



# FACTSheet

#6, March 2015

 Indicates no change from FACTSheet #5, September 2014

 Indicates an increase from FACTSheet #5, September 2014

 Indicates a decrease from FACTSheet #5, September 2014

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## Introduction

This latest Fact Sheet contains a snapshot of key facts relating to the current performance of Western Australia and its capital Perth.

It draws on data from a range of sources, including FACTBase reports, government departments and media sources and will be updated regularly.

## The economy<sup>1</sup>

Western Australia's **gross state product (GSP) was \$265 billion** in 2013-14, contributing 17% of Australia's gross domestic product (GDP). GSP per capita was \$103,770, 53% higher than the national average of \$67,932. The state's share of national population was 11.0% or 2.57 million people in the March quarter 2014, and is projected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to rise to 12.2% (3.32 million) by 2022-23.

-  Western Australia's **real GSP rose 5.5%** in 2013 -14, following 4.6% growth in 2012 -13, and was above annual average growth of 4.9% over the past 10 years.
-  GSP is **forecast to rise 2.75%** in 2014 -15 and 3.0% in 2015 -16.
-  Australia's **GDP rose 2.5%** to \$1,584 billion in 2013 -14 and is forecast to rise by 2.5% in 2014-15 and 3% in 2015 -16.
-  Weighted annual average GDP growth of Western Australia's major export markets is **expected to rise from 4.9% in 2012 to 5.5%** in both 2013 and 2014.

## Gross state product

-  Western Australia's **merchandise exports rose 8%** in volume terms in 2013-14. This was the largest contributor to GSP growth ahead of household consumption up 2% and dwelling investment up 11%.
-  **Business investment fell 11%** in volume terms in 2013 -14.
-  Merchandise **exports are expected to rise** by an annual average of 6% between 2014-15 and 2017-18, offsetting falling business investment over the period.

## Industry contribution<sup>3</sup>

- Mining made the largest industry contribution to GSP growth in 2013 -14, with **real value added rising 11%**.
- Other industry sectors contributing to GSP growth included **agriculture, forestry and fishing up 59%**; non-market industries – including public administration and safety; health care and social assistance; and education and training - up 5%; construction up 4%, services industries up 1% and utilities up 1%.
- The **manufacturing industry detracted from GSP** growth in 2013-14 down 3%.
-  The **mining industry accounted for 30% of GSP** in 2013-14. Services industries comprised 28% and construction 12% of GSP.
-  Mining industry **nominal value added rose 18%** to \$79 billion in 2013-14.
-  **Nominal value added in the services industries rose by 5%** to \$74 billion and construction by 1% to \$33 billion in 2013 -14.
-  **Agriculture, forestry and fishing nominal value added rose 64%** to \$7 billion in 2013 -14.

## Population growth<sup>4</sup>

- ➔ Western Australia's population rose 3.2% in 2013, following 3.6% growth in 2012, and was above annual average growth of 2.6% in the past 10 years.
- ➔ The population was 2,550,874 in December 2013, 71,301 more than a year earlier.
- ➔ Net overseas migration contributed 64% (45,401) of the growth in 2013.
- ➔ Population growth is forecast to slow from 3.5% in 2012-13 to 2.6% in 2013-14 and 2.1% in each year to 2017-18, according to the 2014-15 State Budget.

## Labour market<sup>5</sup>

- ⬇ Employment in Western Australia rose 0.3% (4,700) to 1.39 million in November 2014.
- ➔ Employment grew 2.5% (51,300) through the year to November 2014, higher than Australia's growth of 1.2% (140,000).
- ➔ The state's unemployment rate was 5.2% in November 2014; higher than the 5.1% in the previous month and 4.2% a year earlier. Australia's unemployment rate was 6.3% in November 2014.
- ➔ The state's annual average employment is forecast to grow by 1.5% in 2014-15, with an average unemployment rate of 5.5%, according to the 2014-15 State Budget

## Industry sector employment<sup>6</sup>

- ➔ Services industries accounted for 47% of Western Australia's employment in 2013-14. Non-market industries comprised 24%, construction 11% and mining 8%.
- ➔ In 2013-14, employment rose in services industries (up 16,975 or 3%), construction (up 10,925 or 8%) and non-market industries (up 5,215 or 2%) but fell in all other industries.
- ➔ Mining employment fell 5%

(6,100) in 2013-14, due to falls in other mining (down 5,825 or 32.5%), metal ore mining (down 4,575 or 7%) and oil and gas extraction (down 600 or 5.5%), offsetting a rise in exploration and other services employment (up 4,900 or 23%).

- ⬇ Business investment contributed 26% of GSP in 2013-14. The state accounted for 27% of Australia's business investment in 2013-14 and 51% of the value of Australia's resource projects under construction or committed in October 2014.
- ➔ In September 2014, there was \$160 billion of resource projects under construction or committed in Western Australia and a further \$108 billion under consideration.

## Annual business investment<sup>7</sup>

- ➔ Business investment in Western Australia fell 11% in real terms in 2013-14, compared with annual average growth of 13% in the past 10 years.
- ➔ The value of business investment fell 9% to \$69 billion in 2013-14.
- ⬇ The value of private, new capital expenditure of selected industries in Western Australia fell 4% to \$56 billion in 2013-14; 35% of the Australian total (excludes new capital expenditure in the industries of agriculture, forestry and fishing; public administration and safety; education and training; health care and social assistance; and superannuation funds).
- ⬇ The value of mining new capital expenditure fell 3% to \$47 billion in 2013-14; 52% of the Australian mining total.

## Quarterly business investment<sup>8</sup>

- ⬇ Business investment in Western Australia fell 4% to \$16 billion in the June quarter 2014.
- ⬇ Engineering construction work

done fell 2% to \$10 billion in the June quarter 2014. It fell 3% to \$43 billion in 2013-14.

- ➔ Mining new capital expenditure fell 1.5% to \$12 billion in the September quarter 2014 (not adjusted for seasonal factors).

## Iron ore and LNG prices<sup>9</sup>

The value of minerals and petroleum sales in Western Australia rose 20% to \$122 billion in 2013-14. The Reserve Bank of Australia's non-rural commodity price index fell 10% in 2013-14, down 8% in 2013. The Australian dollar exchange rate fell 11% to US91.5 cents in 2013-14 and is forecast by the Western Australian Treasury to fall to US90.6 cents in 2014-15 and US84.9 cents by 2017-18.

- ⬇ The monthly average price of iron ore fell 9% to US\$74 a tonne in November 2014. The annual average price fell 3% to US\$123/t in 2013-14 (up 5% to US\$135/t in 2013) and is forecast by Treasury to fall to US\$115/t by 2017-18.1
- ⬇ The monthly average price of LNG fell 10% to US\$13.9 a million British thermal unit in November 2014. The annual average price fell 2% to US\$16.0/mmBtu in 2013-14 (down 4% to US\$16.0/mmBtu in 2013).
- ⬇ The monthly average price of crude oil fell 10% to US\$76 a barrel in November 2014. The annual average price rose 10% to US\$101/bbl in 2013-14 (up 4% to US\$98/bbl in 2013).
- ⬇ The monthly average price of gold fell 4% to US\$1,175 a troy ounce in November 2014. The annual average price fell 19% to US\$1,296/oz in 2013-14 (down 15.5% to US\$1,411/oz in 2013).

## Major minerals and petroleum sales<sup>10</sup>

- ↑ Western Australia's **iron ore sales rose 31% to \$74 billion** in 2013-14 (61% of minerals and petroleum sales), with sales volumes up 23% to 631 million tonnes.
- ↓ **LNG sales rose 16% to \$14 billion** in 2013-14 (12% of minerals and petroleum sales), with volumes up 1% to 20 million tonnes.
- ↑ **Crude oil and condensate sales fell 1% to \$10 billion** in 2013-14 (8% of minerals and petroleum sales), with volumes down 12% to 13 gegalitres.
- ↓ **Gold sales fell 2% to \$9 billion** in 2013-14 (7% of minerals and petroleum sales), despite volumes rising 9% to 195 tonnes.

## Iron ore and LNG sales outlook<sup>11</sup>

- ↓ Western Australia's **iron ore sales are forecast to rise** by an annual average of 5% to 777 million tonnes between 2013-14 and 2017-18.
- **LNG sales are expected to grow** from 20 million tonnes in 2013-14 to almost 50 million tonnes in 2017-18, assuming the Gorgon, Wheatstone and Prelude projects are operating at full capacity at this time and the North West Shelf maintains current production levels.
- ↑ **Western Australia accounted for 40% of proposed iron ore expansions** by the top 10 iron ore exporting countries in 2012 and 27% of global LNG capacity under construction in 2014.

## Principal agricultural commodities<sup>12</sup>

- ↑ The **gross value of agriculture production in Western Australia rose 22% to \$11.0 billion** in 2013-14.
- The **gross value of principal agricultural commodities**

produced fell 23% to \$5.4 billion in 2012-13. (Includes wheat, barley, oats, grain sorghum, canola, cotton, apples, grapes, hay, lupins, nursery production, potatoes, tomatoes, cattle and calves, sheep and lambs, pigs, poultry, wool, milk and eggs.)

- **Wheat production fell 25% to \$2.1 billion** in 2012-13, with volumes down 40% to 7 million tonnes.
- ↓ The value of the **State's agri-food exports rose 10% to \$6.4 billion** in 2013-14. (Includes agriculture, forestry and fishing industry products, natural and cultured pearls, and food and beverage manufacturing.)

## Exports

- In 2013-14, **exports of goods and services accounted for 52% of GDP**. In the same period minerals and petroleum contributed 90% (\$119 billion) of the state's merchandise exports. Western Australia contributed 51% of Australia's merchandise exports in 2013-14 and large shares of national exports to China (71%), Korea (50%) and Japan (49%). China was the largest market for the state's exports of iron ore (76%), gold (64%) and crude oil and condensate (22%) in 2013-14. In volume terms, 75% of the state's LNG went to Japan in 2013-14.

## Merchandise trade<sup>13</sup>

- Western Australia's **merchandise exports rose 14% to \$132 billion** in 2013-14.
- Merchandise **export volumes rose 8% in 2013-14**, above annual average growth of 5% in the past 10 years.
- Merchandise **imports rose 8% to \$37 billion** in 2013-14, mainly due to higher imports of petroleum (up \$1.5 billion or 19%) and general industrial machinery and equipment (up \$1.2 billion or 47%).

- **Merchandise exports mainly comprised iron ore (56%), LNG (10.0%), gold (9.6%) and crude oil and condensate (7%)** in 2013-14.

## Major trading partners 2013-14<sup>14</sup>

- ↑ **China was Western Australia's largest export market in 2013-14** (\$72 billion or 55%), followed by Japan (\$24 billion or 18%).
- **China overtook Japan** as the state's largest export market in 2006-07 (2006).
- ↑ **The state's exports rose to China by 32%** (\$17.4 billion) and Japan by 11% (\$2.4 billion) in 2013-14.
- **Singapore was the state's largest source of imports in 2013-14** (\$4.6 billion or 13%), followed by China (\$4.1 billion or 11%).

## Major iron ore export markets (volume)<sup>15</sup>

- ↑ **Western Australia accounted for 47% of global iron ore exports** in 2013.
- ↑ **The state's iron ore exports to China rose 29% to 490 million tonnes** in 2013-14, higher than the 22% annual average growth in the past 10 years.
- ↓ **Iron ore exports to Japan rose 0.2% to 76 million tonnes** in 2013-14.
- ↑ **Iron ore exports to Korea rose 16% to 51 million tonnes** in 2013-14.
- **China overtook Japan** as Western Australia's largest iron ore export market in 2004-05 (2005).

## Iron ore exports<sup>12</sup>

- ↑ **The value of Western Australia's iron ore exports rose 32% to \$74 billion** in 2013-14, above annual average growth of 30% in the past 10 years.
- ↓ **The annual average price of the state's iron ore exports rose 7% in 2013-14.**

↑ The volume of the state's iron ore exports rose 23% to 632 million tonnes in 2013-14, above annual average growth of 13% in the past 10 years.

## Major iron ore exporting ports<sup>17</sup>

↑ Iron ore exports from Port Hedland rose 31% to 345 million tonnes in 2013-14, accounting for 55% of the state's iron ore exports.

↑ Iron ore exports from Dampier fell 1% to 139 million tonnes in 2013-14, contributing 22% of the state's iron ore exports.

↑ Iron ore exports from Cape Lambert rose 42% to 111 million tonnes in 2013-14, contributing 17% of the state's iron ore exports.

↑ Port authorities and iron ore producers have identified port total capacity expansion targets of 495 million tonnes for Port Hedland by 2017-18, 210 million tonnes for Cape Lambert by 2014-15 and 150 million tonnes for Dampier by 2014-15.

## LNG sales<sup>18</sup>

↓ The value of Western Australia's LNG sales rose 16% to \$14 billion in 2013-14, below annual average growth of 18% over the past 10 years.

↑ The annual average price of the state's LNG sales rose 14% in 2013-14, above annual average growth of 8% over the past 10 years.

↓ The volume of the state's LNG sales rose 1% to 20 million tonnes in 2013-14, below annual average growth of 9% over the past 10 years.

## Quarterly merchandise exports<sup>19</sup>

↓ Western Australia's merchandise exports rose 4% to \$32.0 billion in the September quarter 2014.

↓ Western Australia's

merchandise exports to China fell 2.5% to \$16.1 billion in the September quarter 2014; the third successive quarterly decline.

↓ The state's merchandise exports to Japan rose 15% to \$6.3 billion in the September quarter 2014.

↑ The state's merchandise exports to all other countries (excluding China and Japan) rose 8% to \$9.5 billion in the September quarter 2014.

## Services trade<sup>20</sup>

↓ Western Australia contributed 10.8% of Australia's services exports in 2013-14.

→ The state's services exports in 2013-14 mainly comprised personal travel (27%), education travel (21%), transport (16%), business travel (13%) and technical, trade and other business services (9%).

↑ Western Australia's services exports rose 5% to \$6.2 billion in 2013-14, mainly due to increases in education travel to the state (up 10% to \$1.3 billion), personal travel to the State (up 7% to \$1.7 billion), transport services (up 6% to \$1.0 billion) and computer services (up 64% to \$113 million).

↓ Services imports rose 3% to \$10.7 billion in 2013-14, mainly due to increases in personal travel from the state (up 11% to \$4.1 billion) and freight services (up 5% to \$1.5 billion).

## Construction Industry<sup>21</sup>

↓ The construction industry employs 10.38%, annualised, of the overall state workforce.

↑ There were 145,710 people working in the construction industry as at November 2014, with an annualised average of 141,750 in the previous twelve month period. The industry workforce increased by 4,420 people in the last

quarter.

↑ On a year-to-year comparison up to the end of October 2014 there was a 31.45% increase in construction apprentice commencements, excluding electrical, and an increase in electrical apprentice commencements of 14.31%.

↑ As of October 2014, the industry including electrical, employed more than 43% of all Western Australia's apprentices.

↓ It is estimated that approximately 24,000 construction industry employees are working on resource industry infrastructure construction projects.

↓ The value of residential and non-residential construction work, excluding heavy engineering, in the year to September 2014 increased by 8.1% compared to September 2013.

↓ The engineering construction sector, excluding heavy engineering, decreased by 3.3% in Western Australia between June 2013 and June 2014.

↑ The housing sector has in recent months recovered with annual dwelling unit approvals to November 2014 at 31,821 or 24,048 houses, compared to a previous peak of 27,196 or 21,949 houses, at November 2006

↑ Seasonally adjusted, building approvals for all dwelling units increased by 1.2% between October and November 2014. There was an increase of 5.2% over the three months to November 2014.

↑ Trend building approvals in Western Australia increased by 0.9% between October 2014 and November 2014 and rose by 14.5% over the year.

↑ Seasonally adjusted, dwelling commencements increased by 2.0% in the quarter to June 2014; and on an annualised basis compared to June 2013 commencements increased by 20.1%.

## Apprentice Commencements<sup>21</sup>

Following a peak in 2010 and decline in the following two years, **the trend has been an increase in commencements** in most individual trades since 2012. The increase of commencements during this period will have a positive impact on the number of apprentices in training over the next 36 months. Given the recent significant growth in industry activity it is important to maintain this increase in commencements in order to sustain the industry's future skilled workforce needs.

**Construction apprentice commencements**, excluding electrical, during the year November 2013 to October 2014 have improved by 31.5% compared to the same twelve month period November 2012 to October 2013.

Overall, **commencements have increased by 24.6%** comparing the year November 2013 to October 2014 to the same twelve month period November 2012 to October 2013. The electrical apprentice commencement figures have recovered after declining in the first half of the year.

Figures indicate a **healthy growth of 14.3%**. All trades have seen an increase in apprentice commencements with bricklaying increasing by 59.1% and wall and ceiling fixing increasing by 77.2%

## Apprentices in Training<sup>21</sup>

Overall, the **'in-training' figures appear to be improving** during the year; this may be due partly to the number of apprentices being retained in the industry and the impact of various state and federal initiatives as well as the recent increase in overall commencements.

## Employment of Females<sup>21</sup>

There are currently 77 female apprentices in training. Over the past 10 years the **overall percentage of female apprentices in construction has risen from 0.88% to 1.87%**.

The **number of female trainees in training is currently 30 and has risen from 3.29% to 4.05%** over the past 10 years. Although there is no definitive research into the reasons for the increase, one factor has been the increased promotion of 'women in trades' by the Construction Training Fund and organisations such as 'TradeUp Australia' and the National Association of Women in Construction - WA

## Employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders<sup>21</sup>

There are currently 166 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) apprentices in training. Over the past 10 years the **overall percentage of ATSI apprentices has risen from 3.28% to 4.04%**, which is indicative of the number of ATSI people in the general population.

Currently there are **73 trainees in training with an ATSI background**, which represents approximately 9.86% of all building and construction trainees. This increase appears to coincide with a concerted effort to recruit ATSI people by the civil construction sector

## Traineeships<sup>21</sup>

There are currently **751 trainees in training**, primarily in the Civil Construction sector.

There has been a **54.2% increase** since the 2008 figure of 487 trainees 'in training'.

## Reforming and Reshaping

- The State Government's **local government reform** agenda has been put on hold, with Governor's orders for boundary adjustments that are not supported by the councils involved to be revoked. The boundary adjustments for 15 metropolitan councils would only proceed if affected councils provided a council resolution in support of it.
- A **16-storey, \$120 million tower for Subiaco, has been approved**. The decision marks the end to a four-year attempt by Sydney-based developer D2 Property to build on the site of the former Subiaco Pavilion markets. Existing buildings on the site, unused since the markets closed in 2007, will be demolished to make way for 292 residential apartments, restaurants, fast-food outlets, a small bar, rooftop bar and shops.<sup>24</sup>
- The State Government has **capped surcharges imposed on taxi patrons** who pay their fare with non-cash methods to 5 per cent. The State Government announced that passengers using a credit, debit or charge card, manual voucher, e-ticket or a smartphone app to pay their taxi fare would no longer have to pay a surcharge of up to 11%.<sup>22</sup>
- The **third and largest phase of Fiona Stanley Hospital started** in early February when the doors to the emergency department were opened, at the same time as the Fremantle Hospital emergency department closed. It's expected that staff at the emergency department at the \$2 billion Fiona Stanley Hospital would see about 95,000 patients a year. In addition to the emergency department, a wide range of acute services such as paediatrics, coronary care, cancer services and mental health services will also

- open as part of Phase 3. <sup>22</sup>
- In February, approximately **18,000 year 7 students started high school**. It's the first time year 7 students at public schools went to secondary schools. The move brings WA in to line with the rest of Australia.
- The **State Government has launched its aviation strategy**, which will provide a framework for future policy, planning and investment in the state's aviation sector by private sector and the State Government. The Department of Transport will work with the Australian Government and Perth Airport on its forecasting, and master and infrastructure planning, to ensure the airport keeps pace with future demand. <sup>22</sup>
- The first images of the new **Perth Stadium train station** have been revealed. The station and associated railway infrastructure, valued at \$100 million, is part of a \$358 million integrated transport component for the stadium. <sup>22</sup>
- **Motorcycles and taxis will be allowed to travel in selected bus lanes** for a 12-month trial period starting in March. Under the trial, properly-licensed taxis can also travel in most bus lanes, except those which terminate in dedicated bus facilities. <sup>22</sup>
- Perth-based construction company, **CASC has been awarded a \$30 million contract to supply formwork and concrete** for the 60,000 seat new Perth Stadium. <sup>22</sup>
- In February, the State Government called for **expressions of interest for the day-to-day management of Perth Stadium**. The operator will manage a range of activities in the stadium and sports precinct including events and functions, catering, cleaning, waste management, security, traffic management and ticketing. The process is expected to take a year. <sup>22</sup>
- In January, the **\$1 billion Gateway WA Project** reached the halfway mark, six months ahead of schedule, with completion predicted by mid-2016. Gateway WA project is the largest road project ever to be undertaken in Perth and is jointly funded by the Australian (\$676 million) and the Western Australian (\$310 million) Governments. It will deliver a fully upgraded road network around the consolidated Perth Airport terminal and nearby Kewdale and Forrestfield industrial estates. <sup>22</sup>
- BHP Billiton will provide \$10 million to develop an **interactive water park at Elizabeth Quay**. The park, on the corner of William Street and Geoffrey Bolton Avenue, will include a water feature with choreographed water jets, lighting and sound. The water park can also be drained in a matter of minutes to create a public event space for up to 800 people. <sup>22</sup>
- The **City of Rockingham's push for higher-density development** along its coastal and CBD precincts is starting to pay dividends, with more than \$100 million in residential projects under construction or approved to be built, which will collectively add more than 600 apartments, as well as two hotels. <sup>31</sup>
- In January, the draft **Scarborough Master Plan** was released for public comment, proposing a \$57.4 million redevelopment starting this year to provide more housing, a water playground, a park with skate facilities, community and function centre, new cafes, restaurants, kiosks and public art. New lookouts, decking and boardwalks will enable better access to the beach while family friendly areas will provide green spaces, playgrounds, alfresco dining and event spaces. Provision has been made for the City of Stirling's plan for a public pool. The \$57.4 million revitalisation is being delivered by the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority and the City of Stirling <sup>22</sup>
- Heavy trucks will be removed off Leach Highway with construction of Western Australia's largest road infrastructure project - the **Perth Freight Link** - scheduled to start in early 2016. The State Government will invest \$650 million towards the \$1.575 billion project, which will remove up to 500 trucks a day from Leach Highway and provide a more efficient and direct freight line to Fremantle Port. <sup>22</sup>
- The State Government's **City of Perth Act** to establish Perth as the city's pre-eminent council, looks set to be amended after the City of Perth and the City of Vincent couldn't reach agreement on critical electoral issues, including wards and vote weighting. The proposed Act would have seen the City of Perth's boundaries expanded, to take in all of the City of Perth and the City of Vincent plus The University of Western Australia, Kings Park, the Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre and the new Perth Children's Hospital. <sup>23</sup>
- **Elizabeth Quay** is on time and budget, and will be ready for the public in spring 2015. The inlet walls are complete and excavation is expected to begin early 2015, ready for water to fill the inlet. The footings for the new pedestrian bridge are being constructed and pilings are being installed for the food and beverage outlets, jetties and moorings. Elizabeth Quay will deliver about 1,600 jobs during construction, with 146 contracts awarded to businesses for earthmoving, fabrication, surveying, construction, landscaping and architectural services.
- The State Government has called for **expressions of interest from artists across Australia for a major public artwork at Elizabeth Quay**. The \$1.3 million piece at the top of the inlet will be the entry statement from the city to the quay. As part of the \$440

million project budget, up to 10 public art pieces will be commissioned to capture the history of the area, enrich the public spaces and engage visitors for years to come. There will also be a piece of art at Barrack Street Jetty that reinterprets the school signatures from the Bell Tower, a collection of 2D and 3D Aboriginal artworks and a sculpture of Bessie Rischbieth, a leading social figure whose civil action in the 1960s symbolises shifting attitudes to recognising the natural attributes of the Swan River.<sup>22</sup>

- The **first pile for the 60,000 seat new Perth Stadium** was driven into the Burswood Peninsula site in December. Over the next 12 months, more than 2,000 piles will be driven about 35 metres into the ground, to support the stadium. Over the next three years, more than 5,700 workers will be involved in the stadium's construction. The stadium will be built using more than 10,000 tonnes of structural steel and more than 52,000 cubic metres of concrete.<sup>22</sup>
- The State Government has reached an agreement with the Commonwealth that will ensure in the event of a **shark attack or threat**; immediate action can be taken by the Western Australian Government to implement the imminent threat policy. The government also withdrew its application for Commonwealth approval of the drum line shark hazard mitigation program.<sup>29</sup>
- Four public primary schools and four public secondary schools will be built and maintained under **Western Australia's first Public Private Partnership (PPP) for schools**. The State Government has called for expressions of interest from private companies for the package.<sup>22</sup>
- The Minister for Local Government **dismissed the City of Canning** and appointed a panel of three commissioners to represent ratepayers until

a new local government is elected in October 2015.<sup>22</sup>

- The State Government will sell Market City in Canning Vale and port handling facilities in Port Hedland and Kwinana in the **first round of asset sales** to reduce the state's debt levels. The three assets are expected to generate between \$1 billion and \$2 billion.<sup>22</sup>
- The **\$221 million rail extension to Butler** opened in September, several months early and \$20 million under budget. The State Government expects more than 2,000 passengers a day will choose to take the 37 minute journey to Perth from the new station.<sup>22</sup>
- Respected former public servant and Agent General **Kerry Sanderson AO was named as Western Australia's first female Governor**.<sup>22</sup>
- The State Government has placed the former **Sunset Hospital matron's house on the market**, bringing the Sunset Heritage Precinct - a valuable arts and community asset for Perth and Western Australia - a step closer. The sale of the house, located on a 1,993sqm lot on Iris Avenue in Dalkeith will fund much-needed heritage building preservation work on the historic Sunset site. It will also open up part of the site for community use and enjoyment, with a picnic area and playground to be available in late 2016.<sup>22</sup>
- More than **\$4 million in upgrades at Hillarys Boat Harbour** were completed in September. The \$3.3 million demolition and reconstruction of K and L jetties, together with the \$1.2 million extension of the northern car park, provided a boost to one of the busiest parts of the facility. Pen holders now have access to a modern floating pen system, improved fire, security and fendering systems.<sup>22</sup>
- **Recycling of metropolitan household waste increased from 39% to 45%** between 2011-12 and 2013-14 while there was a 6% reduction

in amount of waste sent to landfill.<sup>22</sup>

- In July, the State Government launched the **Western Australian National Disability Insurance Scheme My Way** trial in Busselton. An extra \$100 million, including \$40 million of State Government funding, is expected to be spent on supporting the 8,400 people in the State's two NDIS trials over the two-year trial period. This is over and above the funds currently provided to people with disability across the State. The cities of Cockburn and Kwinana will join the WA NDIS My Way trial from July 1, 2015.<sup>22</sup>

## Lifestyle

- It's estimated that more than 1.4 million people went in to Perth, over a three day period to see **The Giants**, an 11-metre tall Deep Sea Diver and a six-metre tall Little Girl walk through the city. While the influx of people into the city stretched public transport to the limit, owners of hotels, bars, restaurants and cafes were smiling, with tens of millions of dollars pumped into Perth businesses over the three days.<sup>24</sup>
- This year's **Fringe Festival set new records** with more than 250,000 tickets sold during the month-long event and more than \$6.2 million taken at the box office. Cabaret show La Soiree was so popular it extended its run beyond the official end of the Fringe Festival.<sup>25</sup>
- **Perth is on track to become the country's performing arts capital**. Figures released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics show that 56.3% of Western Australians aged 15 years or older went to a performing arts event in 2013-14. This compares to 52% of people in New South Wales, 55% of Victorians, 54.8% of South Australians and 48.5% of Queenslanders. Western Australia was only

outperformed by the ACT with an attendance rate of 64.2%.<sup>30</sup>

- 10 Olympic gold medallists and a current world record holder took part in the 2015 **BHP Billiton Aquatic Super Series** at HBF Stadium in January. Teams from the United States, China, Japan and Australia competed in series.<sup>22</sup>
- After their historic AFC Asian Cup win, the **Socceroos** will kick off their home 2018 FIFA World Cup campaign in Perth this year. The State Government, through Tourism Western Australia, has secured the team's first home FIFA World Cup qualification match, to be played at the revitalised nib Stadium, in June or September.<sup>22</sup>
- Perth has won hosting rights for the world final of the **2016 Union Cycliste Internationale World Cycling Tour (UWCT)**. The tour is for the world's best amateur riders and comprises 15 qualifying events which are held in cities around the world, culminating in the world final.<sup>22</sup>
- **TripAdvisor** rated Australia's top 25 beaches of 2015, with Cottesloe coming in seventh and Scarborough, sixteenth.<sup>28</sup>
- The State Government has invited local and international contractors to submit **expressions of interest to design and construct Western Australia's new museum in the Perth Cultural Centre**. The State Government has allocated \$428.3 million to the new museum project, which will be four times the size of the current museum. It's scheduled to open in 2020.<sup>22</sup>
- The Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Liveability Index has ranked Perth as the **ninth most liveable city in the world**. Melbourne was ranked first for the fourth consecutive year. Adelaide was ranked fifth and Sydney seventh.<sup>23</sup>
- The State Government has committed to funding the **Margaret River Gourmet Escape** until at least 2017.<sup>22</sup>
- The WACA hosted three matches as part of the **ICC Cricket World Cup 2015**, one

of this year's biggest sporting events. The two top-ranked one-day international sides, Australia and India, played at the WACA as well as the West Indies, United Arab Emirates and Afghanistan. The matches were broadcast to millions of people around the world.<sup>22</sup>

- The City of Perth has approved a **362 room Westin Hotel development application** on the old FESA House and Perth Chest Clinic site in Hay Street, Perth. The development also includes restaurants, bars, retail and public spaces. The State Government has a goal for 1,900 hotel rooms to be added to the Perth CBD by 2020.<sup>22</sup>
- Perth is ranked as the **third most generous metropolitan area in Australia**, in terms of the average amount given per person and fourth in terms of per taxpayer donations. Between 2007 and 2012 the average amount of money donated by an individual living in Perth, to charities rose by 16.5% to \$556 a year and the average taxpayer donation increased by 27.1% to \$206.<sup>30</sup>
- People living in 19 of Perth and Peel's 40 local areas have experienced an **increase in economic stress** over recent years. The hardest hit families are living in Armadale, Stirling, Murray, Waroona, Wanneroo, Mandurah, Gosnells, Canning and Serpentine-Jarrahdale. Those least affected by economic stress were in Peppermint Grove, Cottesloe and Nedlands.<sup>30</sup>
- More than 50 free and ticketed events featuring 130 designers and 113 models featured in 2014 **Telstra Perth Fashion Festival**, which was held at the Perth Concert Hall. As well as providing a platform to promote local and national designers, this year the festival was working with the Singapore-based FIDÉ Fashion Weeks and the Asian Couture Federation to establish a partnership between the Western Australian and Asian fashion industries.<sup>22</sup>

- The world's richest pacing race will come home to Perth with the **Inter Dominion harness racing competition** from 2015-16 to 2017-18. The prestigious international competition, which has rotated between all the States of Australia and both islands of New Zealand, will see elite harness horses compete in an event that requires both speed and endurance. \$1.8million in total stakes would be on offer for the 2015-16 series with a \$1.3million purse awarded in the Grand Final, making Perth's Inter Dominion the richest pacing race in the world.<sup>22</sup>
- The City of Perth's **Twilight Hawkers Markets** returned to Forrest Place, every Friday night between Friday 17th October until 24th April 2015, from 4.30pm-9pm.<sup>26</sup>

## Knowledge and innovation

- A **world-first wave energy project** has been switched-on at Garden Island. Australian company Carnegie Wave Energy developed a world-first grid-connected wave energy generator and desalination plant capable of producing both electricity and fresh water. The project will provide renewable electricity for HMAS Stirling, Australia's largest naval base. The desalination component will be able to supply up to one-third of Stirling's freshwater needs.<sup>22</sup>
- Environmental approval has been given for **Australia's first metropolitan waste-to-energy facility** in East Rockingham - which could process household waste into enough electricity to power 23,000 homes a year. The facility is planned for 2017 and would be strategically located in the Kwinana Industrial Area.<sup>22</sup>
- Some of the **world's top tech entrepreneurs** were in Perth in early February. The event was part of the Mai Tai festivities, hosted by Curtin

University lecturer and tech entrepreneur Bill Tai. The event attracted Blackbird VC Rick Baker, BlueChilli founder Sebastian Eckersley-Maslin, the Canva founders and a number of pro kites. Mai Tai is a community of entrepreneurs, innovators and athletes who gather to push each other in business and sport while giving back to the environment. They host events all around the world.<sup>27</sup>

- The **\$160 million Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder** is taking shape in Western Australia's outback, about a four hour drive from Geraldton. The project has seen the installation of 36 huge antenna dishes on Boolardy Station, which will eventually work together to survey large areas of sky to help scientists understand how galaxies have formed and evolved. Although only six of the dishes were active, the latest picture has almost 2000 galaxies in it.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>1</sup> ABS 5220.0 State Accounts and 5204.0 National Accounts; Western Australia 2014-15 State Budget; and Australia 2014-15 Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook.

<sup>2</sup> ABS 5220.0 State Accounts, 5206.0 National Accounts and 6302.0 Balance of Payments; and Western Australia 2014-15 State Budget.

<sup>3</sup> ABS 5220.0 State Accounts

<sup>4</sup> ABS 3101.0 Australian Demographic Statistics

<sup>5</sup> ABS 6202.0 Monthly Labour Force

<sup>6</sup> ABS 6291.0.55.003 Quarterly Labour Force.

<sup>7</sup> ABS 5206.0 National Accounts, 5220.0 State Accounts and 5625.0 Private New Capital Expenditure

<sup>8</sup> ABS 5206.0 National Accounts, 8762.0 Engineering Construction and 5625.0 Private New Capital Expenditure.

<sup>9</sup> World Bank, Commodity Price Data (monthly prices in nominal US dollars).

<sup>10</sup> Western Australia Department of Mines and Petroleum, Minerals and Petroleum Summary Tables

<sup>11</sup> Western Australia Department of Mines and Petroleum, Minerals and Petroleum Summary Tables; Western Australia 2014-15 State Budget; and Western Australia Department of State Development.

<sup>12</sup> ABS 5220.0 State Accounts, 5368.0 International Trade in Goods and Services, 7501.0 Value of Principal Agricultural Commodities Produced, 7111.0 Principal Agricultural Commodities.

<sup>13</sup> ABS 5368.0 International Trade in Goods and Services, 5206.0 National Accounts and 5220.0 State Accounts.

<sup>14</sup> ABS 5368.0 International Trade in Goods and Services.

<sup>15</sup> ABS 5368.0 International Trade in Goods and Services; and Western Australia Department of Mines and Petroleum, Resource Data Files.

<sup>16</sup> ABS 5368.0 International Trade in Goods and Services; and Western Australia Department of Mines and Petroleum, Resource Data Files.

<sup>17</sup> ABS 5368.0 International Trade in Goods and Services.

<sup>18</sup> Western Australia Department of Mines and Petroleum, Resource Data Files.

<sup>19</sup> ABS 5368.0 International Trade in Goods and Services.

<sup>20</sup> ABS 5368.0.55.003(004) International Trade in Services by Country, State and Detailed Services Category.

<sup>21</sup> Construction Industry Snapshot, Western Australia January 2015

<sup>22</sup> Ministerial media statement

<sup>23</sup> ABC online

<sup>24</sup> The West Australian online

<sup>25</sup> WA Today online

<sup>26</sup> City of Perth website

<sup>27</sup> Business Insider Australia

<sup>28</sup> Trip Advisor

<sup>29</sup> Department of Fisheries

<sup>30</sup> FACTBase report

<sup>31</sup> Business News

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