



WA LABOR

WA Jobs First



A Fresh Approach for WA

WA Labor Policy | December 2016

LOCAL JOBS A PRIORITY FOR A MCGOWAN LABOR GOVERNMENT

A McGowan Labor Government will on day one tear up the list of occupations that fast tracks overseas workers to WA and replace it with a new list that reflects WA's changed economic circumstances.

We will also seek to immediately have Perth removed from the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS).

Occupations currently on the list includes fitter, bricklayer, wall and floor tiler, electrician, air-conditioning and refrigeration mechanic, welfare worker, ambulance office, fire-fighter, accountant, surveyor, child care centre manager and primary and secondary school teachers.

The economy has changed but the Liberal National Government has done nothing to change the out-dated list of occupations which are available to be filled by overseas workers.

At the same time it has become easier for overseas workers to be employed in skilled jobs, cuts to TAFE by the Liberal National Government has meant that it is harder for local people to get the training to access skilled jobs.

In these difficult economic times, we have to make the most of every opportunity. By making these changes, WA Labor will ensure we make the most of the jobs and opportunities that will flow from the construction of projects like METRONET.

There are currently 92,500 people unemployed in WA and our priority will be to ensure they are first in line for WA jobs.

Only WA Labor has a Plan for Jobs.

Only a McGowan Labor Government will keep WA jobs in WA.



“Only a McGowan Labor Government will keep WA jobs in WA.”

Mark

STAY INFORMED:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A McGowan Labor Government will:

- **On day one tear up the current list of occupations that fast tracks overseas workers to WA.**
- **Work with industry to develop a new list that reflects WA's changed economic circumstances.**
- **Seek to immediately have Perth removed from the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme.**
- **Keep WA jobs in WA.**

Western Australian Skilled Migration Occupation List (WASMOL)

The Western Australian Skilled Migration Occupational List (WASMOL) is the list that is used to guide the State nominated skilled migration. This list is produced by the State Government and provided to the Federal Government.

There are 168 occupations currently available on the list which includes fitter, bricklayer, wall and floor tiler, electrician, air-conditioning and refrigeration mechanic, welfare worker, ambulance office, fire-fighter, nurse, engineer, accountant, surveyor, child care centre manager and primary and secondary school teachers.

A McGowan Labor Government will replace the current list with a new list that reflects WA's changed economic circumstances.

We will fast track discussions with industry to develop a new list that targets the skilled jobs where there is a genuine need to attract overseas workers. For example, there are a range of specialist medical positions on the current list that may still be required.

Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme

Perth is considered a region as part of the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS). Perth was added to the scheme in 2011 during the peak of the mining boom.

The only Capital cities in Australia that are included in the RSMS are Perth, Adelaide, Hobart and Darwin.

Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane are not included in the RSMS. Other areas excluded from the scheme include the Gold Coast, Newcastle and Wollongong.

A McGowan Labor Government will immediately seek to have Perth removed from the RSMS.

Unemployment in WA

The unemployment rate of 6.5% in WA is the highest in the country. The unemployment rate has gone up steadily for the last 22 months with 63,800 jobs lost over this period.

There are now 92,500 people unemployed in WA.

When the Liberal National Government came into office in 2008 the unemployment rate was just 2.3% with just 28,700 looking for work.

Unemployment Rate: October 2016¹

State	Unemployment Rate (October 2016)
New South Wales	4.9%
Victoria	5.7%
Queensland	5.8%
South Australia	6.4%
Tasmania	6.4%
Western Australia	6.5%
Australia	5.6%

¹ ABS 6202.0 - Labour Force, Australia, Oct 2016

Western Australian Skilled Migration Occupation List

The State Government produces the WA Skilled Migration Occupation List (WASMOL) which is used to guide the State Nominated migration program. The State Government provides the list to the Federal Government which outlines the State's occupation priorities ie, occupations where there are skilled labour shortages.

There are currently 168 Skilled Occupations available on the on the WASMOL which are listed on the State Government migration website.

The WA Government still actively promotes these jobs through its immigration website as being available for overseas workers to nominate for a skilled visa.²

Applicants who have an occupation identified on the list have access to a Skilled Nominated visa or a Skilled Regional (Provisional) visa.

See the extract below for a sample of some of the occupations on the list.

² <http://www.migration.wa.gov.au/services/skilled-migration-wa/occupations-in-demand>

An extract from the Western Australian Skilled Migration Occupation List²

323211	Fitter (general)	TRA	Available	Schedule 2
331111	Bricklayer	TRA	Available	Schedule 2
333211	Fibrous plasterer	TRA	Available	Schedule 2
333212	Solid plasterer	TRA	Available	Schedule 2
333411	Wall and floor tiler	TRA	Available	Schedule 2
341111	Electrician (general)	TRA	Available	Schedule 2
341112	Electrician (special class)	TRA	Available	Schedule 2
342111	Airconditioning and refrigeration mechanic	TRA	Available	Schedule 2
342313	Electronic equipment trades worker	TRA	Available	Schedule 2
342412	Telecommunications cable joiner	TRA	Available	Schedule 2
342413	Telecommunications linesworker	TRA	Available	Schedule 2
342414	Telecommunications technician	TRA	Available	Schedule 2
351311	Chef**	TRA	Available	Schedule 2
Community and personal service workers				
411111	Ambulance officer	VETASSESS	Available	Schedule 2
411112	Intensive care ambulance paramedic	VETASSESS	Available	Schedule 2
441212	Fire fighter	VETASSESS	Available	Schedule 2

² Government of Western Australia, Western Australian Skilled Migration Occupation List, available at <http://www.migration.wa.gov.au/services/skilled-migration-wa/occupations-in-demand>, accessed on 29 November 2016.

Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme

In 2011, during the construction phase of the mining boom the Federal Government added Perth to the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS).

Under the RSMS, the entire state is considered regional.

The RSMS provides an additional pathway for skilled workers to obtain a visa to work in Australia.

The Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme visa (subclass 187) has 3 streams and is available to:

- 457 visa holders who have worked for two years who meet the required criteria.
- 457 visa holders nominated by an employer through a labour agreement.
- Direct entry stream for people nominated by their employer who meet the required criteria.

Removing RSMS does not mean that people from overseas cannot obtain visas to work in Perth in the future. It simply eliminates the additional pathway. Perth will therefore be treated in the same way as Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane when applications for work visas are submitted.

Employers will still be able to sponsor foreign skilled workers for permanent residence to fill genuine vacancies in their businesses under the employer nomination scheme.

Perth should have been removed from the RSMS as the economy changed and unemployment rose. The Liberal National Government has failed to secure a change to this status.

A McGowan Labor Government will immediately seek to have Perth removed from the RSMS.

Missing Data

In the Department of Training and Workforce Development (DTWD), State Priority Occupation List – Scope, Methodology and Sources published in July 2016 it was noted that there was missing data from the migration programs outcomes in 2014-15. This information affects the calculations for the Future Labour Demand or Supply (FLDOS).

The detailed data was not provided by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection due to changes in legislation. As a result of this gap in data DTWD used historical data on skilled stream visas to fill the data gap.

They noted the following:

This process is by no means ideal and assumes that the occupational composition of awarded visas seen in previous years continued unchanged in the missing year. Any changes to have occurred as a result of policy changes or shifts in labour market preferences for migratory skilled labor would not have been picked up in this process.

State Priority Occupation List – Scope, Methodology and Sources July 2016, p16

Over this period the labour supply and demand pressures in Western Australia changed dramatically. It is unclear whether the State Government has resolved this issue with the Federal Government.



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