TRANSPORT
CONNECTING WA

“The Liberals will continue to focus on improving the efficiency of our existing transport network to ensure West Australians can get from A to B as quickly, cheaply and easily as possible.”
Since 2008, Western Australia’s population has grown by almost 500,000 people. The Liberal-led Government has invested heavily in an integrated network of road, rail, bus and cycling infrastructure to meet this growth.

The Government’s transport and urban planning policies have been developed to cater for a Perth population of 3.5 million and beyond by promoting urban infill and focusing higher-density developments around transport connections, while investment in regional WA is targeted towards improving safety, upgrading capacity on key transport routes and better connecting our regional centres.

In addition to new infrastructure, a re-elected Liberal Government will continue to focus on improving the efficiency of our existing transport network to ensure West Australians can get from A to B as quickly, cheaply and easily as possible.

**Fast Facts**

- The State Government will have spent $15.5 billion on transport infrastructure between 2008 and 2019, creating more than 23,000 jobs across major metropolitan projects
- WA’s road network has increased by more than 627km (to June 2015) since 2008
- The Government spends around $820 million a year subsidising public transport

**Our Record**

The Liberal-led Government’s significant investment in our transport network since 2008 includes:

**Road**

- Gateway WA. This project, jointly funded with the Commonwealth Government, has transformed road access to and from Perth’s airport. Incorporating road and bridge improvements, local road modifications and more than 20km of shared cycle and pedestrian paths, it is the biggest road project undertaken in WA to date. It was completed under budget and almost one year ahead of schedule in April 2016 and vastly improved travel times to and from the airport.
- Roe 8, which when complete will extend Roe Highway to Stock Road and significantly improve traffic flow and safety across Perth’s southern suburbs. The 5km, dual carriageway extension of Roe Highway from the Kwinana Freeway intersection through to Stock will take up to 6,900 trucks a day off Leach Highway and surrounding roads. Site works are under way. This project will ultimately form part of the Perth Freight Link, which will connect Fremantle Port with Kewdale and beyond and providing a dedicated, high productivity, east-west freight connection between Perth’s major industrial areas.
- Improved transport connections in Perth’s north with an extension of Mitchell Freeway to Hester Avenue on track to be completed in March — nine months ahead of schedule. The extension will improve traffic flow on local roads and cut travel times to the CBD.
- NorthLink WA. This project will provide a new transport link from Muchea through to Morley, reducing travel times and congestion, improving safety in and around the Swan Valley and delivering productivity benefits to industry, motorists and local communities. The project will be completed by mid-2019.
• Increased the capacity of our freeways, with additional lanes to improve traffic flow along several north and southbound sections of the Kwinana Freeway, including Leach to Roe Highways in both directions and from Roe Highway through to Russell Road southbound; on the Mitchell Freeway northbound between Graeme Farmer Freeway and Hutton Street and from Hepburn Avenue to Hodges Drive; a third lane east and west-bound through the Northbridge tunnel; as well as an extension of the Mitchell Freeway northbound from Burns Beach Road to Hester Avenue under way and due for completion in mid-2017.

• Replacing the Old Mandurah Bridge to cater for population growth and more vehicle, bike and pedestrian traffic.

• Upgrades to several major metropolitan roads to improve traffic flow and driver and pedestrian safety, including overpasses and improvements along Reid Highway; duplication of Gnangara Road in the City of Swan; bridge works to take Nicholson Road over the Midland to Fremantle Freight Railway; a pedestrian underpass for access to the new Midland Public Hospital and major safety upgrades to the Roe Highway-Berkshire Road crash hotspot in Forrestfield.

• The installation of electronic flashing signals at every 40km/h school zone in Western Australia, which is nearing completion.

• Invested more than $3.2 billion since 2008 in improving the safety and capacity of regional roads (more information is contained in our Road Safety policy).

**Bus and Rail**

• The Forrestfield-Airport Link, which when completed by 2020 will create a 20 minute rail journey from Perth’s eastern suburbs to the city. The line will feature three new stations — Airport West (Belmont), Consolidated Airport and Forrestfield.

• Sinking the Fremantle rail line and Wellington Street bus station to create Perth City Link, which has reconnected the CBD with Northbridge for the first time in more than 100 years. The state-of-the-art new transport facilities were completed ahead of schedule in mid-2016.

• New Green CAT service operating between Perth CBD and Leederville, carrying 3,200 passengers a day and adding to measures to ease congestion in and around the CBD.

• An Ellenbrook rapid bus route, which when in operation by 2018 will provide a 9km, dedicated bus route between Ellenbrook Town Centre and Marshall Road. The route will improve vital public transport connections to Midland, Bassendean and Morley as well as stimulating further investment in the growing Midland area.

• Perth Stadium train station and pedestrian bridge, which with upgrades to East Perth station will be capable of transporting up to 50,000 fans from the new Perth Stadium within an hour of a game or event. The transport infrastructure will be completed by mid-2017, in time for the completion of the stadium by early 2018.
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- Extension of the northern train line to Butler, completed ahead of time and under budget in 2014, providing a new transport connection for the northern suburbs and easing congestion on local roads.
- New train station at Aubin Grove, which when complete by early 2017 will cater for 3,900 daily boardings and include bus transfer facilities, 2,000 parking bays.
- More than 8,900 new parking bays at train stations across the metropolitan area, including an additional 560 bays in a secure, multi-storey car park at Edgewater Station, which when open in 2017 will expand parking capacity to 1,450 bays, and a 48 per cent increase in the railcar fleet, with 96 new railcars to accommodate the growth in passenger numbers.
- The Charles Street Bus Bridge and Busway, which when built by March 2017 will cut bus travel times from Charles Street to the new underground Perth Busport and reduce traffic congestion along Fitzgerald Street.
- Peak-period, dedicated bus lanes, on Beaufort Street between Walcott and Bulwer streets, which has cut bus travel times from Perth’s north-eastern suburbs into the CBD by three to four minutes, and Fitzgerald Street, saving up to six minutes per journey.
- CCTV upgrades to enable central 24/7 monitoring across the Transperth network.
- Free off-peak public transport for seniors and carers, delivering on a 2013 election commitment. This commitment has seen eligible travellers make more than 62 million trips since 2009 (to January 2017).

Active transport

- More cycleways, with the State’s cycle network tripling in size from 122km in 2008 to approximately 442km in 2016. The network will expand a further 269km by 2020 under existing commitments.
- A trial of Bike Boulevards, low-speed streets where cyclists have priority, in conjunction with local governments in Bayswater, Belmont and Vincent. If successful, the concept will be expanded to encourage more people to cycle for short trips, focusing on connections to schools and train stations.
- Initiatives such as the Your Move program, which provides personalised information and support to motivate people to improve their transport choices with more active lifestyles within their local community. Your Move Cockburn attracted more than 25,000 people that swapped their car trips for more active travel modes and increased physical activity. Your Move Wanneroo program reached 29,500 people with 74% of participants agreeing that Your Move changed their lives for the better.

Freight

- Increased capacity and productivity at Fremantle ports, through road, rail and service upgrades jointly funded with the Commonwealth Government.
- New Bunbury road train assembly facility, which gives road trains a safe location to break down into single trailers before travelling into the Bunbury city area.
- Consolidation of Western Australia’s regional port authorities, with four new regionally based port authorities replacing seven former port authorities to give effect to the first stage of ports governance reform for the State and delivering a more modern, comprehensive and localised approach to marine safety.
Smarter transport and less red tape

Since 2008 the Liberal-led Government has also focused on improving the efficiency of our existing transport network to ensure Western Australians can get from A to B as quickly, cheaply and easily as possible. This has included:

- A series of congestion-busting measures, such as new merge lines on freeways, traffic signal timing adjustments, pedestrian countdown timers and intersection upgrades, which have improved pedestrian safety and travel flow, cut travel times on major routes by up to 30 per cent and improved freeway speeds by 65 per cent. Our Traffic Congestion Management Plan has delivered more than 300 low-cost, high-impact initiatives in the past 12 months. The next 12 months we will upgrade key hotspots including Tonkin Highway and Kelvin Road and Hepburn/Whitfords Ave/Marmion Ave intersections.

- Reform of on-demand transport services, increasing competition and choice for millions of customers and recognising the reality of the new competitive environment in Western Australia.

- A one-stop online tool for Department of Transport transactions, DoTDirect, making it quicker and easier for customers to pay vehicle and licence renewals, check demerit points and book driving assessments, removing the need to visit a branch.

- Introducing the WA Photo Card for people who don’t have or can’t get a Driver’s Licence, including concessions for eligible applicants.

- Abolishing registration stickers for heavy and passenger vehicles, saving on printing and postage costs.

- Established the Country Age Pension Fuel Card Scheme, which provides subsidised transport to more than 45,000 pensioners.

The Liberal-led Government’s Perth Transport Plan for 3.5 million people and beyond sets out the Government’s vision for Perth’s transport network and will guide future investment, planning and policy decisions to support the development of the metropolitan area.

Our Commitment

A re-elected Liberal Government will:

1. Complete the $1.96 billion Forrestfield Airport Link by 2020. The project, a key 2013 election commitment, will create 2,000 jobs during construction alone and create a vital rail corridor linking Perth’s eastern suburbs to the central business district.

2. Construct a $520 million Thornlie to Cockburn Rail Link, connecting Thornlie Station on the Armadale Line and Cockburn Station on the Mandurah line by 2023, which will be Perth’s first “cross-town” rail.

3. Complete vital new freight and passenger transport links, including the $1.12 billion Northlink project, Great Northern Highway (Muchea to Wubin) upgrade for $385 million and $540 million Roe 8 project, which will improve traffic flow and mean safer access for residents by taking trucks off Leach Highway, and begin construction of the 5km Roe 9 project, including a 3km tunnel.

4. Build on our investment in cycling infrastructure with:
   a. $24 million to create five scenic, tourism cycling routes which will highlight Perth’s cityscape, the Swan River, Perth Hills and the coastline, and;
b. $23 million, funded through the proceeds of the partial sale of Western Power, to construct a 1.9km shared bike path between Hutton Street and Glendalough Station along the Mitchell Freeway.

5. Further reduce congestion on our freeway system by building an extra lane on the Mitchell Freeway southbound, to take the freeway from two to three lanes all the way through from Hodges Drive to Reid Highway and from three to four continuous lanes from Reid Highway to Vincent Street. The projects are estimated to have a combined cost of $114 million, funded entirely through savings made on State and Federal-funded road projects, and to be completed by mid to late 2019.

6. Invest $42 million from the partial sale of Western Power to create the first stage of a new Southern Ocean Drive, which will ultimately take tourists on a picturesque route from Balladonia on the Eyre Highway through to Cape Le Grand National Park, on to Esperance, the Fitzgerald River National Park, Albany and the ANZAC Centre and finally winding through forests at Denmark and Walpole. The $42 million first stage will involve upgrading the existing South Coast Highway east of Ravensthorpe through to Albany, where road widening and passing lanes are needed to improve the road. The works will involve 60km of road upgrades at Kalgan, Kojaneerup and Jerdacuttup, east of Ravensthorpe.

7. This investment is in line with the Liberals’ commitment to allocate $3 billion of the proceeds from the partial sale of Western Power to a Next Generation Fund, to fund education, training and transport infrastructure.

8. Provide free travel on any Transperth bus, train or ferry during the State’s 10 gazetted public holidays, saving families up to $124 a year in travel costs.

9. Add to our suite of congestion-busting, smarter transport initiatives by introducing a “turn left on red” trial, allowing for motorists to turn left at 10 intersections where safe to do so. This will be indicated by a new signage and line markings and will be assessed over an 18-month period.

What’s at risk under Labor

An integrated approach to transport, covering road, rail and cycling routes. Labor’s entire transport platform is based on their unfunded Metronet idea, which it has no way of paying for.

Labor would scrap Roe 8, despite strong support from local residents and the freight industry for a project that will save lives and improve traffic flow by taking trucks off Leach Highway. Labor’s plan to tear up binding contracts would send a stark message to the business community and raise the State’s sovereign risk.