



Delivering for the South West



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

A family living in the South West with two kids could receive:



- \$400 Household Electricity Credit
- Two WA Student Assistance Payments totalling up to \$500

Total assistance Almost \$1,000

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 South West 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 South West
- \$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
- \$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 2024s
- \$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 South West 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 South West
- \$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

- An additional \$173.2 million towards the **Bunbury Health Campus redevelopment**, bringing the total to \$451.1 million, making it the largest redevelopment of a regional hospital in WA's history and ensuring it meets the needs of the South West community now and into the future
- \$2.6 billion per annum in **regional healthcare** investment
- \$1 million to relocate the Bunbury BreastScreen WA clinic
- \$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:

- \$18.3 million for the new **South West Aboriginal Medical Service Health Hub** in Bunbury

Diversifying Regional Economies and Creating Local Jobs

- \$17.5 million to connect and improve the walking and cycling trail on the iconic **Wadandi Track** that follows an old railway line from Busselton to Augusta, once complete it will extend to nearly 110 kilometres
- Additional funding of \$14 million to build a **new bridge at Wellington Dam**, to support the increase in visitors to Collie's world famous Wellington Dam mural, bringing the project total to \$24 million
- \$8 million for the **Pemberton trails masterplan**, including the Pemberton Circuit Hike, Two Rivers Adventure Ride and the first two stages of the Pemberton Arboretum mountain bike trails
- \$4 million for a **new fishing platform in Bunbury**, as part of the Transforming Bunbury's Waterfront project
- \$3 million for upgrades at the **Gloucester and Bicentennial Trees** in the Pemberton area, to allow climbing to reopen on the iconic trees
- \$950,000 to upgrade campgrounds on the **Cape-to-Cape Track**, including Mount Duckworth, Moses Rock and Ellensbrook campsites, building on the \$2.7 million recently allocated to upgrade the trail
- \$250,000 to upgrade **Conto Campground** in the Leeuwin-Naturaliste National Park
- \$250,000 to upgrade **Draftys and Warren campgrounds** in the Warren National Park
- \$250,000 to redesign and upgrade the **Crystal Springs campground** in D'Entrecasteaux National Park west of Walpole
- \$750,000 to upgrade and expand the **Big Brook Arboretum Campground** in Big Brook State Forest, north west of Pemberton
- \$1.5 million to plan design and construct coastal camping sites in **D'Entrecasteaux National Park** west of Pemberton
- \$250,000 to redesign and upgrade the **Greens Island Campground** near Manjimup
- \$250,000 to plan for improved **camping experiences around major lakes** in the South West
- \$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 Kemerton and Shotts Strategic Industrial Areas in the South West, 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
- \$1.6 million for an **annual international conference in Bunbury** over three years to promote investment in the South West
- \$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:

- \$662 million **Collie Transition Package** to attract new industries and create new local jobs in preparation for the retirement of State-owned coal fired power stations
- \$78.1 million for the **Transforming Bunbury's Waterfront project**, with Stage 3 works underway

- \$1.7 billion for the **Collie Battery Energy Storage System**, construction 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
- \$75 million as part of the Aviation Recovery Fund for **more direct flights** into Western Australia, including the non-stop routes from Busselton Margaret River to Sydney and Melbourne
- Funding for **events to attract visitors to the region**, such as the Margaret River Pro, Truffle Kerfuffle, Cabin Fever, and the Busselton Jetty Swim

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
- An additional \$1.5 million for the **Collie Transitions Onsite Training facilities**
- \$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 South West
- \$7.2 million to extend the successful **Heavy Vehicle Driver Training program** by 500 places each year until 2027 in the South West
- \$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 Bunbury and Collie

Plus we're continuing to deliver:

- \$8.2 million for a new design and technology block at **Eaton Community College**, construction underway with works expected to be complete in 2024
- \$1 million for a STEM laboratory upgrade at **Dalyellup College**, underway
- \$1 million to deliver a STEM laboratory at **Bunbury Senior High School**, underway
- \$500,000 to repurpose a STEM classroom into a STEM laboratory at **Cape Naturaliste College**, underway

- \$500,000 to repurpose a STEM classroom into a STEM laboratory at **Harvey Senior High School**, underway
- \$1 million to repurpose a STEM classroom into a STEM laboratory at **Manjimup 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
- \$9.5 million to reclad and provide structural improvements to a storage shed at **Bunbury Port**

Plus we're continuing to deliver:

- \$1.46 billion **Bunbury Outer Ring Road**, currently under construction
- \$125 million **Bussell Highway duplication**, currently under construction
- \$20 million to build a new intersection and road connection on **Forrest Highway**, west of Vittoria Road, with planning 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
- \$30.2 million to enhance the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' **bushfire management** with additional staff and firefighting equipment, including in the South West
- \$8.6 million to support WA's vitally important **emergency service volunteers** with communications equipment, road crash rescue equipment and station upgrades at Margaret River VFRS and Harvey VFRS
- \$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 Bunbury**
- \$10 million to improve safety at warden-controlled **school crossings** across the State, including new electronic speed limit signs at Australind, Treendale and West Busselton Primary Schools, plus new signage at Cooinda, South Bunbury, Eaton, Brunswick Junction, Geographe, Dunsborough, Cowaramup Primary Schools, Bunbury Baptist College and Cornerstone Christian College

Plus we're continuing to deliver:

- \$8 million towards **additional indoor multi-use courts in Bunbury**, planning underway
- \$8 million towards the redevelopment of **Hands Oval in Bunbury**, construction underway
- \$6 million towards the **Donnybrook and Districts Sporting and Recreation Precinct**, construction underway
- A **men's behaviour change program in Bunbury** for perpetrators of family and domestic violence