



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

WA PEOPLE'S SUBMISSION
KEEP THE GST
SHARE FAIR

Acknowledgement of Country

The Government of Western Australia acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of the Aboriginal communities and their cultures; and to Elders both past and present.

Purpose of this report

This report has been prepared by the WA Government to summarise views provided through public consultation on GST distribution arrangements. It is provided as supporting material to the WA Government's submission to the Productivity Commission's inquiry into GST distribution reforms to convey community perspectives relevant to the inquiry's scope. The report does not present government policy or analysis.

Use of Community Submissions

This report summarises views provided by members of the community to the WA Government as part of a public survey process. Selected quotes are reproduced verbatim and are included to illustrate themes raised by respondents that are relevant to the Productivity Commission's inquiry into GST distribution reforms. The views expressed are those of individual contributors and are included for contextual and illustrative purposes only.





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Message from the Premier

Strong financial management has allowed my government to help keep Western Australia's economy the best in the nation. It has also allowed our State to play its part in supporting the national economy. By investing in the infrastructure which supports our local industries, we have helped them to grow, creating a significant source of income for the entire country. I want to see this strength continue, which is why it's vital that the reforms made to WA's GST share in 2018 are maintained.

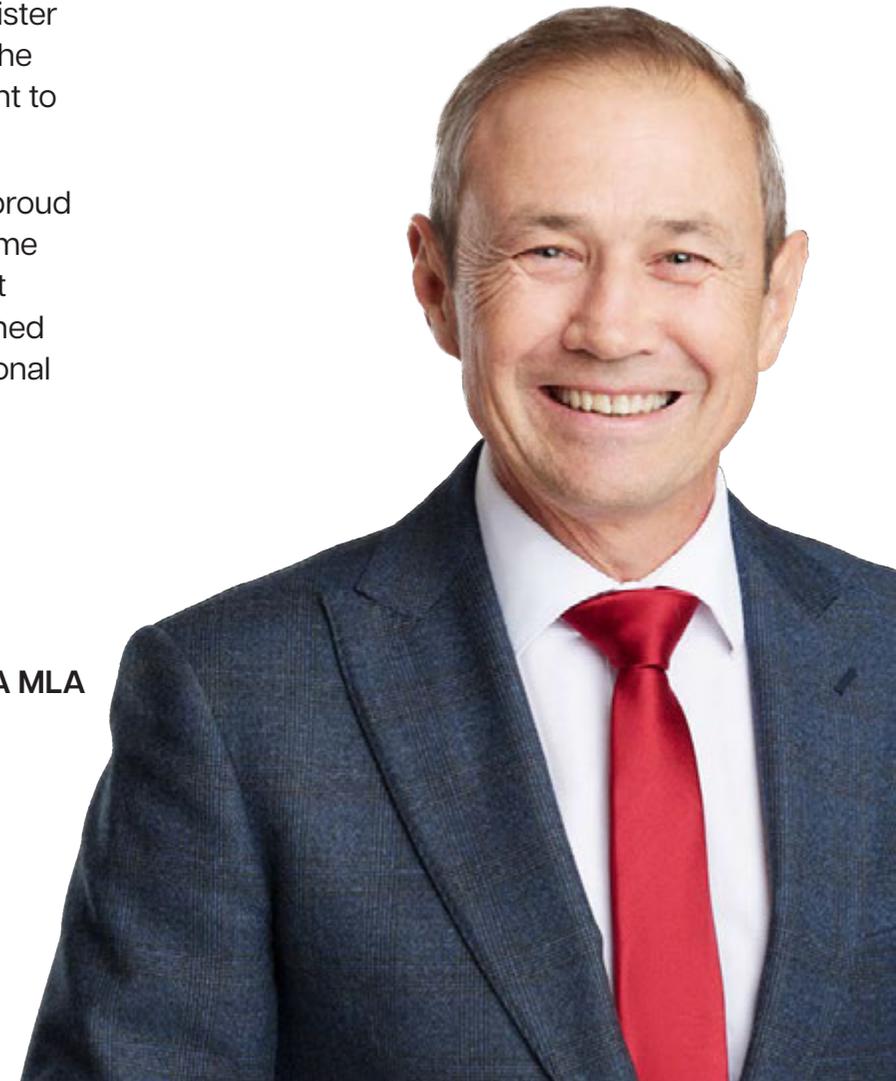
Without these reforms, WA would receive only a fraction of the GST it contributes to the rest of the country. This would undermine our ability to invest in the roads, ports and utilities needed to support nationally significant projects. That's why the Productivity Commission's ongoing inquiry into the 2018 reforms is so important.

Western Australians have now spoken. Over 6,000 people have taken the time to have their say on the future of our State's GST share as part of a submission to the Productivity Commission's inquiry. Their feedback is clear: Western Australians want to keep the share fair.

I want to thank everyone who has joined this fight and helped contribute to this report. Your feedback demonstrates our community's shared priorities of not just creating jobs and delivering healthcare and housing to all Western Australians, but continuing to support the national economy, too. I also want to thank the Prime Minister for recognising WA's contributions to the rest of the country and his commitment to protect WA's fair share of the GST.

WA's GST is working for Australia. I'm proud so many Western Australians have come together as Team WA to play their part and ensure these reforms are maintained – not just for their benefit, but the national benefit, too.

Hon Roger Cook BA GradDipBus MBA MLA
Premier, Western Australia



Message from the Deputy Premier and Treasurer

I would like to thank every Western Australian who has joined the fight to protect our share of the GST. With over 6,000 submissions, the message is clear – Western Australians will not accept anything less than our fair share of the GST.

Some on the east coast fail to understand just how important this issue is for Western Australians. We remember how unfair the system was before our hard fought 2018 GST reforms.

Western Australians were rightly outraged when we received just 30 per cent of our population share of GST in 2015–16.

That share would have plummeted as low as 10 per cent without the current reforms. To put this absurdity into context, no other State or Territory's share has ever fallen below 83 per cent.

It's simply unfair.

And **Western Australians know that our GST is working for Australia.**

We've worked hard to become the economic powerhouse of the nation and create the wealth that benefits all Australians.

Our share of the GST is invested into critical economic infrastructure – like power, water, roads and ports – to support major projects that drive the national economy and create local jobs.

If our share falls, it would tear billions of dollars out of our State that would be invested in these critical industries and essential services for Western Australian families.

The message from all Western Australians is clear:

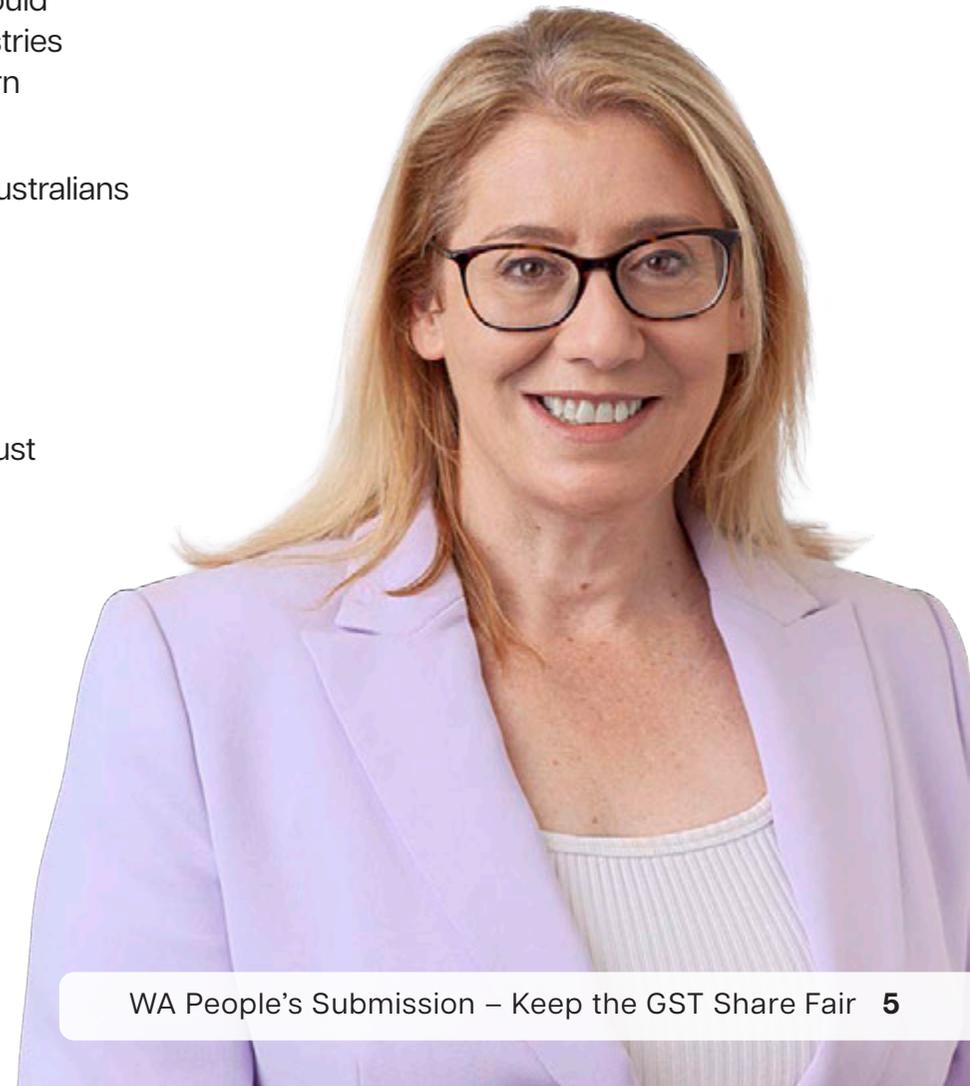
**Keep the GST share fair.
Don't put the brakes on the national economy.**

We aren't demanding more, we just want our fair and reasonable share of the GST to remain.

The WA People's Submission has been delivered directly to the Productivity Commission to ensure Western Australians' voices are heard.

Thank you for joining this fight to protect our GST. We will never stop fighting for Western Australia.

Hon Rita Saffioti MLA
Deputy Premier and Treasurer,
Western Australia



Who contributed to this submission

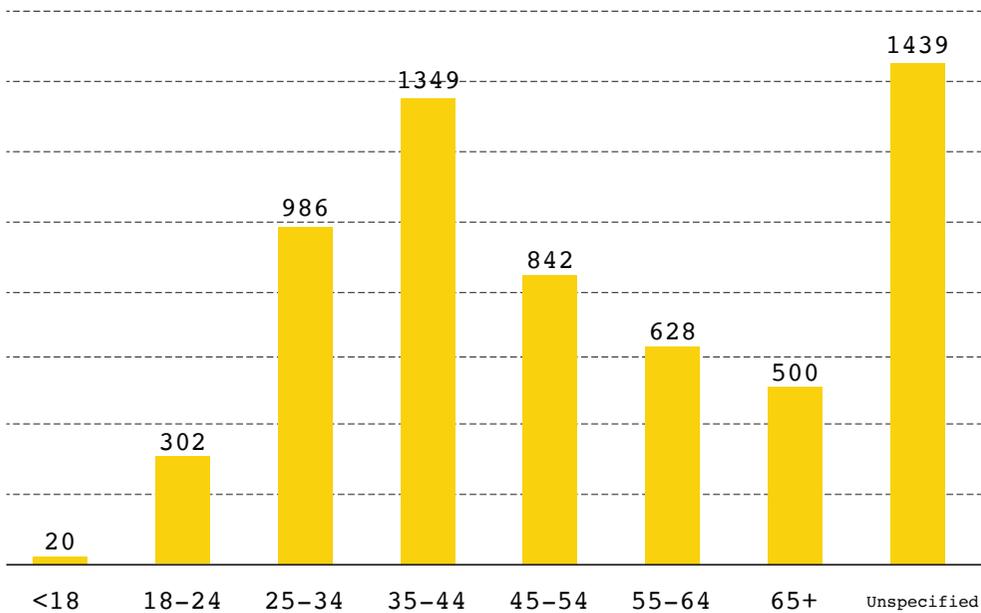
6,066

respondents
to the survey

95%

support WA keeping its
current share of GST

Number of respondents by age





What the people of Western Australia have said

Western Australians who took part in the survey expressed strong support for the State retaining its current GST share, with 95 per cent of the 6,066 respondents supporting the existing GST Reforms, including the 75-cent per-person floor. Many respondents noted that the current GST arrangements provide stability and support essential services and infrastructure across the State.

In written comments, respondents outlined what they believe is important when considering GST distribution. Many described the current share as a fair and workable balance for Western Australia and expressed concern about any change that would reduce the State's share. These comments highlight strong community support for maintaining GST settings that enable long-term planning and investment in services and infrastructure.

Respondents referred to Western Australia's contribution to the national economy, particularly through mining, resources and exports, and said the GST system should continue to recognise the State's circumstances. Many also reflected on

past periods of GST volatility, emphasising the importance of funding certainty for future planning.

Infrastructure and service needs were commonly raised, particularly in light of the State's size and growing population. Respondents highlighted the role of GST funding in supporting roads, transport, hospitals, education and other services, including in regional and remote communities where costs are higher.

Comments also emphasised the importance of funding certainty for health services and the role GST plays in helping governments plan for growth while responding to cost-of-living pressures across the State.

Overall, the feedback shows a strong community understanding of how GST distribution supports service delivery, infrastructure investment and economic stability. Taken together, the comments reflect clear expectations that the current GST arrangements should remain in place to support Western Australians and the State's ongoing contribution to Australia.



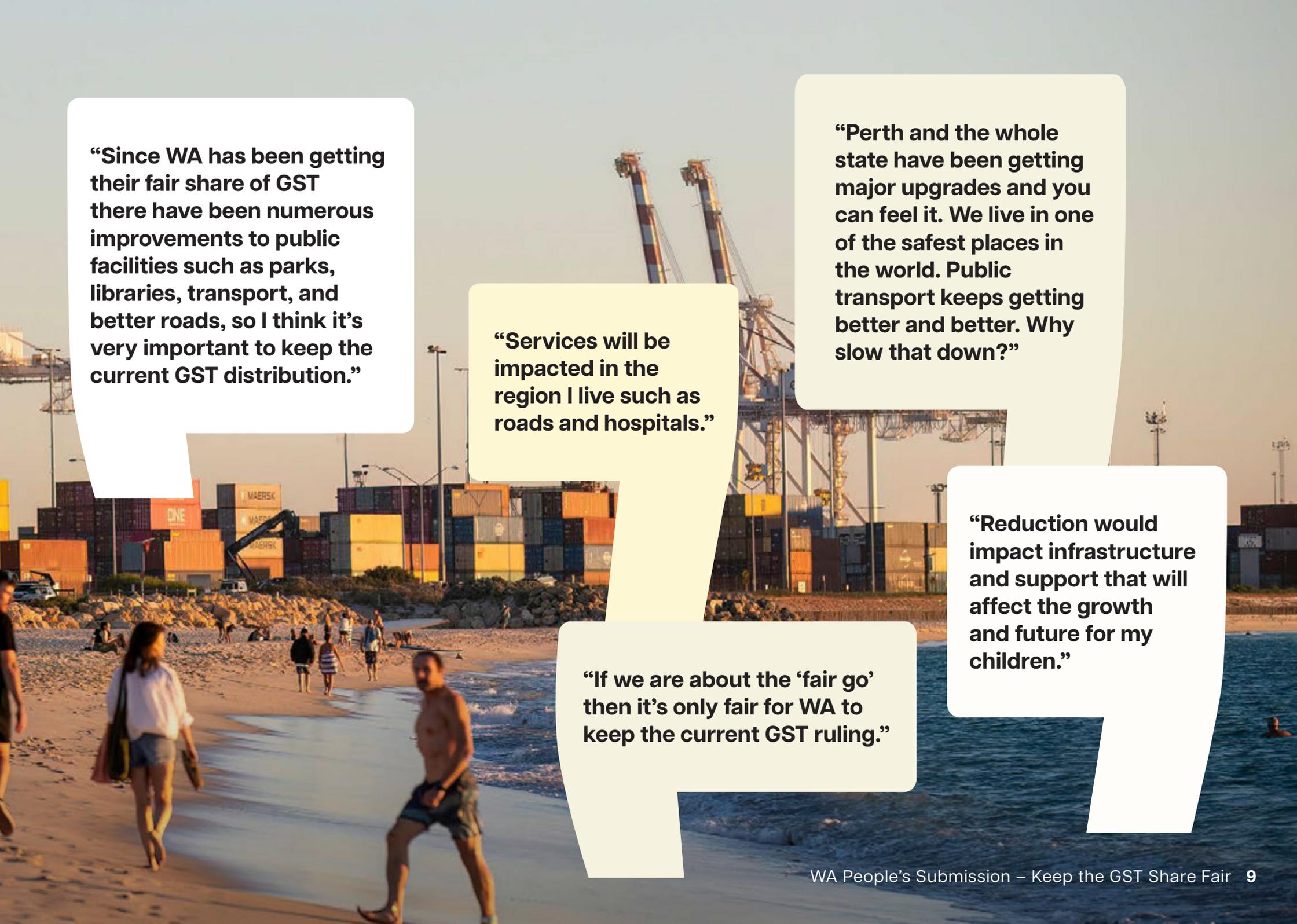
“Reducing WA’s GST share, which is already lower per person than most other states, would disproportionately impact regional communities and place further pressure on infrastructure, health, education and local services. Maintaining the current 75% per-person is critical to ensuring fairness and supporting all Western Australians.”

“As a business owner in a remote region of Western Australia we are heavily reliant on government funding and infrastructure. Especially from regions where we are participating in creating the large amount of GST revenue for the whole of Australia...”

“WA generates a disproportionate slice of national revenue through mining royalties and exports; fairness means rewarding contribution, not punishing success. Keep the floor: our infrastructure, jobs, and future depend on it.”

“You can feel the infrastructure lift and vibrancy being built in our city, as well as the growing industry of jobs available. A cut would be terrible, and you would likely see another ‘brain drain’ with millennials moving to find opportunities over East. It’d be felt tangibly, and you’d see a quick stop to the positive momentum being built.”

“As a young person, seeing that more return to be invested in improvements and security towards education, transport, housing, support and many initiatives would ensure that all Western Australians are supported by their caring government.”



“Since WA has been getting their fair share of GST there have been numerous improvements to public facilities such as parks, libraries, transport, and better roads, so I think it’s very important to keep the current GST distribution.”

“Services will be impacted in the region I live such as roads and hospitals.”

“Perth and the whole state have been getting major upgrades and you can feel it. We live in one of the safest places in the world. Public transport keeps getting better and better. Why slow that down?”

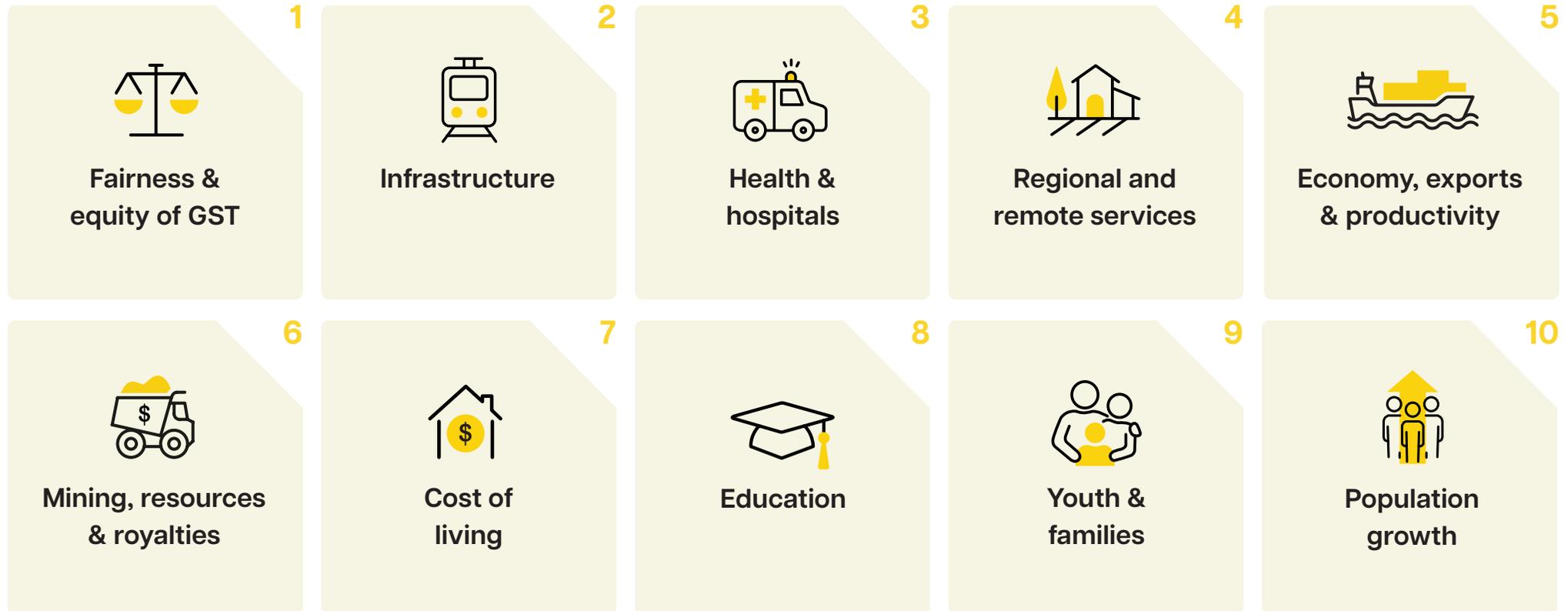
“Reduction would impact infrastructure and support that will affect the growth and future for my children.”

“If we are about the ‘fair go’ then it’s only fair for WA to keep the current GST ruling.”

Our community's top ten

Respondents provided comments on the potential impacts of changes to WA's GST share.

The top ten themes are outlined below.



Our community's feedback

1



Fairness & equity of GST

! A strong theme across responses was the importance of maintaining the 2018 GST Reforms. Many respondents referred to WA's past experience of GST volatility and expressed support for arrangements they see as fair, predictable and reflective of the State's contribution to the national economy.

“It's important that a floor continues to exist so that each state continues to get a fair share of GST. WA is a boom and bust economy, and it's important that during good years we are not penalised as this is when critical infrastructure and long term investments are made.”

“I support the retention of the 2018 GST distribution reforms. The previous system was clearly inequitable for WA and failed to recognise the volatility and risk associated with a resource-dependent economy.”

2



Infrastructure

! Respondents highlighted the importance of GST revenue in supporting the ongoing maintenance and expansion of Western Australia's public infrastructure. Many pointed to the scale of the State's transport networks, including roads and rail, particularly in regional areas, and emphasised the need for stable, predictable funding to keep pace with population growth and future infrastructure demands that support the WA and national economy.

“The benefits to the state noted between 2018 and 2026 have been substantial. The upgrading of critical infrastructure such as hospitals and road networks has been very positive to see. Without the current GST 75% allocation, this would no doubt put these types of projects in danger of never happening.”

3



Health & hospitals

! Health services were frequently raised, with respondents pointing to growing demand across emergency departments, ambulance services and hospitals. Many expressed the view that stable GST revenue is essential to support workforce capacity, infrastructure investment and continued improvements in health outcomes as the population grows.

“As someone involved in the healthcare system, it's important to increase our support and care for our ageing population.”

“The GST WA receives means it is used in WA on my children, in health, education and infrastructure. All of which contribute towards providing my children a better chance for a better future. WA provides and deserve to receive fairly too.”

4



Regional & remote services

! Respondents from regional and remote areas emphasised that, given the vast geographic size of WA, GST funding plays a critical role in sustaining service delivery across large distances and higher-cost environments. Many highlighted the importance of funding certainty to ensure ongoing access to healthcare, transport and essential services, given the significant contribution regional communities make to the economy.

” “In WA we have a vast amount of people living in rural and regional areas leading to higher cost of services. Keeping our share of GST may allow for further subsidies offered towards people forced to pay higher costs.”

“WA is a third of Australia’s land mass but receives less GST than smaller States for regional and remote costs. That not only doesn’t seem fair, it is not right.”

5



Economy, exports & productivity

! Respondents frequently linked Western Australia’s GST share to broader national economic stability. Themes included the importance of investment certainty, workforce availability and productivity, with many noting that predictable GST arrangements support WA’s ongoing role in driving economic growth.

” “I don’t want WA penalised for generating revenue and driving national growth. The current settings give WA budget certainty and protect residents from the boom-bust swings of the old system.”

“Maintaining the current GST arrangement is critical to supporting workers, families, and industries that contribute strongly to both Western Australia and the national economy.”

6



Mining, resources & royalties

! Mining and resources were widely described as central to Western Australia’s economy and Australia’s export performance. Respondents commonly expressed the view that GST distribution should take account of this contribution. Some also raised the significance of royalties and tax contributions to the Commonwealth.

” “The previous system was clearly inequitable for Western Australia and failed to recognise the volatility and risk associated with a resource-dependent economy.... Any return to the pre-2018 arrangements would undermine certainty, discourage investment, and unfairly burden WA taxpayers.”

7



Cost of living

! Cost-of-living pressures were raised by many households, particularly in relation to fuel, food and utility costs. Respondents expressed concern that reduced GST revenue could place additional pressure on state finances, potentially affecting fees, charges or service provision.

” “If WA’s share is cut, it hits me directly: less funding for hospitals, schools, roads/public transport, and cost-of-living supports and more pressure for higher state charges or reduced services.”

“We have to fight for a fair share to support our people. Currently we are in a stage of growth and need fair support from the federal government to ensure that our people have a good standard of living.”

8



Education

! Respondents highlighted the importance of GST funding in supporting school infrastructure, workforce capacity and access to education services, particularly in growing and regional communities. Many emphasised that long-term educational outcomes depend on continued investment.

” “As a Western Australian state school primary teacher, reducing WA’s share of GST would directly affect my students and their families.”

“If GST reform results in Western Australia receiving a reduced share of GST revenue, this may place additional pressure on state investment in higher education, regional campuses, and place-based education initiatives.”

9



Youth & families

! Respondents highlighted the importance of GST funding in supporting services that underpin family life and young people’s futures, including education, childcare, youth programs and community safety. Many expressed concern that funding instability would affect children’s access to essential services and place additional pressure on families during a period of population growth. Stable GST arrangements were seen as critical to supporting young people and families now and into the future.

” “The 75% GST relativity floor is important to my family because it supports funding for essential services such as hospitals, child health services, schools, and local infrastructure. These are services our family relies on every day.”



Population growth

! Rapid population growth was widely discussed in the context of increasing demand for infrastructure, housing, schools and health services. Many respondents noted that GST funding needs to remain stable to help governments plan for and respond to these pressures.

“Sustaining or increasing our GST share enables us to further develop public services and assets which we need to support our current (and growing) population.”

“Fair GST distribution is important to ensure WA continues to meet the needs of its growing population and economy.”



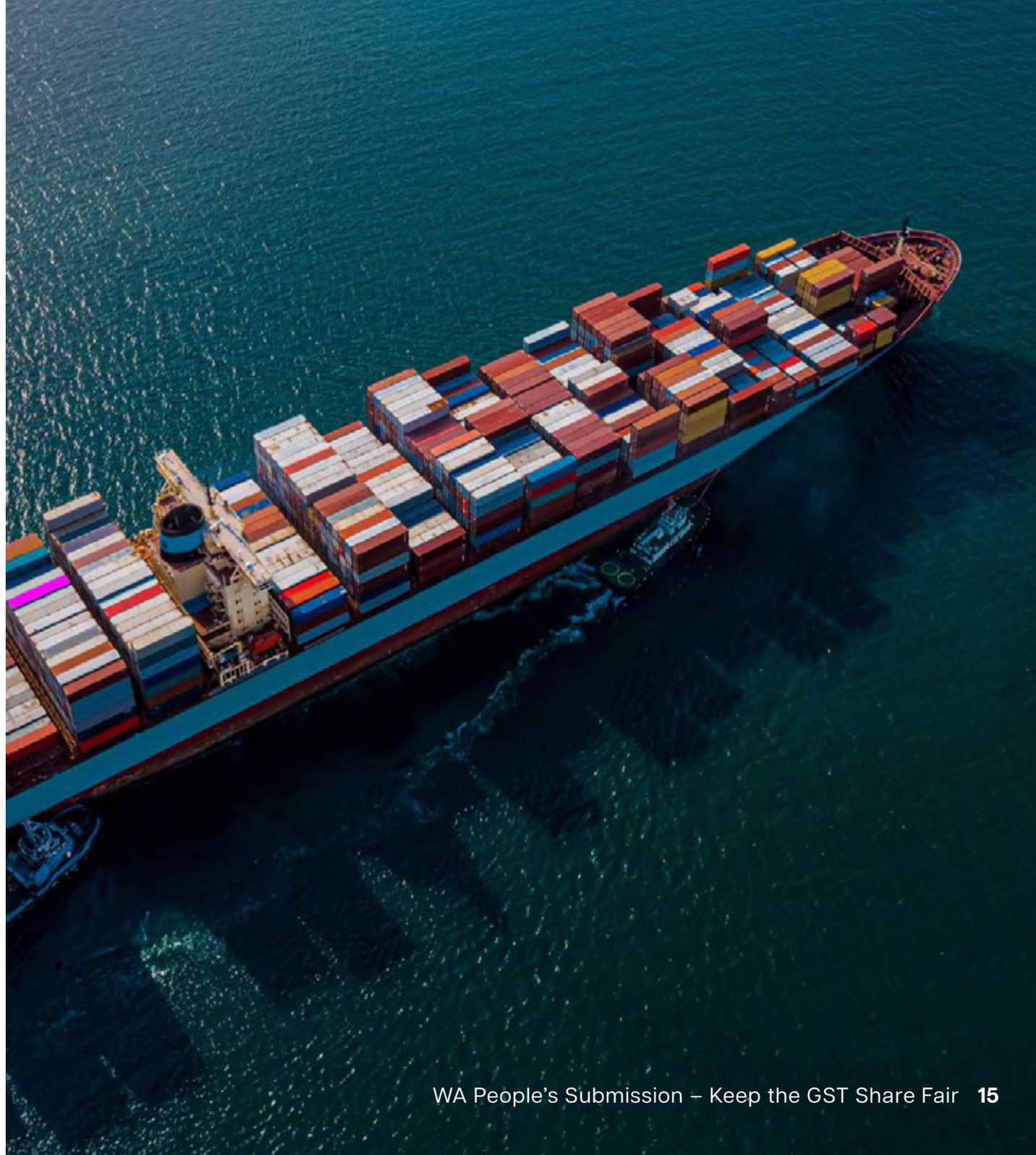
How the 'Have Your Say' process worked

The GST WA "Have Your Say" public submissions survey ran from 4 November 2025 to 24 February 2026, inviting people to share feedback on the State's GST share.

Community members could participate online or via hard copy forms, ensuring accessibility across all regions and demographics.

To encourage broad engagement, the survey was widely promoted through an advertising campaign across metropolitan and regional WA.

Responses provided both quantitative data and qualitative insights to inform the WA People's Submission that was submitted to the Productivity Commission's inquiry of the 2018 GST Reforms.





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