

Vision for

the Mid-West,

Central Wheatbelt

and Roe

**DOING
WHAT'S
RIGHT
FOR WA**

**WA
Labor**



Roger Cook and WA Labor

Vision for the Mid-West, Central Wheatbelt and Roe

Western Australia has the strongest economy in the nation.

Much of our success as a State is the result of the businesses, industries and people across our vast regional areas.

The exciting thing is - we've only scratched the surface of what we're capable of.

Our Vision for the Mid-West, Central Wheatbelt and Roe is about building on our success and preparing for the future.

In recent years, we've had a major focus on growing our economy, cost of living relief, boosting housing supply and investing in our hospitals.

We've also created a pipeline of investment to help the Mid-West, Central Wheatbelt and Roe regions reach their potential.

We've upgraded major roads, boosted renewable energy, increased tourism, built better schools and made TAFE free.

At the same time, we've increased the regional health workforce and expanded the Patient Assistance Travel Scheme.

It's a great start - but we can do more with a steady hand at the wheel.

WA Labor will make more things here, create the jobs of the future and keep our economy strong.

We'll invest in schools and free TAFE, and we'll build job-creating infrastructure to keep our regions strong.

And we'll continue to help with the cost of living, build more houses and set up our health system for the future.

In times of global challenges, WA needs experienced leadership.

Only the WA Labor Government has the experience to keep the WA economy strong and protect our fair share of the GST.

WA Labor's Vision for regional WA will deliver for all Western Australians, across the length and breadth of our State.

Only WA Labor will do what's right for WA.



Roger Cook
Premier of Western Australia



Pipeline of Projects

Pipeline of infrastructure projects under construction, plus future projects under a re-elected Cook Labor Government.

King Rocks Wind Farm

Clean Energy Link transmission line to Three Springs - \$655 million

Bindoon Bypass - \$275 million

Regional Road Safety Program expansion - \$250 million

Toodyay Road upgrades - \$83.9 million

Jurien Bay Boat Harbour upgrade - \$17.5 million

Katanning Early Childhood Hub - \$7.3 million

New boating facility Esperance - \$5 million

Bindoon Primary School air conditioning - \$1.1 million

Mukinbudin District High School air conditioning - \$677,000

Cost of Living Measures

The Cook Labor Government has kept our economy strong and carefully managed the finances.

As a result, we've had the capacity to offer a record amount of cost of living relief to local households.

We've distributed more than \$1.1 billion in support for households across more than 20 programs and initiatives over the last year alone.

The Cook Labor Government is committed to continuing to help Western Australians with cost of living pressures.

A re-elected Cook Labor Government will:

- Deliver a 2025 round of the WA Student Assistance Payment, providing \$150 to primary school students and \$250 to secondary school students to assist with school costs and cost of living pressures.
- Halve TransWA fares for bus services connecting towns in regional WA across the Mid-West, Central Wheatbelt and Roe.
- Deliver a further \$100 increase to the Regional Pensioner Travel Card, bringing the total to \$775, building on the \$100 increase delivered in 2024.
- Deliver the \$8 million Country Week Assistance Program to reduce accommodation and travel costs for students attending Country Week events.
- Deliver the Access All Areas Pass for kids, a \$50 voucher that will be available to all young Western Australians aged from five to 15 years so they can attend an event at various arts, cultural and creative venues, including in regional towns.
- Continue to deliver cost of living relief to regional families and residents.



Plus the Cook Labor Government has:

- Slashed \$700 off power bills in 2024 including \$350 in the December and January billing cycle – and \$2,100 since 2020.
- Delivered the 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 Carnarvon, Monkey Mia, Mount Magnet, Meekatharra, Esperance and Perth.
- Delivered the WA Student Assistance Payment, \$150 for every primary school kid and \$250 for every secondary school kid.
- Made 130 priority TAFE courses fee free.
- More than doubled assistance through the KidSport vouchers program, helping parents cover the cost of kids in sport.



WA Jobs and Economy

Through some of the toughest global conditions, the Western Australian economy has prevailed.

Our domestic economy has grown by nearly a quarter from pre-pandemic levels, the fastest of any State and well above the national growth rate.

Unemployment has averaged below four per cent for more than three years, while more than 340,000 jobs have been created during our time in office.

We're also investing to diversify our economy at a rate never seen before.

A re-elected Cook Labor Government will:

- Negotiate to bring the State's freight rail network back into Government hands.
- Continue to invest in and support major job-creating projects across the Mid-West, Central Wheatbelt and Roe.

Plus the Cook Labor Government has invested:

- \$655 million to upgrade the Clean Energy Link transmission line to Three Springs.
- Funding to develop the King Rocks Wind Farm, located in the Shire of Kondinin, to provide green electricity into the grid.
- Over \$12.4 million through the Regional Economic Development grants program to support 120 job creating projects in the Gascoyne, Mid-West and Wheatbelt.
- \$5.7 million for the Denham Renewable Hydrogen Microgrid, providing an innovative alternative to diesel and a public knowledge report to guide future opportunities for renewable hydrogen.
- \$13 million investment in National Park and Nature Reserves in the Great Southern and Goldfields-Esperance regions including new walk and cycle trails to boost tourism and recreation.
- \$5 million for a new boat facility to replace the ageing Taylor Street Jetty in Esperance, including a new section for tourism operators and public use.
- \$10 million for roads, camping and broader infrastructure upgrades at Mount Augustus.

Freight Rail

A re-elected Cook Labor Government will negotiate to bring the State's freight rail network back into Government hands.

Nearly 25 years ago, the Liberals and Nationals privatised Western Australia's freight rail network.

This privatisation remains one of the worst deals in our State's history.

The 49-year deal ceded control of rail freight and put more trucks on country roads, particularly during harvest.

As a result of the deal, our freight rail network simply hasn't kept pace with our growing economy.

The Cook Labor Government is seeking to right that wrong.

Negotiations have now started to bring the State's freight rail network back into Government hands.

We want to make sure we're moving as much by rail to and from our ports as possible.

A more effective freight rail network will support the growth of our critical industries, unlock future jobs and retain WA's strong economy for future generations.

We will prioritise negotiations, with the State Government open to all options, including a staged return to public ownership.

We will also ensure a final decision is based on the best financial and economic outcomes for the state.





Housing

After some of the toughest conditions in the construction market experienced both globally and nationally, we're getting more homes built across the regions.

Through our WA Housing Plan, we are building more homes, freeing up land, cutting red tape and growing our construction workforce.

In the last four years, we've invested an additional \$4.5 billion into initiatives focused on boosting housing supply.

In the Mid-West, Central Wheatbelt and Roe, we're training the next generation of home builders, expanding stamp duty concessions, incentivising short stay accommodation back onto the rental market and building more social homes.

The Cook Labor Government will continue to accelerate housing supply, while exploring innovative and sustainable solutions such as modular construction and tiny homes.

We're on track to deliver an additional 32,000 houses by the end of 2025.

A re-elected Cook Labor Government will:

- Establish a new \$25 million Regional Housing Support Fund that will provide grants of up to \$5 million to support new housing and land supply across regional WA, assisting with a wide range of costs, with local government projects and regional subdivisions eligible.
- Double the Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH) construction program with over 100 new builds across regional WA, to support more key government workers such as police and teachers to live in the regions and boost housing supply.
- Deliver additional stamp duty relief for first home buyers in regional WA by raising stamp duty thresholds for both established homes and vacant land.



Plus the Cook Labor Government has delivered:

- 34 homes back into the long-term rental market in the Wheatbelt Region, as a result of the Cook Government’s Short-term Rental Accommodation and Vacant Property Incentive Schemes.
- \$400 million Housing Enabling Infrastructure Fund to unlock residential land.
- Assistance for first home buyers looking to build a home with the \$10,000 First Home Owners Grant.
- \$80 million towards the Infrastructure Development Fund, including funding to unlock housing in the regions.



Health

The Cook Labor Government has invested a record \$14.3 billion in new health and mental health initiatives since 2021.

We've added more than 800 beds to the system in the past three years – more than a new tertiary hospital.

Despite global health workforce shortages, we've increased our health workforce by more than 30 per cent.

We've also funded more paramedics for regional towns and offered incentives for nurses and midwives to go regional.

A re-elected Cook Labor Government will:

- Invest \$34 million to expand and increase the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS) by increasing the fuel subsidy to 40c per km, and include Allied Health and Dental in the eligibility requirements.

Plus the Cook Labor Government has delivered:

- Additional paid paramedics for regional hubs like Northam, Merredin, Esperance and Narrogin.
- \$9.8 million for the Dongara Health Centre redevelopment.
- The HECS-HELP initiative, providing grants of up to \$12,000 over 3 years for newly qualified registered nurses and midwives who take up a role in WA's rural, remote, and regional public hospitals.
- A new, expanded role for community pharmacists in Western Australia, providing patients access to treatment for a range of common and mild conditions, including UTIs and repeats of the contraceptive pill.
- The first-ever dedicated rural psychiatry training program in Australia, designed to attract, train, and retain psychiatrists to regional WA.
- A new, state-wide telephone support line, 'Here For You', providing a single point of contact for Western Australians who are concerned about their own or another person's mental health issues and/or alcohol and other drug use.
- The WA Telestroke service, giving regional hospitals a 24-hour, seven day a week service for clinicians caring for patients with acute stroke symptoms.

Education and Training

A good education at a well-equipped school is the right of every Western Australian child – no matter where they live.

In partnership with the Federal Government, we're boosting funding to public schools in Western Australia by \$1.6 billion.

We are upgrading, refurbishing and redeveloping schools across WA to prepare our young people for the jobs of the future.

Additionally, we're committed to maintaining Fee Free TAFE, which has already afforded tens of thousands of people the opportunity to gain a new skill.

A re-elected Cook Labor Government will invest:

- \$1.1 million to deliver air conditioning upgrades at Bindoon Primary School.
- \$677,000 to upgrade air conditioning at Mukinbudin District High School.
- \$37.2 million to expand the existing School Breakfast Clubs program, including in regional WA.
- \$10 million to establish a program to boost capacity in public school canteens through grants for canteen staff, equipment and minor facility upgrades.



Plus the Cook Labor Government has invested:

- \$7.3 million for the Katanning Early Childhood Hub, that will include an early learning centre, a family centre, and child health offices.
- \$10.3 million for a major upgrade to the agricultural training facility at Muresk Institute in Northam.
- \$2 million to upgrade the trades training workshop at Northam TAFE.
- \$650,000 for planning for the redevelopment of Esperance Senior High School, plus \$1.5 million to deliver a new STEM laboratory.
- \$2 million for a new STEM laboratory and a primary science classroom at Merredin College.
- \$1 million for a new STEM laboratory at Narrogin Senior High School.
- \$300,000 for Katanning Senior High School classroom upgrade to deliver a new secondary science laboratory.
- \$450,000 for Kojonup District High School for classroom upgrades to deliver a new secondary science laboratory.
- \$1 million for a repurposed STEM classroom at Carnarvon Community College.

Community Safety

We have more Police on the beat than ever before - nearly 800 Police Officers joined the Force in the last year.

At the same time, initiatives like Regional Shield have increased police presence in regional communities across WA.

We're also committed to ensuring our emergency services are equipped to respond when disaster strikes.

By funding extra firefighters, boosting volunteer infrastructure and expanding our aerial firefighting fleet, more Western Australians can be kept safe during bushfire season.

A re-elected Cook Labor Government will:

- Invest \$15.6 million to increase the number of police officers in regional WA with recruits from regional WA by:
 - Redeveloping the accommodation facilities located at the WA Police Academy, and provide regional recruits with free accommodation at the upgraded facility while undergoing their training; and
 - Guaranteeing regional Police Recruits a placement in or near their home in regional WA for the first four to six years of their career.
- Establish a dedicated State Bushfire Mitigation Branch, to undertake mitigation works on Unallocated Crown Land and Unmanaged Reserves, as well as assisting local governments, and will be supported by a new Aboriginal Ranger Program.
- Invest \$3.5 million to expand the successful Community Emergency Services Manager program with six new positions across regional WA, to help local governments deliver emergency management services.



Plus the Cook Labor Government has delivered:

- Operation Regional Shield across regional WA, with a surge of police resources and officers in regional towns ready to disrupt any criminal and anti-social behaviour over the summer period.
- Operation Regional Influence that will see an additional 8,000 extra hours of road patrols, a fleet of 44 high visibility highway patrol cars and two new alcohol and drug testing buses boosting regional road safety.
- \$15.8 million for a new WA Police jet and to upgrade existing air assets to provide critical support in regional communities.
- The Grain Harvest Aerial Fleet, with a team based in Narrogin over the harvest period, to protect grain growers from fires.
- \$2.8 million for the Gingin Emergency Services Complex.
- \$30 million on bushfire risk management and upgrades to the power network across the region, including Dalwallinu, Moora and Northampton.

Transport and Infrastructure

In recent years, the Cook Labor Government has overseen major investment into regional infrastructure - roads, bridges, ports and renewable energy.

In the Mid-West, Central Wheatbelt and Roe, we have built and upgraded a range of roads to improve access, increase safety and open up economic opportunities.

We are also continuing to roll out safety improvements to hundreds of kilometres of regional roads through our Regional Road Safety Program.

At the same time, we're starting negotiations to bring the freight rail network back into government hands.

A re-elected Cook Labor Government will:

- Deliver \$250 million to expand the Regional Road Safety program to include local government roads, delivering road safety treatments including sealing of road shoulders and the installation of audible lines, making more regional roads safer.

Plus the Cook Labor Government has invested:

- \$200 million to the Agricultural Supply Chain Improvement program for freight rail upgrades, including rail siding upgrades at Brookton, Broomehill, Cranbrook and Konnongorring.
- \$250 million for ongoing upgrades to Great Eastern Highway from Coates Gully and Walgoolan to Coolgardie.
- \$55 million for upgrades to Indian Ocean Drive between Jurien Bay and Greenhead.
- \$275 million for the Bindoon Bypass along Great Northern Highway.
- \$83.9 million for upgrades to Toodyay Road.
- \$15.2 million to replace the Hotham River bridge in Crossman.



- \$17.5 million to extend the northern breakwater at Jurien Bay Boat Harbour.
- \$4.5 million for restoration works to Carnarvon One Mile jetty.
- \$7.3 million for the Carnarvon Fascine Entryway, including dredging and new pens at Carnarvon Boat Harbour.
- \$30.1 million for the new Merredin Tank to help improve water quality and supply security.
- \$6 million for a water pipeline upgrade between Katanning and Kojonup.

Sport and Recreation

Sport and recreation are vital parts of life in regional Western Australia.

The Cook Labor Government has invested in better facilities for sporting clubs and organisations.

Equally, we have expanded our network of cycling paths, trails and national park infrastructure for locals and visitors alike.

WA offers the best recreational opportunities in the world and the Cook Labor Government is committed to making them more accessible for everyone.

A re-elected Cook Labor Government will:

- Contribute \$1.1 million to upgrades at the Hurricane Go Kart Club in Wundowie including track extension and resurfacing, new ablution facilities, canteen and other infrastructure improvements.
- Contribute \$1.3 million for medical facilities at Karting WA clubs including Esperance Kart Klub, Lake King Kart Club and Hurricane Go Kart Club.
- Establish a \$6 million Boosting Women's Sport and Girls' Participation fund to encourage women and girls to get involved in community sport.
- Establish the \$4 million Veterans Facilities fund to help RSL and veterans organisations upgrade their local facilities and RSL clubs.



Plus the Cook Labor Government has delivered:

- Increased annual funding to the Community Sporting and Recreation Facilities Fund to \$20 million per annum, to support local sports.
- \$1.5 million for a new campground at Kangaroo Point in Nambung National Park, near Cervantes.
- \$1 million to upgrade the Saint Mary's inlet campgrounds in the Fitzgerald River National Park.
- \$1.6 million for the Shire of Dumbleyung towards the Dumbleyung Swimming Pool.
- \$1.2 million for the Shire of Katanning for an additional oval and lighting upgrades at Quartermaine Oval in Katanning.
- \$667,000 to upgrade Beverley Swimming Pool.

