

# WA STATE BUDGET 2017-18 PLAN FOR THE WHEATBELT

**The McGowan Labor Government is committed to regional WA, and is getting on with the job of delivering on its commitments to the Wheatbelt.**

The State Budget includes \$4.0 billion in Royalties for Regions expenditure across the State and in the Wheatbelt alone, the Government will spend \$224m over the next four years on critical infrastructure projects.



## CREATING LOCAL JOBS

Diversify our economy and creating local jobs in the Wheatbelt.

- \$4.5m dedicated for regional new and emerging businesses as part of the New Industries Fund.
- \$30m to rebuild WA's core agricultural and grain research and development capability.
- \$27.9m boost to tourism funding to showcase our regional destinations.
- \$40m investment in regional telecommunications to improve access to services.
- \$20m over five years to establish the Aboriginal Ranger Program, to provide jobs looking after WA State Parks and Indigenous Protected Areas.



## PUTTING PATIENTS FIRST

Delivering quality health care to the people of the Wheatbelt.

- Getting on with delivering WA's first Medihotel to make extended hospital stays more comfortable for patients from the Wheatbelt who are required to travel to Perth for treatment.
- Investing \$1.6m to expand the Find Cancer Early Program into more regional areas.
- \$1.9m to fund meet and greet services for people from remote communities travelling for treatment.
- \$5.1m to expand the renal dialysis program.
- \$147.4m for the Patient Travel Assistance Scheme to support regional people when they are required to travel for treatment.



## INVESTING IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Investing in our schools, so every student receives a quality education.

- Roll out the science program in regional primary schools.
- Put Education Assistants back into the classroom and provide more support for teachers.
- Employ an additional 50 Aboriginal and Islander Education Officers in regional WA.
- Appoint Independent Learning Coordinators (ILCs) in 10 regional schools to assist students undertaking courses through the School of Isolated and Distance Education.
- Establish a regional Learning Specialist team in the curriculum areas of science, social science, mathematics and English to support students and ILCs.



## **SAFER COUNTRY ROADS**

Delivering our commitment to create safer country roads.

- \$18.5m for the Regional Enforcement Unit to increase traffic enforcement on country roads.
- \$10m for upgrades to AgLime routes.



## **SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES**

Investing in services to support the Wheatbelt community.

- \$136m for the country aged pension fuel card and \$4m for the volunteer fuel card.
- \$14.6m Natural Resource Management Program to work with local communities to protect the environment.