



Delivering for the Kimberley



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

A family living in the Kimberley 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 Kimberley 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 Pilbara
- \$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 \$299 one way for regional residents living over 1,000 kms driving distance from Perth, including for travel from Perth to Broome and Kununurra
- \$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 Kimberley residents, to keep services affordable for everyone

Plus we're continuing to deliver:

- \$10.6 million program to create energy bill savings and reducing carbon emissions through **rooftop solar on social housing** in Beagle Bay, Djarindjin/Lombadina, Ardyaloon, Bidyadanga and Warmun
- \$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 Kimberley
- \$5 million to unlock 26 development-ready lots in Stage 13 of **Broome North's Waranyjarri Estate**, including a new public open space
- \$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:

- \$15.9 million for the **Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) Aboriginal Employee Housing Grants Program** through the North-West Aboriginal Housing Fund which will provide ACCOs in the Kimberley and Pilbara the opportunity to apply for capital grant funding to build, refurbish, or spot purchase homes to provide as affordable rentals to their Aboriginal employees

Investing in Regional Health and Mental Health

- \$2.6 billion per annum in **regional healthcare** investment
- \$14.6 million to continue the delivery of the **Kimberley Ambulance Service**
- \$10.7 million to construct a new **Sobering Up Centre in Broome** to provide a safe place for intoxicated people
- \$2.4 million to **upgrade nurse call and duress systems** in Broome and Kununurra
- \$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

Diversifying Regional Economies and Creating Local Jobs

- \$6 million for infrastructure to support **First Point of Entry designation for Broome Port**
- \$1.9 million towards the **Buccaneer Archipelago Marine Park** to construct facilities at the operational base on the Dampier Peninsular, extend DBCA's Broome office and for the installation of radio towers
- \$1 million to upgrade campgrounds and facilities at Kurrajong and Walaridi Campground in the **Purnululu National Park**
- \$2.7 million towards the joint management of the **Yawuru Nagulagun/Roebuck Bay Marine Park** with the Yawuru Traditional Owners
- \$1.2 million to employ four full-time staff to repair **stream gauging stations** damaged by Tropical Cyclone Ellie
- \$4.5 million to bring the power stations at Ardyaloon, Bidyadanga, Beagle Bay, Djarindjin Lombadina and Warmun into public hands, securing power supply and supporting the renewable transition for these communities
- \$36.4 million to **slash green tape and facilitate approvals** for job-creating projects in the regions
- \$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 Kununurra
- \$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:

- \$75 million as part of the **Aviation Recovery Fund** for more direct flights into Western Australia, including the Broome to Singapore non-stop seasonal service, which will commence in June 2024
- The **Affordable Airfares Program** for discounted flights between Perth and Broome, Perth and Kununurra, and Broome and Kununurra to cut the cost of travel and encourage more regional visitation
- New **Camping with Custodians sites** owned and operated by the community, including the Lombadina campground opened in May 2024
- Funding for **events to attract visitors to the region**, such as the Ord Valley Muster, Shinju Matsuri, Lake Argyle Swim, A Taste of Broome Festival, and The Gibb Challenge

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 Kimberley
- \$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 Broome and Kununurra

Plus we're continuing to deliver:

- \$4.4 million for canteen upgrades and a new STEM classroom at **Broome Senior High School**, construction underway
- \$10 million for a new classroom block and upgrades at **Halls Creek District High School**, construction underway
- \$27.9 million for a major upgrade to **Derby District High School**, construction 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
- \$121 million **Kimberley Resilience Program** to boost the supply chain and support the region to better respond to emergencies including:
 - \$107.1 million towards the replacement of the single-lane **Brooking Channel Bridge** with a dual land crossing, providing ongoing employment for workers in the Fitzroy Valley
 - \$6 million for new infrastructure at the **Port of Broome** to build greater import capabilities and boost supply chains
 - \$8 million for upgrades to airstrips through the **Aboriginal Community Airstrip Renewal Program**, keeping communities connected

- Funding for a **new jetty crane** for Broome Port
- \$29.3 million towards upgrades at **regional and remote airstrips** across the State including East Kimberley, keeping communities connected

Plus we're continuing to deliver:

- \$118 million for upgrades on the **Great Northern Highway, Ord River North project**, with stages 1 and 2 complete and construction on stage 3 underway
- \$51 million to upgrade **Duncan Road and Gordon Downs Road** in the Browns Range, underway
- \$151 million for the **Gibb River Road upgrades**, between Derby and Wyndham, underway
- \$110 million for upgrades to **Tanami Road**, near Sturt Creek, underway
- \$60 million for upgrades to **Great Northern Highway**, from Nellie Springs to Sally Downs Well and Arthur Creek, underway
- \$12 million to upgrade 59 kilometres of roads in the Kimberley through the **Regional Road Safety Program**, underway

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 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 Broome and Kununurra**
- \$15.6 million to support the 10-year **Early Years Partnership initiative** which operates in two Kimberley regions of Bidyadanga and Derby including Pandanus Park and Mowanjum, and aims to support and improve early childhood outcomes
- \$5.8 million to continue the **Aboriginal Representative Organisation** and **Aboriginal Family Led Decision Making** programs
- \$3.1 million to continue delivering the for the **Aboriginal Community Connectors Program** to provide place-based support to street-present community members including in Broome, Derby, Halls Creek, Kununurra and Wyndham
- \$1.8 million to continue establishment and operation of the **East Kimberley Place-Based Partnership**
- \$1.3 million to continue the **Bidyadanga project**, a placed-based partnership to enable a 'town like' community in Bidyadanga

Plus we're continuing to deliver:

- \$18.2 million to deliver the **Marlamanu on-country diversionary program**, currently underway
- Ngurra Buru, a \$4 million investment for the **Immediate Response Night Space** in Broome to keep young people safe and off the streets at night
- An expanded **Safe at Home program** for victim-survivors of family and domestic violence, including in Kununurra

- The **Broome one stop hub for victim survivors** of Family and Domestic Violence
- \$10.9 million towards the redevelopment of the **Kununurra Aquatic and Leisure Centre**, planning underway
- \$2.3 million for upgrades to the **Warmun Community sporting facility**, planning underway