



Western Australia

Tourism, Infrastructure and Growth Bill 2021

Explanatory Memorandum

With international borders closed during the COVID-19 pandemic, Western Australia has experienced a strange phenomenon. Demand for tourism has never been higher, as Western Australians seek to explore their state. This bill aims to ensure the sustainability of tourism in our great state, by expanding our transport networks, incentivising regional accommodation and embarking on a marketing campaign.

As a coronavirus-free state, Western Australia has an amazing chance to capitalise on cruise ship tourism. Currently, infrastructure around the state is lacking, making it difficult for cruise ships to visit. We will build new anchorages in Shark Bay, Busselton and Augusta. Shark Bay and Augusta are two beautiful destinations with great potential to welcome cruise ships. The sea is undoubtedly the best way to visit and see the Coral Coast of Western Australia. Ports and anchorages in these locations will serve the state well, filling in a large gap between Geraldton and Port Hedland, enabling vessels to refuel, and opening up the produce of the Gascoyne region to new markets.

Unused rail networks to Albany, Esperance and Geraldton will be reopened for passenger rail. This is significant as it removes the effort of driving from prospective tourists, giving them a leisurely ride to the destination of their choice, and giving new life to intermediary towns formerly serviced along these forgotten lines. These train lines will free up Transwa buses for new routes, taking tourists even further into the regions.

As a big boost for jobs, a new railway line, building on from the Perth to Australind service, will take rail all the way to Augusta. Passing through Bunbury, Busselton and Margaret River, this investment will yield great returns for the state. From the longest pier in the Southern Hemisphere, to our very own world-renowned wine region, and finally to the point where the Indian meets the Southern Ocean, a new South West line will be a huge draw for international visitors. All these new services connect with ports at Esperance, Albany, Augusta, Busselton, Bunbury, Fremantle and Geraldton, enabling easy travel one-way on a cruise followed by an overland return to Perth.

There will be a digital Western Australian Passport App to reward and incentivise intrastate travel in WA. The aim of the Passport App is to entice Western Australians to go further, stay longer and explore more of the wonders that WA has to offer.

An issue exposed by the surge in demand for tourism, is the limited accommodation in regional Western Australia. Prices are soaring as accommodation can't expand as quick as demand. This bill will create grants schemes for the construction and expansion of regional accommodation in places serviced by new railway services. Tourists and workers will benefit from cheaper accommodation, as well as easy railway access.



Western Australia

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Western Australia

**A Bill for —
An Act to promote the growth of jobs and infrastructure in the Western
Australian Tourism sector through an expansion of railway and port
infrastructure, a digital rewards scheme and grants for businesses
engaged in regional tourism.**

Part 1—Preliminary

1. Short title

This Bill may be cited as the *Tourism, Infrastructure, and Growth Bill 2021*.

2. Commencement

This Bill commences on the day on which this Act receives Royal Assent.

3. Interpretation

In this Bill, unless the contrary intention appears —

“**Anchorage**” is an area of the coast in which it safe for ships to stop and anchor, allowing tourist to get to shore through smaller vessels. It is the lowest rank within the classification hierarchy.

“**Commercial Zoning**” is a classification which controls the type of activities a business may conduct in a particular area and the category of business that can occupy a particular area. Within the context of this bill this refers to commercial tourist developments such as accommodation, retail, restaurants, and information centres.

“**Gascoyne**” means the Gascoyne region as described in the *Regional Development Commissions Act 1993*.

“Goldfields-Esperance” means the Goldfields-Esperance region as described in the *Regional Development Commissions Act 1993*.

“Great Southern” means the Great Southern region as described in the *Regional Development Commissions Act 1993*.

“Kimberley” means the Kimberley region as described in the *Regional Development Commissions Act 1993*.

“Major Port” is a classification title and rank applied to specific ports. It is used within a tourist context to denote ports of high capacity and importance.

“Mid-West” means the Mid-West region as described in the *Regional Development Commissions Act 1993*.

“Minor Port” is a classification title and rank applied to specific ports. It is used within a tourist context to denote ports of limited tourist capacity and importance.

“NAG” means the Northern Accommodation Grant.

“Pilbara” means the Pilbara region as described in the *Regional Development Commissions Act 1993*.

“Railway owner” means the person having the management and control of the use of the railway infrastructure.

“Region” means a region of Western Australia as described in the *Regional Development Commissions Act 1993*.

“South West” means the South West region as described in the *Regional Development Commissions Act 1993*.

“SWAG” means the Southern West Accommodation Grant.

“Wheatbelt” means the Wheatbelt region as described in the *Regional Development Commissions Act 1993*.

Part 2 — Infrastructure Development

Division 1— Railway Development

4. Rail Network Expansions and Upgrades

The Public Transport Authority of Western Australia shall complete the constructions and upgrades outlined in Part 2 Division 1.

5. Kimberley Railway Construction

- (1) By agreement with the Northern Territory, the Public Transport Authority of Western Australia will construct a railway from Broome to Katherine.
- (2) Stations and other appropriate infrastructure will be constructed in Broome, Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek, Wyndham and Kununurra.

6. Great Southern Railway Upgrade

- (1) By agreement with railway owner, the Public Transport Authority of Western Australia will upgrade the Great Southern Railway to accommodate passenger rail services.
- (2) An extension will be constructed to the Great Southern Railway, allowing for passenger rail services from Perth to Beverley.

7. South West Rail Upgrade and Construction

- (1) By agreement with the railway owner, the Public Transport Authority of Western Australia will upgrade the railway between Bunbury and Bridgetown to accommodate passenger rail services.
- (2) The Public Transport Authority will construct a railway from Bunbury to Augusta.
- (3) Stations and other appropriate infrastructure will be constructed in, but not limited to, Busselton, Margaret River and Augusta.

8. Esperance Branch Railway Upgrade

By agreement with the railway owner, the Public Transport Authority of Western Australia will upgrade the Esperance Branch Railway to accommodate the passenger rail services.

9. Esperance Branch Railway Upgrade

- (1) By agreement with the railway owner, the Public Transport Authority will upgrade the railway between Perth and Geraldton to accommodate passenger rail services.
- (2) If the Minister for Transport is satisfied there is adequate demand, the Public Transport Authority will construct a railway from Geraldton northward, in collaboration with the Mid West Development Commission, Gascoyne Development Commission and Pilbara Development Commission.

10. Railway Construction Prioritisation Plan

- (1) The railway developments and upgrades outlined in Division 1 Clauses 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 will be completed within three distinct phases.
 - (a) Phase One: South West Rail Upgrade and Construction, Esperance Branch Railway Upgrade
 - (b) Phase Two: Great Southern Railway Upgrade
 - (c) Phase Three: Coral Coast Railway Upgrade and Construction, Kimberley Railway Construction
- (2) The Railway Construction Prioritisation Plan is subject to change at the discretion of the Minister for Tourism

11. Declaration of New Railways as a Part of the Railway Network

Upon completion of a new railway in accordance with this Bill, the Minister for Transport must declare the new railway to be a part of the railways network, by order published in the *Gazette*.

12. Creation of Passenger Rail Services Along Upgraded Railways

Once the Minister for Transport is satisfied that a railway from Perth to Albany, Esperance or Geraldton is adequate for passenger rail services, the Public Transport Authority shall seek access for passenger rail services, from the railway owner.

13. Construction of Trains

The Public Transport Authority shall purchase or construct trains for each new passenger rail service, once the Minister for Transport, Planning and Ports is satisfied that services will be able to run upon the arrival or completion of the trains.

Division 2— Ports and Anchorage Development

14. Port and Anchorage Expansions and Upgrades

The Public Transport Authority of Western Australia shall complete the constructions and upgrades outlined in this division.

15. Classifications of Ports and Anchorages

- (1) The ports in the following locations will be classified as Major Ports.
 - (a) Fremantle
 - (b) Albany
 - (c) Broome
 - (d) Geraldton
- (2) The port in the following location will be classified as a Minor Port.
 - (a) Bunbury
- (3) The following locations shall be accessed through an anchorage.
 - (a) Shark Bay
 - (b) Augusta
 - (c) Busselton

16. Port Upgrades

- (1) The following port and anchorages will receive substantial infrastructure development to increase capacity to a minimum of four cruise ships at any one time:
 - (a) Port of Broome
 - (b) Augusta Anchorage
 - (c) Busselton Anchorage
 - (d) Shark Bay Anchorage

- (2) The relevant port authorities will collaborate with local shire and council bodies to establish commercial zoning strips within the following ports and anchorages:
 - (a) Port of Albany
 - (b) Port of Broome
 - (c) Port of Bunbury
 - (d) Augusta Anchorage
 - (e) Busselton Anchorage
 - (f) Shark Bay Anchorage

- (3) The following ports and anchorages will receive rail and station development as outlined Division 1, clauses 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 with said developments being in close proximity to ports and anchorages:
 - (a) Port of Broome
 - (b) Port of Geraldton
 - (c) Augusta Anchorage
 - (d) Busselton Anchorage
 - (e) Shark Bay Anchorage

- (4) Refer to appendix A for a map outlining all geographic locations of planned port and anchorage developments

17. Port and Anchorage Construction Prioritisation Plan

- (1) The development upgrades described in Division 2 Clause 15 will be completed in three distinct phases:
 - (a) Phase One: Port of Broome, Port of Geraldton, and Shark Bay Anchorage
 - (b) Phase Two: Port of Bunbury and Augusta Anchorage
 - (c) Phase Three: Port of Albany and Busselton Anchorage
- (2) The Port and Anchorage Construction Prioritisation Plan is subject to change at the discretion of the Minister for Tourism;
- (3) The development upgrades outlined in Clause 15(3) will be exempt from the Port and Anchorage Construction Prioritisation Plan and will instead be developed in coordination with the Railway Prioritisation Plan as outlined in Clause 10.

18. Jurisdiction of Newly Established Anchorages

- (1) The anchorage of Shark Bay will be placed under the jurisdiction of the Mid-West Ports Authority, as outlined in the *Port Authorities Act 1999*
- (2) The anchorages of Busselton and Augusta will be placed under the jurisdiction of the Southern Ports Authority, as outlined in the *Port Authorities Act 1999*

Part 3 — Advertising Campaign

Division 1— Western Australian Passport Scheme

19. Digital Passport Scheme

The Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation will develop a digital Western Australian Passport Scheme to reward and incentivise intrastate travel in WA.

20. Digital Passport Scheme

- (1) Under the Western Australian Passport Scheme, residents of WA shall be entitled to download the WA Passport mobile application for free, which will be made available on major mobile application stores.
- (2) The Passport Scheme will partner with Tourism WA's current campaign, Wander out Yonder
- (3) Stationed at WA's major tourist attractions, there will be QR codes located at the visitor's booking desk to scan or 'stamp' the passport, verifying that the destination has been visited.
- (4) There will be 1 point rewarded for each tourist destination that is stamped in the Perth Metro area.
- (5) There will be 2 points rewarded for each tourist destination that is stamped outside of the Perth Metro area.

21. Passport Stamp Design School Competition

- (1) There will be a state-wide primary and secondary school competition to design the stamps that represent key tourist destinations in the state.
- (2) Students that designed the best stamp for each tourist destination will have their name and school acknowledged on the stamp.

22. Passport Rewards System

- (1) The system will incentivise intrastate travel by offering compelling, but not excessive, discounts to holders of WA passports based on the total amount of destinations travelled across WA.
- (2) Holders of WA Passports who have accumulated 10 points shall be eligible to receive a 10% discount per ride for the passenger railways system.
- (3) The system will offer free entry into all museums and national parks situated in Western Australia.
- (4) The system will be designed in an accessible way and will have an interactive user interface built into the Passport app, where users are able to easily monitor and access their rewards.

23. Industry Sponsors of Western Australian Passport Scheme

The Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation will work with the Western Australian Indigenous Tourism Operations Council [WAITOC], Regional Tourism Operations [RTOs], and sponsors of WA's major attractions, to cover the cost of the Passport rewards system. The Passport sponsors include:

- (a) WA Museum Boola Bardip
- (b) WA Maritime Museum
- (c) (State Library of Western Australia
- (d) Perth Conventions Exhibition Centre
- (e) Crown Perth
- (f) The Sunday Times
- (g) Perth Airport
- (h) Parks for People
- (i) Department of Parks and Wildlife
- (j) Any other firms that wish to participate as a sponsor in the Passport Scheme.

Part 4 — Accommodation Incentivisation

Division 1— Accommodation Grants

24. Creation of the SWAG

The Department of Finance will create a grant to incentivise the construction and expansion of accommodation in the South of Western Australia, specifically within the following regions:

- (a) South West
- (b) Great Southern
- (c) Goldfields-Esperance
- (d) Wheatbelt

25. Details of the SWAG

- (1) The SWAG will be between \$10,000 and \$25,000, with the Department of Finance tasked with assessing each region and assigning an appropriate grant proportional to regional building costs.
- (2) The Department of Finance will create a number of eligibility criteria in order to best incentivise the construction or major renovation of accommodation intended as either a primary residence or accommodation for tourists, with preference to be given to local businesses or residents.
- (3) The SWAG will come into effect 6 months after the day on which this Act receives royal assent.

26. Creation of the NAG

Additionally, the Department of Finance will create a separate grant to incentivise the construction and expansion of accommodation in the North of Western Australia, within the following regions:

- (a) Mid-West
- (b) Gascoyne
- (c) Pilbara
- (d) Kimberley

27. Details of the NAG

- (1) The NAG will be between \$10,000 and \$32,000, with the Department of Finance tasked with assessing each region and assigning an appropriate grant proportional to regional building costs.
- (2) The Department of Finance will create a number of eligibility criteria in order to best incentivise the construction or major renovation of accommodation intended as either a primary residence or accommodation for tourists, with preference to be given to local businesses or residents.
- (3) (The NAG will come into effect 6 months after the day on which this Act receives royal assent

Part 5 — Review

28. Review of Port and Railway Infrastructure Initiatives

- (1) The progress of the infrastructure initiatives outlined in Part 2 shall be monitored closely by the Department of Transport over the course of construction, with relevant suggestions being made to the Minister for Transport regarding the railway initiatives and the Minister for Ports regarding the port initiatives.
- (2) Four (4) years after this bill receives royal assent, the Department of Transport shall commission a report evaluating the progress of the rail and port infrastructure construction outlined in Part 2 which shall be submitted to the Minister for Transport and the Minister for Ports.
- (3) Four (4) years after the construction of each railway line, the Department of Tourism shall commission an impact and process evaluation report of each respective railway line in promoting tourism within the relevant areas of the railway line in question. The report, along with any suggestions for alteration or further initiatives, shall be presented to the Minister for Tourism.

29. Review of the Advertising Schemes

Four (4) years after this act receives royal assent, the Department of Tourism shall commission an impact and process evaluation of the Western Australian Passport Scheme based on effectiveness in promoting the tourism sector in WA

30. Review of Accommodation Incentivisation Grants

The effectiveness of the accommodation grants outlined under Part 4 Division 1 shall be monitored annually by a report commissioned by the Department of Finance. Each year this report is to be presented to the Minister for Finance. At the end of every year, should the Minister for Finance be satisfied that the aims of the grants be achieved, they can order the grants to cease.

31. Subsequent Reviews

- (1) The necessity and timing of future reviews of the physical infrastructure outlined in Part 2 shall be determined by the Department of Transport, based on the findings of the report outlined in of Clause 27(2).
- (2) The necessity and timing of future reviews of the advertising schemes outlined in Part 2 shall be determined by the Department of Tourism, based on the findings of the report outlined in Clause 29.

Appendix A

Appendix-A: Map of proposed Port and Railway Initiatives

