

MARK MCGOWAN
AND WA LABOR

Plan for North West Central



**KEEP WA
STRONG**

Plan for North West Central

1. Executive Summary	4
2. Job Creation in the Regions:	9
Pipeline of Work in North West Central	9
WA Buy Local Policy	10
Growing our Tourism Sector	10
Growing the Resources Sector	12
Preference for WA Based Workers	13
Incentivising Land Activation	14
Growing Small Business	14
Growing our Agricultural Sector	15
Growing our Fishing Industry	16
Caring for our Land and Creating Economic Opportunities	17
Creative and Cultural Industries in Regional WA	18
Aboriginal Procurement Policy	18
Aboriginal Ranger Program	18
3. Support for Employment in the Regions	19
4. Investing in our TAFEs and VET to Skill Local Workers	21
5. Delivering a Quality Education	23
6. Quality Healthcare Closer to Home	26
7. Record Investment in Regional Roads	29
8. Keeping WA Safe	31
9. Supporting Vulnerable Communities	33
11. Achievements and Works Underway	34

STAY INFORMED:

 markmcgowan.com.au/northwestcentral

 Mark McGowan

 info@walabor.org.au

Mark McGowan and WA Labor

Plan for North West Central

It's my pleasure to present to you the Plan for North West Central - a re-elected McGowan Labor Government's plan to keep the area strong.

Firstly though, I'd like to thank the people of North West Central. The past year has been extremely challenging, but thanks to the efforts and understanding of all Western Australians, we have managed to keep our State safe from COVID-19.

By staying safe we have been able to open our economy faster than anywhere in the world, protecting thousands of jobs.

From day one, WA jobs have been my number one priority and my WA Labor Government has made a significant investment in the regions, to create local jobs, support the local economy and improve services like health and education.

If you look around North West Central, you'll see a number of major projects underway, as part of our \$28.8 billion pipeline of work.

Projects like the \$14.2 million Battery Energy Storage Systems in Exmouth, Carnarvon & Gascoyne Junction, the \$14 million Minilya to Exmouth road upgrade, the \$7 million Carnarvon Fascine Entrance, the \$6 million Yardie Creek Road upgrade in Exmouth and the \$5.7 million Denham Hydrogen project.

As part of my WA Jobs Plan, we will make sure the local jobs created as part of these projects go to Western Australians first.

We also made TAFE a priority so everyone can get the skills they need. As part of the highly successful Lower Fees, Local Skills initiative, TAFE fees have been slashed by up to 72 per cent, making quality training more affordable than ever, so every Western Australian has a pathway to a good job.

The Plan for North West Central continues our record investment in regional WA.

As you read through the plan, you'll see our focus on creating jobs and training opportunities, and improving local services for Western Australians.

Creating jobs and training opportunities for Western Australians will always be my number one priority, because no one should have to travel over east to find a good job.

Our Plan for North West Central will ensure our major investment into these areas will continue with further upgrades to local schools, TAFE upgrades, new tourism infrastructure and initiatives, improved health services, a significant investment in local roads, and much more.

Our Plan for North West Central will ensure that we continue to recover, stronger than ever.



Mark McGowan

Premier of Western Australia

January 2021



Executive Summary

Pipeline of Work in North West Central

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- **use the contracting and purchasing power of government to deliver more local jobs through a pipeline of work in North West Central.**

- ▶ Minilya to Exmouth road upgrade (\$14 million)
- ▶ Mount Augustus - visitor infrastructure (\$10 million)
- ▶ Battery Energy Storage System - Exmouth (\$7.8 million)
- ▶ Carnarvon Fascine Entrance (\$7 million)
- ▶ Yardie Creek Road in Exmouth upgrade (\$6 million)
- ▶ Battery Energy Storage System - Carnarvon (\$5.8 million)
- ▶ Denham Hydrogen project (\$5.7 million)
- ▶ Tom Price Hospital - redevelopment (\$5.3 million)
- ▶ Meekatharra Health Service - upgrade (\$5 million)
- ▶ Carnarvon One Mile Jetty - repairs (\$4.5 million)
- ▶ Upgrades to visitor access and facilities in the Shark Bay World Heritage Area, near Denham (\$2.65 million)
- ▶ Coral Bay Caravan Park - upgrade Wastewater services (\$1.47 million)
- ▶ Upgrades to visitor access and facilities in the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area, near Exmouth (\$1.2 million)
- ▶ Carnarvon Community College - STEM classroom (\$1 million)
- ▶ Tom Price Senior High School - STEM classroom (\$600,000)
- ▶ Battery Energy Storage System - Gascoyne Junction (\$600,000)
- ▶ Social Housing Economic Recovery Package including maintenance, refurbishments and new builds for approximately 180 homes in the Gascoyne and Mid West regions

Job Creation in the Regions

Growing our Tourism Sector

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will invest:

- \$4.5 million towards repairing the heritage listed Carnarvon One Mile Jetty.
- \$10 million in road and camping infrastructure at Mount Augustus.

Preference for WA Based Workers

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- commit to reduce the reliance on interstate FIFO and provide more opportunities for local workers in regional WA to have access to the training required for jobs in the resources sector.

Incentivising Land Activation

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- invest in the development of project ready land and the establishment of projects on Industrial Land Authority (ILA) estates across WA.

Growing our Agricultural Sector

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- continue to invest in WA's primary industries with details of further initiatives to be announced shortly.

Growing our Fishing Industry

As part of the implementation of the Aquaculture Development Plan, a re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- create further aquaculture zones that will attract investment opportunities to expand this important industry.

Caring for our Land and Creating Economic Opportunities

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- continue to provide opportunities for carbon farming and carbon sequestration to increase agricultural productivity and create jobs in regional communities.

Creative and Cultural Industries in Regional WA

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- invest a further \$16 million in the WA Screen Fund (previously the Regional Film Fund) which encourages production in the State's regions.
- allocate a further \$4 million to the Regional Exhibition Touring Boost that connects regional galleries with the State's art collection.
- allocate a further \$5 million to the Regional Arts and Cultural Investment Program which includes Made In WA Grants, Aboriginal Arts Commissioning Fund and the Regional and Remote Festivals Fund.

Aboriginal Ranger Program

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- continue to expand the Aboriginal Ranger Program with details of further initiatives to be announced shortly.

Support for Employment in the Regions

Regional Airfares for Residents

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- invest \$19.8 million to make travel for regional residents more affordable, supporting the economic development of the regions to help industry to attract and retain high quality staff and support local residents to access services.

Access to Childcare in the Regions

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- work with local government and businesses to address the lack of childcare options in the regions. Further details of the policy will be announced shortly.

Housing Options in the Regions

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- address the barriers to accessing affordable housing in regional WA, by continuing to make residential land more affordable, and increasing the availability of GROH and social housing.

Investing in our TAFEs and VET to Skill Local Workers

Modern TAFE Equipment for a World Class TAFE

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- invest in equipment upgrades across the State's TAFEs giving students access to more industry standard and state of the art equipment, including x-ray technology for agriculture, 3D printers, drones and more.

VET in Schools

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- support students to access School Based Apprenticeships and trade pathways.
- prioritise STEM courses that have been evaluated by industry as suitable for school students.
- ensure local flexibility for schools to negotiate the most suitable courses and delivery arrangements with their local TAFE colleges and local industries.
- introduce a suite of wraparound measures with details to be announced soon.

Delivering a Quality Education

STEM at School

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- invest \$1 million to Carnarvon Community College and \$600,000 to Tom Price Senior High School to transform classrooms into STEM classrooms.
- deliver Science classrooms for primary school students at Exmouth District High School, Carnarvon Community College,

Ngaanyatjarra Lands School, North Tom Price Primary School and Kalbarri District High School.

- deliver grants for Science resources in the regions remote community schools.
- ensure every primary school student across the region has access to a great Science education, either through increased equipment or science classrooms.

Quality Healthcare Closer to Home

Investing in Regional Health Infrastructure and Services

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- invest \$5 million towards the planning and early works for the Meekatharra Health Service.

Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS)

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- continue to invest in the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS) for regional patients who need to travel to a major centre to seek treatment.
- increase the accommodation subsidy to \$100 per night.
- increase escort eligibility for people from vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including women travelling to give birth.

Paid Paramedics for the Regions

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- expand the Community Paramedic Model across the State to ensure that there are more professional, paid paramedics, increasing the reliability of country ambulance services and improving the parity of country sub-centres with the metro area.

Mental Health and Digital Health

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- ensure regional communities continue to have access to innovative digital health services, providing a more equitable health system, and supporting regional and remote clinicians to care for the physical and mental health of people living in the regions.

Making our Roads Safer

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- invest a further \$52 million investment into our now \$507 million Regional Road Safety Program to invest in repairing, rebuilding and road safety treatments on tens of thousands of kilometres of country roads.
- invest an additional \$14.8 million towards our now \$251.8 million Regional Road Upgrades Program, upgrading intersections, adding new lanes, widening roads, upgrading signage and improving visibility.

- widen Quobba-Gnaraloo Road to a consistent width of seven metres with two one metre shoulders.
- invest \$5 million to increase the number of Truck Rest Stops on our major roads. These rest stops will have a range of amenities making it easy for freight drivers and tourists to fight driver fatigue and take regular rest breaks.

Keeping WA Safe

Police in our Community

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- continue our unprecedented investment in additional police officers, new digital technologies and equipment, and infrastructure to help keep our communities safe.

Investing in our Fire & Emergency Services

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- invest \$4 million in personal protective equipment for professional and volunteer firefighters.

Meth Action Plan

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- continue our commitment to increase access to treatment and address the supply of meth in regional WA.

Supporting Vulnerable Communities

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- continue to improve outcomes for vulnerable community members by connecting them with the services and supports they need.



Job Creation in the Regions

The McGowan Labor Government is committed to creating jobs across regional WA and diversifying local regional economies. We will continue to invest in job-creating projects across regional WA and ensure local businesses benefit from this work.

Pipeline of Work in North West Central

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- **use the contracting and purchasing power of government to deliver more local jobs through a pipeline of work in North West Central.**

As part of the COVID WA Recovery Plan the McGowan Labor Government has created a pipeline of work to deliver infrastructure and economic stimulus projects in a sustainable way, creating opportunities for WA businesses to maximise local jobs.

For further information visit
www.wa.gov.au/pipeline

WA Buy Local Policy

Together with the revised 'WA Buy Local Policy 2020', a re-elected McGowan Labor Government will continue to ensure State Government agencies prioritise local businesses that are based in the regional location in which the work or service is being delivered.

The McGowan Labor Government revamped the WA Buy Local Policy 2020 and implemented changes including:

- higher regional price preferences for regional businesses of up to \$250,000 or \$500,000 depending on the nature of the contract.
- training for regional contractors on the policy and how to apply for contracts.
- 'look-ahead' lists of forthcoming tenders giving more time to bid.
- increased contract thresholds for regional offices of State Government agencies, to allow greater local decision-making about contracting of works, goods and services.

The new WA Buy Local Policy 2020 is expected to create a further 3,000 regional jobs and more than 200 apprenticeships and traineeships during the first 12 months of its operation, critical for a State-wide recovery from the economic impacts of COVID-19.

Growing Our Tourism Sector

The McGowan Labor Government delivered on its 2017 election commitment and injected more than \$425 million into the tourism industry, providing funding certainty and security.

There has also been a significant investment in tourism infrastructure including as part of the WA Recovery Plan. This support is ongoing.

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will invest:

- **\$4.5 million towards repairing the heritage listed Carnarvon One Mile Jetty.**
- **\$10 million in road and camping infrastructure at Mount Augustus.**

The McGowan Labor Government will also continue to deliver the projects announced as part of the WA Recovery Plan including:

- \$7 million for immediate measures to assist with access to the Carnarvon fascine while also finalising and implementing a long term plan.
- \$1.3 million towards planning for the redevelopment of the Tantabiddi Boat Ramp facility in Exmouth, to cater for recreational tourists and separate commercial use.
- \$1.47 million to upgrade wastewater services to allow for the expansion of the Coral Bay Caravan Park.
- \$2.65 million for significant upgrades to visitor access and facilities in the Shark Bay World Heritage Area, near Denham.
- \$1.2 million for upgrades to visitor access and facilities in the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area, near Exmouth.

Over the past four years, the McGowan Labor Government has invested:

- \$2.7 million to reopen the Gwoonwardu Mia Gascoyne Aboriginal Heritage and Cultural Centre in Carnarvon.
- \$6.7 million to build public recreation facilities and implement traditional owner joint management of Ningaloo Coastal Reserves in partnership with the Gnulli native title holders.
- \$2.8 million towards the Carnarvon Heritage Precinct One Mile Jetty Interpretive Centre.
- built the popular \$24 million Kalbarri Skywalk.

Supporting the tourism sector through the COVID-19 pandemic

The McGowan Labor Government recognised the significant impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the tourism and hospitality sectors.

To support these industries a number of specific initiatives were implemented including:

- the highly successful 'Wander out Yonder' campaign to encourage West Australians to holiday in regional WA.
- 'A million reasons to Wander out Yonder' campaign to give Western Australians who spend at least \$100 on a tour or experience, a \$100 discount.
- \$14.4 million to the WA Tourism Recovery program, providing grants of \$6,500 to \$100,000 to help tourism operators sustain and grow their businesses.
- \$1 million in funding for 77 regional events to secure their success in an uncertain environment.

Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Network

The McGowan Labor Government is creating Australia's longest electric vehicle charging infrastructure network, including connections in North West Central.

This new technology will be a boost for tourists wanting to take a road trip across WA. Motorists will be able to access fast charging stations along major travel routes.

Growing the Resources Sector

The resources sector has been the backbone of the WA economy and an important employer throughout regional WA. The McGowan Labor Government has supported a strong and sustainable resources industry in the State, to drive jobs and economic activity across the regions.

Since 2017 the McGowan Labor Government has:

- invested \$45 million to continue the highly successful Exploration Incentive Scheme which supports regional exploration, new projects and new jobs.
- funded \$28 million for the development of Environment Online, a one stop shop for environmental approvals that will improve efficiency and information in approvals processes.
- along with \$7.7 million for a new Biodiversity Information Office, the assessment timeframes have been cut in half for exploration Programme of Work applications from 30 to 15 business days.
- provided additional resources to key agencies to ensure timely delivery of environmental approvals across government.
- amended the Environmental Protection Act to simplify and reduce unnecessary regulation, while maintaining strong environmental protection and standards, resulting in reduced costs to industry and government, encouraging business development and creating jobs, while protecting the environment.
- committed to establish a bilateral approvals agreement with the Commonwealth to enable

Commonwealth environmental approvals to be made at the same time as WA approvals.

- invested \$7 million to expand the capacity of the Joe Lord Core Library in Kalgoorlie, which stores core samples that contain valuable geoscientific information for exploration companies and others seeking mineral discoveries.
- delivered a sensible policy on fracking, which banned fracking in over 98 per cent of WA including the South-West, Peel, Perth metro, Broome and Dampier Peninsula, and created a rigorous framework to protect communities and environment in the small areas where it is allowed.

New industries and resource opportunities

The McGowan Labor Government is committed to looking at new industries and opportunities in the resources sector including:

- delivering on the \$28 million Renewable Hydrogen Strategy to position WA as a major producer and exporter of renewable hydrogen, which will bring new green projects and jobs to regional WA.
- investing \$7.6 million towards the development of an LNG and Hydrogen bunkering hub in the Pilbara, which will encourage green shipping by major exporters.
- delivering on the Future Battery Industry Strategy to grow the State into a world-leading exporter of future battery minerals, materials, technologies and expertise, including \$6 million invested into the Future Battery Industry Cooperative Research Centre.
- establishing the LNG Jobs Taskforce to establish WA as a

global LNG hub servicing Australia and the broader Asia-Pacific region, creating investment opportunities and unlocking new jobs in the LNG industry.

- supporting development of the emerging potash industry, including by introducing a new rental rate for potash projects.
- supporting regional lithium projects with a new royalty arrangement that encourages downstream processing and manufacturing.
- investing in Austmine's WA Mining Equipment, Technology and Services (METS) Digital Mining Export Hub in Port Hedland, which will build export capacity, knowledge and opportunities between regional, remote and metropolitan, small and medium sized enterprises.
- partnering with industry, universities, TAFEs and high schools to deliver new qualifications in automation.

Preference for WA Based Workers

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will continue to work with industry to ensure they preference local workers.

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- **commit to reduce the reliance on interstate FIFO and provide more opportunities for local workers in regional WA to have access to the training required for jobs in the resources sector.**

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic the government worked with the resources sector to relocate interstate workers to WA.

The priority now is to ensure that local workers in regional WA have access to the training required for jobs in the resources sector.

The McGowan Labor Government has:

- made a record investment in our regional TAFEs to deliver the training required for the jobs in each region.
- created a dedicated webpage for easy reference to the courses that link to work in the resources sector at **www.jobsandskills.wa.gov.au/resources**
- established Jobs and Skills Centres in TAFEs across WA to provide the link between the jobs in the local area and education choices.
- introduced additional TAFE courses matched to skill needs that have been identified by the resources sector.

Incentivising Land Activation

Western Australia has an abundance of land and the McGowan Labor Government is committed to using this land to attract industry and create regional jobs.

Western Australia needs to be competitive to attract the industries that will provide long term jobs, and making land for industry more affordable to create jobs makes sense.

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- **invest in the development of project ready land and the establishment of projects on Industrial Land Authority (ILA) estates across WA.**

This funding will support developers to construct services, road infrastructure and secure environmental approvals, lowering the barriers for industrial development and incentivising construction.

This builds on the \$166.3 million investment in the Regional Land Booster Initiative to incentivise land activation in regional areas including industrial lots in Carnarvon, Kalbarri and Mount Magnet. The initiative involves repricing land, offering rebates and other incentives to temporarily lower the entry hurdles for new industrial and commercial land developments and support regional jobs and economic growth.

Growing Small Business

The McGowan Labor Government is committed to supporting and growing small businesses in regional WA.

The Regional Economic Development (RED) grant program is backing local businesses, helping them to expand and diversify regional economies.

Over the past four years, the McGowan Labor Government has:

- invested over \$2.9 million in RED grants to North West Central projects, to create local jobs and help grow industry.

Small businesses across regional WA were impacted during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the measures the McGowan Labor Government implemented included:

- exemption for businesses from paying payroll tax under the JobKeeper Payment scheme until March 28, 2021.
- a one-off \$2,500 credit on electricity bills for small businesses.
- waiving licence fees for businesses in industries such as hospitality, tourism, retail and building trades.
- waiving liquor licence renewal fees for 2020, with refunds provided to businesses that had already paid.
- increasing the payroll tax exemption threshold to \$1 million from 1 July 2020.
- providing a one-off grant of \$17,500 to businesses with a reconciled 2018-19 Australia-wide payroll of between \$1 million and \$4 million.
- waiving payroll tax for 4 months from 1 March to 30 June 2020, for businesses with an Australia-wide payroll of less than \$7.5 million.

Growing our Agricultural Sector

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will continue to invest in Western Australia's primary industries to grow the State's food sector and create local jobs.

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- **continue to invest in WA's primary industries with details of further initiatives to be announced shortly.**

Through the WA Recovery Plan the McGowan Government also invested more than \$47 million to build the capability of food and beverage businesses to grow, invest and export.

This investment will help diversify our manufacturing and processing capability to capture value-adding markets for WA's high-quality primary production products.

Initiatives in the WA Recovery Plan and over the past four years include:

- \$1.4 million to upgrade the Carnarvon Research Facility, supporting sustainable growth and expansion of irrigated agriculture in the Gascoyne.
- \$24 million to drive value-adding in WA, including the \$16.7 million four-year Food and Beverage Fund to create jobs and investment through grants to agrifood businesses to grow local processing.
- \$48 million grains research partnership signed with Grains Research and Development Corporation in 2019.
- \$22 million to manage the impacts of wild dogs on livestock farmers, with a further \$13.4 million locked in over the next four years.

- \$14 million for the Digital Farm Grants Program, driving better digital connectivity for agricultural and pastoral businesses and communities across regional Western Australia.
- \$8.1 million investment over four years to continue the successful eConnected Grainbelt program.
- \$6 million over four years to continue delivering the Food Industry Innovation program to support regional value-added food and beverage businesses and promote collaboration across the supply chain.
- \$2.8 million towards the Katanning Sheep Research Facility to support world class sheep research in WA.
- allowed carbon farming on the pastoral estate for the first time, and established the \$15 million Carbon Farming Strategy and Land Restoration Fund to provide new income streams for farmers.
- re-establishing the Soil and Land Conservation Council after a 16-year hiatus.
- boosting funding for Natural Resource Management projects to \$7.75 million per annum.

This follows the record investment of \$131.5 million by the McGowan Labor Government in the 2019-20 Budget to secure the future of the State's agricultural efforts.

Under the previous Liberal National Government, core funding for the then-Department of Agriculture and Food WA was cut significantly with a further 37 per cent decrease in expenditure built into the forward estimates.

This resulted in a significant loss of agricultural capability threatening to further erode the department's ability to deliver for the State's agriculture sector.

Growing our Fishing Industry

The McGowan Labor Government is committed to growing our aquaculture industry and recently released the Aquaculture Development Plan. The plan provides the framework to expand Western Australia's blue economy, attract new investment and help create an estimated 6,000 direct and indirect jobs.

As part of the implementation of the Aquaculture Development Plan, a re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- **create further aquaculture zones that will attract investment opportunities to expand this important industry.**

Aquaculture development zones are identified land and water areas that provide 'investment ready' zones with strategic environmental approvals and management policies already in place.

WA's reputation for premium quality, sustainable aquaculture product will meet growing domestic and export demand while growing WA jobs.

This builds on the initiatives implemented over the past four years including:

- committed \$8.7 million to building the Geraldton Finfish Nursery.
- declaration of the Mid West Aquaculture Development Zone, which has since been fully allocated.
- establishing the Albany Shellfish Hatchery in partnership with the Aquaculture Council of Western Australia, including recent funding through the WA Recovery plan for a greenhouse and nursery to increase production.

- declaration of the Albany Aquaculture Development Zone (Oyster Harbour).
- upgrading the Watermans Bay Fish Health Laboratory to provide improved fish health research and development and support services.
- upgrading the Hillarys Shellfish Research Facility to expand production of tropical and local species of rock oysters and scallops that will support industry growth.
- funding towards the installation of 'Flupsies', marine-based shellfish nursery modules, to grow commercial aquaculture on the South Coast, Kimberley, Pilbara, Gascoyne and Mid-West.
- appointed an officer within the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development for the WA Shellfish Quality Assurance Program.

Prospective growth areas for WA's aquaculture industry include:

- finfish, coral and seaweed in the Mid-West.
- abalone and shellfish in the Great Southern region.
- rock oyster and other shellfish species in the Pilbara and west coast.
- barramundi and rock oyster in the Kimberley.

Caring for our Land and Creating Economic Opportunities

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- **continue to provide opportunities for carbon farming and carbon sequestration to increase agricultural productivity and create jobs in regional communities.**

The McGowan Labor Government recently released the Western Australian Climate Policy, outlining actions to create a low carbon future and create jobs.

A key focus of the policy is increased carbon sequestration through policy levers that enhance economic opportunities, increase agricultural productivity and create jobs in regional communities.

Key features of the policy include:

- carbon farming on pastoral leases, allowing pastoralists to undertake projects to support the regeneration of native vegetation through managing cattle grazing, which sequesters carbon while improving pastoral productivity.
- establishing a Land Restoration and Carbon Farming program on freehold land to enhance and build resilience in agriculture landscapes.
- allowing carbon sequestration projects in National Parks and on the conservation estate to maximise environmental and economic benefits.
- investing in the Native Vegetation Rehabilitation Scheme for revegetation, habitat restoration

and protection of existing vegetation to deliver at-scale environmental outcomes.

- supporting Main Roads to improve and increase roadside vegetation in the agricultural region to offset the impacts of roadworks.

Developing a carbon offset market will also allow businesses seeking to offset emissions to reinvest back into the local community. A number of companies in the resources sector are actively pursuing these opportunities.

The WA Climate Policy contains further details and a range of other initiatives which can be found at: **www.wa.gov.au/wa-climate-change-policy**

Case study

Carbon farming on pastoral leases has already delivered contracts for an estimated nine million tonnes of carbon abatement and around \$130 million in revenue for pastoralists.

An additional 15 million tonnes of carbon abatement are expected to be sold directly to major greenhouse gas emitters who need to purchase carbon credits to offset their emissions.

Creative and Cultural Industries in Regional WA

The State's rich artistic culture enriches local communities, promotes tourism and creates jobs in regional WA. Securing funding and expanding some of our most successful regional arts programs will give certainty, provide opportunities for regional artists, as well tourism and economic development opportunities for the regions.

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- **invest a further \$16 million in the WA Screen Fund (previously the Regional Film Fund) which encourages production in the State's regions.**
- **allocate a further \$4 million to the Regional Exhibition Touring Boost that connects regional galleries with the State's art collection.**
- **allocate a further \$5 million to the Regional Arts and Cultural Investment Program which includes Made In WA Grants, Aboriginal Arts Commissioning Fund and the Regional and Remote Festivals Fund.**

Aboriginal Procurement Policy

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government is committed to building on the successes of our Aboriginal Procurement Policy which saw more than 5.5 per cent of government contracts for goods, services, community services and works awarded to Aboriginal businesses in 2019-20 alone.

Of the contracts awarded, 143 contracts worth a total of more than \$69 million were awarded to Aboriginal businesses based in regional locations.

The benefits of contracting with Aboriginal businesses can extend beyond the successful delivery of contracts by also improving the economic prosperity of not only the Aboriginal people involved but also the broader Aboriginal community.

Aboriginal Ranger Program

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- **continue to expand the Aboriginal Ranger Program with details of further initiatives to be announced shortly.**

A re-elected McGowan Government remains committed to continuing and expanding the successful Aboriginal Ranger Program and providing opportunities for more Aboriginal people to manage country and help build community leadership, wellbeing and resilience.

Under the program, existing and emerging Aboriginal organisations can employ and train rangers to carry out land and sea management and tourism activities across a range of tenures in remote and regional Western Australia.

Support for Employment in the Regions

The McGowan Labor Government is committed to helping regional employers attract and retain individuals and families to move to and live in regional WA. Issues such as travel costs, access to childcare and education and housing are key factors when making the decision to move to regional WA.

The McGowan Labor Government is committed to addressing these potential barriers and support people living in and moving to our regions.

Regional Airfares for Residents

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- **invest \$19.8 million to make travel for regional residents more affordable, supporting the economic development of the regions to help industry attract and retain high quality staff and support local residents to access services.**

This new initiative builds on the McGowan Government's commitment to secure more affordable regional airfares to Perth which arose from the Parliamentary Inquiry into regional airfares, a key 2017 McGowan Labor Government election commitment.

The McGowan Labor Government is also providing affordable and accessible airfares through financial support of \$24.4 million to WA's aviation industry.

The McGowan Labor Government has already enabled discounted airfares for travel from Broome, Kununurra, Kalgoorlie, Karratha, Port Hedland, Newman Exmouth to Perth along with more community fares to all passengers including visitors to Albany, Esperance, Carnarvon and Monkey Mia.

Access to Childcare in the Regions

The lack of available childcare in the regions is emerging as a barrier to greater workforce participation with significant waiting lists, challenges attracting staff and a lack of suitable facilities.

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- **work with local government and businesses to address the lack of childcare options in the regions. Further details of the policy will be announced shortly.**

Housing Options in the Regions

The McGowan Labor Government is committed to ensuring that there are housing options available to help regional communities thrive. Access to affordable housing can be a barrier to staying or moving to a regional community.

The McGowan Labor Government has invested:

- \$166.3 million over the last four years in the Regional Land Booster Initiative to incentivise land activation in regional areas

to temporarily lower the entry hurdles including for new residential land developments, including in Carnarvon, Denham, Cue, Kalbarri, Meekatharra, Mount Magnet and Yalgoo.

- \$80 million for targeted maintenance programs for regional social, remote and government workers housing (GROH) properties, including approximately 100 homes in the Gascoyne and Mid West region.
- \$141.7 million to refurbish social housing across WA's ageing housing stock, including approximately 80 homes in the Gascoyne and Mid West region.
- \$97 million to build new social housing including in the Gascoyne and Mid West region.

To date, all contracts to build and refurbish social housing under the Social Housing Economic Recovery Package (SHERP) have been awarded to local contractors.

Training and Education

One of the reasons families leave regional WA is to ensure that their children have access to a quality education.

The McGowan Labor Government has made a record investment in TAFE to ensure that kids have access to the right training to link to the employment opportunities in their region.

We have also invested in infrastructure and programs in our schools to ensure that we deliver a high quality education in regional WA.



Investing in our TAFEs and VET to Skill Local Workers

The McGowan Labor Government has made a record investment in TAFE to ensure that kids have access to the right training to link to the employment opportunities in their region. We are also committed to ensuring TAFE is more affordable so people can access the skills they need to get a good local job.

Slashing Fees to Make TAFE Affordable

Under the highly successful Lower Fees, Local Skills initiative, the McGowan Labor Government slashed fees by up to 72 per cent for 180 TAFE courses across the State, to make training more affordable for Western Australians after the price hikes by the previous Liberal National government.

Discounted courses at Central Regional TAFE's Carnarvon and Exmouth campuses cover a wide range of

industries including engineering, building and construction, early childhood, support services, health professionals and hospitality and tourism.

Examples of discounted courses at Carnarvon and Exmouth TAFE campuses include:

- Cert III in Tourism
- Cert II in Resources and Infrastructure Work Preparation

- Cert III in Education Support
- Cert III in Maritime Operations

The McGowan Labor Government has:

- negotiated the joint JobTrainer agreement with the Commonwealth Government to ensure people under 25 or eligible people of all ages looking for work now pay no more than \$400 in annual course fees.
- froze TAFE fees in 2018 after the previous Liberal National government had implemented massive price hikes.

Modern TAFE Equipment for a World Class TAFE

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- **invest in equipment upgrades across the State's TAFEs giving students access to more industry standard and state of the art equipment, including x-ray technology for agriculture, 3D printers, drones and more.**

The McGowan Labor Government is committed to a modern, world class TAFE system with up to date equipment to train West Australians for the jobs of the future.

VET in Schools

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- **support students to access School Based Apprenticeships and trade pathways.**

- **prioritise STEM courses that have been evaluated by industry as suitable for school students.**

- **ensure local flexibility for schools to negotiate the most suitable courses and delivery arrangements with their local TAFE colleges and local industries.**

- **introduce a suite of wraparound measures with details to be announced soon.**

School Based Apprenticeship (SBA) pathways have been available to students and employers for many years. Employers agree that apprentices who have undertaken pre-apprenticeship training are more aware of safety, better prepared for work, and are more confident.

An increase in SBAs and vocational training in schools allows our kids a smooth and direct path into local jobs, kick starting their career in their chosen trade.

To encourage students into these pathways, a suite of wraparound measures will be implemented in schools across the State, allowing parents, teachers and students to develop genuine relationships with industry, creating meaningful encounters with work while students are still at school.

The McGowan Labor Government is committed to training our young people in alignment with the needs of industry to give them the best opportunity to get skilled employment. A pathway to TAFE, a traineeship or pre-apprenticeship while at school allows students to stay engaged, and gives them the opportunity to forge a path to a great, local job.



Delivering a Quality Education

The McGowan Labor Government is committed to delivering a quality education and modern schools in the regions. We know that access to a good education for their kids is important to families, no matter where they live.

Building the Schools of the Future

The McGowan Labor Government is committed to ensuring that Western Australian students have access to high-quality, modern facilities, and to create local jobs on government projects in North West Central.

Over the past four years, the McGowan Labor Government has:

- delivered the \$26.55 million upgrade to Carnarvon Community College including specialist classrooms for science, digital technology, material technology, home economics, hospitality, performing arts and physical education
- invested \$2.4 million to North West Central schools for maintenance, upgrades and improvement works as part of our Schools Maintenance Blitz.

STEM at School

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will continue to invest in our schools for the jobs of the future. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) will be the future drivers of innovation as we reshape and recover WA's economy. Science is one of the fundamental elements of the STEM disciplines and a focus on science will support the diversification of the economy. It is an investment in the jobs of the future.

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will ensure every student across the State has access to education in STEM and Science. This will mean a major State-wide investment in STEM and Science facilities and equipment.

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- **invest \$1 million to Carnarvon Community College and \$600,000 to Tom Price Senior High School to transform classrooms into STEM classrooms.**
- **deliver Science classrooms for primary school students at Exmouth District High School, Carnarvon Community College, Ngaanyatjarra Lands School, North Tom Price Primary School and Kalbarri District High School.**
- **deliver grants for Science resources in the regions remote community schools.**
- **ensure every primary school student across the region has access to a great Science education, either through increased equipment or Science classrooms.**

In the last four years, the McGowan Labor Government has rolled out innovative programs and facilities in schools, including:

- converting classrooms into Science labs in two primary schools across North West Central.
- funding a STEM professional learning and mentoring program for more than 1,000 public school teachers, including at 8 schools across North West Central.

It is especially essential for STEM and Science to be normalised as part of every child's education. We believe that every child in WA, no matter the school they attend, deserves a comprehensive education in STEM with the best teachers and the best resources available.

Putting More Staff into Classrooms

The McGowan Labor Government has invested in schools across WA, ensuring all students – regardless of where they live – receive a high quality education.

In order to put more support in the classroom, the McGowan Labor Government has:

- put additional Education Assistants (FTE) into eight North West Central schools.
- funded additional Aboriginal and Islander Education Officer (FTE) in nine North West Central schools.
- established a Regional Learning Specialists team to visit Year 11 and 12 students in the regions to provide specialist classes and additional support.

- funded Independent Learning Coordinators to supervise and help senior students studying courses through the School of Isolated and Distance Education.
- funded additional teacher time to allow some Level 3 teachers time to mentor other teachers at four North West Central schools.
- provided four North West Central schools with additional FTE teachers so a Level 3 classroom teacher can coordinate mental health programs for students.



Quality Healthcare Closer to Home

The McGowan Labor Government is putting patients first in regional WA and ensuring regional patients have access to quality healthcare, closer to home.

Investing in Regional Health Infrastructure and Services

The McGowan Labor Government is committed to ensuring high-quality healthcare for all Western Australians regardless of where they live and has invested over \$265 million in regional healthcare infrastructure over the last four years.

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- **invest \$5 million towards the planning and early works for the Meekatharra Health Service.**

This builds on our investment in health services in North West Central including:

- \$5.3 million towards the Tom Price Hospital redevelopment.
- \$18.8 million towards the new 38 bed residential aged and palliative care facility in Carnarvon.

The McGowan Labor Government has been implementing our commitments to high quality patient care across the State, with a significant investment in health and mental health infrastructure and better, more innovative services with improved access for all.

Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS)

The McGowan Labor Government remains committed to putting patients first, and ensuring people can access medical treatment, no matter where they live.

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- **continue to invest in the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS) for regional patients who need to travel to a major centre to seek treatment.**
- **increase the accommodation subsidy to \$100 per night.**
- **increase escort eligibility for people from vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including women travelling to give birth.**

Paid Paramedics for the Regions

The McGowan Labor Government is committed to ensuring that regional WA has a reliable country ambulance service.

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- **expand the Community Paramedic Model across the State to ensure that there are more professional, paid paramedics, increasing the reliability of country ambulance services and improving the parity of country sub-centres with the metro area.**

This investment into country ambulance services will support our volunteers so they can continue to provide this vital service.

The volunteer model is a strong one, it brings communities together.

Paid paramedics in the regions will assist with the recruitment of new volunteer ambulance officers, as well as training, mentoring and retention of St John's 3,000 volunteers in the regions and ensure every ambulance - regardless of location - can communicate reliably with all necessary parties at all times.

This announcement builds on the announcement in the 2020-21 State Budget to trial the introduction of professional ambulance services in the Kimberley, including three paid career paramedics at Derby, Fitzroy Crossing and Halls Creek and six new ambulances for the Kimberley.

Digital Health

Investing in innovative digital health technology to enable a better, more equitable health system has allowed more Western Australians living in regional and remote areas to avoid a trip to Perth to access treatment.

Since 2017, the McGowan Labor Government has:

- launched the WA Country Health Service's Command Centre, using high-definition videoconferencing to enable specialist level care on country for more than 21,000 Western Australians living in regional WA.
- rolled out the Mental Health Emergency Telehealth Service to support rural and remote clinicians to care for people of all ages experiencing a mental health crisis or drug and alcohol issues.
- pioneered the establishment of world-class telehealth services to improve access and reduce the burden of travel on country communities.

- expanded telehealth services to include services such as stroke, mental health, obstetrics, intensive care and paediatrics across regional WA.

Mental Health

The McGowan Labor Government will continue to play its part in supporting the mental health of every Western Australian. Offering appropriate community mental health services is vital to ensure people who need help get the best possible treatment..

Since 2017 the McGowan Labor Government has:

- invested \$10 million to develop and implement a region-by-region approach to Aboriginal suicide prevention, prioritising Aboriginal-led and locally endorsed initiatives that accommodate a culturally informed social and emotional wellbeing approach to suicide prevention.
- funded \$9 million for a 24/7 mental health emergency telehealth service.
- partnered with the WA Country Football League, to promote mental health within country football clubs to deliver the 'Think Mental Health Round' and build club capacity and support for mental health.
- provided millions of dollars worth of grants and funding to local government, not-for-profit organisations and community groups to help build resilience and prevent suicide and support community mental health in local communities, including \$1.4 million to revive the Connecting to Country grants program.



Record Investment in Regional Roads

The safety of our regional roads is a key priority for the McGowan Labor Government. We want to make sure our families arrive home safely after every trip.

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will oversee a record \$763.8 million investment in regional roads over the next five years.

This record \$763.8 million investment will mean a safer, more reliable drive, supporting country communities, freight drivers and tourists right across our State.

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- invest a further \$52 million into our now \$507 million Regional Road Safety Program to repair, rebuild and deliver road safety treatments on tens of thousands of kilometres of country roads.
- invest an additional \$14.8 million towards our now \$251.8 million Regional Road Upgrades Program, upgrading intersections, adding new lanes, widening roads, upgrading signage and improving visibility.
- widen Quobba-Gnaraloo Road to a consistent width of seven metres with two 1 metre shoulders.
- invest \$5 million to increase the number of Truck Rest Stops on our major regional roads. These rest stops will have a range of amenities making it easy for freight drivers and tourists to fight driver fatigue and take regular rest breaks.

Since coming to Government, the McGowan Labor Government has invested:

- \$14 million to widen Minilya-Exmouth Road in Exmouth.
- \$6 million towards the realignment of Yardie Creek Road in Exmouth.
- \$35 million to upgrade roads related to the Square Kilometre Array project.

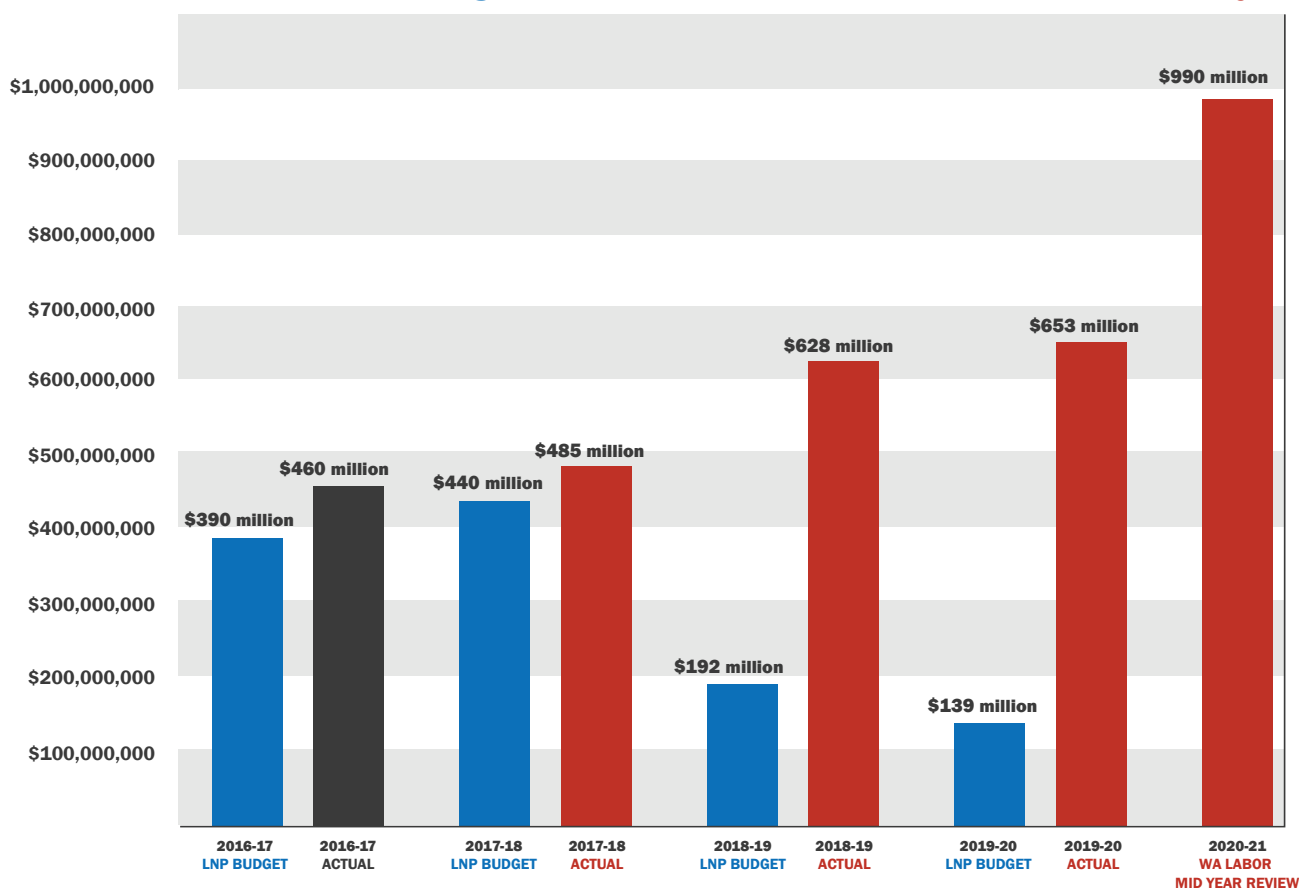
This is in addition to the \$422.6 million spent out of the Road Trauma Trust Account over the last four years which will continue to be allocated to local communities, improving roads with high risk of run-off crashes in regional areas.

This \$763.8 million program of work is part of a McGowan Labor Government's strong investment into reducing road trauma across regional WA. It's all about making sure we improve safety across the entire network, including freight and local rural roads.

These initiatives create a pipeline of work across the next five years, driving economic development in our regions and creating thousands of local jobs.

REGIONAL ROAD INVESTMENT

Barnett 2016 Budget vs McGowan Labor Government Delivery





Keeping WA Safe

The McGowan Labor Government is taking a whole-of-government approach towards community safety in our regions.

Police in our Community

The McGowan Labor Government's unprecedented investment in community safety has funded:

- a total of 1,100 additional police since taking office, giving Western Australia the highest number of officers per person of all the States.
- a record investment in digital technologies, protective body vests and new police stations across the State.
- allocated additional police to support our road safety efforts on regional roads.

- \$1 million towards the redevelopment of the PCYC in Carnarvon.

Investing in our Fire & Emergency Services

The McGowan Labor Government is committed to supporting local volunteer firefighters to thrive and grow into the future.

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- **invest \$4 million in personal protective equipment for professional and volunteer firefighters.**

The McGowan Labor Government has also invested:

- \$80 million for the Rural Fire Division to enhance bushfire management across the State.
- \$15 million for the Bushfire Risk Management Plans program to help local governments identify and manage their bushfire risks.
- more than \$50 million towards the Bushfire Mitigation Activity Fund across WA.
- established a Ministerial Volunteer Advisory Forum.

Meth Action Plan

The McGowan Labor Government's Methamphetamine Action Plan (MAP) outlines a comprehensive plan of actions that are aimed at reducing methamphetamine related demand, supply and harm, in recognition of the complexities associated with drug use.

A re-elected McGowan Labor Government will:

- **continue our commitment to increase access to treatment and address the supply of meth in regional WA.**

As part of this commitment, we will continue the funding for the North West Drug and Alcohol Support Program support services in regional towns including Tom Price.

Since 2017 the McGowan Labor Government has allocated \$322.2 million to implement the MAP initiatives, including:

- the recently completed Carnarvon Dual Purpose Alcohol and Drug Centre, a 24-hour facility which serves as the base for the Midwest Community Alcohol and Drug

Service during the day and offers a 10-bed sobering-up service for intoxicated people overnight.

- improving drug and alcohol programs in schools.
- the rollout of the Meth Border Force to disrupt the movement of meth.
- introducing the toughest penalties in Australia for meth traffickers.

This funding has produced real results across WA. Meth consumption is down by about 25 per cent since the peak in December 2016. Results of wastewater testing show meth consumption in Perth for August 2019 fell by 19 per cent compared to the previous testing period in April 2019. The report also reveals meth use in regional WA fell 10 per cent.

Supporting Vulnerable Communities

The McGowan Labor Government is focused on improving outcomes for vulnerable community members by connecting them with the services and supports they need.

Protecting People Experiencing Domestic Violence

There has been a significant investment in statewide programs including an additional \$6.7 million for family and domestic violence response teams to support victims following a police call out.

Additional domestic violence outreach workers are also being deployed throughout the State, including a worker based in the Murchison region, to assist women and their children escaping family and domestic violence as part of a \$8.6 million initiative in the WA Recovery Plan.

Aboriginal Community Connectors

The recent State Budget committed a further \$6.8 million to the Aboriginal Community Connectors Program that runs in 13 communities across regional WA including Carnarvon, Meekatharra and Mullewa.

The Aboriginal Community Connectors Program has successfully reduced the number of Aboriginal people coming into contact with the justice system and has also reduced crime and violence and improved coordination with other support and law enforcement services.

Support Services

The McGowan Labor Government is committed to providing counselling and support services to regional WA and has invested:

- \$4.2 million to continue the Aboriginal Governance and Leadership Development program to help increase economic participation of Aboriginal people in regional WA.
- \$2.9 million to deliver financial counselling services across regional WA.

Achievements and Works Underway

Job Creation in the Regions

The McGowan Labor Government has invested:

- \$7 million for immediate measures to assist with access to the Carnarvon fascine while also finalising and implementing a long term plan.
- \$1.3 million towards planning for the redevelopment of the Tantabiddi Boat Ramp facility in Exmouth, to cater for recreational tourists and separate commercial use.
- \$1.47 million to upgrade wastewater services to allow for the expansion of the Coral Bay Caravan Park.
- \$2.65 million for significant upgrades to visitor access and facilities in the Shark Bay World Heritage Area, near Denham.
- \$1.2 million for upgrades to visitor access and facilities in the Ningaloo Coast World Heritage Area, near Exmouth.
- \$2.7 million to reopen the Gwoonwardu Mia Gascoyne Aboriginal Heritage and Cultural Centre in Carnarvon.
- \$6.7 million to build public recreation facilities and implement traditional owner joint management of Ningaloo Coastal Reserves in partnership with the Gnulli native title holders.
- \$2.8 million towards the Carnarvon Heritage Precinct One Mile Jetty Interpretive Centre.
- built the popular \$24 million Kalbarri Skywalk.
- invested over \$2.9 million in RED grants to North West Central projects, to create local jobs and help grow industry.
- \$1.4 million to upgrade the Carnarvon Research Facility, supporting sustainable growth and expansion of irrigated agriculture in the Gascoyne.
- \$166.3 million over the last four years in the Regional Land Booster Initiative to incentivise land activation in regional areas including in Carnarvon, Denham, Cue, Kalbarri, Meekatharra, Mount Magnet and Yalgoo.
- \$80 million for targeted maintenance programs for regional social, remote and government workers housing (GROH) properties, including approximately 100 homes in the Gascoyne and Mid West region.
- \$141.7 million to refurbish social housing across WA's ageing housing stock, including approximately 80 homes in the Gascoyne and Mid West region.
- \$97 million to build new social housing including in the Gascoyne and Mid West region.

Delivering a Quality Education

The McGowan Labor Government has:

- delivered the \$26.55 million major upgrades to Carnarvon Community College including specialist classrooms for science, digital technology, material technology, home economics, hospitality, performing arts and physical education

- invested \$2.4 million to North West Central schools for maintenance, upgrades and improvement works as part of our Schools Maintenance Blitz.
- converting classrooms into Science labs in two primary schools across North West Central.
- funding a STEM professional learning and mentoring program for more than 1,000 public school teachers, including at 8 schools across North West Central.
- \$1 million towards the redevelopment of the PCYC in Carnarvon.
- \$6.8 million to the Aboriginal Community Connectors Program that runs in 13 communities across regional WA including in Carnarvon, Meekatharra and Mullewa.
- recently completed the Carnarvon Dual Purpose Alcohol and Drug Centre, a 24-hour facility which serves as the base for the Midwest Community Alcohol and Drug Service during the day and offers a 10-bed sobering-up service for intoxicated people overnight.

Quality Healthcare Closer to Home

The McGowan Labor Government has invested:

- \$5.3 million towards the Tom Price Hospital redevelopment
- \$18.8 million towards the new 38 bed residential aged and palliative care facility in Carnarvon.

Making Our Roads Safer

The McGowan Labor Government has invested;

- \$14 million to widen Minilya-Exmouth Road in Exmouth.
- \$6 million towards the realignment of Yardie Creek Road in Exmouth.
- \$35 million to upgrade roads related to the Square Kilometre Array project.

Keeping WA Safe

The McGowan Labor Government has invested:

