



Department of
Jobs, Tourism, Science
and Innovation

Innovation Strategy Western Australia - the place to innovate

Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and their cultures, and to Elders past, present, and emerging.

Redgate Beach. Credit: Frances Andrijich

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Forewords



Western Australia enjoys a world class, vibrant, innovation ecosystem. Our State continues to demonstrate the economic strength and adaptability which enabled it to navigate the pandemic from a position of relative strength. As global megatrends intensify and the call to respond to climate and other challenges heighten, a new level of

innovation focus is required and a clearer role for the State to lead the way in innovation is needed.

The McGowan Government appreciates and acknowledges the vital role that innovation plays in the State's economic development framework. We have identified innovation as a key enabler for the future growth and diversification of our economy.

The Western Australian Government's new Innovation Strategy sets out a vision to become a world leader in innovation. Innovation doesn't exist without people, so this Strategy will ensure that no one is left behind, that equity and diversity are encouraged to ensure that Western Australians have the skills necessary for the jobs of tomorrow. At its core, this Strategy is a call for everyone to play a role and is backed by an associated, practical Action Plan and strong governance.

- Hon Stephen Dawson MLC

Minister for Emergency Services; Innovation and ICT;
Medical Research and Volunteering



The rise of innovation across this vast State, particularly over the last several years, has been remarkable and continues to drive the diversification of Western Australia's economic base.

Our vibrant and growing innovation ecosystem is underpinned by the State's world-class research

institutions, globally-competitive manufacturing capability, precincts and a highly capable workforce. Coupled with this are the State's 5 universities, a first class vocational, education and training (VET) system and innovation hubs, alongside incubators, accelerators and co-working spaces.

Our home-grown Nobel Laureates have played a significant role in gaining national and global recognition for Western Australia's research and innovation capability. The State is also home to exceptional companies which have subsequently developed national or international markets – and some of these are highlighted in this document.

This Strategy will enable the State's many comparative advantages in the innovation ecosystem to turn into high quality jobs, greater investment and broader community benefits.

- Professor Peter Klinken, AC

Chief Scientist of Western Australia

WA's Innovation Strategy... on a page

10-year vision

Western Australia is a renowned global hub of invention, investment, innovation and impact



5 Goals



World leader in research and inventiveness



Location of choice for product development and testing



Home to globally-focused organisations that scale and create new jobs



Adopter of local technologies and a tech transfer haven



Where innovation is inclusive and purposeful, rewarded and respected



7 Priority Action Areas

Skills, people and culture

Research and tech transfer

Networks, precincts and shared facilities

Access to capital

Procurement and supply chains

Diversity and inclusion

Promotion and adoption

Why do we need an Innovation Strategy?

Innovation lies at the heart of human progress

Put simply, innovation involves 'doing things better', whether that is developing new or improved products or services or new ways of operating.

Innovation furthers the frontiers of human knowledge, delivers advances in medicine to improve people's health and makes new things possible. Advances in innovation are also helping to reduce the risk of significant impacts from natural disasters, pandemics or climate change and helping business better navigate economic shocks and crises.

Innovation can involve anything from incremental business improvements, alternative business models that disrupt entire industries, to scientific breakthroughs which push the boundaries of human endeavours.

Innovation affects all sectors of our economy and community including businesses large and small, governments, not-for-profits, schools, universities and vocational providers. It is essential for our economy and our well-being – and indeed the planet.

Innovation happens naturally, every day. It is everywhere and is everyone's business.

Through strong leadership and commitment, and support where needed, the Western Australian Government will – in partnership with key stakeholders – seek to lift innovation, both individually and collectively. Innovation needs supporting across its many facets – from creative ideas and research, through testing and development, to commercialisation and adoption and deployment at scale.

This Strategy provides a vision for Western Australia that is as ambitious as it is compelling. It sets out clear goals from which to steer and prioritise efforts and benchmark our performance. It provides a holistic approach to innovation that recognises the many parts that make up the innovation ecosystem – and the central importance of people.



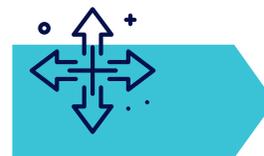
Ideation



R&D



Proof of concept



Scaling



Adopting

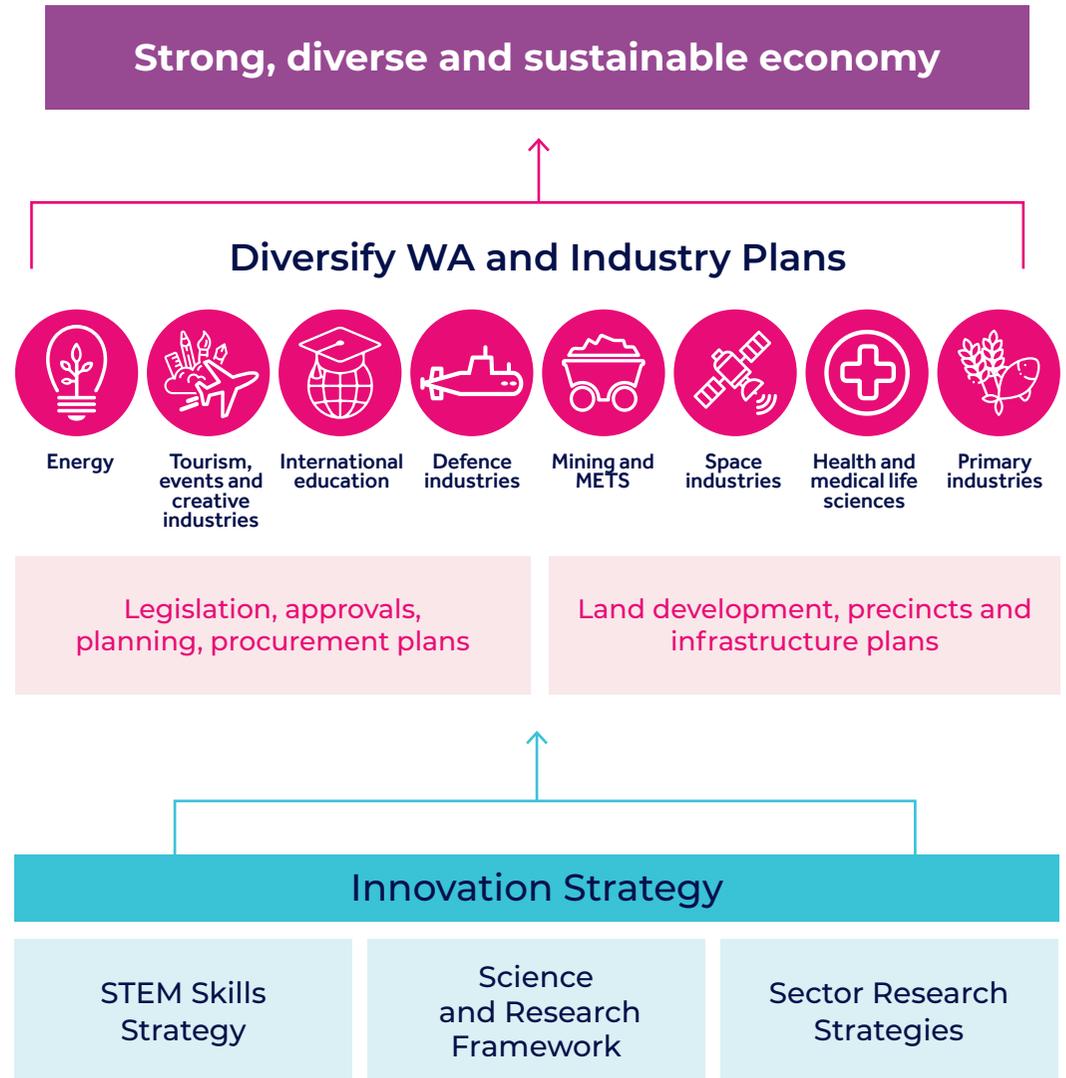
The Strategy underpins the Government's broad economic, social and environmental goals and strategies, including its lead economic framework 'Diversify WA', and links with other industry development plans.

Innovation has been identified in this framework as a key enabler for economic growth and diversification, improving Western Australia's competitiveness across a range of industries.

This Innovation Strategy, supported by the Government's prioritisation of science and technology, complements industry plans such as the Health and Medical Life Sciences Industry Strategy, and the Future Battery and Critical Minerals Industry Strategy.

The Government's commitment to innovation is also complemented by the Future Jobs, Future Skills STEM strategy, which aims to ensure that Western Australians are equipped with the right skills to grow the State's economy and participate in our future workforce.

Together, these actions look to create a more vibrant and diversified economy with a broader range of industries and jobs.



The benefits of innovation

Innovation is critical to our economy, our environment and our people. Re-thinking and re-designing how we do things is key to our progress and a more sustainable and equitable world.

From the end of 2022, we have less than 10,000 days to get to 'net zero'.

Technology and innovation underpin improvements in productivity and competitiveness and can support better business resilience. It improves the efficiency and effectiveness of public and private sector services alike, attracts foreign investment, improves health outcomes and enables more sustainable processes in the products we make, protecting our planet. Innovation is the primary driver of productivity growth and contributes over half a country's economic growth per capita.

High productivity firms pay higher wages, attract more highly skilled workers, generate more value for consumers, support faster economic growth and improve investor returns. Innovative firms grow twice as fast as firms that fail to innovate.¹

Innovation creates jobs. Businesses that don't innovate rarely survive.

¹ From Productivity Commission website: What is Productivity? - Productivity Commission (pc.gov.au)

² "WA could have more technology jobs than mining", Annabel Hennessy, The West Australian, 11 April 2022

Over the past 150 years, innovation and new technology has been "one big job-creating machine", creating far more jobs than it has displaced.

Western Australia has the fastest-growing tech and medical research sectors in the country, with the tech sector alone expanding 16% over the past year (2021/22).

Over the next decade, the sector is set to grow to more than 82,000 employees and could employ more people than mining by 2030².

Benefits of Productivity Growth





Why publish this strategy now?

Global opportunities and challenges abound – from climate change to a moving geopolitical landscape, to the incredible pace of technological change, the world is shifting and the time to grasp the opportunities is now.

As we look ahead at a time of global challenges, an innovation ‘renaissance’ is necessary to grow new sources of value and access to new markets, embodying local knowledge, invention and insight and to take them out onto an evolving world stage.

Innovation is necessary to respond to all sorts of challenges. For example, it has been essential during the COVID-19 pandemic, and will be critical in our response to climate change and the need for the sustainable use of resources, water and energy.

To effectively respond to these challenges, we need to:

- » Strengthen and expand our current innovation ecosystem, to increase certainty that great local ideas can translate into meaningful products and services and find their way, at scale, in a redrawn global marketplace.
- » Ensure businesses of all sizes are making their innovation investments right here in Western Australia, spearheading new collaborations and tech transfer opportunities.
- » Ensure our businesses and communities are equipped to adopt and embrace the changes coming. There needs to be the education, support networks and capacity to participate fully in technological change.

The time is now.

Megatrends and context

Western Australia's Innovation Strategy exists in a global context, and as such various 'megatrends' will impact the State's future areas of economic opportunity and will shape the development of innovation and innovative solutions.

These include:

- » Growth of the knowledge economy
- » Rise of the services economy
- » Shifting skills needs
- » Combatting inequality
- » Climate change action
- » Shifting power bases
- » Demographic change
- » Technological change

WA - the best place to innovate

Western Australia is like no other.

Western Australia is a vast, diverse and ancient land having been occupied by Aboriginal people for tens of thousands of years. Traditional knowledge and practices honed over millennia in harsh, extreme living conditions speak to human adaptability and ingenuity and may well offer future opportunities for Western science to investigate.

Accounting for one third of Australia's landmass with globally significant natural resources, Western Australia is a safe, stable jurisdiction close to over half the world's population in Central, South and Eastern Asia. With innovation deeply ingrained in the fabric and culture of the state, WA is renowned for its well-trained, technologically savvy and highly motivated workforce.

Leading edge opportunities



Rich agriculture and land, and marine biodiversity



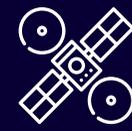
Abundant renewable energy and critical minerals



Leading autonomous and remote operations technologies



World class medical research



Space and defence opportunities

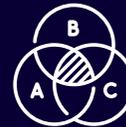
Foundational support



Universities and VET providers



Vibrant, growing, supportive innovation ecosystem



Skilled diverse people and knowledge

Best place to live and innovate



Lifestyle and cultures

Western Australia is an ancient, energetic land, brimming with opportunity ready to be discovered. With a landmass of 2.5 million square kilometres shared by just 2.6 million people, Western Australia is home to some of the best solar, wind, tidal and wave resources in the world.

These natural resources are complemented by the State's well established infrastructure connections, including world-class ports and a skilled workforce.

Positioned at the Asia Pacific Rim sharing a time zone with more than 60% of the world's population (plus or minus two hours), Western Australia has generated enviable wealth and supply chain infrastructure from valuable international trade.

Western Australia has the world's largest reserves of iron ore, the critical minerals required for new technologies and batteries, and extensive and affordable energy sources such as natural gas, solar and wind. With technical and environmental expertise, modern industrial zones and some of the world's largest ports, Western Australia is an attractive destination for international investors.

Western Australia is home to a number of cutting-edge industries with innovative practises that are powering the clean energy future, pioneering medical advances, delivering world class agriculture and looking beyond into space.

The State is a great place to live with amazing landscapes, unique experiences and an enviable climate.

It is home to ancient landscapes and rich culture, with plenty of places to explore and discover.

**Supported by a thriving innovation ecosystem,
Western Australia a great place to innovate.**



Did you know?

- » The world's largest robot is in WA – an autonomous train
- » 6 out of the last 15 Australian FDA-approved pharmaceutical drugs are from WA
- » WA is joint home to the world's largest telescope system and the southern hemisphere's most powerful supercomputer
- » WA has the fastest growing tech sector workforce in Australia
- » WA has the fastest uptake of solar panels in the world

Western Australia's innovation ecosystem

Western Australia has a vibrant innovation ecosystem.

This includes:

- » 5 universities
- » Several locally-based Cooperative Research Centres
- » Innovation Hubs
- » Australian Remote Operations in Space and on Earth (AROSE)
- » Space Automation Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Control Complex (SpAARC)
- » Pawsey Supercomputing Centre

The State also hosts the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research, and the Australian National Phenome Centre, and an active not-for-profit sector.

Various investors and financiers, from 'angel' investors through to venture capitalists and global banking giants, all play their part, alongside the various accelerators, incubators, co-working hubs, events and award programs, media, advisors, mentors and advocacy groups.

The State also proudly supports the annual West Tech Fest which showcases innovation, investment and entrepreneurship. In 2022, Western Australia held the major AusBiotech Conference, Australia's annual flagship industry conference connecting the biotech community.

It is essential that all parts of the ecosystem are vibrant and connected, supporting each other to grow and have impact.

Broad and targeted support

The Government is firmly committed to supporting the State's ever expanding innovation ecosystem.

\$1.6B	Future Health Research and Innovation Fund
\$900M	Digital Capability Fund
\$180M	Investment Attraction Fund
\$33.4M	New Industries Fund, 2 rounds
\$20M	Australian Automation and Robotics Precinct
\$10M	Food Technology Facility
\$5M	Innovation fund to support people with disabilities
\$3.7M	Across 233 Innovation Booster Grants
4	Innovation Hubs in: life sciences, data science, cyber security and creative tech
Plus	precincts for marine construction, medicine and health, emerging innovation; assistance from the Small Business Development Corporation, science grants and other support



Early-stage ecosystem

It is well known that the 'valley of death' is a real problem for innovation and innovators. It describes a period of time early in the life of an innovative organisation where it cannot survive on customer revenue and is burning through its cash. It only makes it through the valley once it has gained sustainable cash flow status. Many do not survive this phase.

This Strategy seeks to help bridge this valley by prioritising efforts to build the networks, partnerships and funding opportunities required for a vibrant ecosystem.

The Government has already taken steps to support WA's early-stage ecosystem, with more than \$30 million committed since 2017 through the New Industries Fund (NIF).

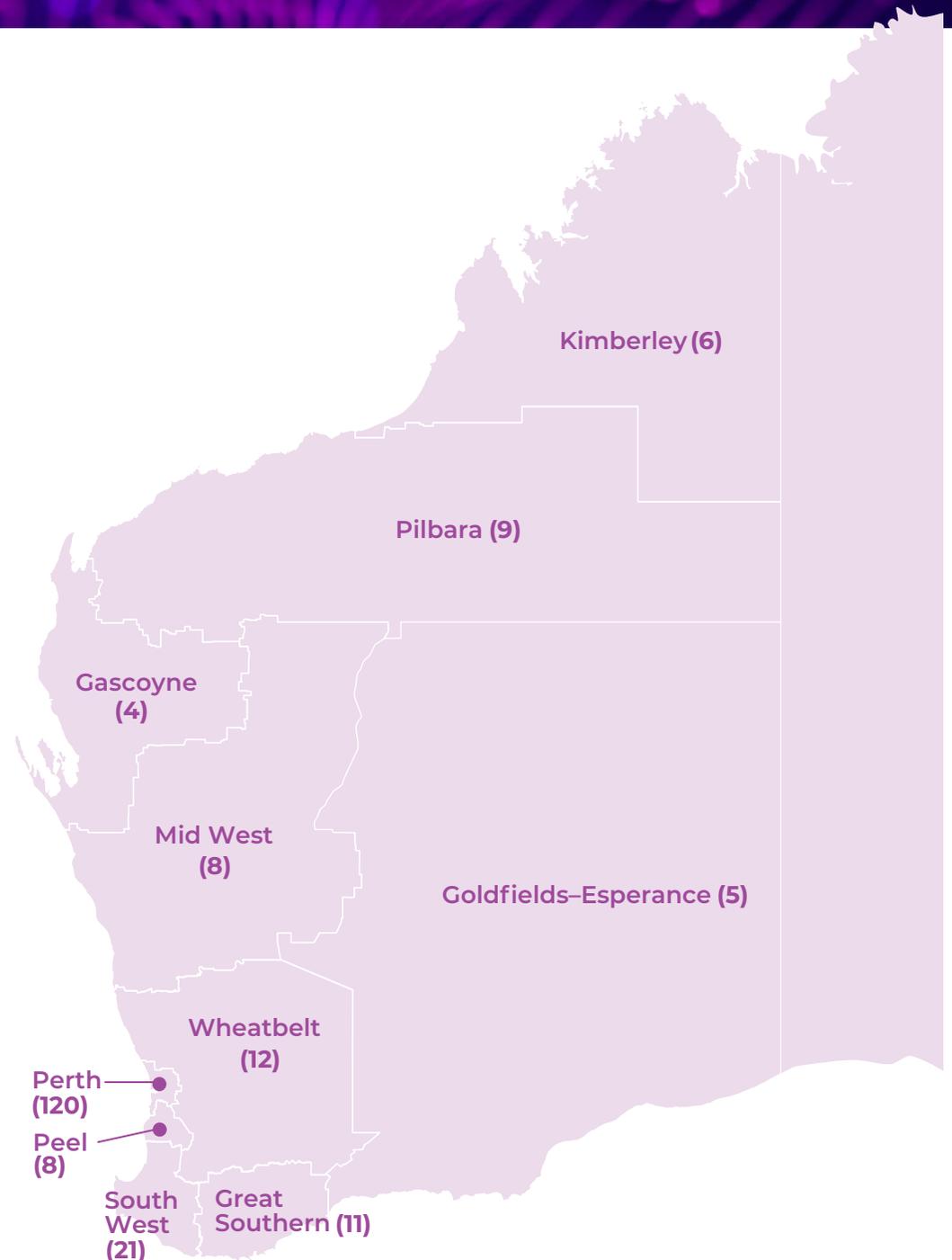
Popular programs and initiatives supported through the NIF include support for 4 Innovation Hubs, Innovation Booster Grants, the X-TEND WA program, Innovator of the Year, West Tech Fest, Dealroom and the WA Venture Support initiative, as well as a range of targeted sponsorships.

The early-stage innovation ecosystem in Western Australia is made up of more than 160 co-working spaces, accelerator programs, incubators, communities, recurring events, advocacy and investor groups.

They can be broken down by region (see map), and into their various component types:

- » co-working spaces (66)
- » networking/community groups (55)
- » structured programs (46)
- » advisory and advocacy (33)
- » funds and investor groups (32)
- » research and education (31)
- » recurring events (30)
- » innovation hubs (26)
- » others: Government, media, makerspaces (16)

[Note: some appear in more than one list or region.]



Goals and vision

The Strategy's goal is to inspire a new generation of innovators to solve our challenges and encourage the economy to move in exciting, new directions. The mission is to elevate Western Australian innovation onto the global radar and propel the local ecosystem into a new phase of growth.

Our 10-year vision

Western Australia is a renowned global hub of invention, investment, innovation and impact.

With this vision, Western Australia will become a place where:

- » Science, innovation and new technologies are embraced by all ages and cultures
- » Innovators can dream of an idea, and make it happen in Western Australia
- » Invention, investment and innovation flourish
- » A reputation as a centre of innovation has been earned
- » Inventions are made and trialled locally
- » Local businesses are at the forefront of adopting new technologies
- » Opportunities to translate and transfer technology are taken
- » Businesses can start and successfully achieve scale globally

Our Goals

The Strategy sets itself the following 10-year goals to realise this vision. Western Australia will become a:

1. **World leader in research and inventiveness** - with renowned and proven global strengths in key areas such as remote and autonomous technologies, engineering, medical devices, decarbonisation, renewables;
2. **Location of choice for product and technology development, translation and testing** - from prototypes to clinical trials, sandboxes to early-stage startups;
3. **Home to globally-focussed organisations that scale, creating new jobs** - with ready access to capital and dependable local and global partnerships and supply chains;
4. **Adopter of new technologies and a tech transfer haven** - with the skills, capabilities and risk appetite to adopt new technology across sectors and make the changes our State, and the world, needs;
5. **A place where innovation is inclusive and purposeful, rewarded and respected** - where all can and do benefit, now and into the future. No one is left behind.

Priority action areas

To achieve these 5 goals, Government is taking action in 7 priority areas. A separate, but linked, 'Innovation Action Plan' details an initial agenda to support the Innovation Strategy. These programs and initiatives will be added to as the need and opportunity arise.



Skills, people and culture



Research and tech transfer



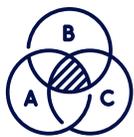
Networks



Access to capital



Procurement and supply chains



Diversity and inclusion



Promotion and adoption

Skills, people and culture

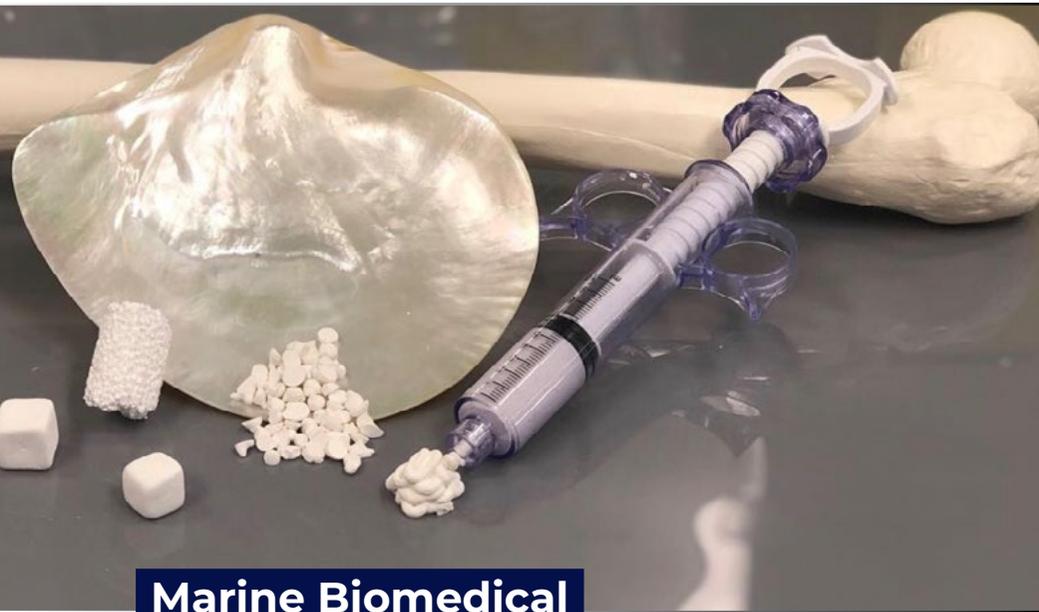
The Western Australian Government will invest in building additional talent across the State and attracting talent globally.

Our State is fortunate to have fostered a well-skilled and agile workforce through strong partnerships between our Government, industry and education ecosystems.

While the strength of our labour market delivers significant benefits, it has also highlighted the importance of ongoing investment in skills development, attraction and retention.

We must retain our sharpest minds, attract new talent and offer skills training and retraining, as the workforce adapts to the fast-changing world. Action will be taken in relation to the STEM Skills Strategy and talent attraction programs, supporting regional innovation and connecting ecosystems.

We should boldly celebrate our successful innovators and researchers through our awards programs, West Tech Fest, storytelling and other means. Our excellent tertiary and vocational education and training sector, along with other upskilling platforms, will continue to be supported. Talented people will increasingly be drawn to a place with excellent liveability and a strong reputation for innovation.



Marine Biomedical

- » Established in Broome, 2021
- » Using pearl oysters to create bone substitute
- » Partnered with The University of Western Australia and Willie Creek Pearls
- » Patented PearlBone™ in 5 countries
- » Received \$1.46 million in federal and state grants

“We aim to harness the incredible regenerative capacity of marine organisms for use in the development of medical devices, ultimately putting Broome and Western Australia on the world stage as a biomedical innovation hub.”

- Patrick Moase, CEO and Co-Founder

Research and tech transfer

The Western Australian Government will set out a bold new science and research agenda, fit for the decade ahead, and seek to maximise technology transfer opportunities across the State’s growing economy.

Despite Australia and Western Australia leading in so many areas of research across the world, our prioritisation and investment in research has yet to match our potential. We need to increase our investment in research and development (R&D) to make WA competitive and a leader in R&D. Working with our Australian Government and industry partners, our State is well positioned for this step up.

Similarly, as with the rest of Australia, there are far too many local inventions that go elsewhere for commercialisation. We will work hard to support our local innovators to turn their ideas into products here in Western Australia and ensure that the supporting ecosystem is strengthened.

The Government will also seek to optimise the transfer of technology across sectors, enabling our current and growing leading edge technologies to provide more benefits across the economy and for our communities.

Immediate actions will include implementing a new Western Australian Public Sector IP Policy, new bio discovery legislation and exploring partnerships with universities and industry on how to best support IP development and commercialisation.

Networks, precincts and shared facilities

The Western Australian Government will accelerate efforts to enable innovation hubs, precincts and shared facilities to strengthen the innovation ecosystem across the State.

Innovation comes in all shapes and sizes and often emerges from unexpected places. The innovator, as an entrepreneur or worker, cannot be expected to go it alone and have all the inherent skills and experience.

The innovation ecosystem has to be a navigable system, where innovators can readily locate resources and support.

A flexible mix of hard and soft infrastructure will be required; precincts where denser populations and innovative clusters develop through to fluid, virtual, welcoming and convenient networks for similarly focussed, but geographically dispersed, thinkers and doers, with industry playing its part.

From our well-established medical precinct around Nedlands to the Australian Marine Complex in Henderson, to the Australian Automation and Robotics Precinct in Neerabup, to our regional Innovation Hubs and remote networks – connectivity and synergy will spark innovation.

Whether innovators need advice on intellectual property and development, testing and trials, marketing, scaling, exporting or financing, resources need to be accessible, and the Government will work to ensure they are.

Actions will include continued support for innovation hubs, platforms, co-working spaces and networks across the State, the X-TEND WA program and delivering the Life Sciences Strategy Common Use Infrastructure Plan.



Spacecubed

- » Established in Perth, 2011
- » Innovation ecosystem builder
- » 1,294 current space members and extended community of 38,613
- » Runs curated programs, including teaching 7,000 women to code (She Codes), and Plus Eight Accelerator, which has invested \$2 million into local startups

“Spacecubed supports thousands of entrepreneurs, change makers and innovators by creating creative hubs, growth programs and communities that move people from idea to action. Our main goal is to support the innovation ecosystem, as well as proactively grow our collective impact to support innovative ideas across Western Australia.”

- Brodie McCulloch, Founder & Managing Director

Access to capital

The Western Australian Government will encourage the growth of an active local venture capital market for WA innovators and investigate other ways to ensure there is access to sufficient capital.

Western Australia needs an active, deep, early-stage funding market, with risk aware - but not averse - investors prepared to back innovators, if it is to retain its entrepreneurial talent.

Without this underlying risk capital, ideas will not progress through development's notorious 'valley of death', to commercialisation, adoption and scale.

While 'angel' investors, angel investing groups and high net worth individuals invest in early-stage ventures, it can be challenging for local early-stage ventures to raise adequate capital beyond this point.

Expanding capital availability for Western Australian innovators is a key Government priority. These will include Innovation Booster Grants, supporting Western Australian businesses accessing relevant Commonwealth funding, exploring new partnership models, assisting the education of investors towards the early-stage investment asset class, trialling the WA Venture Support (WAVES) program and investigating further support that can create a flourishing venture capital industry.



Agworld

- » Established: 2009
- » Staff: 70+
- » Leading global agtech platform
- » Operating in 5 countries
- » Acquired for more than A\$100 million in 2021
- » 130+ million paid acres of land
- » Mission: drive sustainable food production

“The uptake of Agworld’s collaborative farm management software has continued to grow and farmers around the world are accessing this technology to enhance production efficiencies, achieve more sustainable farming practices and bridge intergenerational knowledge gaps.”

- Doug Fitch, Co-founder

Procurement and supply chains

The Western Australian Government is making procurement easier for WA startups and small businesses to provide access to major industry and Government contracts, and will work with partners to open market access to global supply chains.

Western Australia's economy continues to grow with the main sectors being mining, government, property and construction, healthcare and professional services. It is to these sectors that innovators often look in order to win their first customers, yet they can find it hard to break through.

The Western Australian Government has made important changes to improve its procurement arrangements. Further efforts will continue to be made, so that our procurement practices enable the State to benefit from our local innovators and startups.

With the COVID-19 pandemic laying bare the risks of lengthy global supply chains, there is opportunity to encourage local providers with innovative systems, goods and services. Opportunities to join disrupted and adjusting global supply chains has never been better.

Recognising the importance of leveraging international supply chains, the Western Australian Government has established Invest and Trade WA which helps open the 'front door' for investors interested in doing business in our State and supports local small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) to reach their export potential.



Sentient Computing

- » Established in 2007
- » Staff: 42
- » Growing +15% per year
- » Deployed over 250+ projects globally
- » Using gaming tech to explore new ways of working

“As one of the first companies in Western Australia to create rich and interactive virtual environments using gaming technology, Sentient has taken training, work planning, communications and automation to new and transformative heights. The result of this innovative environment has enabled Sentient to establish a dynamic and diverse team that has every potential to flourish in the future.”

- Doug Bester, MD and founder

The Government has also appointed new Investment and Trade Commissioners and the State's overseas office network has expanded.

Diversity and inclusion

The Western Australian Government will grow and foster the diversity and inclusiveness of the Western Australian economy, providing opportunities for greater participation in new and innovative economic activity by under-represented groups.

Evidence has shown that diverse teams can make the best decisions and teams make better decisions than individuals. Not only is diversity and inclusion the right thing to embrace, it makes solid economic sense.

A more diverse and inclusive economy with a thriving innovation ecosystem can also stimulate competition, disrupt market concentrations, add to the economy's productive potential, open new markets and improve adaptability.

Western Australia has the highest proportion of its population born overseas (32.2%¹). This infuses the State with a natural 'get up and go' and entrepreneurial fervour. It also means a certain depth of multicultural understanding exists that may not be present elsewhere.

¹ 'Australia's Population by Country of Birth', Australian Bureau of Statistics, 26 April 2022



RCT

- » Established in Kalgoorlie, 1972
- » Over 270 staff located across 4 continents
- » Clients across 75 countries worldwide
- » World leading independent manufacturer of automation, data, information, and protection systems
- » State-of-the-art technologies designed for any machine, make or model

“The company has come leaps and bounds over the past 50 years. We are unique to the market providing an array of cutting-edge solutions that are easily installed on any machine, regardless of make or model. But at RCT we recognise that our most valuable asset is our workforce. The company's success is deemed to the ability, commitment, and hard work of the whole staff.”

- Brett White, Executive Director & CEO

Progressing successful innovation is difficult enough, but it is even more challenging if the innovator is from a remote or culturally and linguistically diverse background. The Government will support the growth of an innovation ecosystem that works harder to support innovators so that no person or community is left behind.

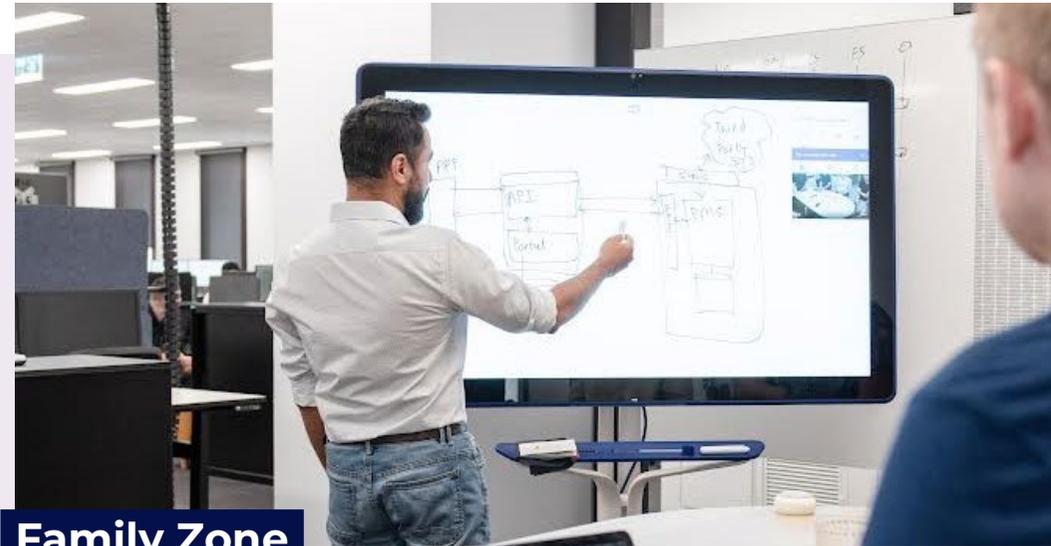
Actions include the release of the Digital Inclusion Blueprint and whole of government initiatives, targeted support for regional, Aboriginal and female entrepreneurs, innovators and programs, as well as supporting regional innovation hubs and networks.

Promotion and adoption

The Western Australian Government will elevate efforts to promote and celebrate the outstanding scientific, technological and innovative capability of WA internationally and at home, supporting the adoption of new technologies and innovations across businesses and communities.

Western Australia hosts Nobel Prize-winning medical researcher teams, 5 universities, research institutes and 2 of the country's largest supercomputers. It also has plans for the world's largest radio telescope and leads global industry in automation and remote sensing.

We applaud our sports stars, movie stars and corporate heroes. It's now time to celebrate the State's innovators – our quiet achievers – in the same way.



Family Zone

- » Established in 2014
- » World leading provider of online safety technology
- » ASX Listing in 2016
- » 13 million users, 24,000 schools
- » Annual Recurring Revenue \$80 million, growing 50% year on year
- » Markets in the US, UK, Australia, New Zealand, Spain, Singapore

“Our innovation provides a unified, platform-based approach to digital safety and wellbeing. The platform supports the needs of schools, parents and children providing the world’s only holistic model. What sets us apart is our absolute focus on supporting each child’s digital journey, a fundamentally global mindset and a cultural willingness to tackle complex problems.”

- Tim Levy, Managing Director



HealthEngine

- » Established: in Perth, 2006
- » Staff: 116
- » Funds raised: \$68.2 million
- » Users: more than 3.9 million
- » Number one consumer healthcare platform in Australia
- » Top 20 Australia Best Workplaces, 2022

“We have the privilege of working at the fast-growing intersection of tech and healthcare to improve the experience and health outcomes for millions of Australians. Our team of forward-thinking and change-making individuals are driven by purpose and the opportunity to help shape the future of healthcare.”

- Dr Marcus Tan, CEO and co-founder

A place that seeds the fifth most valuable private company in the world² and lays claim to at least one more, private unicorn tech business working in its capital city³, is a place that innovators should feel at home. Other examples are shared throughout this Strategy.

Western Australia will also proudly celebrate Aboriginal innovation role models and entrepreneurs so the world can better appreciate the contributions of the world’s oldest continuous civilisation, while at the same time building aspiration and future Aboriginal leaders.

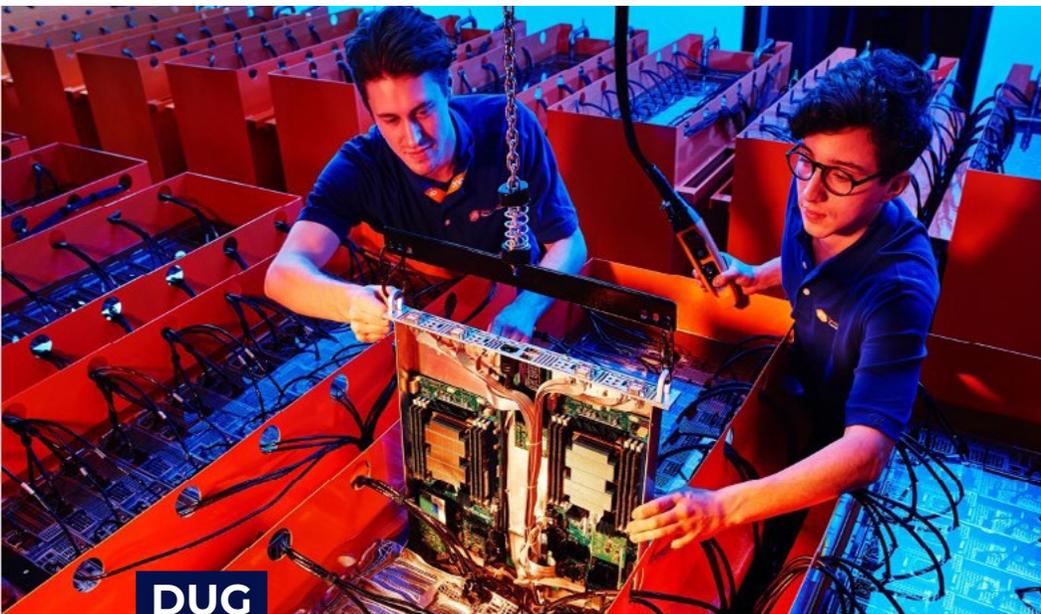
With this, the broad adoption of new innovation is critical. It is not enough to be the best place for innovation if we don’t adopt new technologies and practices across our business and communities, and the public sector itself.

As the Productivity Commission (2022) stated, adoption is “Innovation for the 98%”

Actions in this area will include the Government’s Reconnect Program and international trade offices, global platforms such as Dealroom, recognising and celebrating our great talent through the Premier’s Science Awards, West Tech Fest and WA Innovator of the Year and investigating the role of ‘Innovation Champion(s)’.

² Canva was created in Perth in 2012, before moving to Sydney; In 2021 it was valued at A\$55 billion.

³ Virtual Gaming Worlds (VGW) has its main office in Perth; annual turnover A\$3.5 billion in 2021/22.



DUG

- » Established in Perth, 2003
- » Staff: 250
- » Designs, owns and operates some of the largest, greenest supercomputers
- » Innovative, patented cooling technology developed and built in WA
- » Cutting-edge R&D team

“DUG was founded in my back shed in Perth 19 years ago. While we now have offices in London, Houston and Kuala Lumpur, we are still headquartered in WA. We specialise in analytical software and green high-performance computing. I believe local innovation will be very important to achieve a balance between economic and environmental sustainability.”

- Matthew Lamont PhD, Managing Director

Implementation and communication

This Strategy will work in tandem with a range of other Western Australian Government strategies and plans. As part of the contribution to the Government’s economic development framework, Diversify WA, efforts in relation to innovation will be closely monitored.

This Strategy is complemented by an associated Innovation Action Plan to be updated as need and opportunity provides. To ensure the effective implementation of this Strategy and Plan, a stewardship approach will be taken, including ongoing evaluation and transparent reporting.

The Government will:

- » Develop a performance framework specifically designed for the State’s innovation ecosystem.
- » Work with the Australian Government and other parties to keep track of innovation performances and any emerging gaps.
- » Encourage stakeholder groups to form informal innovation alliances to keep sharing opportunities, challenges and new ways in which Western Australia can innovate with purpose, impact and inclusion.

Stakeholder engagement and communication

Contribution from all stakeholders is important to achieve the State Government's vision for Western Australia's innovation ecosystem. The State Government will continue to engage and build partnerships with business, Governments, investors and researchers.

While developing this Strategy, reference groups and individuals were consulted and views from these consultations are reflected in the document. These contributions are enormously appreciated.

The Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation will provide regular communication regarding the implementation and progress of the Strategy.

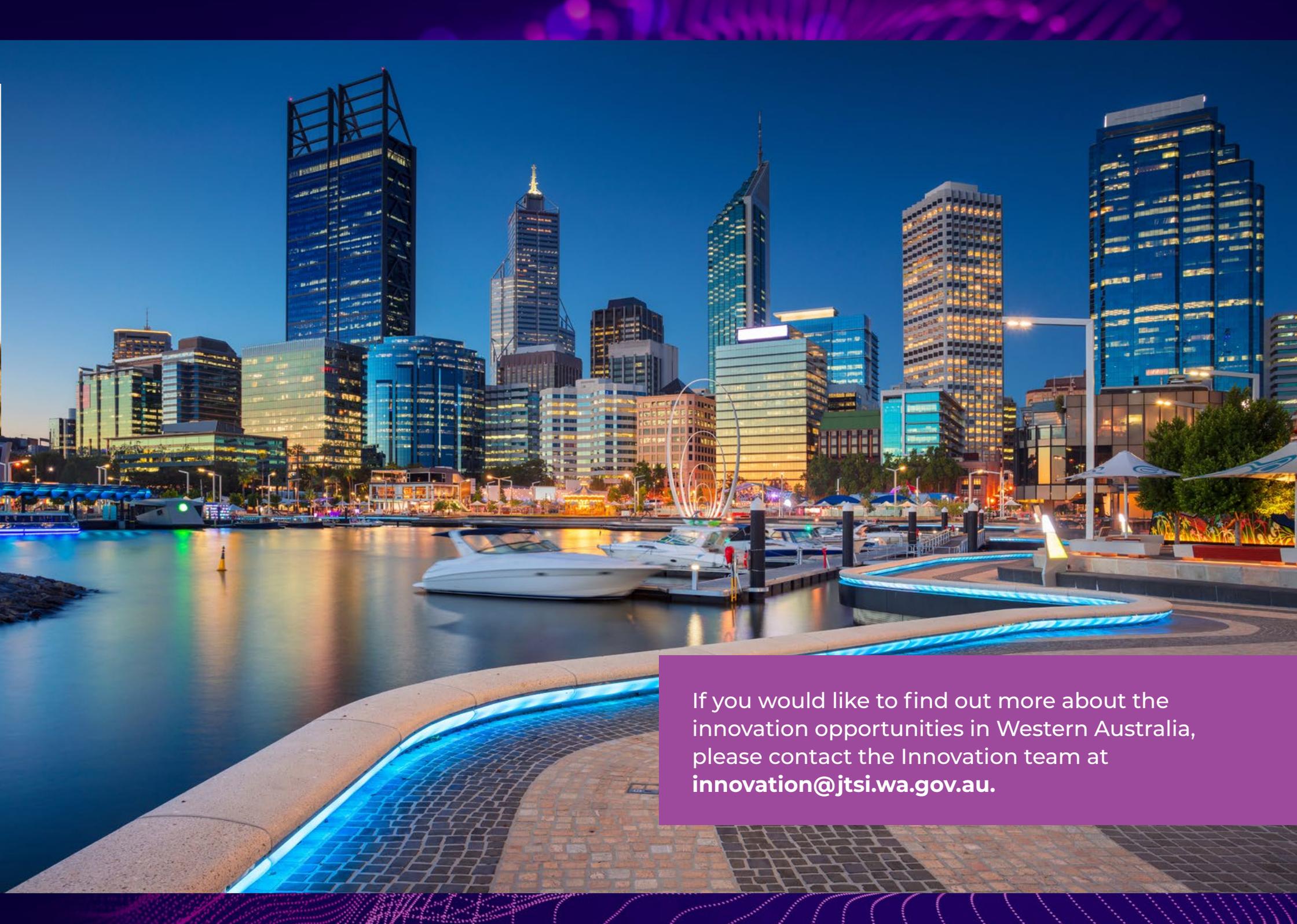


Chemo@home

- » Established 2012
- » Staff: 105
- » Australia's leading provider of home-based infusion treatments
- » Safely administered over 60,000 treatments to patients
- » Won WA Innovator of the Year (Growth Category) 2018

“Our purpose is to provide a safe, high quality specialised community health service which gives the best possible treatment experience for patients and their family through flexible and individualised care. And we think we are nailing it!”

- Julie Adams and Lorna Cook, Co-founders and Co-owners



If you would like to find out more about the innovation opportunities in Western Australia, please contact the Innovation team at innovation@jtsi.wa.gov.au.



Department of
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