



Innovation Advisory Board Communique

May 2025

The third Innovation Advisory Board (IAB) meeting was held on Wednesday 14 May 2025.

The intention of the third IAB meeting was to scope what metrics will be used to measure Western Australia's progress against the WA Government's Innovation Strategy.

The Advisory Board was convened to act as an independent voice for the innovation community which will look to measure the progress of the 10-year [*Innovation Strategy: Western Australia – the place to innovate*](#) Strategy. The measurement will enable the Western Australian Government to communicate its strengths and impact. Data collected through the determined measurement strategies will guide the Western Australian Government in implementing initiatives to address critical gaps in its support.

Presentation

MIT REAP Brief

Eliza Carbines Founder, Tender Relief provided an overview of key learnings from the State's involvement in the MIT Regional Entrepreneurship Acceleration Program (REAP). The Western Australian Government supported a team from WA to participate in the program between 2022 – 2023. Advisory Board members Eliza Carbines and Danelle Cross both participated in the WA team.

Learnings from the program included:

Foundational institutions

There are five distinct innovation ecosystem stakeholder groups, these are; Entrepreneurs, Risk Capital, Corporates, Government, and Universities. MIT's research has consistently shown that these five groups are necessary in every successful innovation ecosystem and that having one or more missing or lagging will impact an ecosystem's ability to thrive. Eliza highlighted the need for all stakeholder groups to be considered as metrics are developed to track the innovation strategy to capture the health and contribution of all five stakeholder groups.

I-Cap and E-Cap

Innovation requires two separate but interconnected capacities to create a comparative advantage, these are Innovation Capacity (I-Cap), the ability to develop new ideas from inception to impact, and Entrepreneur Capacity (E-Cap), the ability to start and grow companies. I-Cap and E-Cap rely on the foundational institutions. Eliza also highlighted the need for the measurement framework to have distinct metrics for each of the capacities.



Discussion Items and Outcomes

Tracking progress against the Innovation Strategy: Western Australia – the place to innovate
Western Australia's Innovation Strategy provides a roadmap for establishing the State as a world-renowned hub of invention, investment, innovation and impact. The strategy supports several activities to build collaboration and elevate WA's innovation sector, propelling the local ecosystem into a new phase of growth.

A discussion paper was circulated to the Advisory Board prior to the meeting that outlined how national and international jurisdictions measure their innovation strategies, including reporting metrics and methods to share these metrics.

James Yuen, Executive Director, Innovation and Emerging Industries, Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (JTSI) lead a conversation centered on the discussion paper. The Advisory Board discussed several metrics that could be used to track Western Australia's progress against the strategy and towards its vision. These proposed metrics aligned with both the strategy and with the MIT REAP stakeholder groups. Additionally, the Advisory Board discussed the reporting methods used by other jurisdictions and agreed that a scorecard was an appropriate choice for Western Australia.

JTSI will draft a reporting framework based on metrics discussed and feedback from the Advisory Board by end of the financial year.