
- \$1 million for a STEM classroom upgrade at **Kalgoorlie-Boulder Community High School**, currently underway

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
- \$14.9 million to replace the tug pen and pilot jetting at the **Port of Esperance**, expanding mooring capacity
- \$2.3 million to undertake design and planning works for a **new port operations centre** at the Port of Esperance
- \$29.3 million towards upgrades at **regional and remote airstrips** across the State including Eucla, keeping communities connected

Plus we're continuing to deliver:

- \$664 million to continue works to seal priority sections of the **Outback Way**, construction underway
- \$250 million for upgrades to **Great Eastern Highway** between Coates Gully, Walgoolan and Coolgardie, with widening and sealing of 11 kilometers of highway between Southern Cross and Ghooli, currently underway
- \$20 million to construct and seal priority sections of **Goldfields Highway** between Wiluna and Meekatharra, with construction on the 5 kilometre section west of Rosslyn Hill nearing completion
- \$20 million to upgrade 130 kilometres of roads in the Goldfields-Esperance region through the **Regional Road Safety Program**

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, with the Goldfields Indigenous Housing Organisation Inc. to deliver the program in the Goldfields-Esperance region to 20 young people
- \$26.4 million for programs and initiatives to address family and domestic violence across regional WA, including funding for a **new Safe House in Leonora** and boosting Family and Domestic Violence **response teams in Kalgoorlie**
- \$3.1 million to continue delivering the **Aboriginal Community Connectors Program** to provide place-based support to street-present community members including in Kalgoorlie and Laverton
- \$10 million to improve safety at warden-controlled school crossings across the State, including **electronic speed limit signs** at Boulder Primary School and North Kalgoorlie Primary School

Plus we're continuing to deliver:

- A new **Safe at Home Program**, plus the existing one stop hub in Kalgoorlie for victim-survivors of family and domestic violence
- \$5 million towards the upgrade of the **Niels Hansen Basketball Stadium**, construction underway