How do we focus the capacity of Government to solve the problems that seem unsolvable?

In the world of modern politics and civic life, despite more information and expertise than ever before, it seems like the priorities of the community are forever out of reach.

Our Priorities is this Government’s response to that challenge. A statement of intent for the State of Western Australia. A recognition that the problems that we are trying to solve are not just the responsibility of one department, one portfolio or even Government alone.

Measurable targets from independent sources are crucial, so that accountability and results cannot be lost beneath rhetoric.

I want all of Western Australia to share in our State’s prosperity, but we cannot achieve that with a business as usual approach.

These targets are ambitious, and they will take a change in the culture of Government to achieve. However, by working together, we will unlock the potential of this great State, economically, socially and environmentally.

Mark McGowan,
Premier; Minister for Public Sector Management; State Development, Jobs and Trade; Federal-State Relations
**A strong economy**

**Create jobs**
By 2023-24, the total number of employed persons in WA will increase by at least 150,000, as measured by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

**Repair the State’s finances**
In 2019-20, return the general government operating balance to a surplus position and maintain a surplus of at least 3% of general government revenue thereafter.

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**A liveable environment**

**Build METRONET and increase homes close to public transport**
By 2031, the number of homes in the Perth and Peel region in close proximity to a public transport node will increase by 45% over 2018 numbers.

**Increase conservation for future generations**
By 2023-24, WA’s conservation estate will increase by 5 million hectares or 20%.

**Make a cleaner, more sustainable environment**
By 2030, at least 75% of waste generated in Western Australia is reused or recycled.

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**Aboriginal wellbeing**

**Reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in custody**
By 2028-29, reduce the number of Aboriginal adults in prison by 23% from 2017-18 numbers.

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**Regional prosperity**

**Deliver stronger regional economies**
By 2023-24 the number of employed persons in Regional WA will increase by at least 30,000 as measured by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

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**A brighter future**

**Improve the health and wellbeing of children in the early years**
By 2027, increase the number of children in Western Australia who are developmentally on-track on all five Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) domains by 10%.

**Increase student reading and numeracy**
By 2024, WA NAPLAN Year 5 and 9 Reading and Numeracy mean scores improve by more than 10 scale points.

**Increase participation in STEM**
By 2024, have 85% of Year 12 students completing two or more STEM courses and/or STEM related vocational, education and training (VET) qualifications.

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**A safer community**

**Reduce youth reoffending**
By 2022-23, no more than 50% of young offenders will return to detention within two years of release.

**Reduce illicit drug use**
By 2022, the proportion of the Western Australian population who have taken an illicit drug in the last 12 months will be reduced by 15% from 2016 levels.
A strong economy is more than just dollars and cents. It’s about providing opportunity, security and confidence for families and businesses.

A good job can offer a person purpose and satisfaction and helps them and their families participate fully in the community.

Repairing the State’s finances to return the general government operating balance to a surplus position means we are in better position to offer a hand up in tough times. It also shows we are a responsible Government that investors can deal with.

The importance of partnerships with industry and business cannot be understated in the achievement of this outcome. Facilitating an economic environment that encourages private sector investment and innovation will help to create jobs and maintain strong State finances.

More jobs and the repair of State finances offer Western Australians the best opportunity to participate in a strong economy.
Create jobs

Creating secure jobs is the best way to ensure shared economic wealth. That is why we are committed to having an additional 150,000 jobs created in Western Australia by 2023-24.

What do we want to achieve?

150,000

jobs created in Western Australia

By 2023-24

By 2023-24, the total number of employed persons in WA will increase by at least 150,000, as measured by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Repair the State’s finances

We are committed to getting the State’s finances back on track. That is why we are balancing the books by returning the budget to surplus by 2019-20 and keeping it there.

What do we want to achieve?

Maintain a 3% surplus of general government revenue

By 2020-21

In 2019-20, return the general government operating balance to a surplus position and maintain a surplus of at least 3% of general government revenue thereafter.
A bright future

Our young people are our State’s greatest asset. They deserve our investment in their health and wellbeing, and our efforts to ensure they are ready to play a productive role in society and the economy of the future.

Achieving these targets will require a whole-of-community effort to nurture and educate our children from birth to their final school years so they can thrive as adults.

Strengthening current partnerships and forging new ones with families, parents, community, local government, business and academia will be essential to success. As the program progresses, we will be seeking new ways to encourage wide participation in ensuring our children have a bright future.

Improve the health and wellbeing of children in the early years

We want to make sure more Western Australian children are getting the best start in life to give them the greatest chance of future success.

What do we want to achieve?

10% of children developmentally on-track on all five Australian Early Development Census domains

By 2027

By 2027, increase the number of children in Western Australia who are developmentally on-track on all five Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) domains by 10%.

The Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) is considered a good predictor of a child’s success later in life. It measures five areas of early childhood development:

- physical health and wellbeing
- social competence
- emotional maturity
- language and cognitive skills (school-based)
- communication skills and general knowledge.

Data Source: Australian Early Development Census
Increase student reading and numeracy

A focus on reading and numeracy will give our children the basics they need for lifelong learning, training and employment.

What do we want to achieve?

WA NAPLAN Year 5 and 9 Reading and Numeracy mean scores improve by more than 10 scale points

By 2024

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual national assessment for all students in Years 3, 5, 7, and 9.

This graph shows the WA NAPLAN mean, or average, scores for Year 5 and Year 9 students in reading and numeracy — the final years of assessment in primary and high school.

A focus on raising mean scores means the results of each and every student matters and all students are supported and encouraged to do their best.

Increase participation in STEM

Making sure our children have science, technology, engineering and mathematics skills will give them more opportunities in our local industries in the future.

What do we want to achieve?

85% of Year 12 students completing two or more STEM courses

By 2024

By 2024, have 85% of Year 12 students completing two or more STEM courses and/or STEM related vocational, education and training (VET) qualifications.
We all deserve to feel safe in our own homes, at work or when we are out enjoying spending time with families and friends. Preventing crime and the harm caused by drugs means fewer victims and a better way of life for all Western Australians.

Reducing the number of young offenders returning to detention by helping them to turn their lives around supports a safer community for the long term. Family, social and health circumstances can increase the likelihood of reoffending. Government agencies need to work together, and with community, to help young people break the cycle of offending.

We know that illicit drug use, particularly methamphetamine use, can have devastating impacts on individuals and WA communities and can be a cause of other criminal behaviour.

Helping young offenders turn their lives around and reducing the use of illicit drugs in the community will deliver safer communities across Western Australia.
Reduce youth reoffending

We know that young people (under the age of 18) who show unlawful behaviour are more likely to be criminally active as adults. This is partly because they can become further criminalised when they are in detention.

What do we want to achieve?

No more than 50% of young offenders return to detention within two years of release

By 2022-23

Reduce illicit drug use

We will tackle illicit drug use through prevention, helping people who need it early, and targeted rehabilitation facilities.

What do we want to achieve?

15% proportion of the WA population who have taken an illicit drug in the last 12 months

By 2022

By 2022, the proportion of the WA population who have taken an illicit drug in the last 12 months will be reduced by 15% from 2016 levels.

The data in the graphs is from the National Drug Strategy Household Survey (NDSHS), the leading survey of licit and illicit drug use in Australia. The survey is conducted every three years on people’s ‘recent use’ — use in the previous 12 months.
Western Australia has a diverse and rich environment — from the urban centre of Perth to our unique regions and extraordinary outback.

Our unique wildlife, marine life and landscapes are precious and have significant cultural value to Aboriginal people. Protection of these natural assets also supports recreation, tourism, jobs and economic diversification, particularly in regional and remote areas. We need to increase the areas we conserve to preserve them for future generations.

A liveable environment for the future also means we need to manage our waste better – which makes environmental and economic sense. We can recover greater value from our resources if we effectively recycle. WA can also play its part in mitigating the impacts of a changing climate through a careful and considered transition of our economy.

Build METRONET and increase homes close to public transport

To better connect people to their work, their play and their communities we want to increase the number of homes located within 1 km of public transport.

What do we want to achieve?

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<tr>
<td>2019-20</td>
<td>600,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source - Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage

45% in number of homes in the Perth and Peel region in close proximity to a public transport node

By 2031
Increase conservation for future generations

We will expand land reserved for conservation — the conservation estate — for future generations to nurture and enjoy. The conservation estate includes national parks, marine parks, marine nature reserves and marine management areas.

What do we want to achieve?

Land reserved for conservation in WA will increase by

5 million ha

▲ 20% of the current conservation estate

By 2023-24

By 2023-24, WA’s conservation estate will increase by 5 million hectares or 20%.

Make a cleaner, more sustainable environment

We will do better with what we have to protect our environment for future generations.

What do we want to achieve?

At least

75% of waste generated in Western Australia is reused or recycled

By 2030

Proportion of waste recycled or reused in WA

Data Source: Waste Authority WA, Recycling Activity in Western Australia (2007-08 to 2016-17 reports)
We will enable the fuller participation of Aboriginal people in Western Australia’s social and economic life through true partnerships with Aboriginal Western Australians that build on existing strengths and leadership.

The Government is committed to supporting Aboriginal Western Australians to achieve real change and better outcomes.

In WA, Aboriginal people are imprisoned at about 60% above the national average rate for Aboriginal incarceration. This has a significant impact on the cultural, emotional and social wellbeing of those individuals, their families and communities.

Our focus is on prevention — a whole-of-government approach across areas as diverse as health, education, transport, justice, housing and commerce to bring positive change.

Importantly, we will work in partnership with Aboriginal communities to enable and empower Aboriginal people to live healthy and prosperous lives. Local government, business and community also have a significant role to play in working with Government and Aboriginal-led organisations to achieve this outcome.
Reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in custody

In 2017-18 there were 2591 adult Aboriginal people in prison in Western Australia. Working together to empower Aboriginal communities will reduce this figure by 23%.

What do we want to achieve?

23% the number of Aboriginal adults in prison

By 2028-29

Aboriginal People Incarcerated

Data Source: Department of Justice
Regional prosperity

Sharing prosperity means all Western Australians, wherever they call home in WA, can live in strong, sustainable communities.

Stronger local economies offer more regional WA families the confidence, satisfaction and security that comes from meaningful employment.

Building a more prosperous regional WA requires partnerships with local government, industry and local businesses to plan for, and promote, sustainable growth.

More regional jobs in a diversified economy means economic growth is distributed more fairly across the community.

These partnerships will build on our regions’ strengths. They will transform our regional cities and towns into vibrant places to work, play and learn that are open for business.
Deliver stronger regional economies

Jobs and economic diversification will grow stronger communities which is why we want an extra 30,000 jobs created in the regions. We will deliver new infrastructure and support private sector investment to drive employment growth across the State’s regions.

What do we want to achieve?

30,000

jobs created in Regional Western Australia

By 2023-24

By 2023-24 the number of employed persons in Regional WA will increase by at least 30,000 as measured by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

The graph shows total employment in regional WA as at 1 July 2017 as measured by the ABS. These statistics measure employed persons by self-reported place of usual residence. This means jobs are only captured in this count if the employee lives in regional WA.