



## Innovation Advisory Board Communique

August 2025

The fourth Innovation Advisory Board (IAB) meeting was held on Tuesday 5 August 2025.

The intention of the fourth IAB meeting was to review and discuss the proposed metrics to be used to measure Western Australia's progress against the WA Government's Innovation Strategy and to discuss the New Industries and Innovation Fund.

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.

### Discussion Items and Outcomes

#### Advisory Board Feedback on Innovation Strategy Reporting Framework

The Innovation Advisory Board (IAB) discussed the proposed reporting framework designed to track annual progress against the Innovation Strategy: Western Australia – the place to innovate.

The Strategy provides a roadmap to position Western Australia as a globally recognised hub of invention, investment, innovation and impact. It outlines priority action areas to enhance collaboration and grow the local innovation ecosystem.

At the meeting, the Advisory Board provided feedback on the proposed framework, including suggested improvements to key metrics and data sources used to measure the Strategy's implementation and outcomes.

The Department of Energy and Economic Diversification (DEED) will refine the reporting framework based on the Advisory Board's input, with updates to be shared at a future meeting.

#### Subcommittee updates

Four subcommittees were formed in Meeting 3. The subcommittees are focused on key topics that the IAB intend to address: Promotion, Ecosystem connection, People & skills, and Capital. From Meeting 5 onwards, IAB meetings will have these topics as a focal point.

#### Promotion

The subcommittee chair, Danelle Cross, shared the outcomes of the first subcommittee meeting. The subcommittee had noted that while plenty of promotion of the WA innovation ecosystem occurs, it is fragmented. This has led to limited visibility and fragmented support channels. It was noted that the progress review report will play a big role in how the ecosystem can better promote itself.



### Ecosystem connection

The subcommittee chair, Eliza Carbines, shared the outcomes of the first subcommittee meeting. The subcommittee had discussed Western Australia's connection to interstate and international innovation sectors, the existing data measuring the ecosystem's connectivity, and the possibility of programs to increase the connection within the State. It was suggested that Western Australia's innovation ecosystem could be more strategic when engaging with interstate and international audiences through consistent and aligned calls to action in communications.

### People and skills

The subcommittee chair, Kent Matla, shared the outcomes of the first subcommittee meeting. The subcommittee established three key focus areas to explore moving forwards. These included embedding innovation culture into the Public Sector, regional and inclusive innovation capability-building, and building innovation capability and a common language across Western Australia.

### Capital

The subcommittee Chair, Mette Wendler, shared the outcomes of the first subcommittee meeting. The subcommittee discussed areas of interest for consideration at future meetings. These included attracting Foreign Direct Investment into Western Australia from overseas, WA innovators access to international Venture Capital (VC), securing additional angel investment for early start-ups, building the capacity and capability of the local VC scene, and government procurement.

### New Industries and Innovation Fund (NIIF)

DEED provided an update on progress towards establishing programs under the NIIF, which will continue and build upon many of the initiatives delivered under the original New Industries Fund. The Minister for Science and Innovation and Chair of the IAB, the Hon Stephen Dawson MLC, noted the dedicated funding for regional founders, female founders, and First Nations founders' programs.

### Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 23 September 2025. The meeting will focus on Promotion of Western Australia's innovation ecosystem.