

West Australian election results and McGowan Government's priorities and policies

March 2017

On 11 March 2017 at the West Australian (WA) state election the Labor were elected to government, with (Labor) Leader Mark McGowan elected as Premier-elect.

At the time of publication, Labor had won 37 seats, but was predicted to win 40 seats, in the 59 seat Legislative Assembly (lower House). This would represent an increase of 19 from the 2013 election.

At the time of publication, WA Labor had won 11 seats, but was expected to win 15 seats, in the 36 seat Legislative Council (upper House). This would represent an increase of 3 from the 2013 election.

This Occasional Paper will outline the election results, the McGowan Government's 100 day agenda and key policy commitments.

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Results

WA Labor received a swing to it of 9.6 per cent, with swings of up to 23 per cent in some seats.

At the time of publication, the following Legislative Assembly seats are confirmed as having changed hands from the Liberal Party to the Labor Party:

Seat	Expected New Member
Balcatta	David Michael
Belmont	Cassie Rowe
Bicton	Lisa O'Malley
Bunbury	Don Punch
Burns Beach	Mark Folkard
Darling Range	Barry Urban
Forrestfield	Stephen Price
Kalamunda	Matthew Hughes

Morley	Amber-Jade Sanderson
Mount Lawley	Simon Millman
Perth	John Carey
Pilbra	Kevin Michel
Southern River	Terry Healy
Swan Hills	Jessica Shaw
Wanneroo	Sabine Winton

At the time of publication, the following seats were still to be decided:

- Jandakot, WA Labor was ahead at the time of publication;
- Joondalup, WA Labor was ahead at the time of publication;
- Kalgoorlie, the Liberal Party was ahead at the time of publication (this would see the seat change hands from the Nationals Party to the Liberal Party);
- Kingsley, WA Labor was ahead at the time of publication; and
- Murray-Wellington, WA Labor was ahead at the time of publication.

The following is the predicted makeup of the Legislative Council at the time of publication.

Party	Current* *At the time of publication	Predicted* *At the time of publication
WA Labor	11	15
Liberal Party	16	10
The Nationals	5	4
One Nation	0	2
Shooters, Fishers, Farmers	2	2
The Greens	2	2
Liberal Democrats	0	1

McGowan Government's 100 day agenda

McGowan has identified the following three policies as his immediate priorities:

- Cancelling contracts for the construction of the Roe 8 highway upgrade, part of the Barnett Government's Perth Freight Link project;
- "Tearing up" and amending the skilled migration list to prioritise local jobs; and
- Initiate a Commission of Inquiry into "secret government deals".

McGowan has also identified the following as policy priorities his government will initiate by the end of June (within 100 days):

- Establish a team to oversee the delivery of METRONET (further information below in the Infrastructure section);
- Commence the planning and building of Medihotels;
- Fast track the proposed expansion at Joondalup Hospital;
- Redirect *Royalties for Regions* funding to new projects, such as the restoration of regional roads;
- Freeze TAFE fees; and
- Legislate proposed measures that protect victims of crime and prosecute methamphetamine traffickers.

Policies

The below represent a number of the McGowan Government's key policy commitments in a number of policy areas:

Job creation, procurement and innovation

A McGowan Government will diversify the WA economy by attracting and supporting new and emerging industries and amending the state procurement framework to prioritise supporting local content. These policy aims will be achieved through the following measures:

- Establishing Infrastructure WA to coordinate 20 year future infrastructure planning, providing certainty for industry. Infrastructure WA will facilitate the delivery of a State Infrastructure Strategy.
- Establishing a market-led proposals framework.
- Developing and legislating WA Industry Participation Plans (WAIPPs), which outline local content requirements, and require proponents tendering for government contracts to outline local content information.
- Support local and small-medium businesses to tender and compete for government projects. The WA Industry Capability Network will assist small businesses to develop WAIPPs which identify the number of local jobs, apprenticeships and trainees that will be created should their tender be successful.
- Declaring major projects, including METRONET (detailed below), projects of strategic importance requiring additional local content.



- Establishing a 'Project Trust Account' for major infrastructure projects to protect contracts between head contractors and subcontractors. This will be supported by the implementation of a security of payments framework for government and non-government infrastructure projects.
- Developing and adopting an Aboriginal Procurement Policy, complementing the federal government policy of three per cent of government contracts to be awarded to Aboriginal businesses by 2020.
- Requiring skilled work agreements in future mining development.
- Securing more local defence work, including naval shipbuilding, through the appointment of a WA Defence Advocate. This will include supporting naval stopovers at Fremantle and other regional ports.
- Establishing an Industrial Lands Authority to encourage investment in and expansion of industry and technology parks, particularly in regional centres.
- Establishing "Brand WA" as a whole-of-government marketing strategy.
- Establishing a \$14.5 million New Industries Fund to support startups and new and emerging businesses and investing \$4.5 million in support for regional startups.
- Establishing an Innovation Office which will develop an ICT vision strategy, supported by the appointment of the state's first Minister for Innovation and ICT.

Infrastructure

A McGowan Government is committed to building METRONET— its plan for an integrated rail network, instead of the Barnett Government's Perth Freight Link. Priority rail lines and stations in the METRONET rollout will include:

- Completion of the Forrestfield-Airport Line
- Building the Morley-Ellenbrook Line
- Building the Yanchep Line
- Building the Byford Line
- Commencing the Circle Line linking our suburbs
- Removing level crossings on existing lines
- A new METRONET train station at Karnup
- Construction of railcars in Perth

More information on McGowan's METRONET plan is available [here](#) and [here](#).

Tourism and agriculture

McGowan's key tourism and agriculture portfolios commitments include:

- Investing \$425 million in tourism marketing, including \$45 million over five years for marketing campaigns to attract business events and domestic and international tourism.
- Establishing an Asian Business House to develop formal trade networks with Asian partners and boost WA exports.
- Identifying opportunities for growth in niche agricultural markets.
- Conducting industry consultation on promotion around WA racing carnivals.

Energy and the environment

WA Labor has not committed to a state based renewable energy target (RET), but will conduct industry consultation on the issue. The McGowan Government is committed to focusing on attracting investment in the renewable energies sector.

Health

McGowan's key health portfolio commitments include:

- Building WA's first Medihotels, specifically one at the at the Fiona Stanley Hospital.

Education

McGowan's education portfolio commitments include:

- Replacing plans for a new high school in City Beach with a new high-rise secondary school in the city.
- Freezing TAFE WA fees.
- Re-establishing TAFE as the single training brand.

Economy

McGowan has committed to bringing the WA Budget back to surplus during his first term, if elected, through the following measures:

- A new government land sales strategy.
- Not proceeding with the partial privatisation of Western Power and reinvesting the revenue/returns from Western Power back into reducing the state's debt.
- Introducing a four per cent Foreign Buyers Surcharge, on property purchases by foreign speculators.



- Reducing the number of government agencies by 20 per cent through a Service Priority Review, cutting the number of Senior Executive positions within the bureaucracy and ceasing the use of excessive external consultants.
- Cutting the government advertising budget by \$20 million annually.

Further information

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