



Communique

Government Lead Scientist and Researcher Network

Meeting of 5 June 2026

The Government Lead Scientist and Researcher Network convened its second meeting on 5 June 2026. The meeting was chaired by the Chief Scientist of Western Australia, Professor Sharath Sriram.

Representatives from key government science, research and innovation agencies across WA attended, continuing cross-government discussions to strengthen scientific capability, collaboration and impact.

Key Discussion Themes

Intellectual property implementation

Meeting discussions focused on implementing the WA Government Intellectual Property Policy, with a focus on strengthening capability and coordination across agencies.

Members highlighted challenges in identifying, managing and commercialising IP, particularly in collaborative research environments, and noted opportunities to improve access to commercialisation expertise and clearer pathways to realise value.

Members also discussed cultural and Indigenous IP, noting the need for clearer guidance as expectations around engagement, consent and recognition continue to evolve. Members highlighted the importance of improving awareness of emerging approaches and frameworks in this area.

State research workforce

Meeting discussions focused on workforce capability as a key constraint across the State's research system.

Members highlighted challenges including strong reliance on international recruitment, a limited mid-career talent pipeline, and constraints within current recruitment and employment settings.

Opportunities to strengthen workforce development were discussed, including improving engagement with schools, supporting science education, and strengthening links between education and career pathways.

Members also identified opportunities to improve coordination across agencies, including increased visibility of recruitment processes and potential shared workforce approaches.

The development of a State Science and Innovation communications approach was noted as an important enabler to improve community understanding of science careers and strengthen the State's profile.

Shared State research infrastructure

Meeting discussions focused on the current state of research infrastructure across the WA Government.

Members noted that while the State has strong capability, infrastructure is often fragmented, ageing and underutilised. Examples were discussed where high-value infrastructure is operating below capacity, with limited visibility and access arrangements contributing to inefficiencies.

Opportunities to improve coordination and utilisation were identified, including the development of shared infrastructure registers, equipment inventories and booking systems. Emerging work within the QEII precinct was highlighted as a potential model to improve visibility and access.

Members also emphasised the importance of long-term planning and investment in priority infrastructure, and the need to align infrastructure with workforce capability and economic priorities, including in regional areas.

Future Priorities

The Network identified several ongoing areas for collective focus, including:

- Strengthening IP capability and commercialisation pathways across government.
- Addressing workforce capability gaps and improving talent pipelines.
- Improving coordination and utilisation of research infrastructure.
- Enhancing visibility and impact of WA Government science and innovation.

Next Steps

The Network will continue to progress work across IP, workforce and infrastructure priorities, with future meetings to include focused discussions on key areas.