



May 2026

Albany

Creating jobs and opportunities
Delivering services for the Great Southern





Seven Cities Albany

© Government of Western Australia

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community.

We pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal communities and their cultures; and to Elders both past and present.

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Seven Cities is about ensuring each of the seven **major regional centres** outside of Perth can be **everything they can be.**

Delivering quality services to communities across the State.

And ensuring **Western Australia** remains the **strongest economy** in the nation for generations to come.



Seven Cities is my vision for regional WA

Western Australia is the strongest economy in the nation and our regions have been central to our economic success.

As Western Australians, our regions also tell us who we are and where we've come from.

But our regions are also central to our future – whether we live in Perth, one of the seven regional cities outside of Perth or in the smaller communities these centres serve.

Across the State, traditional industries like mining, agriculture and tourism will continue to thrive.

But the new wave of economic opportunities are immense.

This includes becoming a renewable energy powerhouse, and making more things here.

These new industries will benefit all Western Australians, and continue to drive the national economy.

But they will all take place in our regions and be driven by the seven regional cities outside of Perth.

To seize these opportunities for all Western Australians, these seven cities must have the infrastructure, services and skilled local workers industry will need.

They must be great places to live and work, with thriving communities that attract people to our regions – and make them want to stay.

And they must have the capacity to service the needs of the smaller communities that surround them.





Our Seven Cities vision will prioritise housing, but it will also deliver investments in health, education and community safety, as well as the energy, water, transport and industrial infrastructure necessary to make our new economic opportunities a reality.

Seven Cities is about ensuring each of our seven regional centres can be everything they can be, ensuring Western Australia remains the strongest economy in the nation for generations to come.

And the best place in the world to get a quality job, no matter where in the State we live.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Cook'.

Roger Cook MLA
Premier of Western Australia



A strong regional hub for the Great Southern

Albany is Western Australia's oldest European settlement and the primary regional hub for the south coast.

Located in the Great Southern region, its natural setting is among the most striking in regional Australia.

Its spectacular natural coastline, strong community spirit, and rich heritage make Albany a great place to raise a family and get a quality job.

Importantly, it is a regional hub which supports the economic opportunities and social wellbeing of surrounding communities.

These stretch from the karri forests of Denmark to the rugged Bremer

Bay coastline, and north through productive agricultural heartlands.

As one of WA's Seven Cities, Albany's future will be built on its existing strengths and a new wave of emerging opportunities.

These include becoming a renewable energy powerhouse, adding value to our traditional industries like mining and agriculture, and making more things here.

For Albany specifically, these opportunities include its role as a highly liveable regional city and a central hub for services, workforce and investment.

Albany is a coastal community with the energy and services of a modern regional city.

To grow these industries and retain the local workforce they depend on, we're providing additional support with a renewed investment in housing, health, infrastructure and industry.

As part of the Cook Government's Seven Cities vision, Albany

will continue to play a vital role in strengthening regional Western Australia, ensuring we continue to diversify the WA economy so that it remains the strongest economy in the nation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Dawson'.

Stephen Dawson MLC

Minister for Regional Development

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Reece Whitby'.

Reece Whitby MLA

Minister for Great Southern



Budget highlights

The 2026–27 State Budget continues our support for WA families. Making investments to grow our economy, make more things here, and deliver on our priorities of jobs, health and housing.

This year's budget builds on our past commitments by investing in the services and infrastructure that regional WA needs.



Key investments for Albany include:

- **Albany Health Campus Expansion** – \$60 million to be invested in expanding the Albany Health Campus.
- **Albany Gas Replacement** – \$10.8 million to support the transition of the Albany Gas Distribution System after the current operator decommissions the infrastructure.
- **Seven Cities GROH Build** – The delivery of 26 new homes for frontline workers as a part of a statewide build of more than 500 Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH) homes, delivered in partnership with Rio Tinto, BHP and Hancock Prospecting. Delivered alongside a revamped Home Ownership Subsidy Scheme (HOSS), which will include shared equity to encourage government workers to purchase homes in the communities they work in.
- **Regional Housing Support Fund** – \$50 million top-up to the Regional Housing Support Fund, increasing the fund's value to \$75 million.
- **Regional Airfare Zone Cap** – Ongoing support for the Regional Airfare Zone Cap Scheme amid increasing fuel costs.
- **Third round of Student Assistance Payments** – \$90 million will be invested to deliver a third round of the Western Australian Student Assistance Payment, which is delivering \$150 for each primary and kindergarten student and \$250 for each secondary school student.
- **Fuel Support Payment** – \$198 million to offer a \$100 payment to all Western Australians with a valid driver's licence.



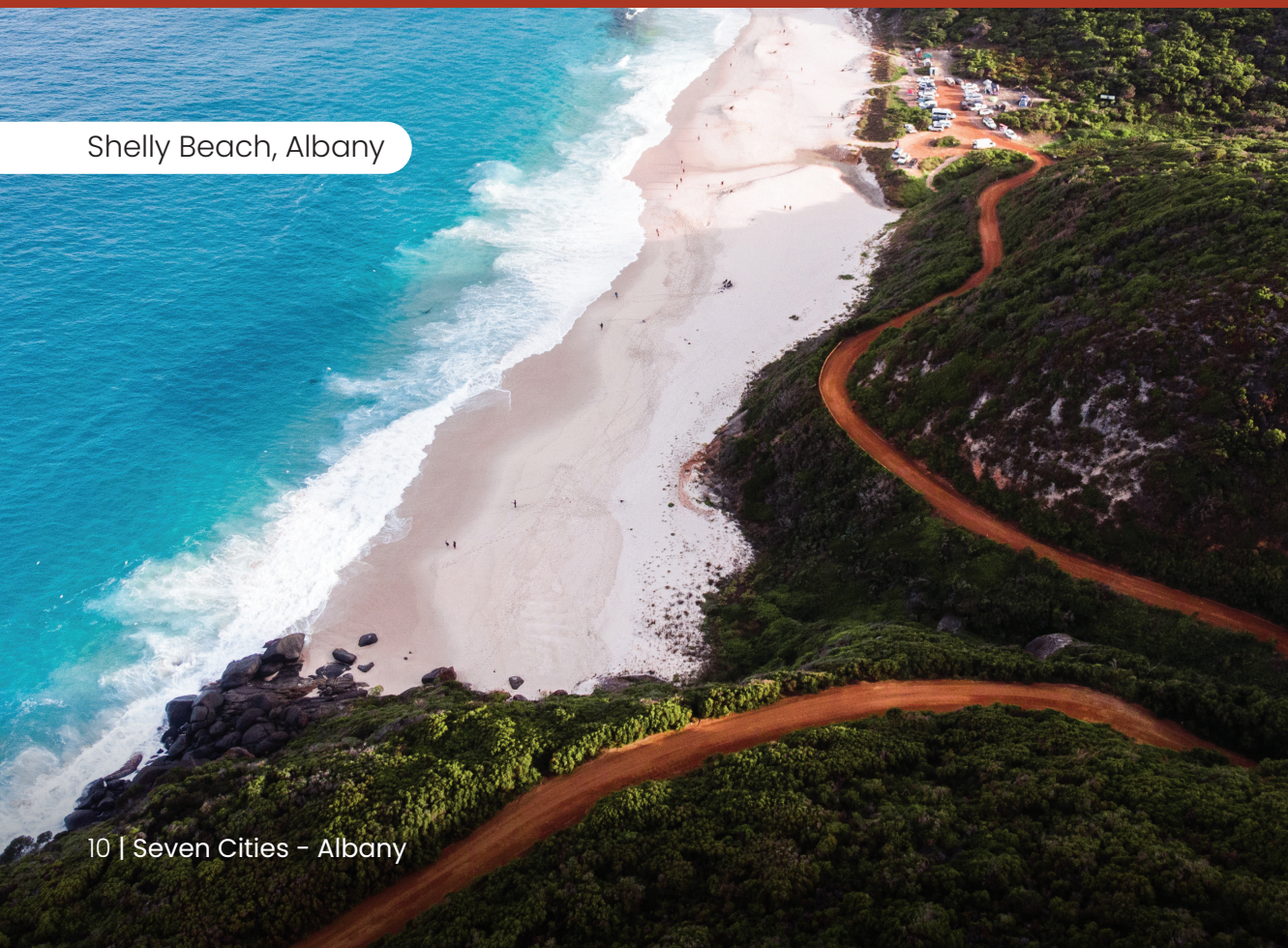
Economic and industry profile

Albany drives the Great Southern's economy. With a gross regional product of around \$3.579 billion and a workforce of more than 16,000, the city anchors economic activity for communities and industries across the region.

The economy is broad-based and resilient. Healthcare and social assistance, education and training, retail trade, construction

and manufacturing are the largest employers, reflecting Albany's role as a service hub for a geographically dispersed population. Agriculture, forestry and fishing underpin the wider regional economy, with Albany's port, transport links and processing facilities connecting primary producers in Katanning, Mount Barker, Kojonup, Jerramungup and beyond to domestic and international markets.

Shelly Beach, Albany





Wineries in Mount Barker

The Great Southern wine region, the largest by area in mainland Australia, spans subregions from Denmark and Albany through Frankland River, Mount Barker and Porongurup, producing around 25 per cent of Western Australia's wine output. Premium food production,

including wagyu beef, truffles, seafood and dairy, adds depth to the region's reputation for quality and provenance.

This is a diverse, working economy that supports daily life and creates opportunity well beyond the city boundary.

Key economic facts:

Gross Regional Product (City of Albany): **\$3.579 billion**

Gross Regional Product (Great Southern): **\$5.847 billion**

Jobs (Albany): **16,028**

Jobs (Great Southern): **26,889**

Population (Albany): **38,287**

Population (Great Southern region): **67,150**



Emerging opportunities

Looking ahead, Albany and the Great Southern are well positioned to support emerging industry opportunities that will create jobs and strengthen the region's economic base. These include:

Value-adding and manufacturing linked to agriculture, forestry, aquaculture and port access, including potential for wind turbine component manufacturing, other manufacturing and advanced fabrication through general industrial areas and at the Mirambeena Strategic Industrial Area near Albany Airport.

Renewable energy and transition industries, with the Great Southern situated in some of Western Australia's strongest wind zones. Wind energy projects across the region present significant supply chain opportunities for local businesses and workers.

Tourism growth, particularly eco-tourism, nature-based and cultural experiences across the region, from the Torndirrup and Stirling Range national parks to the Bibbulmun Track, Taste Great Southern and the growing film production sector.



Albany Waterfront Marina

Health and care services, with Albany Health Campus anchoring a growing network of specialist, allied health and aged care services for an ageing and geographically dispersed regional population. Demand for healthcare workers and care economy jobs will continue to grow across the Great Southern.

Tertiary education and training, building on Albany's TAFE campus and university presence to grow local pathways into skilled and qualified employment, particularly in construction, health, manufacturing and agriculture. A stronger tertiary

offer supports workforce retention, reskilling, and reduces the need for people to leave the region to gain qualifications.

State Government infrastructure investment is being targeted to ensure Albany and the Great Southern have the industrial land, transport connectivity, energy capacity, water security and environmental protection required to unlock these opportunities.



Creating jobs and opportunities



Industry development

What we're delivering

- **Passed the State Development Bill** to provide investment certainty and accelerate project and industrial precinct development.
- **Mirambeena Strategic Industrial Area** – Development of strategic industrial land near Albany Airport to enable manufacturing, logistics and value-adding industries, creating long-term employment opportunities across the region.
- **Port of Albany investment** – Undertaking a business case for upgrades to Berths 1 and 2, underpinning grain exports and the increase in cruise ships visiting Albany.
- **\$60 million** to construct a new flyover at Chester Pass Road and Menang Drive intersection to improve freight access to Albany Port.
- **\$8.3 million** to upgrade the heritage-listed Albany Pilot Station Cottages, creating community-centred infrastructure at the Port of Albany.





What we've delivered

- ✓ **\$5.75 million** towards the Southern Ocean Surf Reef at Middleton Beach.

Growing the Great Southern

Mirambeena's development benefits not just Albany but the surrounding region, providing a strategic location for businesses that process, manufacture and export products from across the Great Southern's agricultural and forestry sectors.

Residential land supply in Albany directly supports the regional workforce. Teachers, nurses, police and other frontline workers who serve communities from Denmark to Gnowangerup live in Albany and depend on an adequate supply of affordable housing.



Albany Ring Road

Transport

New investment

- **Fuel Support Payment** – \$198 million to offer a \$100 payment to all Western Australians with a valid driver's licence.
- **Regional Airfare Zone Cap** – Ongoing support for the Regional Airfare Zone Cap Scheme amid increasing fuel costs.
- **\$113.5 million** for road maintenance throughout Western Australia, including in the Great Southern.
- **\$33.1 million** contribution to the nationally coordinated Fuel Excise Relief Program and a further \$4.5 million through deferred up-lift in heavy vehicle charges, supporting industry in the Great Southern.

What we've delivered

- ✓ **Albany Ring Road** – \$240 million delivering a free-flowing heavy vehicle route connecting Albany Highway, Chester Pass Road, Princess Royal Drive and the Port, while improving access to the Mirambeenaa Strategic Industrial Area.
- ✓ **\$30 million** for the upgrade of South Western Highway between Albany and Jerramungup, by widening, sealing shoulders, and constructing passing lanes to improve road safety.

What we're delivering

- **Albany Airport upgrades** – \$11.5 million toward upgrades at Albany Airport to cater for larger aircraft, bringing the State's total contribution to \$14 million.
- **Regional Pensioner Travel Card** – A further \$100 increase, bringing the total card value to \$775 per year, supporting older residents across the Great Southern to stay connected.
- **Regional Road Safety Program** – Expand the Regional Road Safety Program to include local government roads, delivering road safety treatments including sealing of road shoulders and the installation of audible lines, making more regional roads safer.

Growing the Great Southern

Albany is the transport gateway for the Great Southern, supporting regional industries, communities and economic growth through strong road, air, rail and port connections.

Investment in major infrastructure, including the Albany Ring Road, airport upgrades and port planning, is strengthening freight efficiency, industry access and regional connectivity, linking producers and businesses across the Great Southern to national and international markets.

Alongside cost of living relief measures and affordable travel initiatives, these investments ensure Albany continues to support surrounding towns, industries and residents by providing reliable, efficient and affordable transport options that underpin long term regional growth.



Energy

New investment

Albany Gas Replacement – \$10.8 million to support the transition of the Albany Gas Distribution System after the current operator decommissions the infrastructure.

Energy Ahead – \$16 million to extend delivery of Energy Ahead to provide energy efficiency upgrades and education for up to 10,000 low income households.

\$973 million for Western Power to respond to demand growth, expand the network, and increase electricity capacity infrastructure for industrial and residential customers.

\$30 million to top up the Investment Attraction Fund for a second round of grants through the New Energies Industries Funding Stream.



What we're delivering

Western Power Albany Energy Hub

– Improved network capacity and reliability for households, businesses and industrial users in Albany and surrounds.

WA Residential Battery Scheme –

Providing up to \$5,000 towards the cost of a household battery, plus no-interest loans of up to \$10,000 for households earning less than \$210,000 per year. Available to Albany and Great Southern households.

Battery Manufacturing Program

– \$50 million to support local businesses to manufacture household batteries in Western Australia, creating advanced manufacturing jobs.

Growing the Great Southern

The Great Southern sits within some of Western Australia's strongest wind resource zones. Wind energy projects being developed in the inland Great Southern presenting significant opportunities for local supply chain participation, construction employment and long-term operations roles across the region.

Energy reliability and capacity in Albany directly support industries and services that the broader region depends on, from the Albany Health Campus to agricultural processing facilities.

Water

New investment

Regional Water Source Fund – \$52.9 million to establish a Regional Water Source Fund for water source planning and investigation in the regions.

Water infrastructure – \$75 million investment in water and wastewater infrastructure services to facilitate residential lot development.



What we're Delivering

Albany Desalination Plant – Planning for a small scale seawater desalination plant to meet future demand in Albany and the Great Southern.

Regional water and power price subsidy – \$3.9 billion over four years statewide to keep regional water and power prices in line with metropolitan prices, directly benefiting households and businesses across the Great Southern.



What we've delivered

- ✓ **\$17.2 million** for Ulster Road water infrastructure upgrades.
- ✓ **\$25 million** for the Albany to Denmark Pipeline.

Growing the Great Southern

Water security is a foundation for economic growth across the Great Southern. The region's agricultural sector, which produces grain, livestock, wine, premium foods and timber, depends on reliable water supply.

- The Coastal Great Southern Regional Drought Resilience Plan, developed with support from the GSDC, is building long-term preparedness for a drying climate across the City of Albany and Shires of Plantagenet, Denmark and Cranbrook.

- A complementary Inland Great Southern Regional Drought Resilience Plan supports the inland shires, ensuring farming communities in Katanning, Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Kent, Kojonup and surrounding areas are better prepared for future dry seasons.



Environment

New investment

- **Biosecurity preparedness** – \$24.7 million to continue biosecurity and animal disease preparedness work.
- **Fish stock recovery** – A further \$8.5 million towards a Fisheries Support Package, including funding for the enhanced science program and upgrades to the FishCatchWA app.
- **\$6.2 million** to support the **Healthy Estuaries WA program**.

What we're delivering

- **Torndirrup National Park** – For tourism infrastructure works including at the Gap and Cable Beach.
- **William Bay National Park** – Upgrades including pedestrian access to Elephant Rocks and Greens Pool, and realignment of the Munda Biddi trail.

What we've delivered

- ✓ **Healthy Oceans Fund** – \$10million, including to establish a seagrass restoration grant program across WA waters, supporting marine health along the south coast.
- ✓ **Aboriginal Ranger Program** – \$20 million expansion statewide, supporting Noongar land management practices and employment in the Great Southern.

Growing the Great Southern

The Great Southern's natural environment is its greatest asset and a major draw for residents, visitors and investment. Ancient mountain ranges, deep forests, 250 kilometres of pristine coastline and internationally recognised national parks are complemented by productive farmland and a clean, temperate climate.

- Environmental investment in the region supports both conservation and the growing eco-tourism economy, creating jobs in park management, guiding, hospitality and infrastructure while protecting the landscape that defines the Great Southern.

- The Bibbulmun Track, Munda Biddi Trail, Stirling Range National Park and the region's whale-watching season are significant visitor drawcards that benefit communities well beyond Albany.

Delivering services for the Great Southern





Housing

What we're delivering

- **Spencer Park mixed-use development** – Delivering 51 affordable, social and key worker homes, in partnership with Advance Housing as part of the Spencer Park Renewal Project.
- **McKail North structure planning** – Progressing planning for up to 2,500 affordable homes, unlocking future housing supply at scale.
- **Bayonet Head housing** – Partnering with the Federal Government and Advance Housing to deliver 36 new social and affordable rental homes.
- **McKail social housing (My Home project)** – 12 new social homes jointly funded by the State and Federal Governments.
- **\$297 million tax package** – to support first home buyers and boost housing supply, including First Home Owner duty concessions, increased First Home Owner Grant cap, and an extension of the Off-the-Plan Transfer Duty Concession.

What we've delivered

- ✓ **New residential lots** at Oyster Harbour and Clydesdale Park.
- ✓ **Additional stamp duty relief** for first home buyers in regional WA by raising stamp duty thresholds for both established homes and vacant land.

New investment

Seven Cities GROH Build –

The delivery of 26 new homes for frontline workers as a part of a statewide build of more than 500 Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH) homes, delivered in partnership with Rio Tinto, BHP and Hancock Prospecting. Delivered alongside a revamped Home Ownership Subsidy Scheme (HOSS), which will include shared equity to encourage government workers to purchase homes in the communities they work in.

Regional Housing Support Fund –

\$50 million top-up to the Regional Housing Support Fund, increasing the fund's value to \$75 million.

Social and affordable houses –

\$1 billion for the construction of social and affordable housing dwellings.

\$593 million for 500 shared equity dwellings, 165 social housing dwellings, refurbishment of properties and land acquisition.

Growing the Great Southern

Albany's ability to serve its growing population in the city and Great Southern region must be supported by meaningful investment into local housing supply.

Housing First Support Services have been expanded to Albany, providing outreach to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, with benefits extending across the region.



Health

New investment

Albany Health Campus Expansion – \$60 million to be invested in expanding the Albany Health Campus.

\$214.1 million for an uplift to WA Health's statewide maintenance programs.

\$143 million for additional investment in medical equipment and imaging replacement program throughout WA.

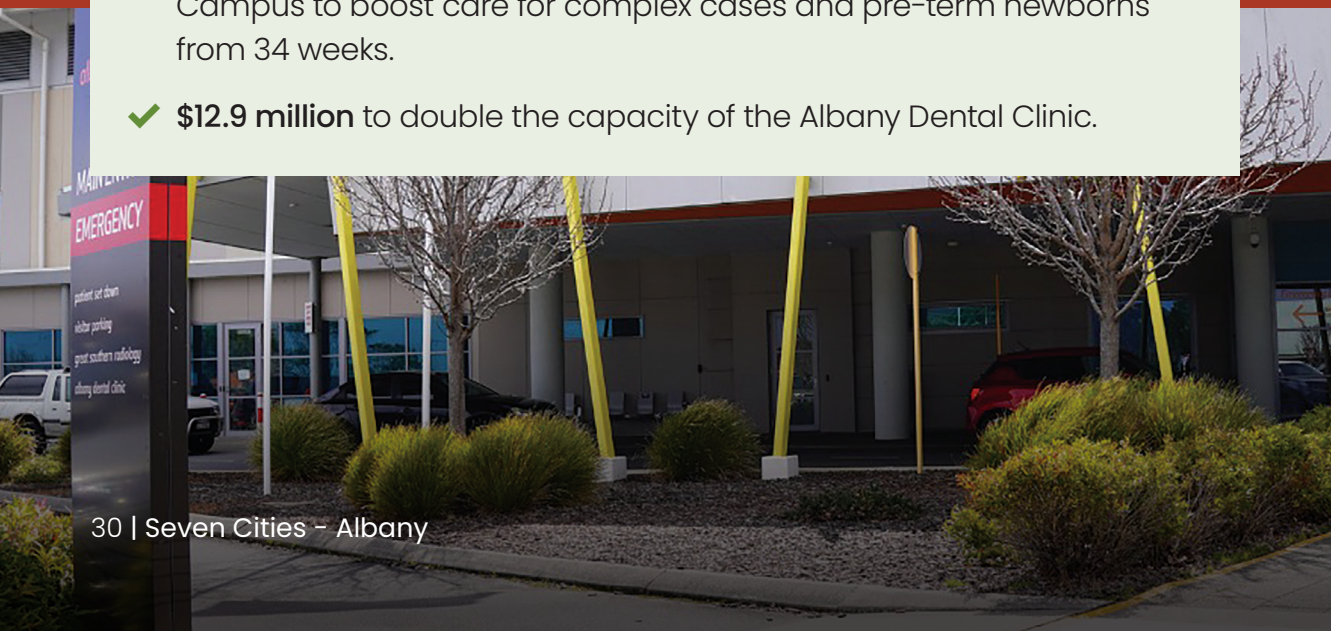
WA Country Health Service – \$68.6 million for additional funding to the WA Country Health Service for continued programs.

\$27.1 million to continue the free flu vaccine program and the RSV immunisation program.

\$4.1 million to expand and enhance the Enhanced Access Community Pharmacy Pilot Project.

What we've delivered

- ✓ **\$13 million** for the Albany Oncology Centre at Albany Health Campus.
- ✓ **\$2.1 million** to provide an extra 100 car parking bays at Albany Health Campus.
- ✓ **\$4.1 million** for a new Level 2 Special Care Nursery at Albany Health Campus to boost care for complex cases and pre-term newborns from 34 weeks.
- ✓ **\$12.9 million** to double the capacity of the Albany Dental Clinic.



What we're delivering

- **Dental clinic expansion**
 - Improving access to public dental services for Albany and surrounding communities.
- **Adult residential rehabilitation centre**
 - Delivering an adult residential rehabilitation and withdrawal centre in the Great Southern.
- **GP ASK** – Connecting regional GPs to specialist advice via telehealth, reducing unnecessary patient travel.
- **Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS)** – Increased the fuel subsidy from 26 cents to 40 cents per kilometre, directly benefiting Great Southern patients who travel for specialist care.

Growing the Great Southern

Albany Health Campus is the primary hospital for the entire Great Southern. Patients from Katanning, Denmark, Mount Barker, Gnowangerup, Jerramungup and Kojonup depend on Albany for emergency, surgical, maternity and specialist services.

Every improvement to Albany Health Campus is an improvement to healthcare access for the region as a whole. The oncology centre alone reduces travel and disruption for cancer patients from across the Great Southern who would otherwise need to travel to Perth for treatment.

Education and training

New investment

- **Third round of Student Assistance Payments** – \$90 million will be invested to deliver a third round of the Western Australian Student Assistance Payment, which is delivering \$150 for each primary and kindergarten student and \$250 for each secondary school student.
- **\$145.6 million** to meet training enrolment demand, and to continue discounted fee settings, including lower fee and Fee-Free training courses to the end of 2027 including at the Albany campus.

What we've delivered

- ✓ **\$22 million** for a new trades workshop at South Regional TAFE's Albany campus.
- ✓ **\$16.6 million** to the Mount Lockyer Primary School redevelopment that includes new classrooms and refurbishment of a cluster of classrooms.
- ✓ **\$1.5 million** for a new STEM classroom at North Albany Senior High School.
- ✓ **\$8.8 million** for upgrades to the administration block, new English and Maths block and a repurposed STEM classroom at Albany Senior High School, plus a further \$9 million to Albany Senior High School's new performing arts centre.
- ✓ **\$1.5 million** for a new STEM laboratory at Mount Barker Community College.

What we're delivering

- **North Albany Senior High School expansion –**
Delivering new learning facilities, including a General Area Learning block, supporting local families and education outcomes.

- **Spencer Park Education Support Centre –**
Redeveloping to support students with additional needs in Albany and the Great Southern.

Growing the Great Southern

Albany's schools and TAFE campus serve students from across the region. Families in smaller towns rely on Albany's secondary schools, specialist education services and vocational training pathways.

- Education is a key factor in population retention. When families can access quality schooling locally, they are more likely to stay in the region, maintaining the population and workforce that sustain smaller communities.

- Fee-Free TAFE construction courses directly support the housing pipeline, training the local workforce needed to build the homes the region needs.



Safe and inclusive communities

New investment

\$421 million for child protection services plus \$46.3 million to boost support for foster and grandcarers.

\$288.1 million as part of Thriving Kids for children aged 8 and under with developmental delays or autism.

\$61.4 million to continue the Target 120 early intervention program for young people coming into repeated contact with WA Police, including in Albany.

\$60.7 million to provide ongoing funding for road safety community awareness campaigns and school education programs.

\$31.2 million towards fire and emergency services fleet replacement.

What we're delivering

- **Albany family and domestic violence refuge** – Building a 12-unit purpose-built refuge, providing safe, secure and culturally appropriate accommodation for women and children.
- **Safe at Home program** – Expanded to Albany to support victim-survivors of family and domestic violence to stay safely in their homes.
- **Regional police recruits** – Providing free accommodation at the WA Police Academy for regional recruits, with the option to be placed in their home district.

What we've delivered

- ✓ **\$3 million** to build the new Albany SES Unit facility.
- ✓ **\$30 million** in boosted regional bushfire management with extra firefighters, trucks and equipment, as well as a dedicated firefighting bulldozer based in Albany.
- ✓ **\$15.8 million** for a new WA Police jet and to upgrade existing air assets to provide critical support in regional communities.

Growing the Great Southern

Safe, inclusive communities are the foundation of regional liveability. Investment in family safety, sport, arts and emergency services strengthens every community across the Great Southern.

- Regional Economic Development (RED) Grants continue to invest in locally driven projects. Round 8 RED Grants are supporting six Great Southern projects, from advanced switchboard manufacturing in Albany to agribusiness and cultural tourism initiatives in Mount Barker, Frankland River, Nowanup and Denmark.

- The WA Government's Aboriginal Ranger Program and broader commitment to Aboriginal empowerment support economic participation, cultural connection and community wellbeing for Aboriginal people across the region.



