

**Vision for**

**the Goldfields**

**DOING  
WHAT'S  
RIGHT  
FOR WA**





# Roger Cook and WA Labor **Vision for the Goldfields**

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 Goldfields 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 Goldfields to reach its potential.

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

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

**New Vanadium Battery**

**Outback Way** upgrades - \$678 million

**Great Eastern Highway** upgrades - \$250 million

**Laverton Hospital Redevelopment** - \$35.7 million

**Yilkari Industrial Park** - \$30.8 million

**Pringle Village Stage 2** new homes for seniors - \$20 million

**GreenView at Karlkurla Stage 5** new residential lots - \$16.8 million

**O'Connor Primary School** upgrades - \$12 million

**Coolgardie Main Street** upgrades - \$7.7 million

**Water Bank Project** - \$5 million

**Kingsbury Park** youth precinct - \$4.2 million

**Kalgoorlie Sporting Facilities** lighting - \$2.6 million

**Kalgoorlie LED** street lights - \$2.5 million

**Kambalda West District High School** oval upgrades - \$1.8 million

**Kalgoorlie Health Campus Redevelopment** planning - \$1 million

**Leonora District High School** air conditioning - \$1 million

**Norseman District High School** upgrades - \$850,000

**Kalgoorlie Primary School** air conditioning - \$800,000

# 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 including for the Prospector and bus services connecting towns in regional WA including Kalgoorlie, Boulder, Coolgardie, Kambalda, and Norseman.
- Cap public transport fares at the cost of a one-zone ticket including for Kalgoorlie, Coolgardie and Kambalda.
- 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 Kalgoorlie.
- Continue to deliver cost of living relief to regional families and residents in the Goldfields.



### **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 Perth to Kalgoorlie, Leonora, Laverton and Wiluna.
- 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.
- Doubled the travel and accommodation allowance for regional apprentices, trainees, cadets, and interns who are required to travel long distances for their training.
- Providing 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.

# WA Jobs and Economy

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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.

In Kalgoorlie, we're investing in local network infrastructure and technology to bolster Kalgoorlie's energy security.

## **A re-elected Cook Labor Government will:**

- Negotiate to bring the State's freight rail network back into Government hands.
- Install a utility-scale vanadium flow battery to further secure Kalgoorlie's energy supply, and back the State's emerging vanadium mining and processing industry.
- Continue work already underway to replace West Kalgoorlie Power Station with new technology.
- Provide a \$9 million funding boost to the Exploration Incentive Scheme to encourage mining exploration and support jobs in regional WA.
- Support major job-creating projects in Kalgoorlie-Boulder and the Goldfields such as critical minerals processing.





**Plus the Cook Labor Government has delivered:**

- More than \$130 million to secure new gas back-up generation, upgrade West Kalgoorlie Power Station and undertake transmission network upgrades.
- \$500 million to deliver enabling infrastructure in Strategic Industrial Areas including at Mungari.
- \$30.8 million to activate industrial land by expanding the Yilkari Industrial Estate in West Kalgoorlie.
- \$15 million towards future upgrades to the Goldfields and Agricultural Water Supply Scheme to meet future demand, including for the Goldfields Strategic Industrial Areas.
- \$7 million to expand the Joe Lord Core Library in Kalgoorlie, ensuring greater access to geoscientific information and supporting the exploration industry.
- \$500,000 to develop a detailed business case for the Kalgoorlie Rail Realignment and Intermodal Terminal.
- \$1.6 million towards the Norseman Woodlands Cultural, Community and Visitor Centre.
- \$1.3 million towards the Great Beyond Visitors Centre upgrades in Laverton.

# Housing

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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 focussed on boosting housing supply.

In the Goldfields, 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.

Our plan is working, but there is more to do.

## **A re-elected Cook Labor Government will:**

- Invest \$20 million towards the Pringle Village stage two project in Kalgoorlie, to build up to 40 additional two-bedroom units for seniors who are independently living in Kalgoorlie-Boulder and looking to downsize their housing.
- 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, including new homes in Kalgoorlie.
- 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:**

- \$23.4 million to develop 60 additional residential lots in Stage 4 and 5 of Kalgoorlie's GreenView at Karlkurla, including lots for social housing.
- \$3.5 million towards Leonora's Ageing in Place project, providing 8 modern, independent living units located in Leonora.
- 25 homes have been returned to the long-term rental market in the Goldfields - Esperance 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.

EMERGENCY



# Health

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

To further boost health outcomes in the Goldfields, we'll start planning for a redevelopment of the Kalgoorlie Health Campus.

## **A re-elected Cook Labor Government will:**

- Invest \$1 million towards developing a masterplan for the future redevelopment of the Kalgoorlie Health Campus.
- Invest \$9.9 million to transition the Kalgoorlie Step Up, Step Down into a publicly run sub-acute Mental Health facility.
- 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 invested:**

- \$37.5 million to deliver the new Laverton hospital.
- \$2.8 million to deliver a new paediatric Allied Health facility at Full Circle Therapies Mason's House in Kalgoorlie-Boulder.
- \$6.2 million for an MRI facility at Kalgoorlie Health Campus.
- \$1.8 million to the Goldfields Women's Health Care Centre to provide dedicated GP services.
- 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.

# 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:**

- \$12 million to deliver a new early childhood block at O'Connor Primary School and integrate the new facilities with the Education Support Centre.
- \$1.8 million to upgrade the oval at Kambalda West District High School.
- \$1 million to deliver air conditioning upgrades at Leonora District High School.
- \$850,000 to deliver pre-primary building upgrades and nature playground at Norseman District High School.
- \$800,000 to upgrade air conditioning at Kalgoorlie Primary School.
- Transform early childhood education in Western Australia by introducing free full-time, school-based kindy for four-year-olds, including a pilot site in the Goldfields.
- \$37.2 million to expand the existing School Breakfast Clubs program, including in the Goldfields.
- \$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 delivered:**

- \$10 million to build a Heavy Plant and Engineering Trade Workshop and upgrade an existing workshop at Central Regional TAFE.
- \$1 million for a new STEM lab at Kalgoorlie-Boulder Community High School.
- \$400,000 for a new STEM lab at Kambalda West District High School.

# 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 facility, 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.
- Contribute \$2.5 million to replace street lighting in Kalgoorlie with LED lights.

## **Plus the Cook Labor Government has delivered:**

- \$1.8 million to boost homelessness outreach services and Return to Country programs in Kalgoorlie-Boulder, and surrounding regional and remote communities.
- \$1.7 million towards the Leonora Safe House, providing domestic violence emergency accommodation.
- The Mara Pirni Healing Place, a one-stop Family and Domestic Violence Hub in Kalgoorlie-Boulder.
- Operation Regional Shield across regional WA, with a surge of police resources and officers in regional towns over the summer period.
- Operation Regional Influence that will see additional road patrols, highway patrol cars and two new alcohol and drug testing buses on regional roads.
- \$150,000 for security patrol vehicles to the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder for the Safer Streets Patrol.
- Introduced the Banned Drinkers Register to Kalgoorlie.
- \$1 million to upgrade and expand Kalgoorlie's CCTV network.
- \$1.9 million to upgrade Kalgoorlie Career and Fire Rescue Station and expanded firefighting capacity.
- \$1.3 million for the expansion of the Kalgoorlie Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service facilities.

# Transport and Infrastructure

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

In Kalgoorlie and the Goldfields, 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 improvements to hundreds of kilometres of Goldfields roads through our Regional Road Safety Program.

To ensure the Goldfields can realise its renewable energy and industrial potential, we are also undertaking major upgrades to the South West Interconnected System and water supply.

## **A re-elected Cook Labor Government will:**

- Invest \$7.7 million for upgrades to Coolgardie Main Street.
- Install signalised crossings on Maritana Street, between Dugan Street and Piccadilly Street, to cater for students at Kalgoorlie Primary School and St Mary's Primary School.
- Deliver \$250 million to expand the Regional Road Safety program to include local government roads, delivering road safety treatments including the sealing of road shoulders and the installation of audible lines, making more regional roads safer.
- Contribute \$5 million to the Water Bank Project in Kalgoorlie, to boost recycled water supplies.





**Plus the Cook Labor Government has delivered:**

- \$250 million for major Great Eastern Highway Upgrades to improve safety and connectivity between Coates Gully and Coolgardie.
- \$52 million for the Coolgardie-Esperance Highway to Emu Rocks project upgraded 30 km between Widgiemooltha and Kambalda.
- \$21.7 million for widening of 2.4 km of the Great Eastern Highway between Anzac Drive and Gatacre Drive in Kalgoorlie.
- \$20 million to upgrade and seal priority sections of Goldfields Highway between Wiluna and Meekatharra to improve transport efficiency, reduce travel times and support social and economic growth.
- \$678 million for upgrading and sealing the Great Central Road - Outback Way - between Laverton and the NT and WA Border.
- \$3.3 million for upgrades to Eucla Airstrip.
- Road maintenance crews back in-house to Main Roads.
- The expansion of Kalgoorlie-Boulder's shared path network.
- Grants to the Driving Access and Equity Program to help people in remote areas to get their driver's licence.

# Sport and Recreation

Sport and recreation are vital parts of life in regional Western Australia, and the Goldfields is no exception.

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 \$2.6 million towards lighting upgrades at Kalgoorlie sporting facilities including Oasis Playing Field 2, Digger Daws Oval and Sir Richard Moore Oval.
- Contribute \$300,000 towards the reconstruction of the old greens of the Coolgardie RSL with artificial turf.
- Provide \$100,000 to contribute towards upgrades to the Multicourt facilities in Norseman.
- Contribute \$1.7 million towards the development of a mountain bike trail in bushland around Kalgoorlie.
- Provide \$100,000 to establish a Youth Centre in Kambalda.
- Contribute \$300,000 to establish a new drive-in theatre in Leonora.
- 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:**

- \$1.5 million to establish the new 'Golden Saddle' slot race as part of the annual Kalgoorlie Race Round.
- \$4.2 million transforming Kingsbury Park into a purpose-built precinct for young people in Kalgoorlie's city centre.
- \$8 million towards the Kalgoorlie City Centre Project, transforming St Barbara's Square into a vibrant hub for families, locals, businesses and tourists.
- \$6.8 million Niel's Hansen Basketball Stadium facility redevelopment – the project includes new courts and new accessible changerooms.
- \$600,000 towards the Karlkurla Nature Playground in Kalgoorlie-Boulder.

