WA LABOR

Plan for Albany
And the Shire of Jerramungup
## WA Labor’s Plan for Albany and the Region

### Plan for Albany and the Region

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### Stay Informed:

- [Mark McGowan MP](mark.mcgowan@walabor.org.au)
I am proud to present to you WA Labor’s Plan for Albany and the region. It’s a plan that focuses on the things that really matter to WA families – jobs, safer country roads, health and education.

Over the past eight years, I’ve travelled all over Western Australia and met thousands of people. I’m always struck by the kindness and generosity of the people of this great State. I live in Rockingham with my wife and three children. I understand the challenges facing hardworking, everyday families.

Peter Watson, ‘Watto’, has been an outstanding local MP. Since 2001, he’s been fighting for his community and has been a strong voice in the Parliament.

Peter has made it clear that road safety is a big issue in Albany. That’s why our plan includes a $35million investment to complete the Albany Ring Road project and $30million for the first stage of an upgrade to South West Highway between Albany and Jerramungup.

We need to do more to fix dangerous country roads to save lives in regional WA.

Our Plan will create jobs and opportunities for people in Albany and the Shire of Jerramungup. We’ll make sure local businesses and workers get a bigger share of work on big government projects.

We will invest in renewable energy in Albany to secure its future as a renewable energy city, supporting the establishment of a wave energy farm.

Tourism is a huge part of my plan to diversify the economy and create new jobs. Albany is a beautiful place and we need to maximise its tourism potential. With this in mind, I’m pleased to announce $6 million towards the development of a world class motorplex complex in Albany.

We’ll also support the local tourism opportunities of Bremer Bay by working with the Shire of Jerramungup to create a tourism plan for the area.

We will invest $3 million in Mount Lockyer Primary and rebuild an early childhood centre at Flinders Park Primary School.

Let me be clear - Royalties for Regions will continue under a McGowan Labor Government.

WA Labor is determined to see Royalties for Regions spent wisely to maximise the benefits for the regions.

This is just a snapshot of WA Labor’s positive Plan for Albany. I look forward to meeting you in the coming weeks to talk about my fresh approach for WA.

Mark McGowan, WA Labor Leader
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Plan for Jobs in the Albany Region

A McGowan Labor Government will:

• Continue to invest in renewable energy in Albany to secure its future as a renewable energy city.

• Support the establishment of a wave energy farm in Albany.

• Invest $35 million to complete the Albany Ring Road project as a major road safety and economic initiative for the South West.

• Provide $30 million in funding for the first stage of an upgrade of the South Coast Highway between Albany and Jerramungup including widening the road and the construction of passing lanes.

• Invest $4.5 million in regional WA from the New Industries Fund including an allocation to start-up and innovation in Albany.

• Invest $425 million over five years to promote WA and showcase our unique regional destinations including Albany, Bremer Bay and the Fitzgerald River National Park.

• Support the local tourism opportunities of Bremer Bay by working with the Shire of Jerramungup to create a tourism plan for Bremer Bay.

• Develop a business case for upgrades of the Bremer Bay marina facilities and road access to multiple tour options in the area.

• Allocate $6 million towards the development of a world class Motorplex complex in Albany.

• Work with industry to develop more landside destination options for the cruise ship sector, thus generating additional visitor spend and more local jobs.

• Allow accredited tour operators to sell and supply alcohol under prescribed circumstances.

• Bring the development of industrial land in the regions under the auspices of the Industrial Lands Authority to develop serviced, ready to use industrial land.

• Ensure the Great Southern Development Commission takes a more proactive role in maximising the number of jobs created on Royalties for Regions programs and other state government contracts in Albany and the region.

• Introduce the Western Australian Industry Participation Plan (WAIPP) to ensure more local jobs on WA Government building projects in Albany and the region.

• Close existing loopholes in government policies to ensure the Buy Local guidelines on the use of local businesses and workers are applied to regional projects and tender arrangements including to head contractors.

• Maximise the number of apprentices and trainees in regional WA employed on government projects.
Putting Patients First in Albany

A McGowan Labor Government will:

- Review the provision of specialist services as part of the Sustainable Health Review to ensure that where possible services are delivered closer to where people live.

- Build WA's first Medihotel in Perth to make extended hospital stays more comfortable for patients from the Great Southern region who are required to travel to Perth for treatment.

- Provide $360,000 to fund a two year trial of the Ice Breakers Program in Albany to support people moving from methamphetamine dependence into recovery.

- Work with local health care providers to introduce an Urgent Care Clinic in Albany.

- Make it easier for aged care providers in Albany to develop new facilities by identifying suitable land and removing existing planning and local government impediments.

- Review regional and country ambulance services to ensure our volunteers and frontline paramedics have the support they need to continue to respond to emergency situations.

Investing in Education and Training

A McGowan Labor Government will:

- Rebuild the early childhood centre at Flinders Park Primary School.

- Invest $3 million to commence a staged upgrade of Mount Lockyer Primary School.

- Put more Education Assistants back in the classroom.

- Invest $12 million to roll out science programs in up to 200 public primary schools including funding to convert existing classrooms to science laboratories.

- Provide $5 million in grants of $25,000 to enable schools to buy resources to equip those labs.

- Invest $2 million to deliver professional development for teachers to support the integration of coding into their teaching.

- Introduce a direct-to-market (D2M) maintenance and minor capital works model that gives schools the authorisation and funding pool to directly engage their own contractors for works up to a value of $20,000.

- Provide a site for a childcare centre in the planning of every new public primary school and opportunities for before and after school care and school holiday care.

- Work with local school communities at existing public schools to open up the opportunities for more childcare as well as before and after school and school holiday care facilities.
• Rebuild TAFE and deliver an affordable training system to support jobs growth in Western Australia.

• Implement a VET Regional Partnerships Program to provide an opportunity for regional TAFEs to invest in new and innovative long term partnerships to create training and job opportunities in the community.

• Ensure that the State Priority Occupation List will be more responsive to the employment needs of the regions and ensure regional TAFEs are delivering training that aligns with future job growth in the regions.

Recreational Fishing Facilities

A McGowan Labor Government will:

• Fund a State-wide Fishing Safety Strategy which will be developed in consultation with Recfishwest and other stakeholders.

• Introduce the MarineRescue App, a free App that connects boaters to marine rescue experts, increasing safety for those out at sea.

• Increase funding to Fishability WA.

Services and Infrastructure

Artificial Surf Reef in Albany

• A McGowan Labor Government will work with the City of Albany and allocate $5 million to the development of an Artificial Surfing Reef located at Middleton Beach.

Centennial Park Sporting and Event Precinct

• A McGowan Labor Government will invest $6.9 million to complete the Centennial Park Sporting and Event Precinct.

Restoration of Albany native oyster reef habitat

• A McGowan Labor Government will allocate $2 million in funding to restore native oyster reef habitat in Oyster Harbour estuary.

Safer Beaches with Rapid Response Signage

• A McGowan Labor Government will work with the City of Albany and the Shire of Jerramungup to introduce rapid response signs to help emergency services identify the precise location of beaches with public access.
Albany - A Renewable Energy City

Albany has been a success story in the generation of wind energy which is one of WA’s cheapest renewable energy sources. The Albany Wind Farm is one of the largest farms in Australia generating 80 per cent of Albany’s power needs.

WA Labor understands the importance of positioning ourselves in the renewables space to take advantage of future innovation and opportunities to invest in WA jobs for the future. On average, more jobs are created for each unit of electricity generated from renewable sources than from fossil fuels.

- A McGowan Labor Government will continue to invest in renewable energy in Albany to secure its future as a renewable energy city.

A McGowan Labor Government will reallocate funds from the Albany to Bunbury gas pipeline to renewable energy projects to make this a reality. There is currently $19.5 million allocated in the State Budget that will be redirected to this project.

The extension of the Albany to Bunbury gas pipeline was a Liberal commitment at the 2008 and 2013 election but has not been built. A McGowan Labor Government will end the uncertainty for the community and instead invest in a renewable energy future and create local jobs.
Wave Power for Albany

Albany has some of the best sites for a wave energy farm in the country with reliable waves suitable for this emerging technology.

- A McGowan Labor Government will support the establishment of a wave energy farm in Albany.

In 2008 the WA Labor Government negotiated the trial of wave generated electricity to Albany. On coming into office in late 2008 the Liberal Government changed the location of the trial to Garden Island.

It makes sense that wave energy will play an important role in the mix of renewable energy sources in Albany and the Great Southern.

Carnegie Energy is now trialling the world's first renewable micro grid power station using wave energy as one of its sources. If the trial is successful, the micro grid model could be used in Albany, powering thousands of households with renewable energy.

Albany Ring Road

The Great Southern Region of WA is a key agricultural area and tourism destination that contributes to the State’s exports of wheat and woodchips and provides hundreds of local jobs. Albany is the region’s major industrial, commercial and retail centre and is connected to the surrounding region by key freight routes that extend through the city to Albany Port.

Road safety has deteriorated due to the greater volumes of local traffic that combine with the freight task. The Albany Ring Road is a proposed heavy haulage route around the City of Albany. Stage One from Chester Pass Road to Albany Highway was completed in 2007.

Stages two and three will connect the Albany Highway to the Port of Albany via the Link Road/George Street alignment. The Liberal-National Government has not allocated any funds for this major arterial route in the forward estimates.

- A McGowan Labor Government will invest $35 million to complete the Albany Ring Road project as a major road safety and economic initiative for the South West.

The balance of the funding required will be sought through Infrastructure Australia.

The completion of the Albany Ring Road is vital to support the economic development of the region, export opportunities from Albany Port and the wellbeing of the community.
**Upgrades to South Coast Highway**

The South Coast Highway is a significant east-west freight route in southern WA connecting Esperance to Albany. It is used by the forestry, agriculture and mining industries as well as being a major tourist route in the Great Southern and South West.

The section of highway from Pfeiffer Road, Manypeaks to Jerramungup is in poor condition with narrow road width, uneven surface and limited opportunities to overtake.

- A McGowan Labor Government will provide $30 million in funding for the first stage of an upgrade of the South Coast Highway between Albany and Jerramungup including widening the road and the construction of passing lanes.

Upgrading the South Coast Highway will improve a vital piece of infrastructure that supports the growing Great Southern economies and provides jobs for the people of the region.

**Start-up and Innovation Albany**

Albany is recognised as the centre of growing agri-business in the Great Southern. Innovation will drive the move from a bulk commodities industry to the development of specialist food production into the expanding Middle-Eastern and Asian markets. This will create jobs for a wide section of trades and technical skills.

Albany also has an exceptional base in creative industries. These can be leveraged more fully with strategic support to the sector. Further, this creative base adds to the great climate and built form of Albany to make it an attractive place for highly skilled and entrepreneurial people to relocate.

- The McGowan Labor Government will invest $4.5 million in regional WA from the New Industries Fund including an allocation to start-up and innovation in Albany.

Modelled on the success of Pollinators in Geraldton seed funding for start-up and innovation in Albany will deliver the following benefits:

- collaborative workspace where emerging entrepreneurs can have access to space, technology, networks and active support to move their ideas to practical implementation.
- training and mentorship for existing business to assess the potential for their business and weave innovation into their business practices.
- bringing potential start-ups together and providing mentoring and advice on how to develop their ideas to provide opportunities to collaborate with existing businesses and to access venture capital.
- running programmes for school children to inspire them to be entrepreneurial.

This programme would be auspiced through Creative Albany Inc, the highly successful non-for-profit group which has pioneered creative collaboration in Albany and the Great Southern.
Tourism Opportunities of the Future

WA Labor has a vision for tourism in Albany supported by the development of Brand WA, a global toolkit of consistent concepts; packaging and messaging that will promote Western Australia and Albany to the rest of the world.

Brand WA will be developed through consultation with industry and be used to sell Albany and the Great Southern to the world as destinations for international visitors and promote the local wine, food, beer and other products purchased by those visitors.

WA Labor will invest $425 million over 5 years in destination marketing and event tourism.

- A McGowan Labor Government will invest $425 million over five years to promote WA and showcase our unique regional destinations including Albany, Bremer Bay and the Fitzgerald River National Park.

Destination marketing campaigns in the past have promoted events such as the Margaret River Gourmet Escape, Experience Extraordinary Campaign and programs showcasing a variety of tourism experiences in the regions and will continue to be used to promote the unique tourism opportunities in the Great Southern region.

Event tourism has supported projects in regional WA such as the Albany ANZAC Centenary Commemoration.

A McGowan Labor Government is committed to ensuring certainty and security for the tourism industry. This will maximise the return on investment and grow jobs in this important part of the Albany economy.

Bremer Bay Marina

Bremer Bay is located in the Shire of Jerramungup, 180kms east of Albany. It is home to the Fitzgerald River National Park which is one of the largest and most botanically significant national parks in Australia.

Bremer Bay is one of only three places in Australia where southern right whales come to calve in the winter months. The nearby Bremer Bay Canyon is also one of only two places in the world where Orcas (Killer Whales) congregate en masse.

The population of Bremer Bay is around 600 people, however in the high tourism season, the population can swell to almost 10,000. The discovery of Orcas at this location has extended the whale watching season to most of the year.

The tourism publicity that has been created around the discovery of new sea life at Bremer Bay has led to a boost for the local economy.

- A McGowan Labor Government will support the local tourism opportunities of Bremer Bay by working with the Shire of Jerramungup to create a tourism plan for Bremer Bay.

The Bremer Bay Marina was first opened in 1997 and continues to operate as a recreational boat launching area and for whale tour operators. The jetty is small and not suitable for year round tour boat operations and associated recreational fishing activities.

- A McGowan Labor Government will develop a business case for upgrades of the Bremer Bay marina facilities and road access to multiple tour options in the area.

By investing in the infrastructure at Bremer Bay Marina and other tourist infrastructure in the area, it will enable local tourism to grow, creating local jobs and community sustainability.
Albany Motorplex

A McGowan Labor Government will work with the City of Albany to deliver a world class Motorplex in Albany.

The facility will include a drag strip and motocross track and will be a major draw card for visitors coming to the Great Southern Region. The venue can also be used for driver training and education and will assist in removing dangerous driving behaviour from local streets.

- A McGowan Labor Government will allocate $6 million towards the development of a world class Motorplex complex in Albany.

This will enable the community to host major motorsport events and bring thousands more tourists to Albany.

Cruise ship tourism to Albany and the Great Southern

Albany is a popular cruise ship destination with an average of 11 visits a year with cruise ship capacities varying from 500 to 2,500 passengers. A coordinated approach can support Albany to position itself and its region, as an even more attractive proposition for investment and a destination for international visitors.

Properly serviced by made-to-measure shore excursions and dockside facilities, cruise ship tourism can be hugely beneficial to the local economy and a driver of job creation.

A McGowan Labor Government will work with tour operators, retailers, Indigenous tourism operators and other stakeholders to develop packages, goods and services suited to cruise ship passengers.

- A McGowan Labor Government will work with industry to develop more landside destination options for the cruise ship sector, thus generating additional visitor spending and more local jobs.
Hospitality in the Regions

Tourism WA estimates that about 1.1 million visitors took part in food and wine experiences in 2013, with local specialities a key attraction. Western Australia can do more to capitalise on the boom in food and alcohol tourism, especially in promoting regional specialties of Albany and the Great Southern.

We need to encourage a more tourism-friendly hospitality culture by allowing simple measures such as making it easier for restaurants to sell alcohol without a meal and letting accredited tour operators offer an alcoholic drink on their tour like a beer at the end of a tough bushwalk or sparkling wine while watching the famed WA sunset.

- **A McGowan Labor Government will allow accredited tour operators to sell and supply alcohol under prescribed circumstances.**

WA Labor will make it easier for tourist to try our unique local products by freeing up the regulations around regional collectives and farmers’ markets. Currently regional collective cellar door facilities can showcase wine and beer from a particular region but no distilled alcohol products.

Industry and Technology Parks to Create Jobs

Under the auspices of the Industrial Lands Authority, a McGowan Labor Government will cut government red tape and drive the development of industrial parks such as Hercules Crescent and Milpara Estate to encourage meaningful investment in Albany and create new job opportunities.

In Albany, the WA Government either directly or through its various agencies hold significant and critically located tracts of land including the Mirambeena Strategic Industrial Area. Currently, there is little power or capacity to incentivise investment in these industrial parks. Accordingly, many parks have struggled to attract investors and have done little to diversify the types of industries that would create meaningful long-term jobs.

- **A McGowan Labor Government will bring the development of industrial land in the regions under the auspices of the Industrial Lands Authority to develop serviced, ready to use industrial land.**

The Industrial Lands Authority will promote, assist or offer incentives to attract regional business investment. Companies at last will have a single government body to deal with. This will improve relations with existing businesses and tenants in industrial parks and encourage meaningful investment in regional WA and create new job opportunities.
Great Southern Development Commission to maximise local jobs

The role of the Great Southern Development Commission (GSDC) is to lead and support sustainable development in Albany.

WA Labor will enhance the role of the GSDC by requiring them to take a more proactive role in ensuring that the value of the local content on Royalties for Regions (RFR) programs and other state government contracts is increased.

- A McGowan Labor Government will ensure that the Great Southern Development Commission takes a more proactive role in maximising the number of jobs created on Royalties for Regions programs and other state government contracts in Albany and the region.

Local Jobs

WA Labor believes that more should be done to deliver skilled jobs in Albany.

- A McGowan Labor Government will introduce the Western Australian Industry Participation Plan (WAIPP) to ensure more local jobs on WA Government building projects in Albany and the region.

WAIPPs are supported by legislation and will increase the amount of local content delivered as a result of government contracts. All government agencies will be required to include local content and local jobs as a key criterion in tender evaluation and other relevant procurement processes.

Buy Local

The WAIPPs will be implemented in conjunction with an enhanced Buy Local Policy. Loopholes that exist in the current buy local policies mean the Great Southern Region is not experiencing the full benefit of investment in the area.

A recent analysis shows that regional business preference eligibility was applied to only 17 per cent of the net worth of projects in regional WA.

The Albany Health Campus project, worth $151.6 million was awarded to head contractors not based in Albany.

- A McGowan Labor Government will close existing loopholes in government policies to ensure the Buy Local guidelines on the use of local businesses and workers are applied to regional projects and tender arrangements including to head contractors.

For further information go www.markmcgowan.com.au/jobs
Apprenticeships and Trainee Opportunities

A McGowan Labor Government is committed to expanding the Priority Start Policy to ensure that the opportunity to create apprenticeship and trainee positions is maximised.

The success of the Priority Start policy will also be supported through the implementation of WA Labor’s Western Australian Industry Participation Plan (WAIPP).

In regional WA this will result in more young people having access to training and skilled jobs.

- A McGowan Labor Government will maximise the number of apprentices and trainees in regional WA employed on government projects.
Specialist Services in the Future

A McGowan Labor Government is committed to delivering a quality health system to the people of Albany and surrounding communities.

The current gap in specialist services in Albany will be considered as part of the Sustainable Health Review. Patient First Dialogues will be convened around the State. These will bring together consumer advocates, front-line staff, health leaders and administrators to contribute to a new vision of patient centered care.

• A McGowan Labor Government will review the provision of specialist services as part of the Sustainable Health Review to ensure that where possible services are delivered closer to where people live.

Medihotels – An Innovation in Health Care

A McGowan Labor Government in committed to providing health services close to where people live. However there is often a need for regional people to travel for more complex health care treatment.

Medihotels are an innovative way of making the experience of travelling for treatment less stressful and without the problems of the PATS scheme which often leaves people out of pocket.

• A McGowan Labor Government will build WA’s first Medihotel in Perth to make extended hospital stays more comfortable for patients from the Great Southern region who are required to travel to Perth for treatment.

The Medihotel is a specialist hotel designed to support patients discharged from hospital but who are still recovering. Our new Medihotel will provide patients with a comfortable, innovative and family friendly environment in which to receive ongoing care. You will
What is a Medihotel?

- A specialist hotel designed to support patients when they have been discharged from hospital but are still recuperating, being monitored or receiving outpatient services.

- Staff will provide assistance with everyday tasks, companionship, nourishment and transfers to and from hospitals.

- Medical staff such as nurses, physiotherapists and occupational therapists can visit the guests in the medihotel.

- Family members will be able to stay with patients.

- Medihotels will be especially beneficial to regional patients, the elderly and those who live alone.

also be able to have your family members stay with you.

Medihotels will provide a stop-off point for patients traveling to Perth for hospital care. Guest rooms will be supported by specially trained staff to support patients as they transition to out-patients or community based care and safely begin their journey home.

It’s a simple solution that allows patients to recuperate in comfort and privacy while still having access to medical care. Medihotels are part of a McGowan Labor’s Government commitment to deliver a first class health system that puts patients first.

Early intervention treatment

A McGowan Labor Government will implement a state-wide, coordinated and targeted Methamphetamine Action Plan (MAP) focussed on three key areas to reduce demand, reduce harm and reduce supply of Methamphetamine, especially crystal methamphetamine (ice).

In Albany, WA Labor will work with stakeholders such as the Ice Breakers Program on a targeted program of recovery. Working out of the Albany PCYC, the Ice Breakers Program has experienced greater demand, providing almost 4,000 hours in voluntary service delivery to people addicted to methamphetamine.

WA Labor will build on what is currently seen as best practice in the treatment of methamphetamine addiction, providing education, training, rehabilitation, coordination and research.

- **A McGowan Labor Government will provide $360,000 to fund a two year trial of the Ice Breakers Program in Albany to support people moving from methamphetamine dependence into recovery.**

The impact of methamphetamine addiction on regional communities in WA has been devastating and there is a distinct lack of services available in regional communities. WA Labor recognises the importance of having these services available close to home where family and the community can remain connected.

Within the model of treatment, the MAP will include support services that cater for the long withdrawal and recovery period and high relapse rate associated with methamphetamine use.
Urgent Care Clinic in Albany

A McGowan Labor Government will introduce an Urgent Care Clinic in Albany to reduce the pressure on the hospital emergency department so you can get the care you need when you need it.

Rather than making people sit in a busy emergency department Urgent Care Clinics will provide an alternative setting to access medical services and give patients more choice.

- A McGowan Labor Government will work with local health care providers to introduce an Urgent Care Clinic in Albany.

Hospital based Urgent Care Clinics will treat patients who are assessed as having non-life threatening conditions.

These patients will be triaged at the emergency department and taken to the clinic for further assessment. The patient will be managed by the emergency department but will be under the care of a GP and nurses more suited for the patient’s condition.

Ambulances presenting at emergency departments with patients with non-life threatening conditions will be taken to an Urgent Care Clinic in a hospital setting.

Other patients who wish to see a doctor after hours will be able to attend an Urgent Care Clinic in their community. A McGowan Labor Government will enter into a formal arrangement with a range of General Practices. These practices will be licensed to operate as Urgent Care Clinics and will be promoted as part of the Urgent Care Clinic network.

The community based Urgent Care Clinic will work in partnership with the local emergency department. They will have a direct line of communication with the local emergency department and will be able to prioritise patients referred to the emergency department if their condition deteriorates or warrants a higher level of care.

Provision of Aged Care to Free up Hospital Beds

Albany has a shortage of residential aged care beds and as a result, many elderly people are waiting for a place while occupying a public hospital bed.

Being in hospital is not the best place for our elderly – they would much prefer to be with friends and family in an aged care facility.

There are currently 3,500 aged care bed licences available from the Federal Government which are currently not being used in Western Australia.

- A McGowan Labor Government will make it easier for aged care providers in Albany to develop new facilities by identifying suitable land and removing existing planning and local government impediments.

Under the plan, existing government buildings and assets will be assessed to determine their suitability to be converted into aged care facilities. A new aged care facility should include capacity for people convalescing from medical treatment and too unwell to go home but not needing to be in hospital.
Review of Country Ambulance Services

A McGowan Labor Government recognises the vital role our regional frontline paramedics and volunteer ambulance officers have in rural and regional WA. Our volunteer ambulance officers are country people who contribute their personal time, effort and skill to enable ambulance services to reach those in need in some of the most isolated regional communities.

*St John Ambulance WA covers the largest area of any single ambulance service in the world – 2,525,500 square kilometres or 33 per cent of the total landmass of Australia.*

*St John Country Ambulance Service*

Country ambulance services are experiencing similar issues to many other health services in regional areas including difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff, an ageing workforce and working in a stressful environment.

- **A McGowan Labor Government will review regional and country ambulance services to ensure our volunteers and frontline paramedics have the support they need to continue to respond to emergency situations.**

A McGowan Labor Government will work with St John Ambulance Service and relevant stakeholders to ensure the issues facing our country ambulance services are identified and addressed.

For further information visit www.markmcgowan.com.au/health
Investing in Albany Schools

A McGowan Government will build better schools and upgrade existing schools so that our children can get the best education they deserve in well maintained facilities that support the modern educational needs of our students.

A McGowan Labor Government will invest in education and create the best learning environment for our students.

- A McGowan Labor Government will rebuild the early childhood centre at Flinders Park Primary School.

Flinders Park early childhood centre was built in the 1980s and comprises just two small classrooms and small under cover areas. It is well past its use-by date. The Liberal National Government has ignored the need for a new early childhood centre at Flinders Park primary school for many years. WA Labor will ensure young children at Flinders Park have the best environment in which to start their education.

- A McGowan Labor Government will invest $3 million to commence a staged upgrade of Mount Lockyer Primary School.

Mount Lockyer Primary School first opened in 1955 and has grown with the surrounding area. However, it is due for an upgrade. A McGowan Labor Government will commence a staged upgrade of facilities to improve the amenity for students and staff.

More Support for Children in the Classroom

Education Assistants have an integral role in the education of students including preparation of resources, one on one coaching, extra support for students facing learning difficulties, students with English as a second language and students with disabilities.

Critically, Education Assistants (EAs) assist those students who need extra help to stay focused so that other students are not distracted and the classroom teacher can get on with teaching.

Teachers reported that with fewer Education Assistants they now had to spend more time with ‘high need’ students to the detriment of the rest of the class.

Feedback from the peak parent body the WA Council of State School Organisations (WACSSO) said the biggest concern of parents was not enough EAs to cover the time that early childhood and lower years’ students are at school, meaning less support for students and more pressure on teachers.

- A McGowan Government will put more Education Assistants back in the classroom.
Science in Primary Schools

A WA Labor Government will invest in our schools for the jobs of the future. Coding, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics will be the future drivers of innovation as we reshape our economy. Science is one of the fundamental elements of the STEM disciplines and a focus on science will support the diversification of the economy and is an investment in the jobs of the future.

Likewise, coding is what makes it possible for us to create websites, apps and computer software. Science and business leaders have long been calling for coding to be taught formally in schools.

A McGowan Labor Government will:

- Invest $12 million to roll out science programs in up to 200 public primary schools including funding to convert existing classrooms to science laboratories.

- Provide $5 million in grants of $25,000 to enable schools to buy resources to equip those labs.

- Invest $2 million to deliver professional development for teachers to support the integration of coding into their teaching.

WA Labor believes science has been a missed opportunity for WA and currently there is a lack of science focus in primary schools. This has had a flow on effect into secondary schools with fewer students taking up science.

While there are science jobs in the resources sector, as exploration and development shrink so too do these jobs. Science is more than geology and biology and if WA is to become a smarter and more innovative State then we must prepare students for jobs beyond the resources industry.

WA Labor believes we must be innovative to keep our economy growing. A McGowan Government’s plan to roll out science programs in primary schools and coding in the school curriculum are important steps in creating a broad economy which generate jobs in a diverse range of areas.
Direct to Market (D2M)

A McGowan Labor Government will introduce a direct-to-market (D2M) maintenance and minor capital works model that will provide efficiency in service delivery and better value for money for schools. This will help schools address the backlog of maintenance issues within their schools.

- A McGowan Labor Government will introduce a direct-to-market (D2M) maintenance and minor capital works model that gives schools the authorisation and funding pool to directly engage their own contractors for works up to a value of $20,000.

The D2M model will allow schools to have:

- Flexibility to contract and manage services contracts including routine maintenance.
- An annual maintenance allocation.
- An opt-in model which means the scheme would be voluntary.
- Oversight and support from the Department of Education.

The Queensland Government adopted an opt-in model, and it estimated savings of around 20 per cent.

Under a McGowan Labor Government, schools can either continue to use the centralised tendering method for works under Building Management and Works in the Department of Finance or use the direct-to-market (D2M) method for works up the value of $20,000.

The Department of Education would govern the D2M program and oversee its implementation. Schools will have to ensure contractors have the required licences and insurance cover to carry out the maintenance tasks and the work would be signed off to ensure it’s at the required standard.

A McGowan Labor Government would provide a transparent analysis of the maintenance backlog and establish measuring capabilities to assess and report if the program objectives have been achieved.

Educare

A McGowan Labor Government will support parents and children during the working day by allowing school communities the option of providing extra childcare through quality childcare providers.

A lack of childcare can be a major stumbling block to parents pursuing or maintaining their employment opportunities. This can have a negative impact on the financial viability of households and the general economic activity of the State.

A Productivity Commission report into childcare estimates that there are up to 165,000 parents (on an FTE basis) who would like to work, or work more hours, but are not able to do so because they are experiencing difficulties with the cost of, or access to, suitable childcare.

A McGowan Labor Government will:

- Provide a site for a childcare centre in the planning of every new public primary school and provide opportunities for before and after school care and school holiday care.
- Work with local school communities at existing public schools to open up the opportunities for more childcare as well as before and after school and school holiday care facilities.

Allowing school communities the option of providing extra childcare through quality providers can also lessen the pressures on everyday family life.
Plan for TAFE

TAFE will remain a modern responsive training organisation that will drive the future economic development of our State. Under WA Labor’s Plan for Jobs, TAFE will continue to be the preeminent provider of vocational training in the State and do so under the banner of TAFE.

- **A McGowan Labor Government will rebuild TAFE and deliver an affordable training system to support jobs growth in Western Australia.**

TAFE has also been the primary source of affordable further education for the adult population over a wide range of interests. In the last seven years however TAFE has been under merciless attack by the Liberal Government. The Department of Training and all of the Colleges have been subjected to funding cuts, job losses, course closures and students have been subjected to massive increases in study fees.

Under a McGowan Labor Government TAFE will be reinvigorated and will play a vital role in the economic and industrial development of our State.

Regional TAFEs Supporting Regional Job Growth

A McGowan Labor Government is committed to ensuring that there is a quality TAFE system in regional WA. A TAFE system that delivers training linked to real jobs and aligns with future job growth in the regions.

Regional TAFEs will develop partnerships and drive innovation and new industries.

- **A McGowan Labor Government will implement a VET Regional Partnerships Program to provide an opportunity for regional TAFEs to invest in new and innovative long term partnerships to create training and job opportunities in the community.**

The State Priority Occupations List is used to determine which courses are delivered and the level of government funding different courses will attract.

This affects the annual funding allocations by the Department of Training including the allocations to regional State training providers on training priorities.

This list must be responsive to changes in the economy and local employment needs.

- **A McGowan Labor Government will ensure that the State Priority Occupation List will be more responsive to the employment needs of the regions and ensure regional TAFEs are delivering training that aligns with future job growth in the regions.**
Artificial Surf Reef in Albany

There is currently a lack of suitable surfing waves close to the Albany Town Centre for younger and beginner to intermediate surfers. This raises two issues, a lack of attraction for potential surfers to start in the sport and the safety of beginner surfers who venture away from public amenities to access suitable breaks.

- A McGowan Labor Government will work with the City of Albany and allocate $5 million to the development of an Artificial Surfing Reef located at Middleton Beach.

In addition to creating a more suitable area for younger and beginner surfers, the Artificial Surfing Reef will create improved marine ecology at and around the site creating a potential boost for fishing and diving tourism opportunities.

Centennial Park Sporting and Event Precinct

Sport is regarded as an important part of regional life, contributing to a community’s identity, social interaction and physical and mental health. Sporting facilities in regional centres often attract major sporting and tourism events which result in a major injection into the local economy and a flow on to local jobs.

Located in Albany, Centennial Park is a run-down series of sporting fields that have the potential to be transformed into state of the art regional sporting and event precinct that will have broad ranging benefits for the community of Albany and surrounding regions.

- A McGowan Labor Government will invest $6.9 million to complete the Centennial Park Sporting and Event Precinct.
Restoration of Albany native oyster reef habitat

Many of WA’s estuaries are experiencing poor water quality as nutrient loads entering the catchment reduce the productivity of the estuary habitat. Oyster Harbour as the name suggests, once provided a thriving habitat for oyster reefs, breeding areas for fish, filtering water and capturing nutrients. Sadly, Oyster Harbour’s abundant oyster reefs have been lost.

The Nature Conservancy Australia has partnered with Recfishwest, UWA and South Coast Natural Resource Management to bring back oyster reefs to Oyster Harbour. This project will focus on restoring southern mud or native flat oyster reefs based on experience developed from oyster restoration projects in Victoria and overseas.

“Independent economic analysis has found that for every $1million invested in restoration, up to 8.5 full time equivalent jobs are supported."

- A McGowan Labor Government will allocate $2 million in funding to restore native oyster reef habitat in Oyster Harbour estuary.

This project will restore oyster reefs to help to improve recreational fishing, biodiversity and water quality in Oyster Harbour. Habitat restoration will also have a trickle down effect via supporting service and product providers such as the hospitality sector and service industries.

Safer Beaches with Rapid Response Signage

WA Labor will always support measures that will reduce the risk of shark attacks so long as they are based on science and genuinely improve community safety. While we are unlikely to completely remove the risk of shark attacks in WA a McGowan Labor Government will make our beaches safer by introducing a range of measures to minimise risk.

WA Labor believes that our oceans are one of WA’s greatest natural assets. By encouraging science-backed mitigation strategies we can provide peace of mind while at the same time protect our marine environment for generations to come.

Recently the City of Mandurah decided to introduce rapid response signs along 50kms of coastline to increase the ability of emergency services to respond to calls for assistance. The signs will include the number, name and exact GPS location of each section of beach providing vital information in the event of a shark sighting or attack. A McGowan Labor Government will look at providing a grants program for Local Governments and Shires that wish to install rapid response signs along areas of coast line with public access.

- A McGowan Labor Government will work with the City of Albany and Shire of Jerramungup to introduce rapid response signs to help emergency services identify the precise location of beaches with public access.

WA Labor is serious about making our beaches safer and will invest in complementary solutions that are evidence based to provide people peace of mind whilst at the same time respecting the marine environment.

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1. The Nature Conservancy, More fish, new jobs and cleaner water: A proposal to restore WA’s bays and estuaries, p2
Recreational Fishing Facilities

Recreational fishing is an important part of WA’s way of life and it is an important economic driver. Recreational fishing creates jobs in both direct and indirect supply which are vital to many coastal towns and regional areas.

Safety must always be an important part of Recreational Fishing. Rock fishing in particular can be very dangerous with 30 people having died in WA since 2002.

- A McGowan Labor Government will fund a State-wide Fishing Safety Strategy which will be developed in consultation with Recfishwest and other stakeholders.

On average in WA, only 15 per cent of recreational craft notify someone before heading out to sea. This makes searching for lost vessels harder and less time responsive.

- A McGowan Labor Government will introduce the MarineRescue App, a free App that connects boaters to marine rescue experts, increasing safety for those out to sea.

The App will enable boaters to log on to the website and if boaters aren’t safely back when expected, the App alerts the nearest marine rescue group.

Making recreational fishing accessible to people with disabilities can sometimes be a challenge but it brings many rewards. That is why the work of Fishability WA [formerly the Fishers with Disabilities Association] is so important and will receive ongoing funding from a McGowan Labor Government.

- A McGowan Labor Government will increase funding to Fishability WA.

Recreational fishing supports jobs and businesses as well as encouraging kids and families to get outdoors and learn more about our environment. Recreational fishing also has a positive influence on mental and physical health.

WA Labor will continue to support new initiatives through the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund.
WA LABOR

Plan for Albany and the Region

Plan for Jobs
Putting Patients First
Investing in Education
Services and Infrastructure