

Innovation Advisory Board Communique

December 2024

The second Innovation Advisory Board (IAB) meeting was held at West Tech Fest on Thursday 5 December 2024 with the meeting opened by Minister Dawson.

The focus of the meeting was on West Tech Fest and consideration of how the Board can maintain momentum, sharpen strategic focus and progress priority issues between meetings.

Discussion Items

West Tech Fest Reflections

Board members noted a clear evolution in West Tech Fest compared to 2023, with increased diversity in programming and audiences and stronger commercial intent from interstate and international participants. Delegates were observed to be moving from exploring Western Australia as a place to do business to being ready to engage and invest.

Key highlights included the First Nations House event, international delegations (including an Indigenous delegation from the United States), strong interest from businesses seeking to engage with Western Australia, the use of the Brella app to support connections and track engagement, and the YES Showcase, particularly hearing directly from young people presenting innovation projects.

Board role, priorities and focus

The Board discussed the breadth of issues facing Western Australia's innovation ecosystem and agreed that greater focus and impact would be achieved by clearly defining the Board's role, the innovation ecosystem, and what success looks like for the State.

Members highlighted the importance of measurement and benchmarking, drawing on existing frameworks developed through Western Australia's participation in the MIT Regional Entrepreneurship Acceleration Program (REAP), alongside relevant national datasets where state level insights can be applied.

Maintaining momentum and engagement

The Board discussed ways to maintain momentum between meetings, including aligning Board engagement with major innovation and ecosystem events throughout the year. Members also discussed improving how Board outcomes are shared with regional and broader stakeholders, including exploring more accessible communication formats.

Subcommittees

To support focused action and advice, the Board agreed to establish the following subcommittees:

- Capital
- People and Skills

- Promotion
- Ecosystem Connection

The Regional Industry Innovation Advisory Group (RIIAG) continues as an existing subcommittee under the Board, serving as a conduit for information from the IAB and providing regional input into newly established subcommittees.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 14 May 2025.