



FACTSheet

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Introduction

This document has been prepared as an index of key facts relating to the current performance of Western Australia and its capital city Perth.

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

Facts and figures

Western Australia's gross state product (GSP) was \$243 billion in 2012-13, contributing 16% of Australia's gross domestic product (GDP). GSP per capita was \$98,069, which is 48% higher than the national average of \$66,397.

Western Australia's share of national population was 10.9% in the June quarter 2013, and is projected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics to rise to 12.2% (3.3 million) by 2022-23.

- Western Australia's real GSP rose 5.1% in 2012-13, following 7.3% growth in 2011-12, and was above the annual average growth of 4.9% over the past 10 years. (ABS 5220.0 & 5 204.0)
- GSP is forecast to rise 3.25% in 2013-14 and 2.5% in 2014-15. (ABS 5220.0 & 5204.0)
- Australia's GDP rose 2.6% to \$1,521 billion in 2012-13 and is forecast to rise by 2.5% in both 2013-14 and 2014-15. (ABS 5220.0 & 5204.0)
- Weighted annual average GDP growth of Western Australia's major export markets is expected to rise from 4.9% in 2012 to 5.3% in

2013 and 5.2% in 2014. (ABS 5220.0 & 5204.0)

- Western Australia's merchandise exports rose 9% in 2012-13. This was the largest contributor to GSP growth ahead of business investment which was up 8.5% and household consumption which was up 4%. (ABS 5220.0 & 5206.0)
- Merchandise exports are forecast to rise 6.25% and business investment to fall 9.0% in 2013-14. (ABS 5220.0 & 5206.0)
- Merchandise exports are expected to rise by an annual average of 6% between 2013-14 and 2016-17, offsetting falling business investment over the period. (ABS 5220.0 & 5206.0)
- Mining made the largest industry contribution to GSP growth in 2012-13, with real value added rising 11%. (ABS 5220.0)
- Other industry sectors contributing to GSP growth included services industries which were up 4%. Non-market industries including public administration and safety; health care and social assistance; and education and training were up 4% and manufacturing was up 1.5% (ABS 5220.0)
- Industry sectors detracting from GSP growth in 2012-13 included agriculture, forestry and fishing (down 44%), construction (down 1%) and the electricity, gas, water and waste services utilities were down 2% (ABS 5220.0)
- The mining industry accounted for 29% of GSP in 2012-13. Services industries comprised 28% and construction 13% of GSP. (ABS 5220.0)
- Mining industry nominal value added, fell 9% to \$71 billion in 2012-13, due to the largest annual average fall in mining

commodity prices in more than two decades. (ABS 5220.0)

- Nominal value added in services industries rose by 7% to \$69 billion and construction by 3% to \$31 billion in 2012-13. (ABS 5220.0)
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing nominal value added, fell 25% to \$3 billion in 2012-13. (ABS 5220.0)
- Western Australia remains the top-performing economy in the nation with no slippage in the ranking over the past three months. (CommSec State of the States, January 2014)
- Western Australia was ranked number one in an international survey of best destinations for mining investment. The Fraser Institute, named WA as the most attractive jurisdiction for investment in its annual survey. It scored 85.3 out of a possible 100, beating Nevada, Newfoundland and Labrador. (ABC Online 11/3/14)
- WA ranked equal second in the world in the Best Practices Mineral Potential Index, which takes into account both mineral and exploration investment potential, irrespective of policy restrictions. (ABC Online 11/3/14)
- In September, Western Australia was stripped of its AAA credit rating by global credit ratings agency Standard and Poor's which lowered its rating to AA+. The agency said the downgrade was caused by declining revenues and a blow-out in the state's debt. It is the first time in more than a decade that WA has not had a AAA credit rating. (ABC News online 20/9/13)
- Western Australia leads the way in retail trade. It is the second strongest state on economic growth, business investment, construction work done, housing finance, population growth and unemployment; and finished fourth on dwelling starts. (CommSec State of the States, January 2014)

- Western Australia retains top spot on the retail rankings with spending in the September quarter almost 22% above decade average levels. Solid population growth, a lift in home purchases and firm wage growth underpin the relative strength in consumer spending. (CommSec State of the States, January 2014)
- Western Australia was the second ranked state for housing finance, with the number of commitments 8.3% above the long-term average. (CommSec State of the States, January 2014)
- Home prices rose by 9.9% in the year ending December 2013. (CommSec State of the States, January 2014)
- Perth has been ranked the 21st most expensive city in the world, according to a global cost-of-living study. The Economist Intelligence Unit's (EIU) Worldwide Cost of Living Survey, which compares 131 cities using New York as its baseline, ranked Sydney as the fifth and Melbourne the sixth most expensive on earth. (The West Australian 3/3/14)

Population growth

- Western Australia's population rose 3.5% in 2012-13, following 3.2% growth in 2011-12, and was above annual average growth of 2.5% in the past 10 years. (ABS 3101.0)
- The state's population was 2,517,165 in June 2013, 80,986 more than a year earlier. Net overseas migration contributed 64% (51,809) of the growth. (ABS 3101.0)
- ABS Estimated Resident Population (ERP) figures indicate that the population of Perth as of June 2012 was 1,900,000, up 66,400, or 3.6% from one year earlier. The Peel region is home to 4.8 per cent of Perth's population.
- Population growth is forecast to slow to 2.5% in 2013-14

and 2.1% in each year to 2016-17, according to the 2013-14 Government Mid-Year Financial Projections Statement (ABS 3101.0)

Labour market

- Employment in Western Australia fell 0.04% or by 500 to 1.34 million in January 2014. Annual average employment grew 1.3% or 17,292 in the year to January 2014, higher than Australia's growth of 0.9% or 105,717. (ABS 6202.0)
- The state's unemployment rate was 5.1% in January 2014, higher than the 4.6% in the previous month and 4.0% a year earlier. Australia's unemployment rate was 6.0% in January 2014. (ABS 6202.0)
- State employment is forecast to grow by 1.25% in 2013-14, with an average unemployment rate of 5.0%, according to the 2013-14 Government's Mid-year Financial Projections Statement. (ABS 6202.0)

Industry sector employment

- Services industries accounted for 46% of Western Australia's employment in 2012-13. Non-market industries comprised 23% and construction 10%. (ABS 6291.0.55.003)
- The mining industry accounted for 8% of State employment in 2012-13. (ABS 6291.0.55.003)
- Services industries' employment rose by 24,075 or 4% in 2012-13. Employment grew in all other industry sectors, including utilities up 5,650 or 34%, mining up 5,575 or 5% and construction up 3,325 or 3%. (ABS 6291.0.55.003)
- Mining employment growth in 2012-13 was driven by increases in oil and gas extraction, up 3,000 or 39%, exploration and other services,

up 2,750 or 15% and metal ore mining was up 1,000 or 2%. (ABS 6291.0.55.003)

Business investment contributed 31% of GSP in 2012-13. The state accounted for 28% of Australia's business investment in 2012-13 and 51% of the value of Australia's resource projects under construction or committed in October 2013. In September 2013 there was \$146 billion of resource projects under construction or committed in Western Australia and a further \$97 billion under consideration.

Annual business investment

- Business investment in Western Australia rose 8.5% in real terms in 2012-13, below annual average growth of 17% over the past 10 years. (ABS 5206.0, 5220.0 and 5625.0)
- The value of business investment rose 9% to \$75 billion in 2012-13. (ABS 5206.0, 5220.0 and 5625.0)
- The value of private new capital expenditure of selected industries rose 4% to \$58 billion in 2012-13; 36% of the Australian total. (ABS 5206.0, 5220.0 and 5625.0)
- The value of mining new capital expenditure rose 7% to \$48 billion in 2012-13; 51% of the Australian mining total. (ABS 5206.0, 5220.0 and 5625.0)

Quarterly business investment

- Business investment in Western Australia rose 2.6% to \$19 billion in the September quarter 2013. (ABS 5206.0, 8762.0 and 5625.0)
- Engineering construction work done rose 5.5% to \$12 billion in the September quarter 2013 or 7% to \$44 billion in 2012-13. (ABS 5206.0, 8762.0 and 5625.0)
- Higher input prices contributed 2% of the growth in the value of engineering construction

work done in 2012-13. (ABS 5206.0, 8762.0 and 5625.0)

- Mining new capital expenditure fell 1.8% to \$12 billion in the September quarter 2013 - not adjusted for seasonal factors. (ABS 5206.0, 8762.0 and 5625.0)

Economy overview

The value of minerals and petroleum sales in Western Australia fell 4% to \$102 billion in 2012-13. The Reserve Bank of Australia's non-rural commodity price index fell 8% in 2013, down 14% in 2012-13. The Australian dollar exchange rate fell 8% to US96.0 cents in 2013 and is forecast by the Western Australian Treasury to fall from US102.7 cents in 2012-13 to US92.3 cents in 2013-14 and US85.2 cents in 2016-17.

Iron ore and LNG prices

- The average price of iron ore fell 6% to US\$128 a tonne in January 2014. The annual average price rose 5% in 2013, down 15% in 2012-13, and is expected to rise 1% in 2013-14. (Western Australia 2013-14 Government Mid-Year Financial Projections Statement)
- The average price of LNG fell 0.4% to US\$15.6 a million British thermal unit in January 2014. The annual average price fell 4% in 2013, down 1.5% in 2012-13, and is expected to fall 1.3% in 2014. (World Bank Commodities Price Forecasts)
- The average price of gold rose 2% to US\$1,244 a troy ounce in January 2014. The annual average price fell 15.5% in 2013 (down 4% in 2012-13) and is expected to fall 14% in 2014. (World Bank Commodities Price Forecasts)
- The average price of crude oil fell 3% to US\$95 a barrel in January 2014. The annual average price rose 4% in 2013, down 3% in 2012-13, and is expected to rise 3% in

2013-14. (Western Australia 2013-14 Government Mid-Year Financial Projections Statement)

Major minerals and petroleum sale by value

- Western Australia's iron ore sales fell 7% to \$56 billion in 2012-13, 55% of minerals and petroleum sales, despite a 13% rise in sales volumes to 513 million tonnes. (WA Department of Mines and Petroleum, Minerals and Petroleum Summary Tables)
- LNG sales rose 25% to \$12.5 billion in 2012-13, making up 12% of minerals and petroleum sales, with volumes up 29% to 20 million tonnes. (WA Department of Mines and Petroleum, Minerals and Petroleum Summary Tables)
- Crude oil and condensate sales fell 15% to \$10 billion in 2012-13, 10% of minerals and petroleum sales, with volumes down 14% to 15 gigalitres. (WA Department of Mines and Petroleum, Minerals and Petroleum Summary Tables)
- Gold sales fell 5% to \$9 billion in 2012-13, 9% of minerals and petroleum sales, with volumes down 1% to 179 tonnes. (WA Department of Mines and Petroleum, Minerals and Petroleum Summary Tables)

Iron ore and LNG sales outlook by volume

- Western Australia's iron ore sales are forecast to rise 35% to 692 million tonnes between 2012-13 and 2016-17. (Western Australia Department of Mines and Petroleum, Minerals and Petroleum Summary Tables; Western Australia 2013-14 Government Mid-Year Financial Projections Statement; and Western Australia Department of State Development.)
- LNG sales are expected to

grow from 20 million tonnes in 2012-13 to almost 50 million tonnes in 2016-17, 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 25% of global LNG capacity under construction in 2013.

Principal agricultural commodities

- The gross value of agriculture production in Western Australia rose 7% to \$11.0 billion in 2012-13. (ABS 5220.0, 5368.0 7501.0, 7503.0, 7111.0 and 7121.0)
- The gross value of principal agricultural commodities produced fell 23% to \$5.4 billion in 2012-13. (ABS 5220.0, 5368.0 7501.0, 7503.0, 7111.0 and 7121.0)
- Wheat production fell 25% to \$2.1 billion in 2012-13, with volumes down 40% to 7 million tonnes. (ABS 5220.0, 5368.0 7501.0, 7503.0, 7111.0 and 7121.0)
- The value of the State's agriculture, forestry, fishing and food manufacturing exports rose 21% to \$5.8 billion in 2012-13. (ABS 5220.0, 5368.0 7501.0, 7503.0, 7111.0 and 7121.0)

Please note principal agricultural commodities includes: potatoes, tomatoes, cattle and calves, sheep and lambs, pigs, poultry, wool, milk and eggs.

Merchandise trade

In 2012-13, exports of goods and services accounted for 51% of GSP. Minerals and petroleum contributed 89% or \$104 billion of the state's merchandise exports. In 2013, Western Australia contributed 48% of Australia's merchandise exports, more than New South

Wales, Victoria and Queensland combined at 40% with large shares of national exports to China 70%, Japan 48% and Korea 47%. China was the largest market for the state's exports of iron ore 75% and gold 60% in 2013 and nickel 37% and alumina 17% in 2012-13. In volume terms, 73% of the state's LNG went to Japan, based on long and medium term contracts in force in 2012.

- Western Australia's merchandise exports rose 10% to \$125 billion in 2013.
- Merchandise export volumes rose 9% in 2012-13, above annual average growth of 4% in the past 10 years. Data for 2013 are not yet available. (ABS 5368.0, 5206.0 and 5220.0.)
- Merchandise imports fell 5% to \$34 billion in 2013, mainly due to lower imports of civil engineering plant and equipment, down \$2 billion or 66% and motor vehicles for transporting goods, down \$1 billion or 48%.
- Merchandise exports mainly comprised iron ore 54%, gold 11%, LNG 9% and crude oil and condensate 7% in 2013.

Major trading partners 2013

- China was Western Australia's largest export market in 2013 at \$66 billion or 53%, followed by Japan \$23 billion or 18%. (ABS 5368.0)
- China overtook Japan as the State's largest export market in 2006-07. (ABS 5368.0)
- The State's exports rose to China by 30% or \$15.3 billion and Japan by 5% or \$1.1 billion in 2013. (ABS 5368.0)
- China was the State's largest source of imports in 2013, \$4.0 billion or 12%, followed by Singapore at \$3.6 billion or 11%. (ABS 5368.0)

Major iron ore export markets by volume

- Western Australia accounted for 42% of global iron ore exports in 2012. (ABS 5368.0 and WA Department of Mines and Petroleum, Resource Data Files)
- The State's iron ore exports to China rose 23% to 425 million tonnes in 2013, higher than the 22% annual average growth over the past 10 years. (ABS 5368.0 and WA Department of Mines and Petroleum, Resource Data Files)
- Iron ore exports to Japan rose 4% to 78 million tonnes in 2013. (ABS 5368.0 and WA Department of Mines and Petroleum, Resource Data Files)
- Iron ore exports to Korea fell 4% to 44 million tonnes in 2013. (ABS 5368.0 and WA Department of Mines and Petroleum, Resource Data Files)
- China overtook Japan as Western Australia's largest iron ore export market in 2005. (ABS 5368.0 and WA Department of Mines and Petroleum, Resource Data Files)

Iron ore exports

- The value of Western Australia's iron ore exports rose 27% to \$68 billion in 2013, below annual average growth of 30% over the past 10 years. (ABS 5368.0 and WA Department of Mines and Petroleum, Resource Data Files)
- The annual average price of the State's iron ore exports rose 9% in 2013. (ABS 5368.0 and WA Department of Mines and Petroleum, Resource Data Files)
- The volume of the State's iron ore exports rose 17% to 561 million tonnes in 2013, above annual average growth of 12% in the past 10 years. (ABS 5368.0 and WA Department of Mines and Petroleum, Resource Data Files)

Major iron ore exporting ports

- Iron ore exports from Port Hedland rose 18% to 263 million tonnes in 2012-13, accounting for 51% of the state's iron ore exports. (ABS 5368.0)
- Iron ore exports from Dampier rose 1% to 140 million tonnes in 2012-13, contributing 27% of the state's iron ore exports. (ABS 5368.0)
- Iron ore exports from Cape Lambert rose 4% to 78 million tonnes in 2012-13, contributing 15% of the state's iron ore exports. (ABS 5368.0)
- Port authorities and iron ore producers have identified port total capacity expansion targets of 465 million tonnes for Port Hedland by 2016-17, 210 million tonnes for Cape Lambert by 2014-15 and 150 million tonnes for Dampier by 2014-15. (ABS 5368.0)

LNG exports

- The value of Western Australia's LNG exports rose 25% to \$12.5 billion in 2012-13, above annual average growth of 15% in the past 10 years. (WA Department of Mines and Petroleum, Resource Data Files.)
- The annual average price of the state's LNG exports fell 3% in 2012-13, the first annual average price decline since 2009-10. (WA Department of Mines and Petroleum, Resource Data Files.)
- The volume of state's LNG exports rose 29% to 20 million tonnes in 2012-13, above its annual average growth of 9% over the past 10 years. (WA Department of Mines and Petroleum, Resource Data Files.)

Services trade

- Western Australia contributed 11.3% of Australia's services exports in 2012-13. (ABS

5368.0.55.004)

- The State's services exports rose 4% to \$5.9 billion in 2012-13. (ABS 5368.0.55.004)
- Services imports rose 4% to \$10.0 billion in 2012-13, mainly due to a rise in architectural, engineering, scientific and other technical services imports. (ABS 5368.0.55.004)
- The State's services trade deficit rose 4% to \$4.1 billion in 2012-13. (ABS 5368.0.55.004)

Major services exports

- Western Australia's services exports in 2012-13 mainly comprised personal travel 27%, educational travel 20%, transport 16%, business travel 15% and technical, trade and other business services 10%.
- Personal travel exports rose 10% to \$1.6 billion in 2012-13. Business travel was up 7% to \$858 million and technical, trade and other business services was up 8% to \$563 million in 2012-13.
- The largest declines in 2012-13 were in transport - down 3% or \$33 million and educational travel - down 1% or \$6 million.

Construction Industry

- The construction industry contributes almost 12% of Western Australia's GSP and currently employs 10.57% of the State workforce. (Construction Industry Snapshot, Western Australia, January 2014)
- There were 145,730 people working in the construction industry as at November 2013, with an annualised average of 139,100 in the previous 12 month period. The industry workforce rose by 1,080 in the last quarter and has overtaken the previous highest figure of 139,200 which was recorded back in May 2011.
- On a year to year comparison up to the end of October 2013 there was a 12.5% increase

in construction apprentice commencements, excluding electrical but a significant reduction in electrical apprentice commencements of 21.12%. (TRS Datacube)

- As at October 2013, the industry including electrical, employed 40% of all Western Australia's apprentices. (Using comparison to 'All Industries' data TRS Cube)
- It is estimated that approximately 25,000 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 2013 increased by 5.22% compared to September 2012. The engineering construction sector, excluding heavy engineering, increased by 8.85% in Western Australia between September 2012 and September 2013. (ABS 8755.0 and 8762.0 Construction & Engineering Work Done)
- The housing sector has in recent months recovered with annual dwelling unit approvals to November 2013 at 27,365 or 21,780 houses, compared to a previous peak of 27,181 or 21,947 houses at November 2006. (ABS 8731.05 seasonally Adjusted)
- Seasonally adjusted, building approvals for all dwelling units increased by 3.96% between October and November 2013. There was an 8.97% increase over the three months to November 2013. This was in sharp contrast to a decrease of 42.71% in April 2012 which was partially attributed to changes in the approvals process.
- Trend building approvals in Western Australia increased by 0.6% between October 2013 and November 2013 and rose by 26.7% over the year.

- Seasonally adjusted, dwelling commencements increased by 3.95% in the quarter to September 2013; however, on an annualised basis compared to September 2012 commencements have increased by 37.65%.

Apprentice Commencements

There has been a continuing decline in overall apprentice commencements in construction, including electrical over the past 12 months and this will have a negative impact on the in-training figures over the next 6 to 36 months.

However, construction apprentice commencements, excluding electrical, during the year November 2012 to October 2013 have improved by 12.5% compared to the same 12 month period 2011-2012. These figures are used for the construction apprentice commencements for 2013 where previous years are the complete calendar year figures.

Overall, commencements have declined by 3.89%. The main decline was in electrical with a 21.12% reduction in commencements. Wall and ceiling fixing apprentice commencements have grown by 29.63%, while bricklaying has risen by 119.26%.

Employment of females

There are currently 65 female apprentices in training. Over the last 10 years the overall percentage of female apprentices in construction has risen from 0.85% to 1.84%. The number of female trainees in training is currently 32 and has risen from 0.77% to 5.55% over the last 10 years.

Although there is no definitive research into the reasons for the increase, it is suggested that there has been increased promotion

of women in trades by the Construction Training Fund.

Employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders

There are currently 122 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) apprentices in training. Over the last 10 years the overall percentage of ATSI apprentices has risen from 2.69% to 3.46% which is representative of the number of ATSI people in the general population.

Currently there are 81 trainees in training with an ATSI background which represents 13.94% of all building and construction trainees. This increase appears to coincide with a concerted effort to recruit ATSI people by the civil construction sector.

Lifestyle

- In response to seven people being killed by sharks over the past six years, the State Government announced its \$23 million drum line policy to reduce the number of sharks off the metropolitan and south-west beaches. In the first three weeks, 66 sharks were caught - 23 in the South-West and 43 in the metropolitan area. (Ministerial media release 18/2/14)
- The opening of the pedestrian underpass at Perth Station signalled the final milestone in Perth City Link rail project. The \$360 million project included sinking a 600 metre section of the Fremantle Line. (Ministerial media statement 19/12/13)
- Work has begun on the second stage of the Perth City Link project - the sinking of the Wellington Street Bus Station. This is the second stage of the \$609 million Perth City Link project with work on the \$249 million Perth Busport to start in coming months. (Ministerial Media statement 13/2/14)
- Qantas announced it will withdraw its Perth to Singapore route by May 2014, leaving the city with no regular international flights out of the city operated by the airline. The withdrawal is part of the fallout from a \$252 million loss for the company announced in February. (WA Today 27/2/14)
- A study by Curtin University shows the mining boom has generated up to 65% more wealth for the top 20% of West Australian households. The report shows the richest 10% of households in WA had around 3.8 times the income of the poorest 10% of households in 2003-04. This climbed to 4.8 times in 2009-10 before falling slightly to 4.5 in 2011-12. The research showed that high income households in the state were twice as likely to be headed by a 'tradie' compared to the rest of Australia. And disposable incomes in WA have overtaken the national average by 9% over the last five years. (ABC online 26/2/14)
- Perth and Fremantle are set for a surge in hotel developments that could potentially see more than 4,000 new hotel rooms worth more than \$3 billion built over the next five years. The Australian Hotels Association said that Perth is set to lead Australia in the establishment of new hotels, redevelopments and first rate accommodation that will set the scene for the state's leisure, corporate and hospitality market for the next 20 years. (AHA WA media release 20/2/14)
- The State Government unveiled plans for a 350-room five-star Westin Hotel and mixed-use development at the former FESA House site in Perth's CBD. (Ministerial media statement 23/12/13)
- The 2014 Perth International Arts Festival celebrated its most successful season with attendances totalling 500,000, with about 200,000 of them buying tickets to the tune of a record-setting \$6 million. (The

- West Australian 3/3/14)
- Fringe World sold more than 150,000 tickets to its live performances through its box office, for total ticket revenue of \$3.2 million. There were an additional 20,000 door sales at venues not directly operated by Fringe World. This makes Fringe World the single largest live performance festival in WA and Australia's second largest after the Adelaide Fringe. (The West Australian 24/2/14)
- Hillarys MP Rob Johnson became the first Liberal to publicly call for the abolition of the Royalties for Regions program, telling Parliament it is unaffordable amid rising State debt and the loss of WA's AAA credit rating. Under Royalties for Regions, 25% of the State's mineral royalties are quarantined for expenditure outside Perth. (The West Australian 20/2/14)
- The Economist Intelligence Unit's (EIU) most recent liveability ranking rated Perth as the 9th most liveable city in the world with a score of 95.9. Melbourne was ranked the world's most liveable city with a score of 97.5. (EIU survey August 2013)
- Perth house prices jumped by 3.3% in the final three months of 2013 with the city recording the second highest price increase in the country. The Australian Bureau of Statistics reported that over the past 12 months, house prices in Perth climbed by 8.7 per cent. (The West Australian 11/2/14)
- REIWA has predicted that Perth's median house price will reach \$600,000 by the end of 2014. It would give Perth the second-highest median house price for an Australian city – behind Sydney's \$655,000. REIWA raised their 2014 home price expectations from a previous estimate of \$570,000. (Perth Now 15/2/14)
- Only 3% of Western Australian women earn \$2000 a week or more, compared to 15% of Western Australian men. (The Sunday Times 9/3/14)
- There are up to 1.5 million registered vehicles on our roads, which is more vehicles than there are people over 18 years of age. (Committee for Perth's Cost of Living media release 25/11/13)
- The State Government has deferred building the 22 kilometre MAX light from Mirrabooka to the city and Nedlands to Victoria Park until 2017, after the next state election. The government had previously committed to have the project finished by 2018, then 2019. Construction is expected to commence in 2019, with first services running by late 2022. (The West Australian and MAX light rail website)
- The State Government released its draft Noongar Recognition Bill to Noongar people to settle Native Title settle claims over Perth and the South-West of Western Australia. The bill offers a mixture of land, funding and other benefits to the Noongar community. (Ministerial media release 26/2/14)
- The supply of apartments in the western suburbs will increase rapidly this year with TRG Properties, Georgiou Living and Blackburne Property Group set to launch new projects over the next three months. There are 10 construction projects planned for the western suburbs which will add almost 900 apartments to the market. (Business News 28/2/14)
- Sunset Events has been given approval by the City of Fremantle to develop the J-Shed at Arthur Head into a concert venue. Sunset Events has a 21 year lease and will establish a craft brewery and food outlets, with a strong emphasis on music and arts related activities. (Business News 28/2/14)
- Work continues on Elizabeth Quay with the release of the design for the 110 metre pedestrian bridge that will link between the cafes and bars on the promenades, the island and the new ferry terminal. Dredging has started and a section of Riverside Drive was permanently diverted in late January. It's estimated that once completed Elizabeth Quay will create more than 400 jobs, office space for 10,000 people, 800 residential apartments and 25,000sqm of retail space. (Ministerial media statement 24/1/14)
- Perth Arena has been ranked No. 22 in the world's top 200 venues by respected live music industry magazine Pollstar. Perth Arena's music and entertainment ticket sales were 479,524 for 2013, the venue's first full reporting year. (Ministerial media statement 17/1/14)
- An online survey about the development of the Scarborough Beach front received almost 3,000 submissions. Popular ideas include recreational equipment and more shops, cafes and bars. The planning authority for the development will be transferred from the City of Stirling to the MRA. (Ministerial media statement 16/1/14)
- The Defence Department is considering letting airlines use RAAF Base Pearce at Bullsbrook as an alternative airport to Perth to ease midweek congestion. Perth Airport is overstretched with almost 70% of its landing slots filled. For the six months to December 31 last year, passenger numbers through Perth increased 2% to 7.12 million, with a record 400,290 using the international terminal in December. (The West Australian 4/2/14)
- The State Government announced a \$7.5 million, two year, trial program to encourage local governments to adopt a three-bin system. The three bins would be for general household waste, recyclables and green waste. (Ministerial media statement 15/1/14)
- The 270-page independent

review of the Liquor Control Act 1988 was finalised and presented to the State Government for consideration and response. A range of stakeholders including the Committee for Perth, industry groups and the public made 149 submissions during the review period and the final document contains 141 recommendations. (Ministerial media statement 14/1/14)

- The State Government has confirmed that the \$2 billion Fiona Stanley Hospital will have a phased opening from October 2014. (Ministerial media statement 10/6/13)
- Leighton Properties and Mirvac Group have been chosen to develop the State Government's 5.1ha land holding, 40% of the Perth City Link project. The development site will incorporate new hotels, offices, shops, cafes, bars and apartments, as well as new public spaces. (Ministerial media statement 15/12/13)
- Three consortia, have submitted their fully costed and comprehensive proposals for the new Perth Stadium and sports precinct. Each proposal to design, construct, partially finance and maintain the stadium and precinct will be evaluated with the successful design to be announced mid-2014. (Ministerial media statement 13/12/13)
- The Department of Transport has begun work on a 56 year strategy for Perth that includes another bridge across the Swan River and probably another tunnel. Suggested links include: a bridge from UWA to Canning Bridge, possibly just for rail: a link from Berwick Street to Plain Street for public transport; a link from Stock Road to Dalkeith, possibly a tunnel. (The West Australian 6/8/13)
- In a keynote speech to the Institute of Traffic Planning and Management conference in Perth, Department of Transport Director General Reece Waldock said that a

'congestion charge' would probably needed to be considered sometime in the future to ease Perth's growing traffic congestion. (The West Australian 6/8/13)

- The State Government has announced \$2 million to create a more vibrant Chinatown precinct for families, locals and tourists. A new entry statement to Chinatown on Roe Street in Northbridge will include lanterns, new lighting and road stencilling. (Ministerial media statement 24/11/13)
- Perth's CBD office vacancy rate has jumped sharply higher to 10.8% according to research by Jones Lang LaSalle. This was caused by many businesses reducing their demand for office space at a time when there was a small increase in supply. The CBD vacancy rate is up from 7.9% in June 2013 and 9.4% in September 2013. The national vacancy rate average is 11.8%. (Business News 22/1/14)
- The City of Melville and the City of Fremantle will remain separate identities with expanded boundaries, most of Mount Lawley will stay within the City of Stirling, and North Fremantle will remain part of Fremantle under the State Government's boundary reform proposals formally lodged with the Local Government Advisory Board. The proposals, which incorporate feedback received from the community and local governments, also show the northern part of the City of Cockburn included in Fremantle and Melville, the high-growth northern part of the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale joining the City of Armadale, and the southern part joining the Shire of Murray. The Local Government Advisory Board has until mid-year to present their recommendations to the Minister on local authority boundaries. (Ministerial media statement 12/11/13)
- The State Government has

developed a strategy to transform the State heritage-listed former Sunset Hospital site in Dalkeith, into a unique Government owned asset for arts, cultural and community use over the next 10-15 years. (Ministerial media statement 31/10/13)

- The \$95 million dollar redevelopment of nib Stadium was completed. The Canterbury Bulldogs and South Sydney Rabbitohs have both confirmed they will play an NRL fixture at nib this year. (Ministerial media statement 25/10/13)
- 100 iconic London style cabs are being trialled on Perth's road as part of the Taxi Action Plan which aimed to improve the security, standards and availability of Perth taxis. The cabs can carry five passengers, a wheelchair and have a number of accessibility features, including induction hearing loop, high-visibility markers for the visually impaired and a swivel seat for passengers with mobility issues. (WA Today 28/2/14)
- The Swan River Trust was amalgamated with the new Department of Parks and Wildlife. The Environment Minister said it was done to provide better protection and management for the Swan and Canning river systems. (Ministerial media statement 26/9/13)
- The State Government announced changes to its First Home Owner Grant with buyers of new homes eligible to receive an increased grant of \$10,000. It was previously \$7,000. Buyers of established homes are eligible for a \$3,000 grant. The government said the changes were designed to boost housing supply and construction jobs. (Ministerial media statement 25/9/13)
- The State Government signed a \$7.65 million marketing deal with Qantas. The three year agreement between Tourism WA and Qantas was one of the biggest airline partnerships

in WA's history. Under the agreement, Qantas will join the State in jointly promoting WA tourism, matching State Government marketing funding dollar for dollar. (Ministerial media statement 11/9/13)

- A record number of people took part in the Chevron 2013 City to Surf, with more than 48,000 people registering to compete. Starting in 1975 with around 500 runners, it is the second largest officially timed race in the southern hemisphere and Western Australia's biggest community sporting event. (Ministerial media statement 24/8/13)
- The new Perth Stadium will feature two screens at least 20x12m in size and about 1,000 television screens to ensure fans do not miss any of the action on field. The television screens will be spread throughout the concourse to ensure fans stay in touch with games, even if they leave their seats. Radio commentary will be played into the stadium's toilet facilities. (Ministerial media statement 23/8/13)
- Brownes Stadium at Lathlain Park has emerged as the frontrunner as the favoured site for the West Coast Eagles next training facility. The Eagles and Town of Victoria Park are working towards an agreement. It's likely the Eagles will be in their new premises by 2017, a year before the new Burswood stadium is complete. Perth Football Club is expected to be accommodated as part of any redevelopment of Brownes Stadium. Sites at Curtin University and the University of Western Australia were other possibilities. (The West Australian 30/7/13)
- The Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority reached a milestone agreement with Lend Lease for the \$1 billion Waterbank precinct in East Perth. Construction is expected to begin in late 2014 and Waterbank will deliver office

and retail space for more than 1,500 workers, 600 residential apartments, and there are plans for short stay accommodation. (Ministerial media statement 5/2/13)

- Construction continues on the \$18.6 million dollar State Netball Centre, which will be built at Matthews Netball Centre in Jolimont. The centre will provide a venue for state league netball competition, West Coast Fever training, development squads and community netball activities. It is expected to be open in the third quarter of 2014. (Ministerial media statement 30/7/13)

Knowledge and innovation

- Premier Colin Barnett signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Western Australia and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), a regional economic organisation with member states including Zambia, Kenya and Uganda. The objectives include sharing knowledge and technology between Western Australia and the COMESA states across the fields of mining, petroleum and agriculture. (Ministerial media statement 2/2/14)
- In November, the Premier launched operations at the Pawsey Centre in Kensington, home to one of the largest supercomputers in the world. The supercomputer is capable of performing a million billion calculations simultaneously every second, and is already processing data from the Murchison Widefield Array, the low frequency precursor to the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) telescope. (Ministerial media statement 15/11/13)
- Nine projects have been given \$1.7 million in research grants. The Department of Health Targeted Research Funds focus on addressing issues that have an impact on the health of West Australians including determining the risk of lung cancer among West Australian miners and a study that compares the long-term health outcomes of naltrexone implants with other therapies. (Ministerial media statement 1/11/13)
- Nedlands-based Linear Clinical Research was awarded top honours at the 2013 Western Australian Industry and Export Awards, becoming the first healthcare and biotechnology entrant to win the Premier's Award for Excellence. The company provides world-class services to prominent biopharmaceutical firms at its purpose-built, state-of-the-art facility within the Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre. (Ministerial media statement 28/10/13)
- WA's Nobel Laureate Barry Marshall and his biotechnology firm Ondek are using a grant of almost \$1 million to develop a pill or drink that could revolutionise the treatment of allergies.
- The State Government announced funding of \$26million over six years for the International Centre of Radio Astronomy Research (ICRAR). ICRAR will lead Western Australia's involvement in the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) project, one of the world's biggest and most significant scientific projects. ICRAR was an important factor in Australia's successful bid to co-host the SKA with South Africa. (Ministerial media statement 16/8/13)
- After a three year-trial the State Government will adopt groundwater replenishment to help secure Perth's drinking water supply. The scheme uses advanced treatment processes to turn household and industry wastewater into drinking water. The wastewater is purified before it is re-



injected into natural aquifers, mixing with groundwater and undergoing natural filtration for up to three decades before extraction. The technology has the potential to supply 20% of Perth's drinking water. Groundwater replenishment is less expensive and uses about half the energy of a desalination plant. (Ministerial media statement 1/8/13)

- The State Government has announced health and medical research would be boosted by \$30million over four years. The grants of \$2.4 million each to the McCusker Alzheimer's Foundation, Australian Neuro-muscular Research Institute and Ear Science Institute Australia to go towards the construction and fit-out of the new Institute. (Ministerial media statement 15/8/13)
- Out of all of the companies listed in Australia, Perth ranked highest as the preferred

location for their headquarters with 34% or 830 companies in Perth as of September 2011. By comparison, Sydney only has 552 and Melbourne 325. Among those companies are some major international players like Rio Tinto, BHP Billiton, Chevron Australia, Shell Australia and Woodside. (Committee for Perth FACTBase Bulletin No. 28)

- Initial funding of \$340,000 has been provided by the Department of Mines and Petroleum and its 10 contributing project partners, to help set up the Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute by mid-2014. The institute will place WA at the forefront of global scientific endeavour – bringing together the State's biodiversity experts, and ensuring the research focuses on issues that matter. (Dept of Mines and Petroleum 31/10/13)
- Perth software designer

Voon-Li Chung has created an application that turns smart phones into talking guides for the blind, enabling them to safely navigate their way on and off public transport. (ABC online 14/2/14)

- Manufacturing giant Hitachi will establish a new \$100 million facility at Forrestdale Business Park. Hitachi Construction Machinery Australia's new headquarters will bring 350 employees to the area. Forrestdale Business Park is expected to accommodate up to 700 industrial lots, with the potential to become home to more than 12,000 workers. Over the past 12 months the MRA has approved more than 170 planning applications for the Armadale and Wungong redevelopment areas totalling more than \$70 million in private sector investment. (Ministerial media statement 15/8/13)

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