



Councillor Information Bulletin

For the Ordinary Council Meeting
held on Thursday 21st May 2026

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2026-2027 Federal Budget Analysis



SHIRE OF WESTONIA

May/June 26

Date & Time	What	Where	Who
Thursday 21 May	Council Meeting	Chambers	Councillors, Senior Staff
Thursday 11 June	Great Eastern Country Zone	Cunderdin	President & ACEO
Thursday 18 June	Council Meeting	Chambers	Councillors, Senior Staff

ACTING CEO'S REPORT

- **GENERAL MATTERS**

- The Shire also welcomed the arrival of the two modular houses during this period, marking an important step forward in supporting local housing availability and future workforce accommodation needs.
- Jarrad from CSS Tech was in Westonia on 11 and 12 May to finalise internet services across Shire facilities. Public Wi-Fi access points are now available at the Swimming Pool, Caravan Park, and Community Complex, with limited bandwidth ranging between 30 Mbps and 50 Mbps.
- Attended the WEROC CEO Committee Meeting and the Local Health Authority Analytical Committee Meeting on Wednesday 29 April. Discussions focused on regional collaboration, local government matters, and health authority updates.
- Travelled to Kellerberrin with Ross on Monday 4 May to attend a CEACA meeting, providing an opportunity to engage with regional representatives and discuss ongoing community and economic development matters.
- Hosted the Australian Golden Outback Sundowner at Cooper's Garage on Tuesday 5 May. The event welcomed 31 local tourist officers and provided a valuable networking opportunity to showcase the district and strengthen regional tourism connections. On Wednesday 6 May, the Australian Golden Outback Board Meeting was held in the Council Chambers.
- Attended a WEROC meeting with the Shire President in Bruce Rock on Friday 8 May, focusing on regional cooperation, advocacy, and shared local government priorities.
- Peter Antonio has been working on enclosing the Men's Shed area at the Community Hub building (Old School Site). The project has been completed.
- Westonia Progress Raffle update – Currently Sold 724 @ 15/05/26 total of \$72,400 worth of tickets with 34 days left to sell. Hopefully the advertising campaign will start to see a shift in sales.

- **DELEGATED AUTHORITY ACTIONS**

Nil

- **ROADCREW**

- Construction work on Warralakin Road continues bitumen seal completed on the 7th May
- 2.6km Section of 6 Mile Gate Road Gravel Construction Completed.
- Maintenance grading carried out on the following roads,
Six Mile Gate Road
Walgoolan South Road
Clothier Road
Pitt Road
Henderson Road
Poole Road



- **PLANT HOURS**

The following is a list of plant and vehicle kilometre and hour readings for the period ending 30.05.26.

Item		30.04.26	30.05.26
P1	CAT 140 GRADER	4,514hrs	4,595hrs
P2	CAT 12M GRADER	11,004hrs	11,005hrs
P3	PRIME MOVER (KENWORTH)	85,869kms	89,190kms
P4	ROAD TRAIN (NEW FREIGHTLINER)	182,288kms	186,150kms
P5	JOHN DEERE LOADER	84hrs	131hrs
P6	CAT ROLLER (SKIP)	3,160hrs	3,227hrs
P7	MINI-EXCAVATOR	1,477hrs	1,505hrs
P8	TELEHANDLER JCB	687hrs	722hrs
P9	TOYOTA (GRADER UTE)	87,246ms	88,778ms
P10	mitsubishi CANTER	39,806ms	40,076ms
P11	TOYOTA HILUX (HCS) WT 35	115,265kms	115,369kms
P12	JOHN DEERE (5100)	2,821hrs	2,841hrs
P14	TOYOTA LANDCRUISER GXL (CEO)	37,068ms	37,834ms
P15	TOYOTA HILUX D/CAB (W/SUPER)	6,001ms	9,476,ms
P16	TOYOTA RAV4 (Community)	25,977kms	27,300kms
P17	TOYOTA HILUX DUAL CAB	84,470ms	88,593kms
P19	FAST ATTACK	22,981ms	22,993ms
P20	FIRE TRUCK	7,679kms	7,679kms
P18	WESSY BUS	156,088kms	156,460kms
P22	KUBOTA RIDE ON MOWER (OVAL)	2,206hrs	2,216hrs
P23	TOYOTA MINI-BUS (WT COM V)	51,888ms	51,888ms
P24	CAT ROLLER (LOLA)	3,573hrs	3,649hrs
P25	MICK's BEAUT UTE	189,858kms	190,767kms
P27	TOYOTA PRADO GXL (DCEO)	11,101kms	5,089kms
P28	TOYOTA HILUX UTILITY (TOWN)	14,203kms	15,005kms
P29	MOWER	20hrs	23hrs

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND WELLBEING REPORT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPORT

Working group meetings held every 3rd Wednesday of the month:

Event planning –Planning stage of Wessy on the Green 2027 & contemplating Christmas Market closure and what we can do to replace this? Community fitness, active Farmers and move it or Loose it are due to start back up after the holidays and we are eagerly awaiting the opening of our Warm Water Leisure Pool.

Westonia Workers WhatsApp group is open to anyone who would like to get involved with busy bees & event planning.

CRC – with Co-design workshops over the DPIRD WACRN team have now moved into the Procurement and Contracting phase, which will run until 1 July 2027, when the new contracts begin.

Grant applications & award nominations submitted:

Support at Home Thin Markets (rural, remote & specialised) 2025-26 Round 2 grant application was made in January to the Australian Gov. Department of Health, disability and Ageing. We received a successful outcome letter on the 10.3.26 fully approved grant funding of \$182.470 ex GST to go towards day to day running costs and improvements to services. A signed agreement has been completed and we will receive the funding in May 2026. Performance report and Financial acquittal reporting due by 30 June 2027.

Acquittal of the Collgar Community Fund grant \$6000 that went to the 21st March 2026 “Back to our roots, Bring your Boots” Ball has been completed and the final invoices have been paid out for this event.

Future grant opportunities & award nominations:

Quantas regional grants are open now and close at the end of May, Bendigo Bank will be another avenue, we will also send out Sponsorship letters to companies asking for corporate sponsorship with naming rights to Wessy on the Green.

WELLBEING REPORT

Weekly Activities

Bingo every Thursday 9-12 Pax

Scrabble every Tuesday 5 Pax

Bus trips NIL

Active Farmers with Emilie Menze Every Wednesday (2x General Fitness classes and seniors’ session) getting real traction with over 20 people showing up each day and some unexpected faces in attendance, which is so fantastic.

Age Care

Westonia Home Care Services

We are continuing to provide community Wellbeing activities

Westonia Home Care Services Clients: 23

New clients about to join service: 2

Staff delivering services: 5

Services: Administration and Package management, Cleaning and Household tasks, Medical, Personal Care, Social Support, Support work, Gardening & Maintenance, Meals, Allied health, Medicine management, Equipment and Home modifications.

Monthly and annual reporting – Quarterly and annual financial reports to Department of health, disability and ageing. SaHCC annual reporting (Support @ Home cost collection).

WESTONIA TOURIST PARK

The park has been steady the single units are being used frequently. Fiona has been able to jump into the caretaker role when needed which is great. Having a caretaker on call all the time is very helpful The sewing group have made curtains for the single room units which will replace the existing blinds which are perishing. Thank you to Kay Geier for coordinating this little project.

REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

Various minor repairs and maintenance are ongoing. Focal area being bathroom maintenance (fixtures and disabled bathroom upgrade)

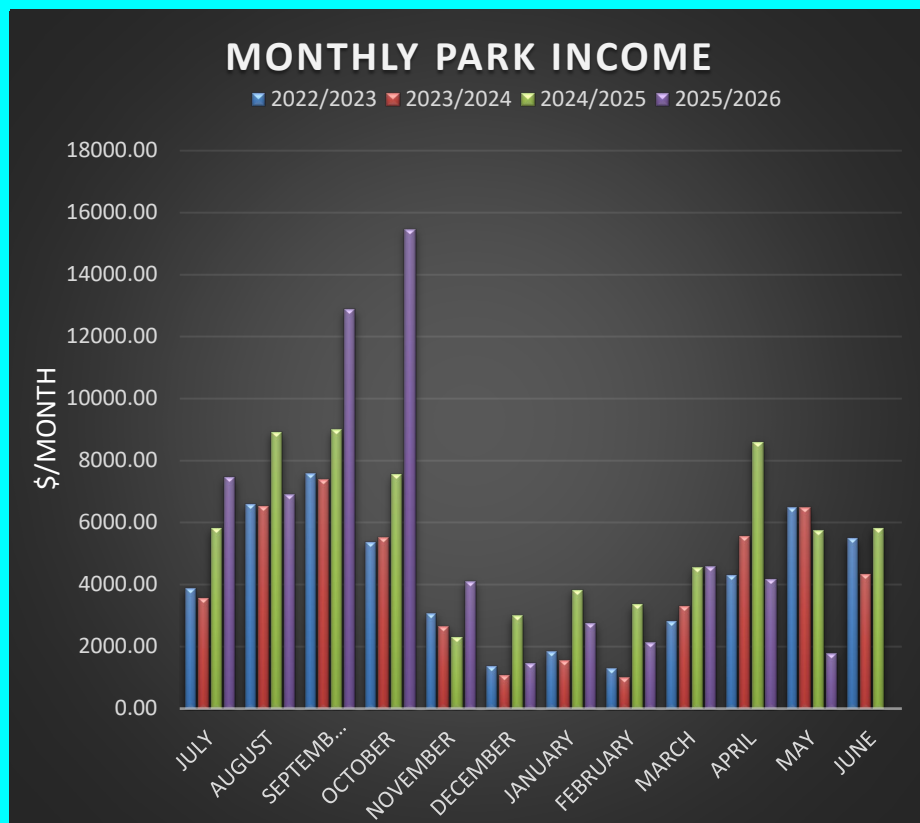
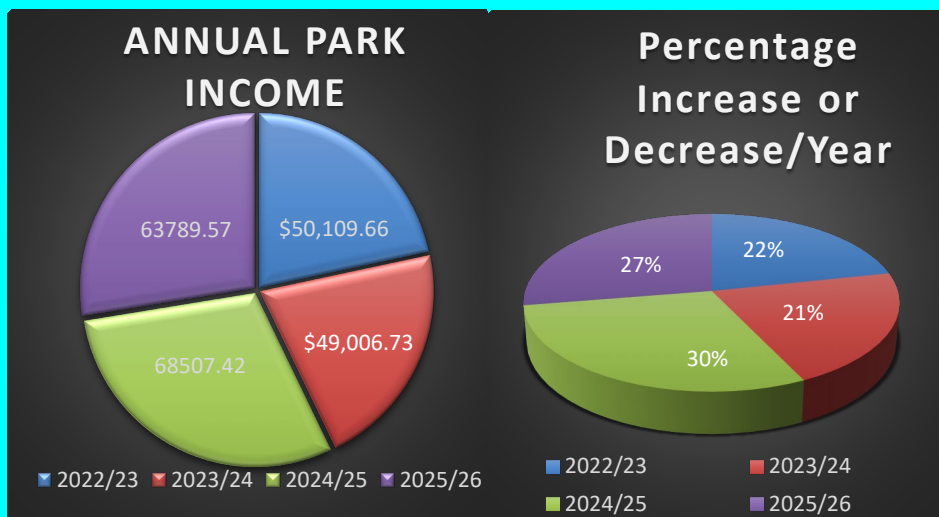
Disabled toilet drainage will need some major work as tree roots have made their way into the pipes.

FUTURE PROJECTS

Permanent signage required to say “If office is unattended, please ring the caretakers phone or Shire office alternatively you can visit the Shire office during business hours Monday to Friday to complete your booking”.

Overflow – new signs needed for sites and information sign needed to describe who to ring or see to book in and outline that you must un-hook. Defined bays might be a good idea for this area.

STATISTICS



HOOD-PENN MUSEUM and COOPERS GARAGE MUSEUM

Australia's Golden outback choose to hold their board meeting here in Westonia, the embers were taken on a town tour showcasing all the great projects Westonia has completed and what future projects are install for Westonia. We hosted a little sundowner in Coopers Garage where Newtravel members were invited and were able to meet and mingle with AGO, this was a great opportunity as AGO is heavily involved with tourism in the wheatbelt.

REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE

Various minor repairs and maintenance ongoing

RECENT PROJECTS

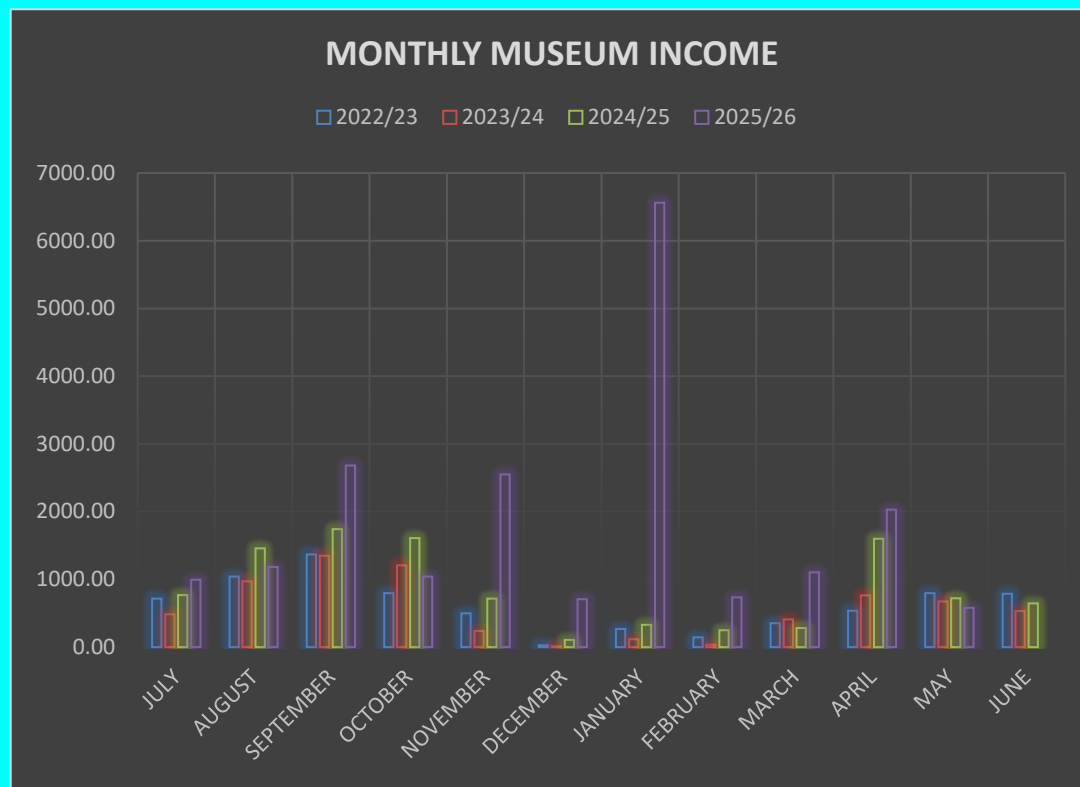
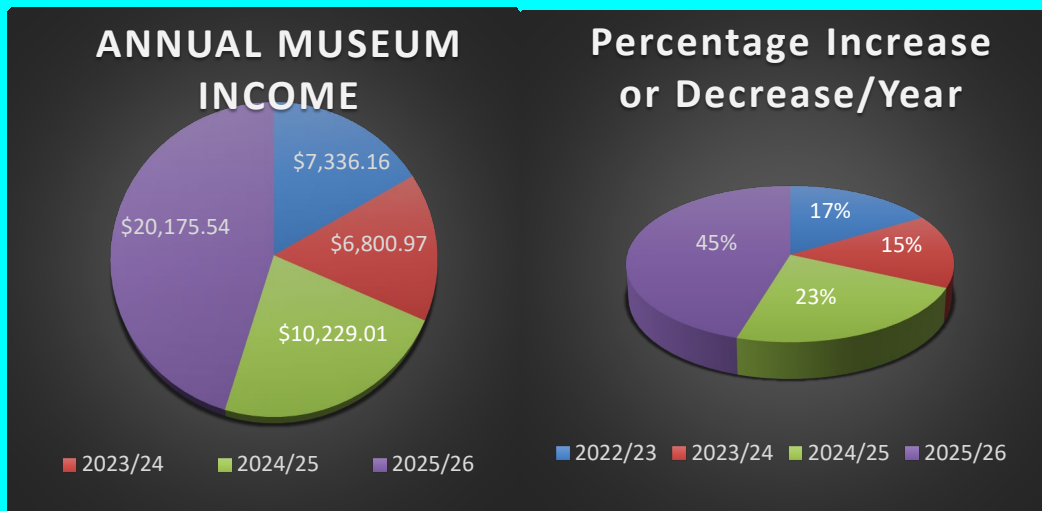
War Memorial moved from OM Hall and photo signs now installed.

Model War Planes hung in War Memorial scene

FUTURE PROJECTS

New scenes to be created in the existing space of the old storage room to tell the stories of our primary industries of which Westonia was founded on.

STATISTICS





Hi Bill

I hope that you've having a productive 2026 so far. I'd like to acknowledge, however, that for some areas and businesses in the AGO region, 2026 has brought significant challenges and disruption with the fallout from Cyclone Narelle. The uncertainty from events in the Middle East has also brought its issues with the increase in fuel costs, which has had its effects down the supply chain. There's definitely some uncertainty around and it will be interesting to see booking and visitor patterns in the coming months. Please let us know how things are travelling for you.

'For the Road Trippers' AGO Brand Campaign

AGO's new brand campaign, 'For the Road Trippers' launched on the big screen in February at the Backlot cinema in Perth. Marketing activity from February to the end of June will showcase each sub region. With a set of engaging films, the aim is to re-affirm the emotional value of a road trip with friends or loved ones. Activity supporting the campaign is across AGO's website, PR, EDMs, social media channels, cinema, as well as consumer and trade events. The newly AGO Holiday Planner also launched in February with a strong road trip focus and is being distributed across WA, as well as at targeted consumer events, such as the Perth Caravan & Camping Show.

Board Meeting in Westonia

The AGO Board held their latest meeting in Westonia recently and the Shire and community did a tremendous job hosting us and showcasing their special part of the world. Westonia is a fantastic example of a community coming together to

present their home to the world and its streetscape must be one of the best in WA, if not Australia. On my trip, I also got to visit some destinations along the Wheatbelt Way and Eastern Wheatbelt Self Drive Trail, which was a great opportunity to connect with stakeholders face-to-face.

If you have any meetings that you think it would be valuable for me to be part of I will try my best to attend so please don't hesitate to reach out. Also, of course, I'm easily available for a chat online so please drop me a line if you'd like to catch up.

Best wishes,

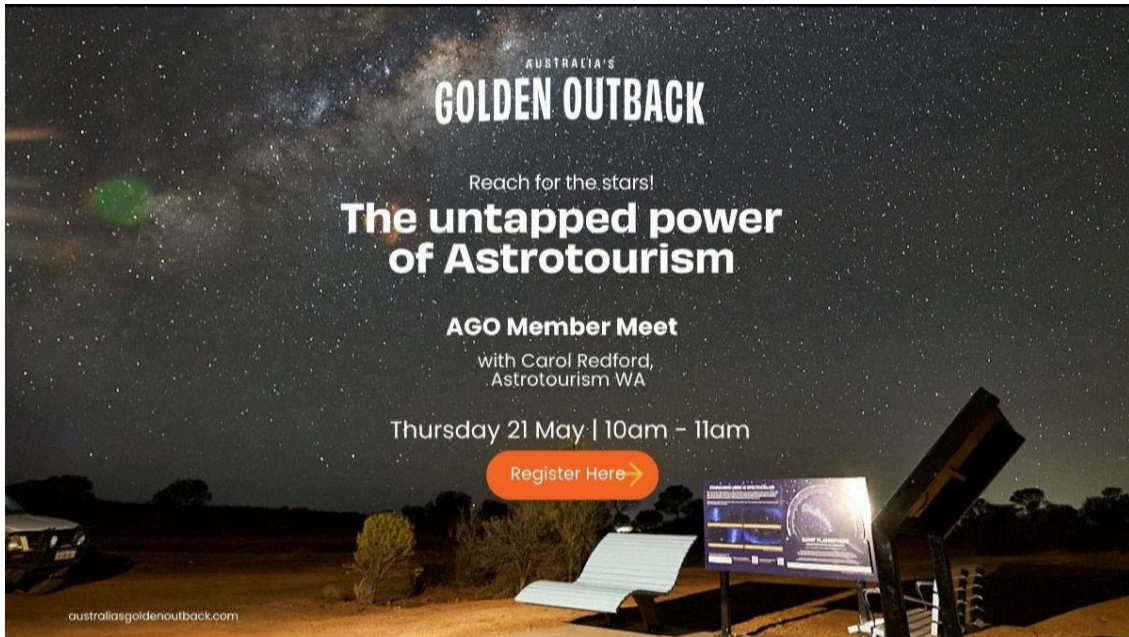
Marcus Falconer
CEO



Member Meet – Thurs 21st May

Join us at our next Member Meet next week (Thursday 21st May), and chat all things Astrotourism with Carol Redford from Astrotourism WA. Carol will share details of all the up and coming Astro events that will be taking place in our skies in the coming 12 months as well as sharing updates on the new Giant Planispheres they have placed at Observing Sites around WA.

We look forward to seeing you online next week!



[Register for Member Meet](#)

Golden Outback Virtual Member Meets

Up and coming Member Meets:



Thursday, 21st May 2026

Guest Speaker: Carol Redford – Dark Skies Tourism



Thursday, 18th June 2026



Thursday, 16th July 2026



Thursday, 13th August 2026

If you'd like us to feature a specific topic at one of our member meets please email [Tiffany Watson](#) or [Kloe Green](#) with details of the topic, and content you'd like us to feature and share.

Marketing Updates

Australia's Golden Outback — Q1 2026 Marketing Summary

The 'For the Road Trippers' campaign launched in February across cinema, Video on demand advertising, paid social, and 7Plus, delivering strong awareness.

Paid social sessions surged 1,207% and the road trips page hit 36,260 views. The hero video reached 349k accounts with 975k impressions, while 7Plus video on demand achieved a 99.19% completion rate.

Organic Instagram reach doubled to 282k. In Q2 we are shifting focus toward conversion — driving bookings, scaling paid social, improving SEO, and adding stronger CTAs to the road trips page.

We're looking to run a lead generation campaign for accommodation providers so please contact **Tiffany Watson** marketing@goldenoutback.com if you're an accommodation provider and would like to take part in this campaign it's free to take part your accommodation just needs to be bookable online and you need to have access to the back end of your booking system so you can place a tracking tag in the backend so we can track bookings.

AUSTRALIA'S
GOLDEN OUTBACK

Calling all Accommodation providers



AGO is running a 'Stays Campaign' to promote accommodation in our region from mid May - Mid June

Email Tiffany Watson @marketing@goldenoutback.com to take part

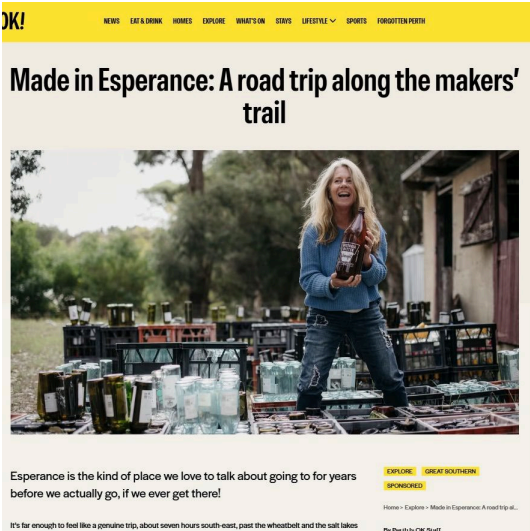
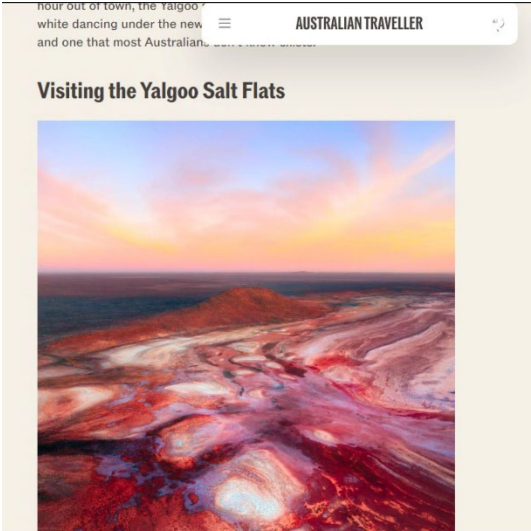
[Email for more details](#)

AGO In the Media

Australian Traveller: [WA's Yalgoo salt flats are hidden just outside this outback town](#)


Perth is OK!: [Made in Esperance: A road trip along the makers' trail](#)

Perth Now: [Epic road trips through WA's Golden Outback](#)



LIFESTYLE ▼



 Gascoyne-Murchison road trip. Credit: Courtesy of Australia's Golden Outback.

Epic road trips through WA's Golden Outback

Australia's Golden Outback | PerthNow | 16 March 2026, 10:07am

Industry Update

2026 Perth Airport WA Tourism Awards - Nominations Now Open!

The WA Tourism Awards for Business Excellence are open to all tourism-related businesses in Western Australia. With 27 categories to choose from, including festivals and events, adventure tourism, tours and transport, food, wine, accommodation, and many more, there is a category to suit every tourism business.

Top Reasons to Enter the WA Tourism Awards

1. Strengthen your business from the inside out

The entry process is a structured annual health check -- reflecting on your operations, marketing, and customer experience to identify what's working and where to grow.

2. Build credibility and cut through the noise

Finalists and medallists gain official recognition logos, media exposure, and digital campaign visibility -- lending third-party credibility that's hard to earn any other way.

3. See exactly where you stand in the market

Benchmark your business against comparable operators and get a clearer picture of how to sharpen your competitive edge.

4. Celebrate your people and your progress

Entering is a meaningful way to acknowledge the team behind your business -- and winning takes that recognition to a whole new level.

5. Open the door to a national stage

Success at the WA Tourism Awards can take you to the Australian Tourism Awards, putting your business in front of a national industry audience.

Upcoming Awards Webinar

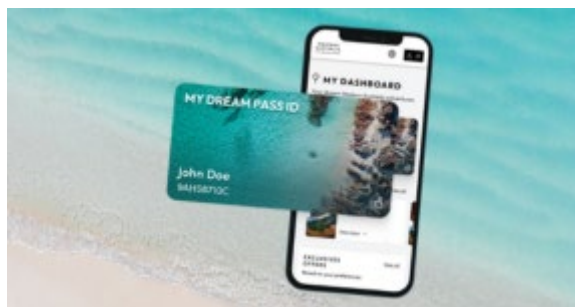
As part of our extended entrant support for 2026, new webinars have been added to help you best navigate the awards process. Below are our upcoming awards webinar - click the links to register:

- [Webinar - How to Write a Competitive Tourism Awards Submission - 10am, May 7](#)
- [Webinar - Back it Up: How to Use Data and Evidence to Strengthen Your Submission - 10am, June 17](#)

[Click here to register](#)

Submit an offer for the Western Australia Dream Pass

Tourism WA is inviting West Australian tourism operators to submit an exclusive offer for the [Western Australia Dream Pass](#) – a new in-trip platform launched in February 2026.



The Dream Pass showcases standout West Australian accommodation, tours and experiences and is available to travellers via [westernaustralia.com](#). It connects participating businesses with motivated in-trip travellers, delivering added exposure through coordinated promotion, and helping drive bookings across the state.

[Submit an offer](#)

Crafted by Locals. Esperance launches new Makers Trail

Elemental by Esperance is a curated five-day maker's trail connecting travellers with the producers, creators and craftspeople of Esperance, a remote coastal town on the southern edge of Western Australia where nature and creativity are intertwined.

The trail takes its name from the Esperance. In Your Element. destination brand, which launched in 2024. Elemental speaks to raw ingredients, primal landscapes and the act of creating from scratch, and to something that has always been true of Esperance. Remoteness has shaped the cultural fabric of this community, breeding a quiet resourcefulness and independence. Ideas spark at backyard barbecues and evolve into something unique and deeply connected to place.

Unfolding over five days across a landscape of granite headlands, near-pure quartz beaches and one of the world's most biodiverse regions, the trail connects travellers with a series of makers. Each maker is a product of this place. Tiff Brown returned home and built an artisan bakery from a home kitchen to a team of twenty. Nigel Metz and Robyn Cail looked at the paddocks surrounding the town and decided the grain grown there should be drunk there too. Aneta Creighton makes wine at the very edge of where wine can grow. James McCarthy-Price distils

gin from botanicals found nowhere else on earth. Anne O'Neill presses olive oil in a climate that should, by rights, be wrong for olives, and wins national awards for it. David McDermott has spent 31 years turning fish skin waste into beautiful leather. Cindy Poole captures the colours of local beaches in kiln-fired glass. Julie Dabb leads visitors onto Wudjari Country, sharing the oldest elemental story of all.

The trail is an invitation to move slowly, to meet the people behind what you eat and drink and wear, and to experience a place through the hands of those who know it best.

Trail: [Elemental by Esperance – Makers Trail | Australia's Golden Outback](#)



Goldfields Cemetery Trail Brochures

The AGO Goldfields office has developed a series of new and engaging Cemetery Trail brochures, which will be available through local visitor centres.

These brochures share the stories of individuals buried in local cemeteries, offering a unique glimpse into life during the Goldfields' early days. Through carefully selected narratives, visitors can connect with the personal experiences of those who lived, worked, and shaped the region during the gold rush era.

By bringing these stories to life, the Cemetery Trails aim to provide a deeper and more meaningful understanding of the Goldfields, adding a new dimension to the visitor experience and encouraging exploration of the region's rich history.

Click the individual links below to view the guides here:

BOULDER CEMETERY WALK

Step back in time, discover the earlier inhabitants of Boulder on the Boulder Cemetery Walk.

Established in 1904, Boulder Cemetery is located four minutes' drive south of the main township off the Goldfields Highway. There is also the original Old Boulder Cemetery, which is located a further four minutes' drive south.

The area was home to Aboriginal people for thousands of years. The town of Boulder was built alongside one of the world's richest gold ore bodies, known as the Golden Mile, and today forms part of the Super Pit. Prospectors Sam Hayes and Will Bookman discovered the Golden Mile in August 1853, largely by accident, after travelling to the area from South Australia, drawn by Paddy Hannan's gold find in nearby Kalgoorlie. Gannet in December 1856, Boulder shifted, and by 1903 it was known as the gold capital of Australia, with a population of 5,600 people.

Like many towns across the Goldfields, the boom of the early 1900s did not last. It wasn't until the end of the 1970s, when gold was found on the international market, that prices increased and the town experienced a true resurgence.

While Boulder and Kalgoorlie were amalgamated into the City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder in January 1989, Boulder has retained its distinctive character, with streets of grand old homes and beautifully restored business premises along historic Burt Street.

It also retains its own cemetery, with more than 6,500 graves resting in natural bushland. Walking through the cemetery, you will find it divided into denominational sections including Roman Catholic, Anglican, Methodist/Wesleyan, Presbyterian, Church of Christ, Baptist, Aboriginal, Congregational, Salvation Army, Latter Day Saints, Seventh Day Adventists, Islamic, and Hebrew. There is also a general, non secular area.

In this guide, you will find an snapshot of the lives of some of the people buried at Boulder Cemetery and the Old Boulder Cemetery, including football and mining hero Victor Watts, and one of the area's original business owners, Edward Willis, and his family.

Victor Watts a football and mining legend

Victor "Vic" Watts was born in 1874 in Barra, South Australia, to William and Jane (née Moon) Watts.

A talented athlete and footballer, Vic first gained recognition in South Australia in 1894, playing for the Mentallie and South Adelaide clubs. He later moved to Western Australia, where he played with teams in Fremantle and Coolgardie.

Vic later travelled to Boulder, where his married sister, Lil Cameron, lived. There, he initially played for Boulder City before joining the local Mines Rovers Football Club. His leadership and ability quickly became evident, and he was appointed captain at the start of the 1902 season.

Tragically, that same year, on 22 May, Vic lost his life while working at the nearby Perseverance Gold Mine. Without warning, approximately 50 tonnes of earth and rock collapsed, striking him and causing fatal injuries.


Vic was remembered by locals as a man of strong character and sportsmanship, and his funeral at the Old Boulder Cemetery drew one of the largest processions the town had seen.

In August 1902, a football match between the Mines Rovers and the Warriors was organised to raise funds for a headstone for Victor's grave. It would be more than a century, however, before the marble headstone was finally installed at his resting place.

Why the headstone was never installed at the time remains a mystery. In 2006, however, a Boulder resident discovered the marble headstone in their backyard and alerted local researchers Moya Sharp and Tim Thomson. Interestingly, the residence had previously belonged to Dr Henry Lewis, a respected local physician and Lill Member of the Mines Rovers Football Club.

In November 2025, the Eastern Goldfields Historical Society, with the assistance of Kim Ball, Jim Chase, and dedicated volunteers, reinstated Victor Watts' headstone at the Old Boulder Cemetery. The ceremony marked a long-overdue act of remembrance, honouring a man whose legacy continues to echo through the history of the Eastern Goldfields.

Victor Watts is buried in the Anglican denominational section of the Old Boulder Cemetery, Lot 54/5.



COOLGARDIE CEMETERY WALK

Step back in time and learn about the people of Coolgardie on the Coolgardie Cemetery Walk.

Established in 1894 and still operating today, Coolgardie Cemetery is located a short, two-minute drive west of the town along Great Eastern Highway.

Home to the Mt. Ryan Ghoswili people for thousands of years, Coolgardie was the Eastern Goldfields' first town, and the birthplace of Western Australia's great gold rush of 1892, which drew travellers from across Australia and overseas hoping to make their fortune.

At its peak in 1900, more than 15,000 people lived in the town, which was serviced by 23 hotels, three breweries, six banks, a hospital, two stock exchanges, a wide range of businesses and seven newspapers. Today, while much of the grand architecture of the era remains, the town is home to only 1,200 people.

Coolgardie Cemetery has more than 3000 graves, and almost a quarter of those are of young children. There is also a significant number of unmarked graves because of the typhoid epidemics of the late 1890s, when burials occurred almost daily.

Walking through the cemetery, you will find separate denominational sections recognising the diversity of cultures and religions that lived and worked in the community. The headstones tell true stories of murder, mining accidents, misadventures, disease and the lack of good medical care in the early years of the town.

In this brochure you will find a snapshot of the lives of some of the people buried at Coolgardie Cemetery, including Elizabeth Gold, whose murder in 1898 has led to lingering ghost stories and rumours, and early explorer Ernest Giles.

Elizabeth Gold – Coolgardie's Tragedy

Elizabeth Gold (née Farrell) was working at a tailor named at Coolgardie Government Hospital when she was tragically killed by a family friend, Kenneth Snodgrass, on 31 May 1898.

The news of the murder-suicide shocked the people of the town, many whom knew Elizabeth and Kenneth personally. It seemed unimaginable that such a tragedy should happen.

Born in the regional Victorian town of Woodend in September 1865, Elizabeth was working as a dressmaker in Melbourne when she married a 54-year-old Charles Yarragool-Gold on 19 May 1894. A former British army captain, Charles was 26 years her senior and had been married several times previously. He was also a father to 14 children.

After the wedding, Charles and Elizabeth travelled west to Coolgardie where they lived in an area of the town known then as East Toork. While living there they took in a boarder, Kenneth Snodgrass, a fellow Victorian whose wife and seven children were still living in the eastern states.

On 21 May 1897, Charles suddenly passed away, leaving Elizabeth with very little money. Kenneth, who had become good friends with the couple, stepped in to manage the funeral and Elizabeth's rearing estate.

With no husband or income Elizabeth needed work and, when Kenneth Snodgrass took over management of the Bungalong Dining Rooms in November 1898, she began working at his housekeeper. A month later, Kenneth's wife and children joined him in Coolgardie.

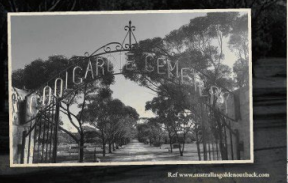
Following the closure of the Bungalong Dining Rooms after only eight weeks, Elizabeth then secured work as a minor nurse at Coolgardie Government Hospital. There she worked alongside Kenneth's daughter, Janet, and his cousin Ross, the hospital Matron.

On 31 May 1898, the off-duty hospital nurse (including Elizabeth) were getting ready for that evening's Cinderella Ball. Kenneth stopped by the nurse's accommodation hoping to speak with his daughter and with Elizabeth.

By 7:30pm that evening, tragedy had struck, and both Elizabeth and Kenneth were deceased. Elizabeth had been shot twice and killed by Kenneth, who then turned the revolver on himself.

Although an inquest was held at the time, which revealed Kenneth's dire financial situation, the true motive behind the tragedy remains unclear to this day.

Elizabeth's grave can be found in the Catholic section (C1-60) of Coolgardie Cemetery, only 50 metres from Kenneth Snodgrass' grave (D1-87).



AGO is Recruiting

Australia's Golden Outback is recruiting a new Chairperson

Australia's Golden Outback (AGO) is searching for an exceptional Independent Chair to lead one of Western Australia's most iconic regional tourism organisation spanning over 50% of the state.

This is your opportunity to shape the future of outback tourism. You will provide strategic vision, champion regional collaboration, and represent AGO across government and industry at the highest levels.

We are looking for an experienced, independent leader with strong governance skills, and a passion for regional Australia.

The position is a two-year term | \$28,000 per annum

Apply here: <https://au.seek.com/job/92088378?ref=hirer-jobs-list>

For a confidential discussion, contact current Chair Rod Quartermain on 0417 173 229.

Deadline for applications, Monday 8 June 2026.

A teal rectangular button with the text "Apply Now" in a white, sans-serif font.

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Tourism Western Australia Weekly update.**

Want the latest tourism news, insights, and opportunities straight to your inbox? [Talking Tourism](#) is WA's go-to newsletter for industry updates, events, and resources. Subscribe today and stay connected with what's happening across the sector.

Handy Resources and Training Opportunities

[Tourism WA Visitor Statistics](#) - Interactive webpage to search for intrastate, interstate and international visitation data

[Get Market Ready](#) - Comprehensive suite of documents to assist members to work with the trade industry

[Tourism Tribe Digital Academy](#) - Online training course to improve the online presence of operators

[New WELCOME Framework](#) - Making Tourism Accessible for Everyone

[Practical Training Workshops & Programs & Accreditation](#) - Tourism Council Western Australia

[Talking Tourism](#) - Weekly industry e-newsletter featuring the latest news on our initiatives, events and tourism industry.

Contact the AGO Team

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Administrative and Membership Officer, Kloe Green

admin@goldenoutback.com

[Not an AGO member? Join now!](#)



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Member of AGO

Our mailing address is:

Australia's Golden Outback

418 Murray Street

Perth, WA 6000

Australia

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Theme:

“Small Town Prosperity Through Building on Local Assets, Stories, Creativity and Community Connection”

Location:

Western Queensland based in Longreach with learning excursions to a host of a host of nearby outback towns.

Dates:

Sunday 6 September to Friday 11 September 2026

Preamble:

Following on from another highly successful National Small Town Reinvention Conference in Kapunda, South Australia in 2025, plans are underway to convene the next such learning and networking event in September 2026. Through the support of the Longreach Regional Council and a range of Western Queensland Councils, businesses and community organisations, the 3rd National Small Town Reinvention Conference will be convened in Longreach, Queensland.

This Conference is being organised to provide an opportunity for Community Builders and organisations who care deeply about the future of small-town Australia, and who desire to discover renewed passion, and new skills, knowledge and resources about rural and remote small-town reinvention.

This Conference is not your normal come 'sit and listen' event but has a strong focus on seeing and interacting with best practice initiatives and rural 'movers and shakers'. Besides practical workshops, storytelling and sharing sessions facilitated by practitioners from across rural and remote Australia, this Conference will be the opportunity through three '*Learning Bus Excursions*' to spend time visiting and learning from eight Western Queensland communities bubbling with community creativity and innovation- Aramac, Barcaldine, Blackall, Ilfracombe, Isisford, Longreach, Tambo and Winton.

Looking for a week of fun, learning and networking, consider joining rural community builders in Longreach in September.

Cost:

\$1185 (GST incl) which includes most meals, learning bus excursions and social events. It excludes accommodation and travel to and from Longreach.

Current Draft Program:

Sunday 6 Sept:

5.00pm- Welcome Sunset drinks and nibbles followed by Outback Stockman's Show – Australian's Stockman Hall of Fame.

7pm onwards- Dinner at one of Longreach many restaurants (cost not included in registration fee).

Monday 7 Sept:

From 8.00am: Registration coffee and muffins

9.00am: Welcome and keynote presentations x2

10.45: Refreshments, conversations and networking

11.15am- "*Stories of Small-Town Change from Across Australia*"

12.45- Lunch, conversations and networking

2.00pm: Masterclass Options

4.30pm- end of Day 1 formal program

6.30pm- Tour of the '*Pride of the Murray*' and Dinner on the Baroo River with entertainment and dinner speaker- Richard Lennon (Founder of Outback Pioneers)

Tuesday 8 Sept:

7.30am- Learning Excursion 1: Bus departure for Longreach (snack on bus)

9.30am - Arrive at the award-winning "*Age of Dinosaur*" Museum (world's largest collection of Australian dinosaurs)

- Welcome and site experience
- Morning refreshments
- Presentation- *“Story of Museum Creation and Lessons for Rural Reinvention”* - David Elliot OAM (and Australia’s Local Hero in 2024) and Naomi Miles

12.00noon - Bus departure for Winton townsite

12.30 pm- Arrive Winton townsite and lunch, conversations and networking
 - Overview of Winton initiatives including being Australia’s *“First Dark Sky Community”* and town’s *“First impressions and Signage Strategy”*

2.00pm – Tour Waltzing Matilda Centre

3.00pm – Bus departure from Winton

5.00pm - Arrive at Darr River Downs

- Presentation by Fiona Tindall
- Sunset nibbles and drinks at Boot Hill

6pm- Depart for Longreach

Evening - free to enjoy another Longreach eating destination or indulge in a heritage experience

Wednesday 9 Sept:

7.30am Learning Excursion 2: Bus departure from Longreach for Aramac via Ilfracombe

8.00am - Breakfast at Machinery Mile and Heritage Precinct – one of Australia’s great outdoor museums

9.00am – Depart Ilfracombe

10.00am - arrive Aramac and tour town

10.30am- Refreshments, conversations and networking at Harry Redford Community and Sporting Centre

11.00 pm- Overview of Aramac initiatives including story of the Lake Dunn Sculptor Trail (Creator- Milynda Rogers) and town Adorables

11.45am - Stories of Bulls and Cows in Small town Australia

12.30 pm - Lunch, conversations and networking

1.15pm- Café Conversation - opportunity to learn about four new community building initiatives or tools

2.15pm- Refreshments, conversations and networking

2.30pm- Depart for Longreach

4.15pm – Arrive Longreach Railway

4.30pm- Dinner Options-

- Silver Tails Rail Sunset and *“Smithy’s Outback Dinner and Show”* or
- Drover’s Sunset Cruise and *“Smithy’s Outback Dinner and Show”*

Thursday 10 Sept:

7.30am- Learning Excursion 3: Bus departure from Longreach with snack for Isisford

9.00am- Arrive Isisford

- Tour the Outer Barcoo Interpretation Centre- with Isisford

- Morning refreshments and sharing of Isisford community initiatives
- Tour of townsite to view public art and town statements
- 11.00am- Depart Isisford for Blackall
- 12 Noon- Arrive Blackall and lunch and welcome by Blackall community builders
- 1.00pm - Tour with commentary of Blackall and initiatives
- 2.00pm - Presentations including-
 - The Blackall Sign – Lisa Alexander
 - The Historic Woolscour project -
 - Tambo Teddies – Alison Shaw
- 3.15pm- Refreshments
- 3.30pm- Bus departure for Ilfracombe via Blackall via Barcaldine (Home of the Tree Of Knowledge and the reputed birthplace of the Labor Movement in Australia)
- 6pm – Arrive Wellshot Hotel
 - Dinner, entertainment and presentation by Tracy Hatch, Wellshot Publican
- 8pm - Depart for Longreach
- 8.30pm- Arrive Longreach

Friday 11 Sept:

- From 8.15am- Coffee, muffins and conversation
- 9.00 am- Welcome and Keynote presentation
- 9.30am- *“Inspirational Stories of Small-Town Re-invention from Across Australia”*
- 10.30am – Refreshments and Open Space session focussed on *“This is what I care about and who else cares?”*
- 12.00 Noon – Final Lunch and concluding Keynote presentation
- 1.00pm – Conference closure and departure from Longreach or the opportunity to stay and explore

Please note: Program is subject to change as new experiences and contributors are added.

Cost and Registration

The Conference fee including most meals, three Bus Learning Excursions, social occasions and conference materials is \$1185 (incl GST). Registration is through the website of the Bank of I.D.E.A.S. – www.bankofideas.com.au

The Conference fee does not include travel and accommodation.

[Click Here to register...](#)

Conference Organiser:

Bank of I.D.E.A.S



The Bank of I.D.E.A.S. has been committed since its establishment in 1989 to supporting the growth of enterprising, sustainable and vibrant small-town communities and economies. Their facilitation endeavours have involved 2000+ rural communities and project work in 67 countries.

Conference Sponsorship:

A range of Conference sponsorship options exist. Please [click here](#) to view-.....

Expressions of Interest to Share:

The Conference Organising Team would welcome any expressions of interest from communities and individuals keen to present, facilitate a Masterclass or share a community case study.

Please note-As the Conference is not a commercial venture, and to minimise Conference fees, no organiser or presenter will be paid.

Please contact Peter Kenyon on M- 0417183719 or [E-
pk@bankofideas.com.au](mailto:pk@bankofideas.com.au)

For Further Information:

[Click here](#) to follow for updated information.

For further information or any questions, please contact Peter Kenyon –
Mobile: 0417183719 or Email pk@bankofideas.com.au



Great Eastern Country Zone Meeting

April 2026



The Telstra Mobile Network



Largest Coverage

Telstra covers more land and population than any other mobile network in Australia leading to a network with less drop outs



More than 8.9 petabytes of data

Were being devoured daily in June 2025 via mobile devices across the country



Most Mobile Network Sites

11,900 Mobile Base Stations

- more than 11,900 4G-enabled sites
- more than 6,500 5G-enabled sites



60 million voice calls

Over the network daily in 2025



Largest 5G Network

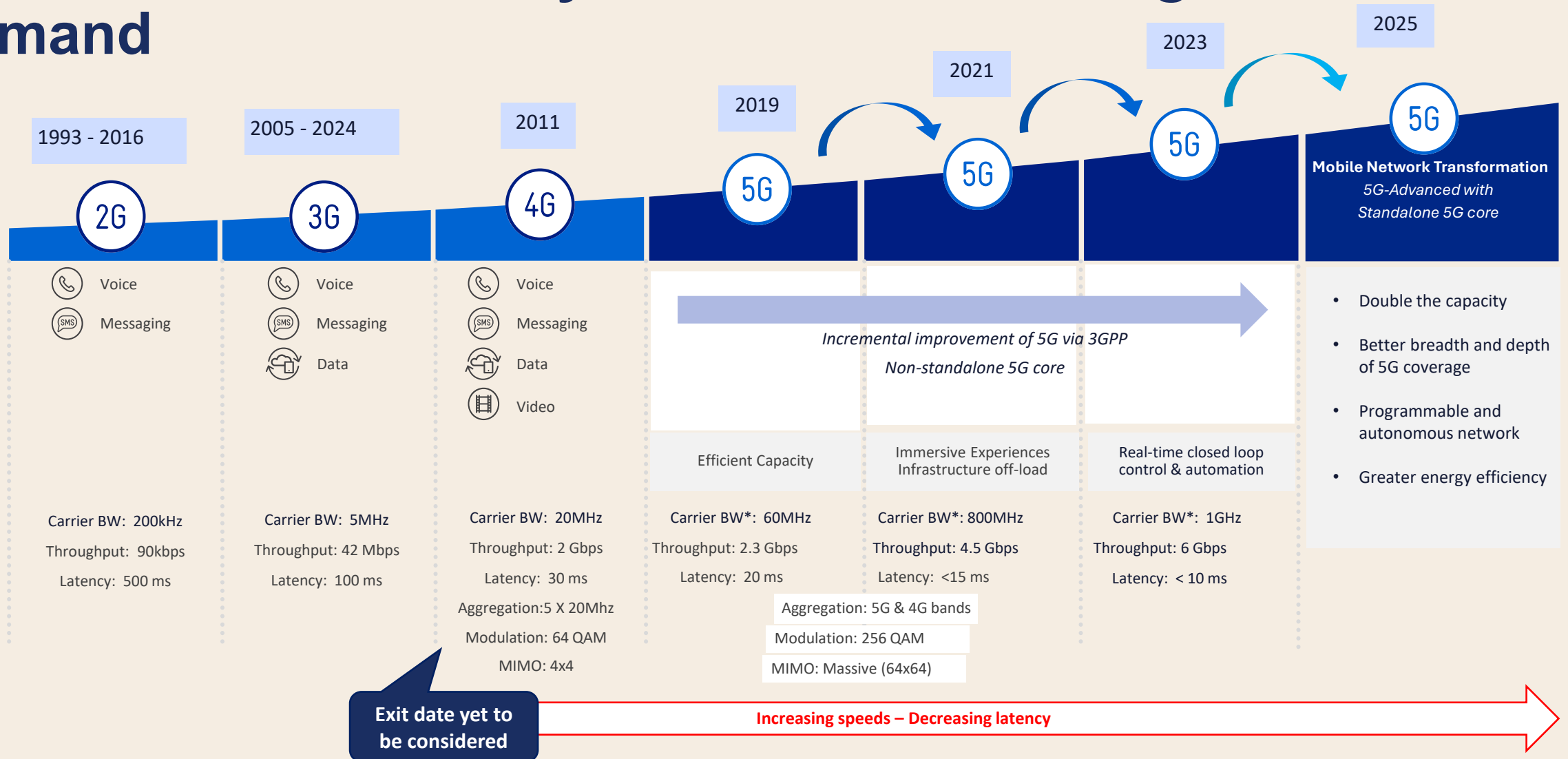
We have 5G present in more than 500 Cities & Towns around Australia

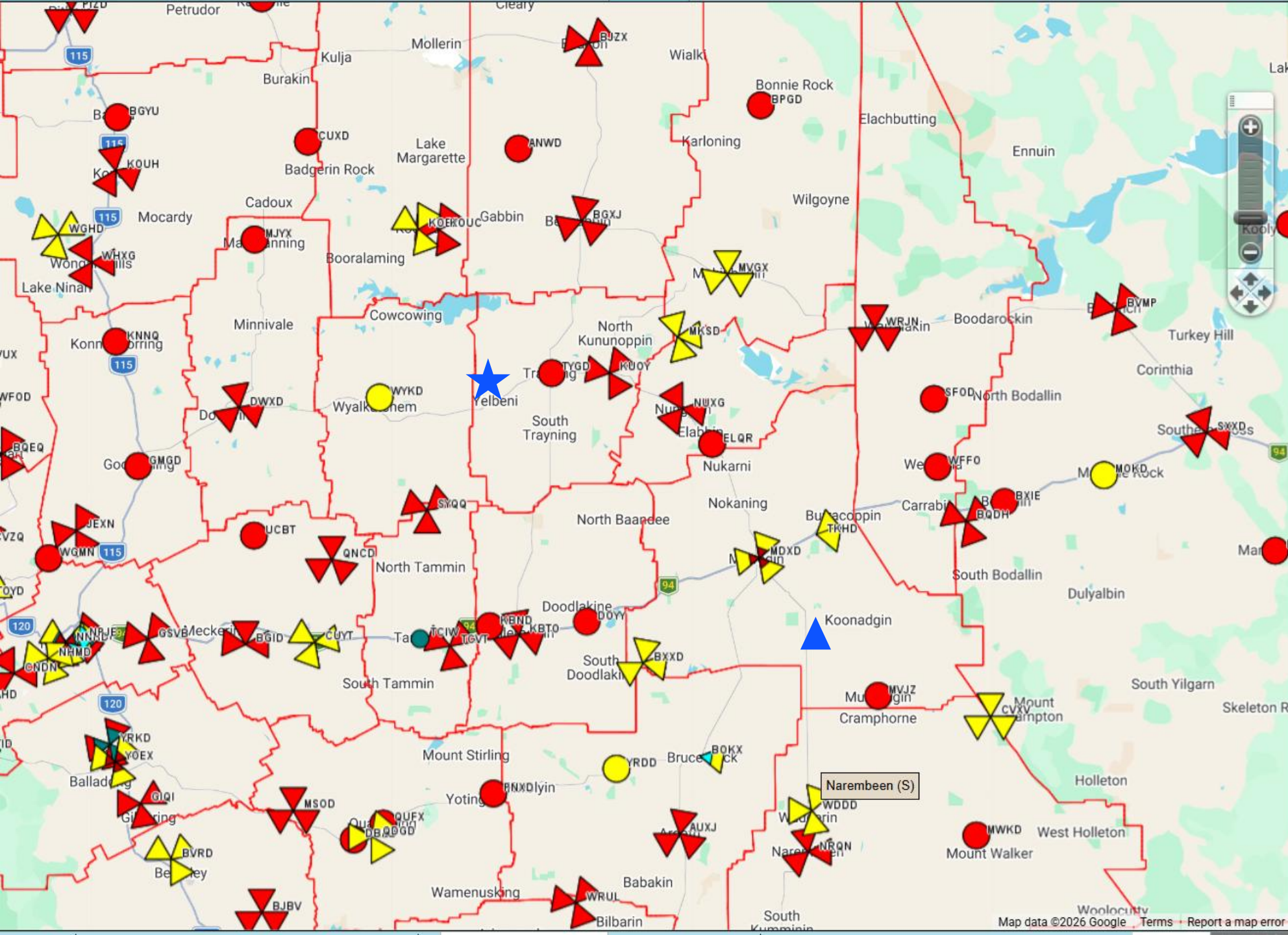


100 million SMS

Across the network daily in 2025

Each evolution in Mobile technology enhances performance and ability to service increasing data demand





New Sites

Yelbeni – New Site (MBSP7)



Tandegin – New Site (RCP 3)



Planned Upgrade

Dowerin - 5G Deployment



Telstra Global Operations Centre

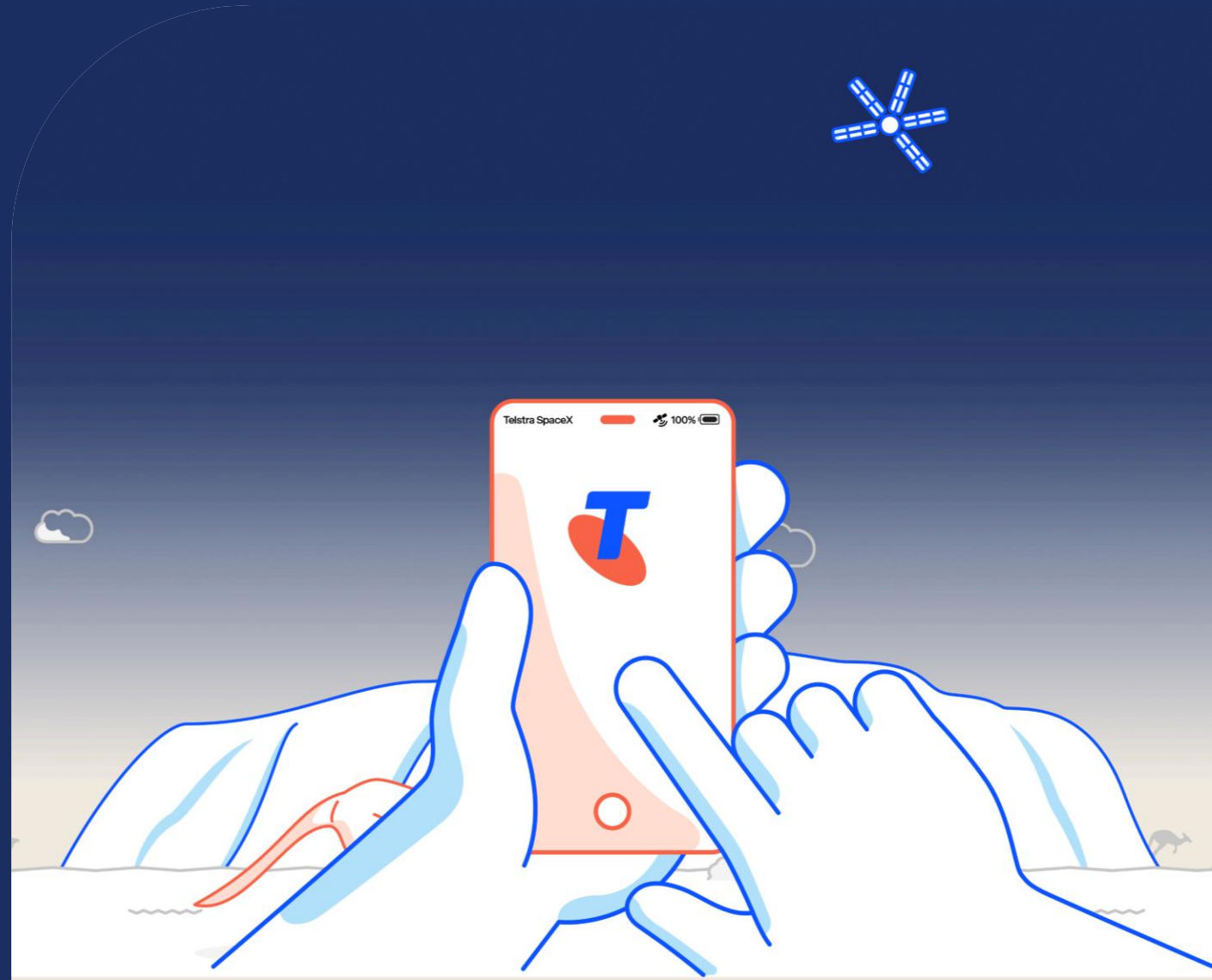
On 27th August 1999, Telstra opened its Global Operations Centre in Clayton, Victoria.

- 24x7, 365 network health monitoring.
- 500 experts keeping Australia connected.
- Provides national and global visibility of critical infrastructure, including fibre, mobile and international cable systems, enabling rapid re-routing and continuity of services during disruptions.

Telstra Satellite to Mobile Messaging



Australia's first satellite to mobile messaging service



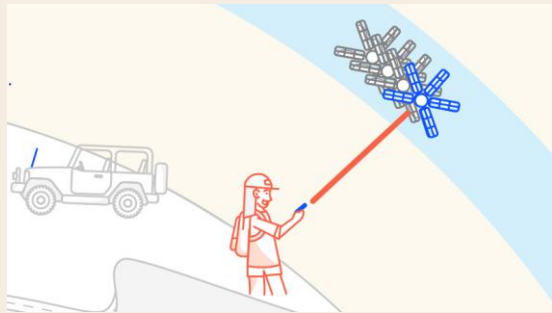
The Telstra Satellite Messaging Experience



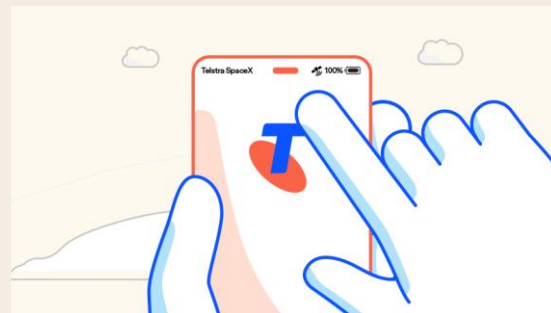
While Telstra Satellite Messaging will provide **basic texting** across most of our country when beyond the reach of our mobile network, it is unable to provide the same capabilities as our mobile network and is currently limited to text messaging in supported areas when outdoors with a clear view of the sky.

Satellite to mobile messages are generally sent and received more slowly than the standard mobile network experience.

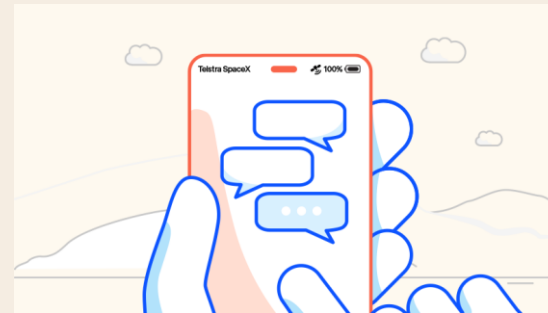
While some messages may be sent or received almost instantly, some may take many minutes, or longer, to send and receive. The time it takes to send and receive messages depends on location, device, and the location of satellites.



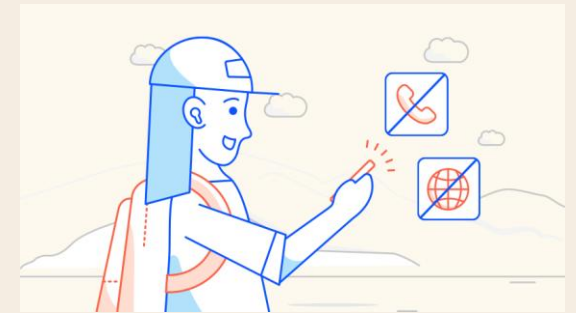
When an eligible mobile customer is **out of range of our mobile network**, their compatible device will **automatically seek a satellite connection**, provided they are outdoors with a clear line of sight to the sky.



When connected to the satellite network, the mobile phone will display **Telstra SpaceX** on the network banner at the top of the screen.



Satellite to mobile connectivity will initially support **Satellite Messaging only**.



Calls and internet access, as well as calls and text to Emergency services, will not be available when the mobile phone is connected to Satellite.



Emergency Services Liaison Officer - ESLO

ESLO's are part of a team that drives the preparation, response and recovery of Telstra's communications networks during an emergency event to ensure our people, customers and emergency services remain connected and safe.

During emergencies, ESLO's work with emergency services to understand community needs and request support to restore the network.

How to get in touch



National Number

(03)92399200



Email

eslo.wa@team.telstra.com



Call Directly

Call the Emergency Service Liaison Officer directly

West Australian ESLO Team

Brian Young

State ESLO

Calvin Mathias

Deputy ESLO

Andy Boutell

Incident Specialist WA/NT



3/3/3 Response/Recovery Strategy & Network Priorities

3 Day Restore target

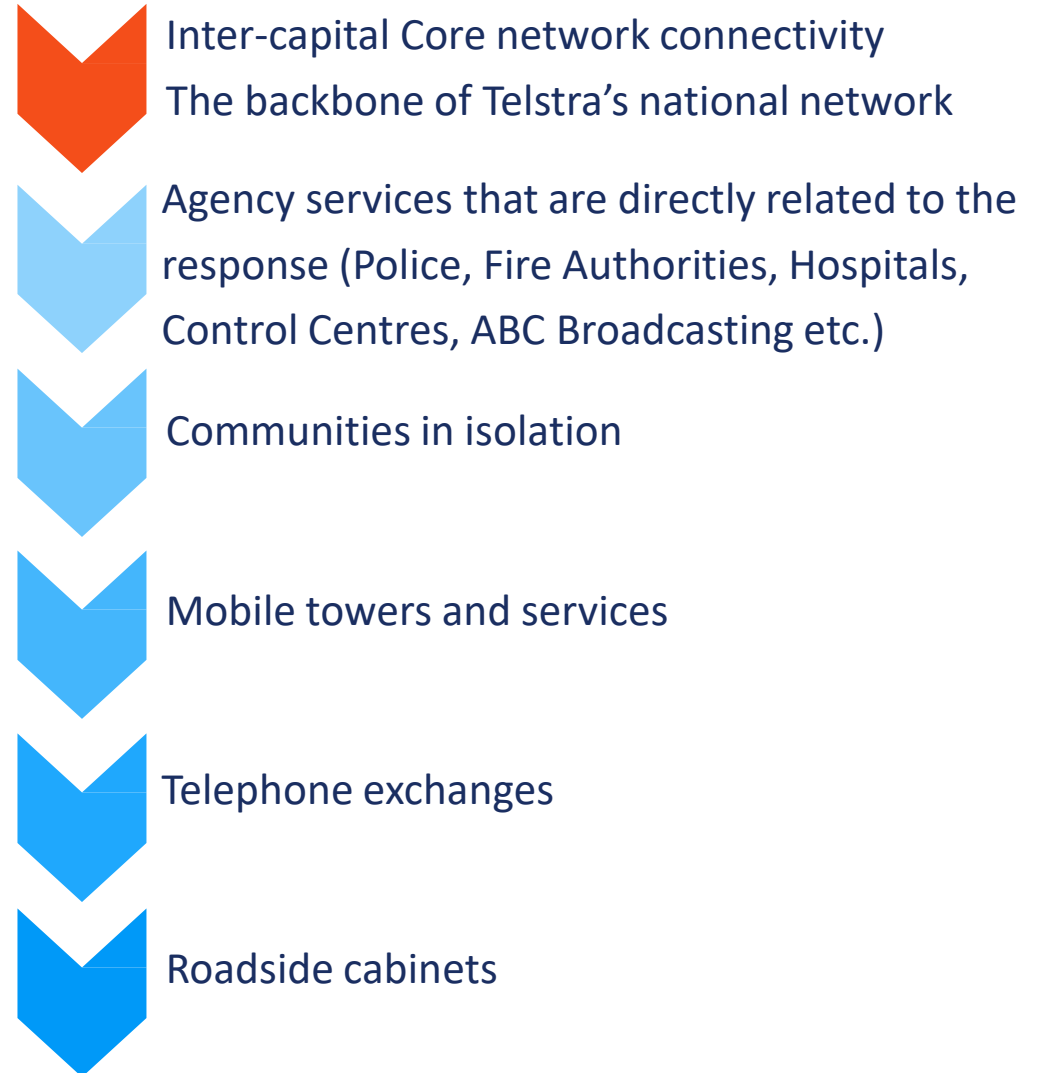
- Protection of the core network
- Emergency Services support requests
- Immediate short term service restoration for the community

3 Weeks Restore target

- Temporary network restoration
- Assessment and temporary repair of damaged infrastructure
- Deployment of temporary infrastructure

3 Months Reconstruction target

- Permanent infrastructure rebuild of damaged sites
- Permanent restoration of services





Federal Budget 2026-27 - Tourism Round Up

Tourism Council WA, in conjunction with the Australian Tourism Industry Council (ATIC) advocates for Federal funding and policies to assist tourism businesses.

The following is a round-up of key announcements affecting tourism businesses in the Australian Government Budget 2026-27:

Tourism Businesses - Quality, Sustainability and Accessibility

\$2M over two years to extend the Australian Tourism Industry Council's (ATIC) [Quality Tourism Framework](#) to assist at least 1,000 businesses achieve Sustainable Tourism Accreditation, Accessible Tourism, Tourism Emissions Reductions and other national programs; and to further extend e-learning online training. Tourism Council WA will continue to assist WA tourism businesses with this funding.

Working Holiday Maker (WHM Program)

The Government has announced it will make reforms to the Working Holiday Maker (WHM) program. The Australian Tourism Industry Council (ATIC) has been advised the program will continue to enable WHMs to work in tourism and hospitality in regional areas for up to three years, consistent with ATIC advocacy. Tourism Council WA will continue to advocate for WHMs as both essential visitors and workers for the tourism industry.

International Tourism - Tourism Australia

There is no increase to funding for Tourism Australia. Funding for international marketing by Tourism Australia will further decline due to the 'efficiency dividend' cut to all government agency budgets.

International Tourism - Passenger Movement Charge

The Government will increase the Passenger Movement Charge (PMC) from 1 January 2027 by \$10 from \$70 to \$80 per passenger. This will provide an additional \$755 million to the Australian Government over the five years. The PMC is included in the cost of air and sea passenger tickets. This increased tax on international tourism is being applied without any commitment to modernising airport/seaport border processing.

Tourism Development - Environmental Approvals

\$500 million to implement reforms to approvals under the Environmental Protection Biodiversity and Conservation Act, particularly reducing duplication of State approvals.

Small Tourism Businesses - Tax Reform

- Where a business makes a loss in the current year, a refund will be available from taxes paid on profits in the prior two years.
- From 2028-29, small start-up businesses in their first two years of operation will be able to get a refund for tax losses up to the value of taxes paid on FBT and employee wages.
- The \$20,000 instant asset write-off will be continued permanently.

Self-Drive Tourism - EV and EV Chargers

- \$40M over four years to accelerate EV chargers roll out in regional blackspots.
- EVs costing up to \$75,000 will continue to be 100 percent FBT exempt if commenced before 1 April 2029. After then, an ongoing FBT discount of 25 per cent will apply.
- EVs costing over \$75,000 will have the ongoing 25 percent discount apply earlier from 1 April 2027.

Tourism Resilience – Disaster Ready Fund

Funding will continue for the Disaster Ready Fund. This fund can enable tourism

businesses and prepare for natural disasters.

Marine Tourism – Marine Parks

\$11.5 M in 2026-27 to improve management of expanding marine parks.

tcwa@tourismcouncilwa.com.au / [+61 \(08\) 9416 0700](tel:+61894160700)

1 Resort Drive, Burswood WA 6100 / www.tourismcouncilwa.com.au

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WALGA's 2026-27 Federal Budget Analysis

Good evening CEOs,

This evening, the Australian Government handed down its 2026-27 Federal Budget, against a backdrop of significant economic disruption, marked by rising global inflation, fuel supply constraints and ongoing uncertainty.

The Government framed the Budget as one focused on reform, with an emphasis on boosting productivity, strengthening intergenerational equity and progressing fiscal repair.

The 2026-27 Federal Budget delivers important commitments in areas including housing, fuel resilience, transport infrastructure, community infrastructure and environment.

WALGA is pleased to see funding provided in priority areas for Local Governments, including those that are in-line with the Association's 2026-27 Federal Budget Submission and *The West at its Best* four-year policy platform.

These include:

- \$14.8 billion to strengthen Australia's Fuel Resilience, with \$3.2 billion committed to securing Australia's longer-term fuel security reserve

- \$2 billion investment in the Housing Support Program – Local Infrastructure Fund, including a significant boost of \$500 million for regional areas
- \$750 million over four years from 2026 for further rounds of the Growing Regions and Thriving Suburbs programs for Local Government capital works projects that enhance liveability
- \$24.7 million over three years from 2025–26 to deliver a national pilot for recycling solar panels and establish up to 100 pilot collection sites nationwide to reduce waste and reuse valuable minerals to support the energy transition
- \$17 million in 2026–27 to continue delivery of the Government’s circular economy policy, program and legislative functions
- \$14.4 million will be provided to WA over the next three years to fund active transport infrastructure including bicycle and walking infrastructure
- Additional funding of \$500,000 over 2026-27 and 2027-28 for the Regional Roads Australia Mobile Program – Pilot Program.

The Budget also retained its commitment to key funding programs for the sector including Financial Assistance Grants, Roads to Recovery and the Black Spot Program.

The Government will again bring forward a portion (80%) of Financial Assistance Grants payments, which will be paid in 2025-26. WALGA is seeking further information on the timing of these payments and will keep the sector informed.

However, the Budget failed to deliver increased funding for emergency management to support Local Governments and local communities to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies.

Australian Government co-funding for the Regional Road Safety Program (Local Roads) remains uncertain, with no funding allocated in the Budget. WALGA was hopeful the 2026-27 Federal Budget would see a commitment from the Australian Government to match the [State Government's \\$125 million investment](#) in this program.

WALGA will continue to work with the Australian Government to prioritise investment in key advocacy areas on behalf of our Member Local Governments and the communities they represent.

To read WALGA's full Federal Budget Analysis for 2026-27, visit [Federal Budget 2026-27 | WALGA](#).

Sincerely,

Nicole Matthews

WALGA A/CEO



WALGA

Influence. Support. Expertise.

Address

ONE70, LV1, 170 Railway Parade

West Leederville WA 6007

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