



May 2026

Port Hedland

Creating jobs and opportunities
Delivering services for the Pilbara





Seven Cities Port Hedland

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

Roger Cook MLA
Premier of Western Australia



A strong regional hub for the Pilbara

Port Hedland is our major industrial gateway and serves as the primary regional hub for WA's northwest coast.

Located in the east of the Pilbara region on Kariyarra Country, it is home to the largest bulk export port in the world.

Its striking coastal landscape, strong community spirit, and deep connection to the resources industry make Port Hedland a great place to raise a family and get a quality job.

Together, Port Hedland and South Hedland form a dual-centre regional hub which supports the economic opportunities and social wellbeing of surrounding communities.

These include Newman and Tom Price to the south, along with Marble Bar to the southeast, and several small Aboriginal communities.

As one of WA's Seven Cities, Port Hedland's future will be built on its existing strength as the engine room of the national economy and a new wave of emerging opportunities.

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

For Port Hedland specifically, these opportunities include being a strategic global logistics gateway

Anchored by the world's largest bulk export port, The Pilbara is the undisputed engine room of the Australian economy.



and critical economic hub for Western Australia.

To grow these industries and retain the local workforce they depend on, we're providing additional support with a renewed investment in port activation, housing, and community facilities.

As part of the Cook Government's Seven Cities vision, Port Hedland 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 in the nation.

Stephen Dawson MLC
Minister for Regional
Development

**Amber-Jade
Sanderson MLA**
Minister for Pilbara

Kevin Michel MLA
Member for Pilbara



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 Port Hedland include:

- **Seven Cities GROH Build**
 - The delivery of 195 new homes for frontline workers in Port Hedland 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.
- **\$27 million** for planning and design activities required to activate the Boodarie Strategic Industrial Area near Port Hedland.
- **Fuel Support Payment** – \$198 million to offer a \$100 payment to all Western Australians with a valid driver's licence.
- **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.

Economic and industry profile

Port Hedland is an economic powerhouse of the Pilbara and State, anchored by the world's largest bulk export port and its role in Australia's iron ore supply chain. Port Hedland's Gross Regional Product of \$11.849 billion is facilitated by its significant workforce, with a Gross Regional Product of more than \$1 million per worker.

Core industries include bulk export logistics, mining support services, transport, construction and utilities, complemented by strong service

sectors such as health, education, retail, accommodation and public administration. These industries support daily life in the town while servicing inland operations across the Pilbara. This combination creates a focused yet resilient economy.

With continued investment in infrastructure, diversification and community development, Port Hedland remains a place of confidence for industry, jobs and future regional growth.

Salt mine, Port Hedland





Key economic facts:

Gross Regional Product (Port Hedland): **\$11.849 billion**

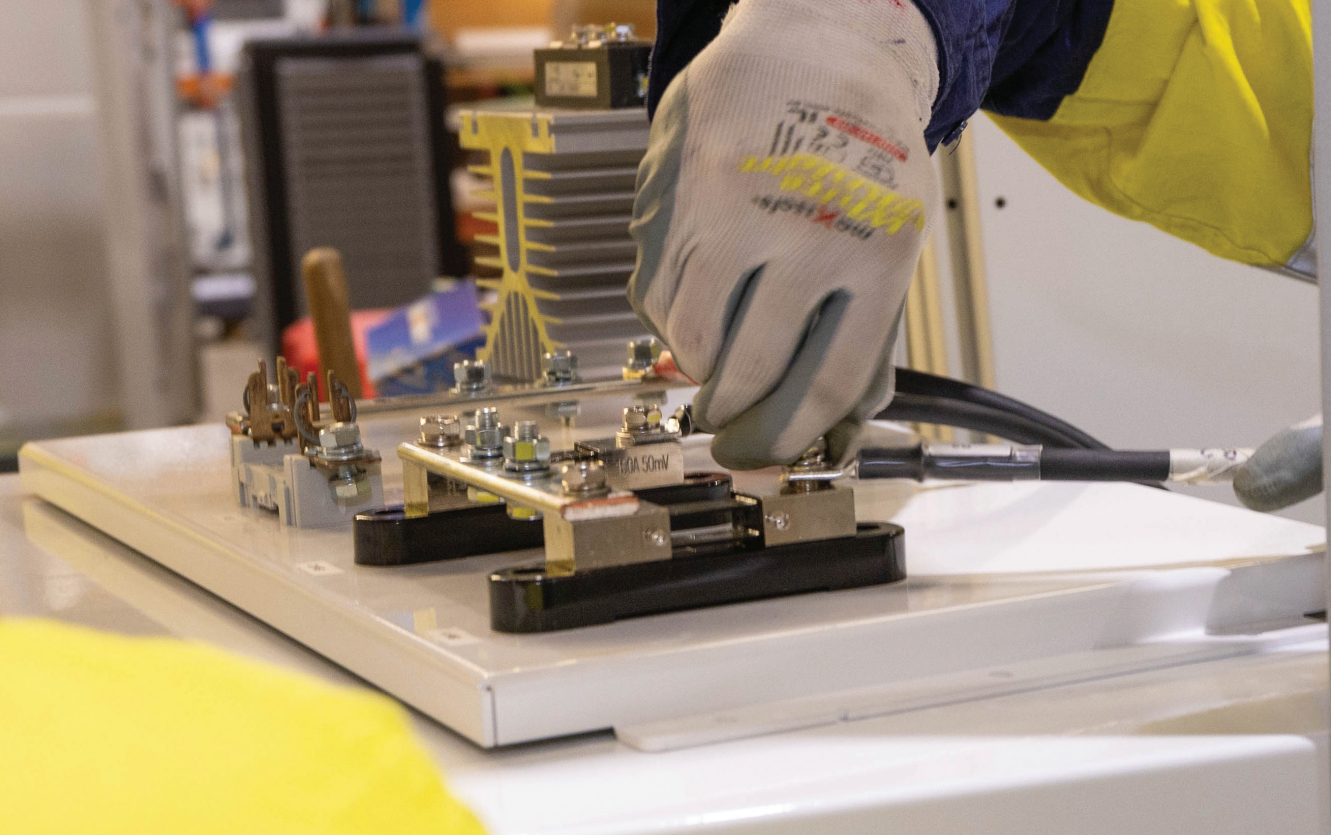
Gross Regional Product (Pilbara): **\$90.601 billion**

Jobs (Port Hedland): **10,340**

Jobs (Pilbara): **59,782**

Population (Port Hedland): **17,300**

Population (Pilbara): **62,170**



Emerging opportunities

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

Value-added resource processing, leveraging the Region's globally significant mineral resources, industrial land and proximity to export markets, investment in green iron pathways, and value add processing of other commodities.

Renewable energy and decarbonisation, with strong potential for large-scale solar, wind, energy storage and low-emissions freight and shipping.

Leveraging existing industrial infrastructure, the region can play a key role in supporting the energy transition.

Logistics, marine and supply chain services, reinforcing Port Hedland's role as a major national and international trade gateway, supporting mining operations, construction, imports, exports and workforce movements across the Pilbara.



Advanced manufacturing, including fabrication and other manufacturing required by the region's mining industry and emerging renewable energy and resource processing sectors.

Critical minerals export and supply chain development, enabled by infrastructure such as Lumsden Point, creating new pathways for the export of minerals including lithium, manganese, copper and gold as global demand accelerates.

Targeted State Government investment in port infrastructure, industrial land, housing, energy and transport connectivity continues to strengthen Port Hedland's capacity to unlock diversification, resilience and long-term economic opportunity for the Pilbara.





Creating jobs and opportunities

Industry development

New investment

\$27 million for planning and design activities required to activate the Boodarie Strategic Industrial Area near Port Hedland.

Growing the Pilbara

Industrial land development in Port Hedland underpins employment and investment across the East Pilbara, supporting mining, construction, logistics and emerging industries that operate well beyond the townsite.

Residential land supply in Port Hedland supports a regional workforce servicing inland communities and operations across the Pilbara, including essential workers in health, education, policing and industry.

Lumsden Point, Port Hedland



What we're delivering

- **Lumsden Point Industrial Precinct** – State and Federal Government investing in developing Lumsden Point. The strategic development of industrial land will support downstream processing, logistics, bulk handling and emerging critical minerals supply chains.
- **Boodarie Strategic Industrial Area** – Planning and enabling works to unlock largescale industrial land suitable for manufacturing, processing, energy and transition industries, creating capacity for New investment and long-term employment.
- **West End Precinct Redevelopment** – The Port Hedland Voluntary Buyback Scheme allows the State Government to acquire residential properties in the West End or Port Hedland, helping to minimise land use conflicts between residents and port operations.
- **\$1 million** for the boat ramp project at Cape Keraudren.
- **Upgrades of the Nelson Point Tug Haven.**

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 and upgrades throughout WA, including in the Pilbara.
- **\$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 Pilbara.



What we've delivered

- ✓ **\$113 million** to remove three level crossings in Port Hedland.

What we're delivering

- **Utah Ring Road resurfacing**
 - \$37 million to resurface the Utah Ring Road, a critical freight route supporting the movement of more than 20 million tonnes of iron ore exports each year, improving safety, reliability and efficiency.
- **Road network and freight efficiency** – Ongoing upgrades to key freight and access routes supporting industrial precincts, port operations and townsites, through the \$250 million Regional Road Safety Program, improving safety and reliability for heavy vehicles and local commuters.
- **Regional Pensioner Travel Card** – A further \$100 increase, bringing the total card value to \$775 per year, supporting older residents across the Pilbara to stay connected.
- **Regional Airfare Zone Cap** – Capped airfares for regional residents travelling to Perth, including Port Hedland to Perth.
- **Improving Great Northern Highway** – adding additional overtaking lanes between Port Hedland and Newman.

Growing the Pilbara

Port of Port Hedland infrastructure underpins economic activity across the East Pilbara, connecting inland mining operations and communities to global markets and supporting jobs, investment and regional services.

Road and freight upgrades support industries operating across vast distances, improving supply chain resilience for mining, construction, fuel, food and essential goods servicing remote communities.

Energy

New investment

- **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.
- **\$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

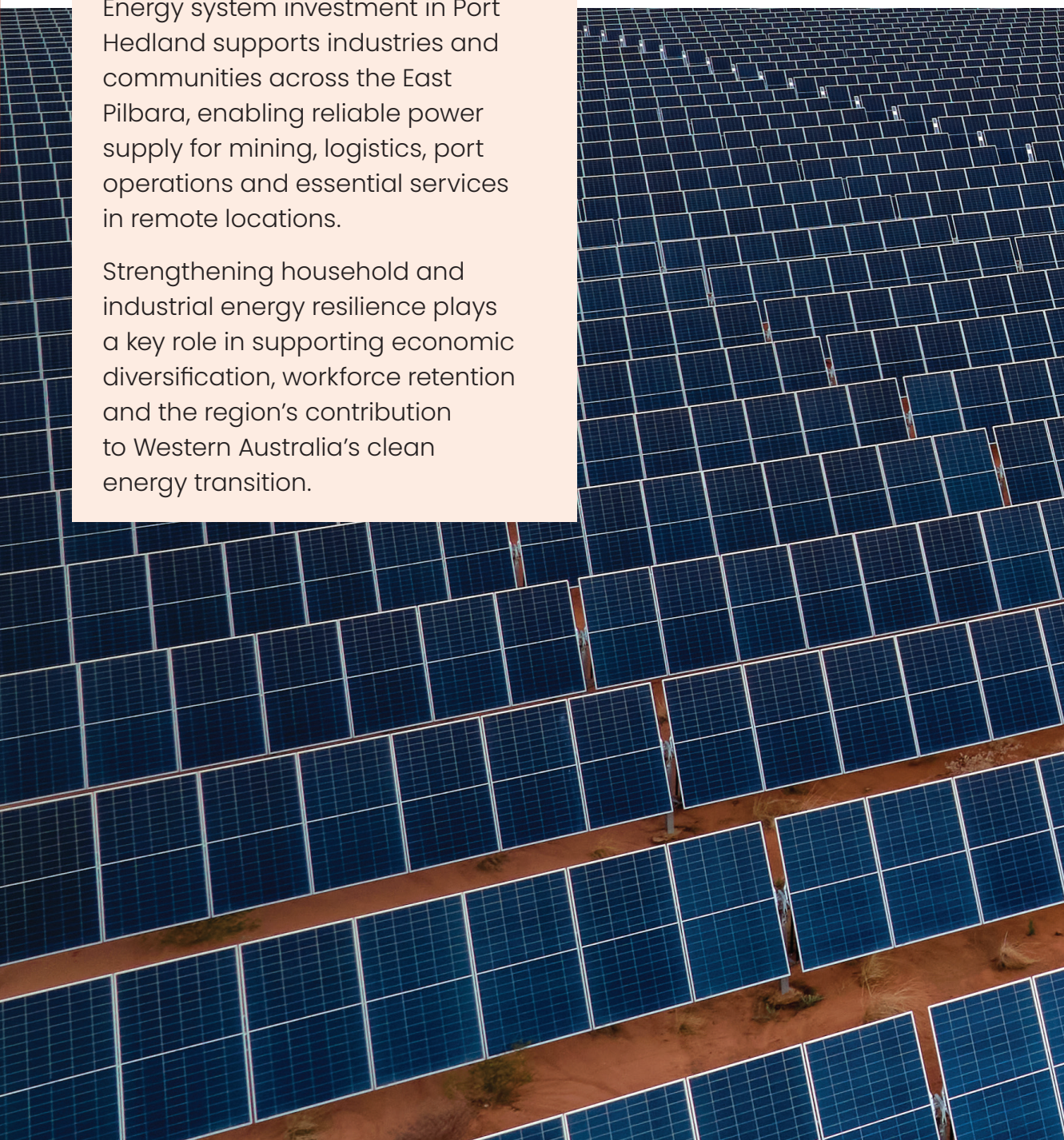
WA Residential Battery Scheme – Providing households up to \$5,000 towards the cost of a household battery, plus no interest loans of up to \$10,000 for eligible households, supporting energy resilience and participation in renewable energy.

Pilbara Energy Transition – Working with the Commonwealth Government to unlock \$3 billion in concessional loans to support the Pilbara Energy Transition.

Growing the Pilbara

Energy system investment in Port Hedland supports industries and communities across the East Pilbara, enabling reliable power supply for mining, logistics, port operations and essential services in remote locations.

Strengthening household and industrial energy resilience plays a key role in supporting economic diversification, workforce retention and the region's contribution to Western Australia's clean energy transition.



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.

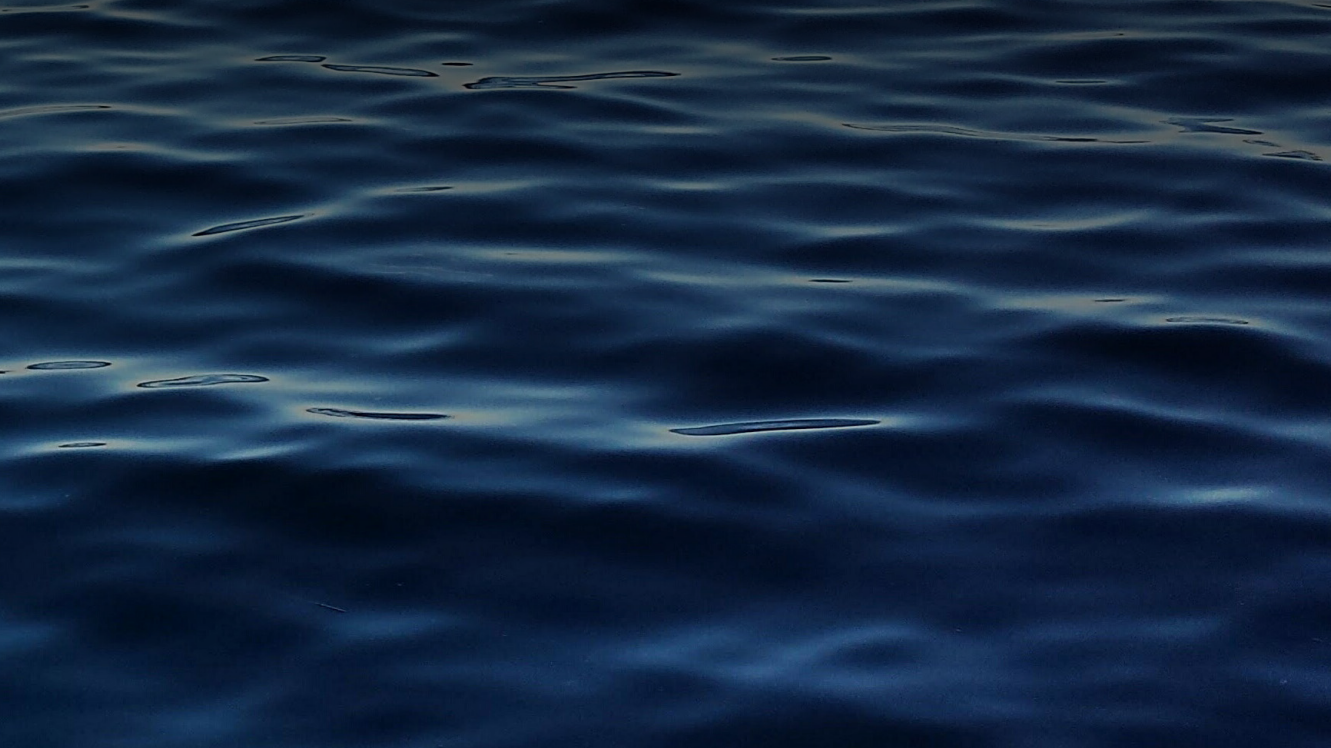
\$23.8 million to investigate water supply options for the Boodarie Strategic Industrial Area.

What we're delivering

Pilbara water planning acceleration
– \$4.2 million to accelerate water planning across the region, including in the Town of Port Hedland, supporting economic development and enhancing future water supply for towns, industry and critical infrastructure.

Regional water and power price subsidy – Part of a \$3.9 billion statewide investment over four years to keep regional water and power prices in line with metropolitan prices, directly benefiting households and businesses in Port Hedland.

Investigations and planning are being undertaken to determine the best new water source option to meet Port Hedland's future demand.



Growing the Pilbara

- Water security is essential to the East Pilbara's economic strength, supporting port operations, mining, logistics, construction and essential services across a vast and remote region.
- Strategic water planning ensures Port Hedland can continue to service inland communities and industries while providing the certainty required to support long-term investment, population stability and regional resilience.

Environment

New investment

- **\$24.7 million** to continue biosecurity and animal disease preparedness work.
- **\$8.5 million** towards a Fisheries Support Package, including funding for the enhanced science program and upgrades to the FishCatchWA app.
- **\$16 million** for the Minerals Research Institute of WA clean energy and emissions research program.

What we're delivering

Pilbara environmental regulation and water licensing assessments

– Strengthening environmental regulation and water licensing assessments across the Pilbara, supporting sustainable development and environmental protection as the region grows.

Aboriginal Ranger Program expansion

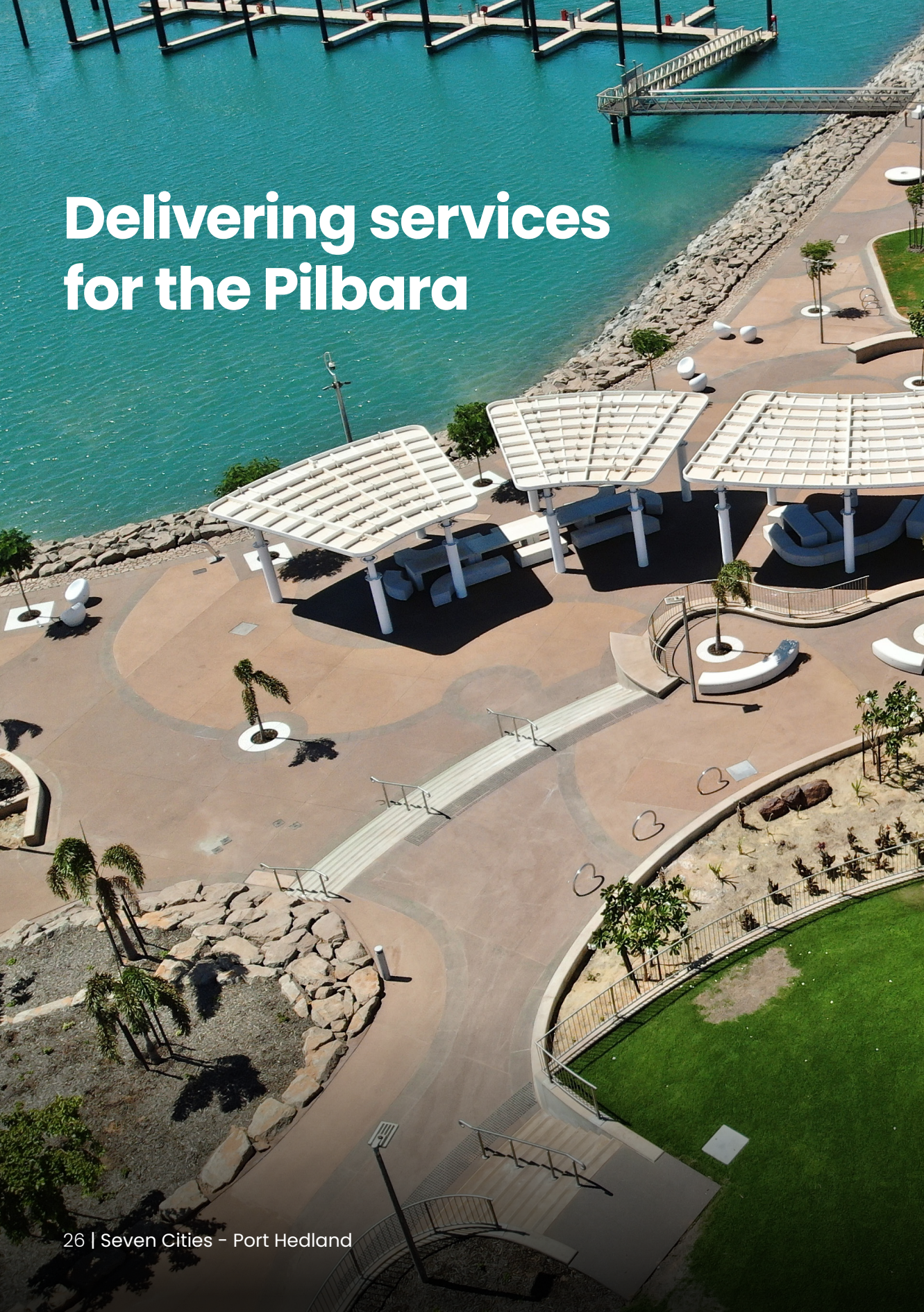
– Supporting Aboriginal employment, land management and cultural connection across the State, including in the Pilbara.

Growing the Pilbara

- The Pilbara's environment underpins its economic, cultural and social wellbeing, supporting coastal systems, inland landscapes and ecosystems that sustain communities, industry and heritage.

- Strengthened environmental regulation ensures growth in and around Port Hedland occurs responsibly, protecting land, water and coastal environments while providing certainty for investment, infrastructure and long-term regional resilience.





Delivering services for the Pilbara



Housing

New investment

Seven Cities GROH Build – The delivery of 195 new homes for frontline workers in Port Hedland 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.

\$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're delivering

- **The Pilbara Housing Supply Office** – \$1.3 million to work with community and industry to further address barriers to housing supply in the region.
- **Regional Housing Support Fund** – \$25 million over four years statewide, providing grants of up to \$5 million to support new housing and land supply across regional WA, including subdivision and key worker accommodation projects in the Port Hedland region.
- **Aboriginal Home Ownership Program** – \$30.6 million to deliver 28 homes as affordable rentals, supporting pathways to home ownership.
- **Home ownership support**
 - KeyStart reforms increasing regional loan value thresholds, alongside increased first homebuyer stamp duty thresholds to \$500,000, with discounted rates applied up to \$750,000 in regional WA.

Growing the Pilbara

The State Government is committed to strengthening housing availability in Port Hedland to seize the strategic opportunities that can be unlocked in the region.

Health

New investment

- **\$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 to maintain regional palliative care, renal care, cancer and eye services, and continued support programs.
- **\$43.8 million** investment in community mental health and alcohol and other drugs services.
- **\$50 million** to continue the State's investment in the Child Development Services System Reform Program.

Growing the Pilbara

Port Hedland supports healthcare access for communities across the Pilbara, where distance and remoteness make travel for specialist care unavoidable for many patients.

Strengthening telehealth, specialist support and patient travel assistance ensures better access to care, improved health outcomes and greater participation in work and community life across the region.

What we're delivering

- **Mental Health Step-up Step-down Facility** – a \$17.7 million commitment to establishing a facility in Port Hedland to support mental health services in the region.
- **MRI capability at Hedland Health Campus** – a \$15 million project to enable first of its kind services for the Pilbara region.
- **Virtual Infant, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (ICAMHS) Hub** – a \$12.2 million investment to deliver specialist mental health care for children and young people via telehealth, improving access to timely support for families across the Pilbara.
- **GP ASK** – Connecting Western Australian GPs with dedicated and experienced specialists, allowing patients to receive specialist input without needing to travel to hospital.
- **Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS)** – Increased the fuel subsidy from 25 cents to 40 cents per kilometre, reducing the cost of travel for regional patients accessing specialist care.
- **Wirraka Maya health clinic** – Co-funding the expansion of the facility.

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 campus in South Hedland.
- **\$219 million** uplift for school maintenance throughout Western Australia.
- **\$102.7 million** for minor works at schools across the State.

Growing the Pilbara

Education and training infrastructure in Port Hedland supports students from across the East Pilbara, including inland and remote communities that rely on the town for secondary education and vocational pathways.

Investment in STEM facilities, school upgrades and TAFE capability strengthens local skills pipelines aligned with regional industries.

What we're delivering

- **Hedland Senior High School STEM facilities** – \$2 million to deliver new STEM learning facilities, supporting future focused education and career pathways.
- **North Regional TAFE – Pundulmurra Campus** – \$44 million for a major upgrade, including new trades and hospitality training facilities, adding to recent investments in nursing, fabrication, engineering and heavy diesel and fitting and machining facilities.
- **TAFE Modern Equipment Program** – \$11.6 million statewide, supporting upgraded equipment at regional TAFE campuses.
- **Country Week Assistance Program** – Supporting equitable access to statewide student activities.
- **\$900,000** to upgrade shade and play equipment at South Hedland Primary School.

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.
- **\$60.7 million** for road safety awareness and education programs.

Growing the Pilbara

Investment in safety, community services and emergency response in Port Hedland supports surrounding towns and remote communities across the East Pilbara.

Already delivered

- ✓ **\$187 million** Spoilbank Marina development.

What we're delivering

- **Community infrastructure**
– \$22.5 million towards a new aquatic facility in South Hedland, delivering inclusive recreation, community connection and health benefit.
- **Pilbara Safe Spaces Program**
– Critical service offering a temporary safe space and transport home for children and young people at risk and on the streets at night.
- **Family and domestic violence support** – Part of a \$26.4 million investment in 2024–25, including boosted Family and Domestic Violence Response Teams in Port Hedland.
- **Aboriginal Community Connectors Program** – \$3.1 million to continue place based support for street present community members, including in Port Hedland and Roebourne.
- **Regional Pensioner Travel Card** – \$25.7 million in 2025–26 to deliver a further \$100 increase, bringing the total card value to \$775 per year.
- **Financial counselling services** – \$3 million statewide to support access to financial counselling services in Port Hedland and across the Pilbara.
- **Community safety infrastructure** – \$2.3 million statewide for additional CCTV to help combat anti social behaviour.
- **Regional police recruits** – \$15.6 million to redevelop accommodation at the WA Police Academy, supporting regional recruitment and retention.
- **Emergency management capability** – \$3.5 million statewide for Community Emergency Services Managers and \$5.3 million for a new State Bushfire Mitigation Branch.
- **\$100,000** for new medical facilities at the Hedland Kart Club.



