

WA State Budget 2026-27 — what it means for you

The Cook Labor Government has handed down its 2026–27 State Budget, themed “**Delivering for WA.**” Against a backdrop of global uncertainty driven by Middle East conflict and rising fuel prices, the budget prioritises over \$1 billion in cost-of-living relief, a record investment in housing, the biggest health funding boost in WA history, and continued job creation across the state. Here’s what you need to know.

\$3.5B Operating surplus <small>2025–26</small>	\$44.3B Infrastructure pipeline	380K+ Jobs created <small>since 2017</small>
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Where the money is going

The chart below shows the headline investment across the budget’s key priority areas.

Key budget investments (AUD billions)

Health & Hospitals	\$9.1B
Housing	\$4.7B
Energy & Water	\$2.6B
Cost of Living Relief	\$1B+
Regional Investment	\$692M

1. Cost of living

Over \$1 billion in household relief

This is the budget’s most visible headline. The government is deploying a wide package of direct payments and fee reductions to ease pressure on WA families facing higher fuel costs and elevated inflation.

\$100 Fuel payment <small>All WA licence holders</small>	\$150-\$250 Student assistance <small>Per student, more for some</small>	Free Public transport <small>Sundays and school students</small>	\$208M Stamp-duty relief <small>First-home buyers, permanent</small>
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Fuel excise cut — 32¢/litre for 3 months

A nationally coordinated fuel-excise cut (\$33.1M WA contribution) provides a short-term boost at the bowser for all households.

Household fees & charges down 3.3%

In line with the government’s commitment to keep household costs affordable, fees and charges fall in 2026–27.

What a typical household could receive

Household type	Est. total support	Key benefits
Family with 2 school-age kids	\$2,100+	Student payments, fuel support, transport savings, Go Anywhere fare
Family with concession cards	\$3,600+	All of the above + energy rebates, KidSport vouchers
Foster parent (2 kids in care)	\$5,400+	Gold Card energy relief, foster subsidies, transport savings
Regional pensioner (Kimberley)	\$6,000+	Airfare cap, energy payments, rates rebates, travel scheme
Young TAFE nursing student	\$3,500+	Fee-Free TAFE, fuel support, public-transport savings

2. Housing

Record \$4.7 billion investment

Total housing investment since 2021 now exceeds \$10.8 billion. With building approvals growing and a record construction workforce, supply indicators are trending in the right direction.

\$686M — DevelopmentWA lots	Thousands of new residential lots across the state, plus METRONET station-precinct activation.
\$522M — power & water	Opening up lots in North Ellenbrook, East Wanneroo, Ballajura, Yanchep and Byford.
\$208M — stamp-duty relief	A third round of relief for first-home buyers — thresholds raised for established properties and vacant land (around 6,000 buyers/year).
\$375M — 500 affordable homes	Exclusively for first-home buyers, including Keystart shared-equity access. The Keystart property limit rises to \$860,000.
\$250M — pre-sale guarantee	The Keystart Pre-sale Guarantee helps developers meet thresholds for apartment projects with ≥30% affordable dwellings.
\$48M — advanced manufacturing	Two housing-manufacturing facilities in Kwinana and Neerabup, targeting thousands of apartments per year by 2030.
\$419M — Seven Cities vision	The first initiative under the Seven Cities vision: 500+ new Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH) dwellings over 5 years for teachers, police and key regional workers.

3. Health

Record \$9.1 billion boost

The biggest single health-funding increase in WA's budget history. In 2026–27 alone, total hospital-services spending reaches \$12.1 billion.

- **\$6.5B** — record increase in frontline hospital-services expenditure
- **\$1.5B** — building, buying and upgrading hospitals over the next 4 years
- **900 additional beds** in the pipeline — including 120 online this winter at Joondalup and St John of God Midland
- **\$500M** — Building Hospitals Fund (new Women & Babies, Royal Perth, Mandurah, Perkins Cancer Centre)
- **\$225M** — to acquire Mount Lawley Hospital (118 beds into the public system from September 2026)
- **\$294M** — additional investment in regional hospitals (Bunbury, Albany, Tom Price, Geraldton, Laverton and more)
- **\$414M** — mental health and alcohol & other-drugs services; **\$27.1M** — free flu, FluMist and RSV vaccines
- Since 2017: **6,500+ nurses** and **2,700+ doctors** added to the WA system

4. Economy & jobs

Strongest in the nation

Despite global headwinds, WA's State Final Demand has been revised up to 3.5% in 2025–26, building on 27% growth over the last five years. WA accounts for over 45% of national exports.

3.5% State Final Demand	7.1% Net debt (% GSP)	45%+ National export share	AAA Triple-A credit rating both major agencies
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- **\$1.4B** — Clean Energy Fund boost for renewable-energy link projects; **\$973M** — expanding Western Power's network
- **\$647M** — Westport (incl. Stage 1 Anketell Road upgrades); **\$150M** — Vanadium battery storage near Kalgoorlie
- **\$124M** — continuing Fee-Free TAFE into 2027; **\$85M** — green iron and steel industry development; **\$24.6M** — 2028 Kimberley Total Solar Eclipse

5. Education, environment & community

Schools, water and safety

Investing in WA schools

- **\$233M** school-infrastructure commitments; **\$310M** disability-funding uplift; **\$219M** maintenance boost
- **\$96.2M** to expand Harrisdale SHS, Piara Waters PS, Riva PS & Inglewood PS; **\$68.4M** new Alkimos North Senior High School; **\$4.6M** WA ClassMAlte® AI pilot

Securing WA's water future

- **\$606M** — Dampier seawater desalination plant (JV with Rio Tinto); **\$57.3M** — planning Perth's next desal plant at Alkimos (\$2.8B, due 2028)
- **\$7.1M** — protecting the Swan and Canning Rivers; **\$24.7M** — biosecurity; **\$6.2M** — Healthy Estuaries WA

Safe and inclusive communities

- **\$421M** child-protection services; **\$106M** family & domestic-violence prevention (total \$818M since 2017); **\$91.1M** homelessness services
- **\$530M** WA Police operations; **\$46.3M** foster & grandparent-carer supports (incl. a new Gold Card); **\$87.7M** prison infrastructure

We're here to help

If you'd like to understand what this year's WA Budget means for your household or business, we're here to help — just get in touch.

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