



FACTSheet

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- Indicates no change from FACTSheet #4, March 2014
- Indicates an increase from FACTSheet #4, March 2014
- Indicates a decrease from FACTSheet #4, March 2014

Facts and figures	1
Population growth	2
Labour market	2
Industry sector employment	2
Annual business investment	3
Quarterly business investment	3
Economy overview	3
Iron ore and LNG prices	3
Major minerals and petroleum sale by value	3
Iron ore and LNG sales outlook by volume	3
Principal agricultural commodities	4
Merchandise trade	4
Major trading partners	4
Major iron ore export markets by volume	4
Iron ore exports	4
Major iron ore exporting ports	5
LNG exports	5
Services trade	5
Major services exports	5
Construction Industry	5
Apprentice commencements	6
Employment of females	6
Employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders	6
Lifestyle	6
Knowledge and innovation	9
Acknowledgments	10

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 is 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, 48% higher than the national average of \$66,397.¹

The State's share of national population was 10.9% (2.55 million) in the December quarter 2013, and is projected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics to rise to 12.2% (3.32 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 years².
- GSP is forecast to rise **3.75%** in 2013-14 and **2.75%** in 2014-15.
- Australia's GDP rose 2.6% to \$1,521 billion in 2012-13 and is forecast to rise by **2.75%** in both 2013-14, **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.
- 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%.

- Merchandise exports are forecast to rise **7%** and business investment to fall **7.5%** in 2013-14.
- Merchandise exports are expected to rise by an annual average of **7%** between 2013-14 and 2017-18, offsetting falling business investment over the period.
- The mining industry accounted for 29% of GSP in 2012-13. Services industries comprised 28% and construction 13% of GSP.
- 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.
- Nominal value added in services industries rose by 7% to \$69 billion and construction by 3% to \$31 billion in 2012-13.
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing nominal value added, fell 25% to \$3 billion in 2012-13.

Population growth³

- 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 state's 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 market⁴

- ↑ Employment in Western Australia rose **0.4%** (5,200) to **1.36 million** in June 2014. Employment grew 1.7% (38,900) through the year to June 2014, higher than Australia's growth of 0.9% (100,200).
- ↑ The state's unemployment rate was up from 5% in June to **5.2%** in August 2014; the participation rate was steady at 68.4%. Australia's unemployment rate was 6.4%.
- ↑ The state's annual average employment is forecast to grow by **1.5%** in 2013-14, with an average unemployment rate of 5.0%, according to the 2014-15 State Budget.

Industry sector employment⁵

- ↑ Services industries accounted for **47%** of Western Australia's employment in 2013-14. Non-market industries comprised **24%** and construction **11%** and mining 8%.
- ↓ In 2013-14, employment rose in services industries, which were up 16,975 or **3%**, construction was up 10,925 or **8%** and non-market industries were up 5,215 or **2%** but fell in all other industries.
- ↓ Mining employment fell **5%** or 6,100 jobs in 2013-14, due to falls in other mining, down 5,825 or 32.5%, metal ore mining was down 4,575 or 7% and oil and gas extraction was down 600 or 5.5%, which offset a rise in exploration and other services that were up 4,900 or 23%.
- ↓ Business investment contributed 31% of GSP in 2012-13. The state accounted for **27%** of Australia's business investment in 2013 and 51% of the value of Australia's resource projects under construction or committed in April 2014. In March 2014 there was **\$149 billion** of

resource projects under construction or committed in Western Australia and a further **\$112 billion** under consideration.

Annual business investment

- ↓ Business investment in Western Australia fell **10%** in real terms in 2013, compared with annual average growth of **14%** over the past 10 years.
- ↓ The value of business investment fell **9%** to **\$71 billion** in 2013.
- ↓ The value of private new capital expenditure of selected industries in Western Australia fell **10%** to \$56 billion in 2013 or **35%** of the Australian total.
- ↓ The value of mining new capital expenditure fell **8%** to **\$47 billion** in 2013; **50%** of the Australian mining total. (ABS 5206.0, 5220.0 and 5625.0)

Quarterly business investment

- ↓ Business investment in Western Australia rose **1%** to **\$17 billion** in the March quarter 2014.
- ↓ Engineering construction work that was completed rose 3% to \$11 billion in the March quarter of 2014. It fell 5% to \$44 billion in 2013.
- ↓ Mining new capital expenditure fell **17%** to **\$10 billion** in the March quarter 2014 - not adjusted for seasonal factors.

Economy overview

- ↑ The value of minerals and petroleum sales in Western Australia rose **15%** to \$114 billion in 2013.
- 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 **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 in 2017-18.

Iron ore and LNG prices⁶

- ↓ The average price of iron ore fell **8%** to **US\$93** a tonne in June 2014. The annual average price fell 3% to US\$123/t in 2013-14, up 5% to US\$135/t in 2013 and is expected to be US\$123/t in 2014-15 and fall to US\$115/t in 2017-18.
- ↓ The monthly average price of LNG fell **5%** to **US\$15.2** a million British thermal unit in June 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 gold fell **1%** to **US\$1,279** a troy ounce in June 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.
- ↑ The monthly average price of crude oil rose **3%** to **US\$105** a barrel in June 2014. The annual average price rose **10%** to US\$101/bbl in 2013-14, up 4% to US\$98/bbl in 2013.

Major minerals and petroleum sale by value⁷

- ↑ Western Australia's iron ore sales rose **29%** to **\$68 billion** in 2013, 60% of minerals and petroleum sales, with sales volumes up 16% to 556 million tonnes.
- ↑ LNG sales rose **18%** to **\$13 billion** in 2013 which made up 12% of minerals and petroleum sales, with volumes up 5% to 19 million tonnes.
- ↓ Crude oil and condensate sales fell **15%** to **\$9 billion** in 2013, which were 8% of minerals and petroleum sales, with volumes down 19% to 13 gigalitres.
- ↓ Gold sales fell **7%** to **\$9 billion**

in 2013, which were 8% of minerals and petroleum sales, despite volumes rising 3% to 187 tonnes.

Iron ore and LNG sales outlook by volume⁸

- ↑ Western Australia's iron ore sales are forecast to rise by an annual average of **7%** to 777 million tonnes between 2013-14 and 2017-18.
- ↑ LNG sales are expected to grow from **21 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 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 commodities⁹

- The gross value of agriculture production in Western Australia rose 7% to \$11.0 billion in 2012-13.
- The gross value of principal agricultural commodities produced fell 23% to \$5.4 billion in 2012-13.
- 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 agriculture, forestry, fishing and food manufacturing exports rose 21% to **\$5.9 billion** in 2012-13.

Merchandise trade

- ↑ In 2012-13 exports of goods and services accounted for 51% of GSP. In 2013, minerals and petroleum contributed **91%** or **\$113 billion** of the State's merchandise exports.

- Western Australia contributed 48% of Australia's merchandise exports, more than New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland combined (40%) and 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 at 75%, gold at 60%, nickel 35% and crude oil and condensate at 21% in 2013. In volume terms, 75% of the State's LNG went to Japan based on long and medium term contracts in force in 2013.

Major trading partners 2013¹¹

- China was Western Australia's largest export market in 2013 at \$66 billion or 53%, followed by Japan \$23 billion or 18%.
- China overtook Japan as the State's largest export market in 2006-07.
- The State's exports rose to China by 30% or \$15.3 billion and Japan by 5% or \$1.1 billion in 2013.
- 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%.

Major iron ore export markets by volume¹²

- ↑ Western Australia accounted for **46%** of global iron ore exports in 2013.
- The State's iron ore exports to China rose 23% to 425 million tonnes in 2013, higher than the 22% annual average growth in the past 10 years. China overtook Japan as Western Australia's largest iron ore export market in 2005.
- Iron ore exports to Japan rose 4% to 78 million tonnes in 2013.
- Iron ore exports to Korea fell 4% to 44 million tonnes in 2013.

Iron ore exports¹²

- The value of Western Australia's iron ore exports rose 27% to \$68 billion in 2013, below annual average growth of 30% in the past 10 years.
- The annual average price of the State's iron ore exports rose 9% in 2013.
- 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.

Major iron ore exporting ports¹²

- ↑ Iron ore exports from Port Hedland rose 26% to **300 million tonnes** in 2013, accounting for **58%** of the State's iron ore exports.
- ↓ Iron ore exports from Dampier were unchanged at 138 million tonnes in 2013, contributing 27% of the State's iron ore exports.
- ↑ Iron ore exports from Cape Lambert rose **14%** to **89 million tonnes** in 2013, contributing **17%** of the State's iron ore exports.
- 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.

LNG exports¹³

- ↑ The value of Western Australia's LNG sales rose **18%** to **\$13 billion** in 2013, above annual average growth of **17%** in the past 10 years.
- ↑ The annual average price of the State's LNG sales rose **12%** in 2013, above annual average growth of 7% in the past 10 years.
- ↓ The volume of State's LNG sales rose 5% to 19 million tonnes in 2013, below annual average growth of 9% in the past 10 years.

Quarterly merchandise exports¹¹

- ↓ Western Australia's merchandise exports rose 6% to \$35.4 billion in the March quarter 2014.
- Western Australia's merchandise exports to China fell 1% to \$18.9 billion in the March quarter 2014; the first fall since the September quarter 2012.
- The State's merchandise exports to Japan rose 11.5% to \$6.5 billion in the March quarter 2014.
- The State's merchandise exports to all other countries, excluding China and Japan, rose 16% to \$10.0 billion in the March quarter 2014.

Services trade

- ↓ Western Australia contributed 10.9% of Australia's services exports in 2013.
- The State's services exports in 2013 mainly comprised personal travel at 27%, education travel 20%, transport 16%, business travel 13% and technical, trade and other business services 10%.
- ↑ Western Australia's services exports rose 3% to \$6.0 billion in 2013, mainly due to increases in education travel to the State up 7% to \$1.2 billion, technical, trade and other business services exports which were up 14% to \$576 million and professional and management consulting services exports up 52% to \$149 million.
- ↑ Services imports rose 6% to \$10.6 billion in 2013, mainly due to increases in personal travel from the State; technical, trade and other business services imports; and maintenance and repair services imports.
- ↑ The State's services trade deficit rose 12% to \$4.7 billion in 2013.

Construction Industry¹⁴

- ↓ The Construction Industry employs 10.63% of the overall State workforce. As of February 2014, there were 134,410 people working in the construction industry as at February 2014, with an annualised average of 140,650 in the previous twelve month period.
- ↓ The industry workforce contracted by 12,330 people in the last quarter. This is the first time since May 2013 that there has been a decline in the numbers of people working in construction.
- ↑ On a year to year comparison up to the end of February 2014 there was a 16.25% increase in construction apprentice commencements, excluding electrical but a significant reduction in electrical apprentice commencements of -11.1%.
- As at February 2014, the industry including electrical, employed 40% of all Western Australia's apprentices. It is estimated that approximately 27,000 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 December 2013 increased by 14.51% compared to December 2012.
- ↓ The engineering construction sector, excluding heavy engineering, decreased by 4.27% in Western Australia between December 2012 and December 2013.
- ↑ The housing sector has in recent months recovered with annual dwelling unit approvals to March 2014 at 29,432 or 22,823 houses, compared to a previous peak of 25,982 or 20,772 houses at March 2007.

- ↓ Seasonally adjusted, building approvals for all dwelling units decreased by 9.1% between February and March 2014. There was a 0.36% decrease over the three months to March 2014.
- ↓ Trend building approvals in Western Australia decreased by 0.1% between February 2014 and March 2014 and rose by 21.4% over the year.
- ↓ Seasonally adjusted, dwelling commencements decreased by 1.26% in the quarter to December 2013; however, on an annualised basis compared to December 2012 commencements have increased by 29.66%.

Apprentice Commencements¹⁴

There has been a continuing trend of low-level apprentice commencements in Construction, including Electrical over the past 4 years and this will have a negative impact on the 'in training' figures over the next 6 to 36 months.

However, although at a lower level than previous highs, construction apprentice commencements, excluding electrical, during the year March 2013 to February 2014 have improved by 16.25% compared to the same twelve month period March 2012 – February 2013.

Overall, commencements have increased by 3.84%. The decline was in electrical with an 11.1% reduction in commencements. Wall and ceiling fixing apprentice commencements have contracted by 8.0%. However, bricklaying has improved by 75.69%.

Female Apprentices¹⁴

There are currently 65 female apprentices in training in Western Australia. Over the past 10 years

the overall percentage of female apprentices in construction has risen from 0.88% to 1.81%.

The number of female trainees is currently 30 and has risen from 3.29% to 5.88% 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.

Employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders¹⁴

There are currently 120 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 3.34% which is representative of the number of ATSI people in the general population.

Currently there are 63 trainees in training with an ATSI background which represents 12.35% of all building and construction trainees. This increase appears to coincide with a concerted effort to recruit ATSI people by the civil construction industry.

Reform¹⁵

- Energy Minister Mike Nahan has released a discussion paper on ways to reform the electricity market in the south west of Western Australia. The Electricity Market Review Discussion Paper examines why the cost of supplying electricity in WA is so high compared to the rest of Australia. Several options to deal with this - and reduce the \$500million per year taxpayer-funded subsidy - are canvassed, including whether WA should join the National Electricity Market, or reform the existing market. The Electricity Market Review has three objectives: reducing costs of supplying electricity without compromising safe

and reliable supply; reducing Government exposure to energy market risks and having future power generators built by the private sector without Government investment or other financial support; and attracting to the electricity market private-sector participants that are of a scale and capitalisation sufficient to facilitate long-term stability and investment.

- The state government has announced major reforms to the planning system, which is aimed at making it cheaper, quicker and easier for homeowners to build their new homes.
- Changes include:
 - No planning approvals for R-Code compliant single houses
 - Consistent processing of Development Applications across local governments
 - The concurrent amendment of the Metropolitan Region Scheme (MRS) and Local Planning Schemes by the Department of Planning and local governments
 - Introduction of an online application system to make it easier and faster for developers to lodge and track planning applications
 - A focus on quality design in complex urban infill and high-density developments
 - Changes to the value of the thresholds for Development Assessment Panels.
- Cottesloe's new planning scheme will allow up to a general 5-storey limit along beachfront and an 8-storey limit at Ocean Beach Hotel and 6 storeys at the Il Lido site. Landowners encouraged to begin planning for developments as soon as possible.
- The Australian and Western Australian governments have announced that Lend Lease Engineering has been awarded the contract to carry

out the Kwinana Freeway Southbound Widening Project. The project will address the significant congestion issues along Kwinana Freeway from Roe Highway to Armadale Road including the Roe Highway westbound merge with Kwinana Freeway and create thousands of jobs. Construction works are expected to commence in September 2014 and be completed in mid-2015.¹⁵

- 38 proposals were lodged with Local Government Advisory Board by State Government, local governments and an electors group in relation to proposed Local Government reform. The Minister said that July 1, 2015 will still see the start-up of the new local government entities.¹⁵
- The Planning Minister has approved a planning scheme amendment that will allow a 16-storey development on the site of the former Pavilion Markets in Subiaco. The amendment will also ensure any development on the corner of Roberts and Rokeby roads will include public arcades, food and beverage outlets and short stay hotel rooms and apartments, with a focus on street activation and high-quality design outcomes.

Lifestyle¹⁵

- The \$42.6 billion Elizabeth Quay has moved into delivery phase. Funding has been committed, all major project approvals are in place and works have commenced on site. The public areas around the waterfront inlet will be open in spring 2015, ahead of the completion of private sector developments. Dredging continues 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.¹⁶

- The state government has announced the \$2billion Forrestfield-Airport Link which will run for eight kilometres in two underground tunnels beneath the Swan River and Perth Airport. The link will provide a public transport link to the airport and a 20-minute rail journey from Perth's eastern suburbs to the city. The rail line would take the form of twin-bored tunnels and would become the longest section of underground rail in Perth. Projections show that by 2030 there will be almost 30,000 boardings.
- Construction will start in 2016 with completion expected in 2020.¹⁶
- WA will have to find another 300,000 workers over the next decade and they will need to have farming, teaching or nursing skills, according to a report by the Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre. The report into the State's changing workforce also argued more resources had to go into the childcare sector so parents could claim a job.²³
- The State Government has signed a new three-year sponsorship deal for Western Australia's international tennis tournament, formerly known as the Hopman Cup. The deal includes an option for a further five years, securing the event for WA until 2022. Australia will be represented by 19-year-old Nick Kyrgios and WA's own Casey Dellacqua. Two-time Grand Slam champion, Andy Murray will be joined by British 2012 Olympian Heather Watson.¹⁵
- Marine tourism in protected areas will be the focus at the 2015 Global Eco Asia-Pacific Tourism Conference to be held next year at Rottnest Island. Co-ordinated by Ecotourism Australia, the conference will be held in October or November 2015 and is expected to attract between 200-250 Australian and

international delegates.¹⁵

- In August, the state government announced that its Affordable Housing Strategy was ahead of schedule in delivering 20,000 affordable housing opportunities by 2020. 16,000 affordable home opportunities delivered so far, including 4,475 social housing dwellings.¹⁵
- In an effort to reduce congestion, the state government has announced plans to improve traffic flow through the city by introducing a second entry to the new Perth Busport. The 60 metre-long, Wellington Street entrance will be built as part of the underground Perth Busport project and is expected to be operational in mid-2016.¹⁵
- The design for the new Perth Stadium has revealed it will be a five-tiered stadium with roof coverage over 85 per cent of its seats, a striking bronze facade that reflects Western Australia's unique geology, LED lights that show home sports team colours, and a wide range of 'fans first' facilities including two of the largest video screens in the country. WESTADIUM will design, build, partially finance and maintain the new Perth Stadium and Sports Precinct.¹⁶
- The \$100 million tender for the train station and railway infrastructure to service the new Perth Stadium has been released. Stadium Station is just one part of the \$358 million integrated transport component of the stadium and sports precinct that will allow up to 28,000 passengers to depart within an hour of an event. The station will feature six platforms connected by two pedestrian concourses.¹⁵
- Construction of the \$100 million recreation hub that will become home to the Fremantle Dockers will begin in February 2015. The hub will include a water playground, function room and recovery pools, as well as training and administration areas and a

store for the football club.¹⁹

- The Giants - an 11-metre tall Deep Sea Diver and a six-metre tall Little Girl - will walk the streets of Perth over three days next February to commemorate the Anzac Centenary. As part of the Perth International Arts Festival, French street theatre company, Royal de Luxe, will use The Giants to tell the true story of the little girl in Albany's Breaksea Lighthouse who was the last human contact for many young troops departing for Gallipoli in 1914. More than one million people are expected to see the performance.¹⁶
- Work is progressing on the \$46.5million multi-storey car park at Edgewater train station, with the tender released for its design and construction. The project would add more than 500 new bays at Edgewater, taking the total number of bays there to about 1,360. Construction begins late 2015, and should be completed in 2016.¹⁵
- The nearly \$60million Scarborough redevelopment has reached another milestone with planning control transferred to the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority (MRA). Development applications for the 100-hectare project area must now be lodged with the MRA for approval, in place of the City of Stirling. A final master plan is expected to be finalised by late 2014.¹⁵
- In June, the Department of Housing sold two parcels of land worth \$46.1 million, which are expected to yield 1,200 residential lots in Perth's eastern and northern suburbs. Peet Ltd and ABN Group will develop more than 600 lots in Midvale, close to the Midland town centre. Stockland's project will produce 570 lots at Brabham, east of Whiteman Park, next door to its Whiteman Edge development.¹⁵
- Kings Park has been named the sixth best park in the

world in the 2014 TripAdvisor Traveller's Choice Awards. It's the second year Kings Park has been awarded the best park in Australia.¹⁵

- Perth was rated the ninth most liveable city in world by the Economist Intelligence Unit's 2014 report. Melbourne was ranked first, Adelaide fifth and Sydney seventh.¹⁸
- A review of the Western Australian Government's drum line program has found it had significantly less environmental impact than other shark control programs around the world. The review also recommended the drum line program continue for three years. During the drum-line program 172 sharks were caught. None were white sharks, however 50 were three metres or greater, including a 4.5 metre tiger shark off Floreat Beach.¹⁶
- In June, a traditional topping-out ceremony was held at Perth Children's Hospital (PCH) to celebrate the completion of the \$1.2billion project's building structure. The State's new dedicated paediatric hospital is expected to open in late 2015.¹⁵
- Perth's office market recorded the nation's highest level of negative net absorption at minus 82,900sqm, according to second-quarter data from JLL. With more space vacated than leased for eight successive quarters, including minus 13,800sqm in the second quarter, the office vacancy rate in Perth's CBD had climbed to 12.7 per cent and it is predicted to peak at 16.4 per cent next year.¹⁷
- Western Australia has been selected to host the Australian Davis Cup World Group play-off tie against Uzbekistan in September. Australia will play Uzbekistan at the Cottesloe Tennis Club in a bid to extend their stay in the World Group into 2015.¹⁵
- The public space at Perth City Link will be named Yagan Square after the prominent

Noongar leader. Yagan Square, situated within the arms of the Horseshoe Bridge, would be an inviting and lively meeting space for people to connect and celebrate Western Australian culture and history. The square will be 1.1ha, twice the size of Forrest Place and 25 per cent bigger than Melbourne's Federation Square.¹⁶

- The state government has called for expressions of interest in developing the 5,335sqm site on the corner of Hay and Plain streets. The new development will incorporate apartments, shops and local amenities in one complex.
- The State Government has begun an extensive consultation program about the redevelopment of Shenton Park Campus ahead of its decommissioning at the end of year. Feedback will be sought from local government, businesses and the local community to shape the redevelopment of the 15-hectare site. LandCorp will lead the community consultation and land redevelopment process.¹⁵
- Perth's freight network will benefit from the \$1.6billion Perth Freight Link to connect Fremantle Port with Kewdale and beyond. The project is jointly funded between the Australian and WA Governments and is expected to cut 16 minutes from travel time between Reid Highway and Fremantle Port.¹⁵
- The State Government has allocated \$10 million to the City of Cockburn towards a multi-purpose sport and recreation facility. The \$106 million multi-purpose complex will be a centre for sports and recreation participation, excellence and education, accessible to the community.¹⁵
- The new Butler train station is expected to open in September, once the signalling, overhead wiring and technical works were

completed. About 2,000 passengers are expected to use the station each day.¹⁵

Knowledge and innovation

- Research activities have officially started at the \$2billion Fiona Stanley Hospital.
- The Warren Jones Institute (WJI) for Community Health and Medical Research was established as a joint endeavour with Fiona Stanley Hospital to raise funds and provide financial support for medical research, scholarships and research education.¹⁵
- A contract has been signed for the construction of Western Australia's first full-scale groundwater replenishment plant. The Advanced Water Recycling Plant (AWRP) would be built with 14 gigalitres a year capacity, with the ability to expand to 28GL as demand increases.¹⁵
- A Perth-first modular housing project has delivered a six-storey apartment building containing 77 one and two bedroom apartments in just 10 days. The venture, supported by the Department of Housing, cost less, could cut construction time in half and was 30 per cent more energy efficient.¹⁵
- Leading medical research scientist Professor Peter Klinken was appointed as Chief Scientist of Western Australia. The Chief Scientist provides independent scientific advice to the State Government.¹⁶
- A government funded report for the Technology and Industry Advisory Council, whose members include former chief scientist Lyn Beazley and WA Nobel laureate Barry Marshall, found WA will fail to reach its potential as a leader in science and technology unless maths and science education in schools improve.¹⁹
- In May, the Department of Transport launched online tools

to give customers instant access to everyday transactions such as bill payments, bookings, licence demerit point checks and payment reminders.¹⁵

- A Perth tech start-up company was awarded the 2014 Western Australian Information Technology and Telecommunications Alliance Awards in June after launching Presentt, a new web platform that will simplify the process of delivering public presentations.²⁴
- A trial of irrigation systems in the State's north-west will use surplus mine water to grow food and biofuel under the Pilbara Hinterland Agricultural Development Initiative (PHADI). The State Government has committed A\$12.5 million in Royalties for Regions funding to establish two pilot projects growing irrigated crops in the Pilbara. Sorghum will be grown at Woodie Woodie on Warrawagine Station in the eastern Pilbara, which can be then used for biofuel in the mining industry, as well as cattle fodder. A second site in the central Pilbara is under consideration.²⁰
- Approximately 25,000 year 7 students across Australia recently learnt about the Square Kilometre Array project when they sat the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests. This year's reading test featured an article on the SKA project, which was followed up by comprehension questions. The average year 7 student will be university aged when SKA 1 construction is completed in 2023.²¹
- New Western Australian-developed technology could boost the chances of finding minerals, water or bacterial life on Mars and other planets. The project, led by Dr Francis Torres at the University of Western Australia, uses a set of advanced silicon mirror resonators and high-powered lasers to boost signals picked up by existing mineral detectors.²²

¹ ABS 5220.0 State Accounts and 5204.0 National Accounts; Western Australia 2014-15 State Budget; and Australia 2014-15 Commonwealth Budget

² ABS 5220.0 State Accounts and 5206.0 National Accounts; and Western Australia 2014-15 State Budget

³ ABS 3101.0 Australian Demographic Statistics

⁴ ABS 6202.0 Monthly Labour Force

⁵ ABS 62 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 91.0.55.003 Quarterly Labour Force

⁶ World Bank, Commodity Price Data, monthly prices in nominal US dollars

⁷ Western Australia Department of Mines and Petroleum, Minerals and Petroleum Summary Tables

⁸ 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

⁹ 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

¹⁰ ABS 5368.0 International Trade in Goods and Services, 5206.0 National Accounts and 5220.0 State Accounts

¹¹ ABS 5368.0 International Trade in Goods and Services

¹² ABS 5368.0 International Trade in Goods and Services; and Western Australia Department of Mines and Petroleum, Resource Data Files

¹³ Western Australia Department of Mines and Petroleum, Resource Data Files.

¹⁴ Construction Industry Snapshot, Western Australia, May 2014

¹⁵ Ministerial media statement

¹⁶ Premier's media statement

¹⁷ The West Australian, July 2014

¹⁸ The Economist Intelligence Unit liveability survey, August 2014

¹⁹ The West Australian, August 2014

²⁰ Prospect magazine, March-May 2014 edition

²¹ SKA Australia website

²² ABC online June 2014

²³ The West online August 2014

²⁴ Business News July 2014

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