



Collie Just Transition News

Keeping you informed about Collie's future

Issue 6, December 2023



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Certainty for Griffin workers

With WA powering ahead with its energy transition, working toward a low-emissions future while supporting local workers in Collie continues to be a priority for the WA Government.

To avoid the risk of a sudden closure to the town's Griffin Coal mine, which has been in receivership for some time, \$220 million has been allocated to support the mine's operations until June 2026. Preventing a sudden mine closure that would lead to job losses for those employed, the new funding offers certainty that the workers, industry, government, and the community will have the time to prepare for when the support ends in 2026.

Over the past six years, the WA Government has invested more than \$660 million to work toward attracting new industries and developing industrial land while the Collie economy shifts away from coal. Supporting the continued operations of the Griffin Coal mine until 2026 is part of the wider commitment to ensure Collie has the jobs and training in place to support local workers, and helps keep WA's power supply secure as it continues to shift toward a sustainable energy future.

WesTrac welcomes first international students

Collie's WesTrac Technology Training Centre has marked another exciting milestone by welcoming the first group of international students to its cutting-edge facility.

The visit by employees from Toromont Cat - the Caterpillar Dealer in Eastern Canada - is the first-time students have travelled from overseas to take up the training following unexpected delays during the pandemic. Spending eight days in Collie, the group completed training to service, maintain, and calibrate the technology layer on Caterpillar autonomous haulage trucks. The group then spent four days training at WesTrac's head office in Guildford.

As the first of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere and the first of many international groups, the milestone means Collie is on the world map as a leader in autonomous technology training.

With \$2 million from the WA Government helping to establish the training facility, and a further \$1 million to expand the range of training offered, more than 500 students have now enhanced their skills at the facility since opening in late 2020.



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TOURISM FOCUS

Collie emerging as tourism hotspot

Tourism data for Collie continues to rise, with the town proving to be at the forefront for travellers in the South West. Since pre-pandemic levels, visitor numbers to Collie have reached a record increase of 73%. The Collie Adventure Trails, including the new walkway across the Wellington Dam mega-mural continues to shine for tourists, along with the town's picturesque Throssell Street which received an upgrade to its heritage façades in 2021.



The growth in tourism has led to Collie's economic data to trend in the right direction. More people are choosing to call Collie home, with the town's population having increased over the past two years to more than 9,000. The growth is reflected in the town's median house price, which jumped a significant 18.5% over the past year, compared to only 2.1% in Perth.

If you missed it, the Collie Just Transition Podcast recently spoke to representatives from the Shire of Collie and Tourism WA on why tourism was identified as an early opportunity in the town's transition, the positive impact it's had, and how tourism could continue to help shape Collie's strong future.

Listen to the conversation by searching 'Collie Just Transition News' on wa.gov.au.



To learn more about what's powering Collie's transition and the milestones along the way, scan the QR code.

New tourism offerings on the horizon

The WA Government has kicked off efforts to build on Collie's hospitality services, accommodation and adventure offerings following the consistent rise in visitor numbers in recent years.

New businesses and operators are being called on to consider becoming part of the town's growing tourism evolution, with the release of the new Collie Tourism Prospectus. The publication, set to be distributed to key tourism operators around the country, showcases the opportunities available now and into the future. It is expected that tourism will continue to rise, as Collie's reputation as an adventure-based tourism destination in WA grows.

Over \$40 million has been committed by the WA Government to build on tourism offerings and infrastructure, with the efforts from industry, government and the community now considered a successful part of the town's transition from a coal-based economy to a more diverse and sustainable future.

Learn more about the Collie Tourism Prospectus by visiting wa.gov.au.



Outback Horse Trails, Crown Hotel

Support available for growing Collie businesses

With economic data for Collie continuing to rise, support for local small businesses to set-up, expand or diversify is available through State Government initiatives including the Collie Futures Small Grant program. The program is aimed at helping grow businesses or projects that bring new opportunities and jobs to the town.

To learn more, contact the South West Development Commission on 9734 2322 or visit the team at 63 Throssell Street, Collie (old Post Office building).

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