



Delivering for the Great Southern



The Cook Labor Government is doing what's right for the Great Southern, 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 Great Southern Residents

A family living in the Great Southern 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 Great Southern 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 Great Southern
- \$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 Albany
- \$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 Great Southern 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 Great Southern
- \$15.7 million additional funding for **Housing First Support Services**, including establishing these services in Albany
- \$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

Plus we're continuing to deliver:

- \$6 million for the **Spencer Park renewal project** in Albany, which will see new homes delivered, refurbishments to existing homes and improve street lighting and footpaths, underway

Investing in Regional Health and Mental Health

- \$2.6 billion per annum in **regional healthcare** investment
- \$7.1 million to establish **Acute Care and Response Teams for the Great Southern**, providing invaluable mobile outreach and mental health crisis support services for children up to the age of 17
- \$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:

- \$2.1 million to provide an extra 100 carparking bays at **Albany Health Campus**, planning underway

Diversifying Regional Economies and Creating Local Jobs

- \$4 million to deliver a new jetty for charter vessels at **Albany Waterfront Marina**
- \$250,000 for a new finger jetty at the **Little Grove Boat Ramp** in Albany
- \$1.8 million to upgrade equipment at recreation camps across the State, including **Camp Quaranup** in Albany
- \$8.3 million to upgrade the heritage-listed **Albany Pilot Station Cottages** and create additional community infrastructure such as an education centre, café kiosk and playground area Port of Albany
- \$3.8 million to upgrade **Strawberry Hill Farm**, the first colonial farm buildings in Western Australia
- \$67.2 million to support the new **Forest Management Plan**, creating an additional 65 new jobs focused on climate action and forest health, following the Cook Labor Government's historic decision to end logging in native forests
- \$500 million to **unlock Strategic Industrial Areas** across the State, including Mirambeena Strategic Industrial Area in the Great Southern, driving investment in job-creating clean energy industries in the regions
- \$324 million investment into the **South West Interconnected System**, to support WA's decarbonisation journey, provide certainty to investors, and unlock job-creating renewable energy projects
- \$36.4 million to **slash green tape and facilitate approvals** for job-creating projects in the regions
- \$1.4 million for upgrades at the **Katanning Research Station**
- \$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:

- Upgrades to tourism infrastructure including \$3.3 million for upgrades at **The Gap** and \$3.2 million for trails at **Mount Adelaide** and **Mount Clarence**, currently underway
- \$350 million to **establish new softwood plantations** which is creating jobs in the forestry industry, supporting the construction and housing industry and capturing and storing carbon
- Funding for **events to attract visitors to the region**, such as Taste Great Southern, Maritime Festival, Southern Peaks, and the Albany Classic

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 expanding the program into the Great Southern
- \$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 Albany

Plus we're continuing to deliver:

- \$21.9 million for a new trade's workshop at **South Regional TAFE's Albany campus**
- \$1.5 million for a new STEM classroom at **North Albany Senior High School**, underway
- \$9.9 million for upgrades to administration block, new English and Maths block and a repurposed STEM classroom at **Albany Senior High School**, underway
- \$1.5 million for a new STEM laboratory at **Denmark Senior High School**, underway
- \$1.5 million for a new STEM laboratory at **Mount Barker Community College**, 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
- \$2 million to prepare a business case focused on developing a **new general purpose berth** at the Port of Albany
- \$29.3 million towards upgrades at **regional and remote airstrips** across the State including Albany, keeping communities connected

Plus we're continuing to deliver:

- \$225 million **Albany Ring Road**, close to completion
- \$37 million for the **Menang Drive-Chester Pass Road** grade separation project, under construction
- \$200 million for the **Agricultural Supply Chain Improvement program**, for freight rail upgrades including 11 rail siding upgrades, with Brookton siding completed in August 2023, construction underway at Broomehill, and contracts awarded for works at Cranbrook and Konnongorring
- \$15 million to upgrade 70 kilometres of roads in the Great Southern 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
- \$30.2 million to enhance the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' **bushfire management** with additional staff and firefighting equipment, including in the Great Southern, and a new firefighting bulldozer to be based in Albany
- \$8.6 million to support WA's vitally important **emergency service volunteers** with communications equipment, road crash rescue equipment and station upgrades
- \$3.1 million to continue funding the DFES **Grain Harvest Air Support Strategy**, that strategically bases firefighting aircraft in strategic agricultural areas during grain harvest
- \$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 regions
- \$26.4 million for programs and initiatives to address family and domestic violence across regional WA, including **boosting Family and Domestic Violence response teams in Albany**
- \$15.6 million to support the 10-year **Early Years Partnership initiative** which operates in the regions including the Central Great Southern and aims to support and improve early childhood outcomes
- \$10 million to improve safety at warden-controlled **school crossings** across the State, including new electronic speed limit signs at John Calvin School, Yakamia Primary School and North Albany Senior High School, plus new signage at Albany Primary School and Albany Senior High School

Plus we're continuing to deliver:

- \$2.8 million for major upgrades to the **Albany Surf Life Saving Club**, construction underway
- A **men's behaviour change program** in Albany for perpetrators of family and domestic violence
- \$4.8 million for **Southern Ocean Surf Reef** at Middleton Beach