WA Workforce Strategy 2026-2030

WA is growing rapidly. The State's strong economy, low unemployment and enviable lifestyle have seen more people choose to call Western Australia home.

The State Government's Made in WA agenda is creating new opportunities for economic growth, diversification and local jobs.

Major investments in clean energy, defence, housing, infrastructure and advanced manufacturing are creating unprecedented demand for skilled trades and technical workers. At the same time, the tourism and hospitality industry relies on a skilled workforce to deliver world-class visitor experiences and support vibrant and connected communities, while the care sector continues to grow to meet the needs of Western Australia's expanding and ageing population.

Across regional WA, emerging industries such as clean energy and advancing manufacturing are growing alongside established sectors including mining, agriculture, tourism and hospitality, all competing to attract and retain skilled workers.

To realise these opportunities and maintain Western Australia's strong economy, the State needs a sustainable, skilled and productive workforce.

Informed by industry and focused on our future economic prosperity, the WA Workforce Strategy is the State Government's blueprint to develop, attract and retain the workforce needed to power Western Australia's future.

What we heard from industry

Through consultation with industry leaders, the State Government identified nine common workforce challenges, which exist across various sectors of the economy.

1. Workforce supply
Demand for workers is outpacing supply.

2. Competition for skills
Industries are competing for the same talent.

3. Attraction and retention
Securing and retaining workers remains challenging.

4. Training system capacity
Capacity must keep pace with workforce demand.

5. Workforce pipelines
Future demand for priority industries needs investment today.

6. Upskilling and reskilling
Workforce skills needs are evolving.

7. Participation barriers
Workforce participation can be strengthened.

8. Regional workforce challenges
Regional needs require local solutions.

9. Specialist occupations
Access to specialised skills remains critical.

The WA Workforce Strategy responds to nine key workforce challenges through five key strategies.

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Key strategies

01 Explore opportunities to leverage government infrastructure projects to scale apprenticeships

02 Explore opportunities to leverage Government Trading Enterprises to scale apprenticeships

03 Target government incentives to scale apprenticeships

04 Establish a Clean Energy Skills Hub

05 Explore options to grow defence industry skills and training opportunities through partnerships with the Commonwealth Government and industry

Grow apprenticeships

Grow training capacity

The five key strategies are supported by five whole of economy focus areas and eight strategic responses.

Whole of economy focus areas

- TAFE and training
- Career promotion and pathways
- Senior secondary pathways
- Increasing workforce participation
- Skilled migration

Strategic responses

- Clean energy
- Building and construction
- Defence
- Advanced manufacturing
- Care
- Tourism and hospitality
- Closing the Gap
- Regions