



Delivering for the Pilbara



The Cook Labor Government is doing what’s right for the Pilbara, 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 Pilbara Residents

A family living in the Pilbara 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 Pilbara 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 Karratha, Port Hedland, Newman and Paraburdoo

- \$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 Pilbara 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**
- \$13 million to deliver 51 new residential lots at **Karratha's Madigan at Baynton West**
- \$400 million for **social and affordable housing projects**, including in the Pilbara
- \$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 Pilbara and Kimberley the opportunity to apply for capital grant funding to build, refurbish, or spot purchase homes to provide as affordable rentals to their Aboriginal employees
- \$30.6 million for the **Pilbara Aboriginal Home Ownership Program** through the North-West Aboriginal Housing Fund which will provide 28 homes as affordable rentals with the option to purchase

Investing in Regional Health and Mental Health

- \$2.6 billion per annum in **regional healthcare** investment
- \$15 million to deliver an **MRI unit at Hedland Health Campus**
- \$2.3 million for a four chair **dialysis unit at Karratha Health Campus**
- \$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

- \$500 million to **unlock Strategic Industrial Areas** across the State, including Boodarie, Maitland, Ashburton North and Anketell Strategic Industrial Area's in the Pilbara, driving investment in job-creating clean energy industries in the regions
- \$148 million to support the development of transmission network infrastructure in the **North West Interconnected System** to unlock clean energy projects in the Pilbara
- \$39.1 million in additional funding towards the **Burrup Seawater Supply Scheme** upgrades, bringing the total to \$147 million, to support industrial growth in the Burrup Strategic Industrial Area
- \$101 million in additional funding for the construction of the **Dampier Bulk Handling Facility**, bringing the total to \$298 million, supporting job-creating and economic diversification projects
- Additional funding of \$25.2 million to construct the **Onslow Desalination Plant** and upgrade the Cane River Borefield, to futureproof water supply for the town of Onslow
- \$6.5 million towards stage two of the **Onslow Community Boating Precinct**, delivering new pens for recreational and charter vessels
- \$2.5 million to upgrade the Red Gorge hike and cycle trail at **Karijini National Park**
- \$1 million towards the upgrade of **Cape Keraudren Boat Ramp**, located 150km north east of Port Hedland
- \$14.9 million to support the implementation of the **Fortescue Marsh Nature Reserve**, including 13 new full time, ongoing jobs – including trainee and Aboriginal rangers and joint management coordinators
- \$13.5 million towards a new **Seafarers Centre** at Port Hedland's West End, with costs to be recovered from industry via a shipping charge
- \$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:

- \$629.1 million of State and Commonwealth funding to establish a new berth and facilities at **Lumsden Point at the Port of Port Hedland** to support renewable energy and critical minerals projects
- \$140 million **Pilbara Hydrogen Hub**, jointly funded with the Commonwealth Government, to create a major centre for hydrogen production
- Funding for **events to attract visitors to the region**, such as The Karijini Experience, Red Country Music Festival, and the Outback Fusion Festival

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 Pilbara
- \$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 Karratha and South Hedland

Plus we're continuing to deliver:

- \$44.3 million for a major upgrade including new trades and hospitality training facilities at North Regional TAFE's **Pundulmurra campus** in South Hedland
- \$72.4 million redevelopment of **Roebourne District High School**, under construction
- \$6.1 million expansion of **Baler Primary School**, underway
- \$6.3 million for a new classroom block at **Cassia Primary School**, underway
- \$1 million for the refurbishment of the music hall at **Dampier Primary School**, underway
- \$700,000 to repurpose a STEM classroom into a STEM laboratory at **Newman Senior High School**, underway
- \$600,000 to repurpose a STEM classroom into a STEM laboratory at **Tom Price Senior High School**, 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
- \$17 million for essential roadworks at the **Utah Point Bulk Handling Facility** in the Port of Port Hedland
- \$29.3 million towards upgrades at **regional and remote airstrips** across the State including Onslow, keeping communities connected

Plus we're continuing to deliver:

- \$380 million for the **Manuwarra Red Dog Highway** between Karratha and Tom Price, with Stage 3 complete and planning for Stage 4 underway
- \$50 million for 11 new overtaking lanes on **Great Northern Highway** between Newman and Port Hedland, currently underway
- \$60 million for the **Marble Bar Road** upgrade
- \$21 million to upgrade 152 kilometers of roads in the Pilbara 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, 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 Karratha and Hedland**
- \$3.1 million to continue delivering the **Aboriginal Community Connectors Program** to provide place-based support to street-present community members including in Hedland and Roebourne
- \$3.1 million additional funding to facilitate the installation of air conditioning at **Roebourne Regional Prison**
- \$653,000 to continue operation of the **Western Desert Justice Program**, a diversionary initiative reducing over-representation of Martu men and women in the criminal justice system

Plus we're continuing to deliver:

- An expanded **Safe at Home Program** in Hedland to support victim-survivors of family and domestic violence