

Communique

Government Lead Scientist and Researcher Network

Meeting of 27 August 2026

The Government Lead Scientist and Researcher Network convened its third meeting on 27 August 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

Translating research and intellectual property into impact

Members discussed progress in implementing the WA Government Intellectual Property Policy and opportunities to strengthen commercialisation outcomes across government science agencies. Discussion focused on moving from policy development to practical implementation through demonstration projects that can test pathways, identify barriers and improve coordination across agencies. Members highlighted the importance of creating clearer pathways for research translation, commercialisation and innovation-led business growth within WA.

The Network also discussed the role of emerging initiatives designed to strengthen the innovation ecosystem, including mechanisms to support commercialisation, attract investment and improve connections between research, industry and government.

Shared research infrastructure and capability

Members discussed opportunities to improve the visibility, coordination and utilisation of research infrastructure and scientific capability across the State. Examples were highlighted where significant scientific capability exists but may be underutilised due to limited awareness, fragmented access arrangements or workforce constraints.

Discussion emphasised that infrastructure investment must be supported by skilled personnel, operational funding and long-term planning to maximise value and impact. Members also considered opportunities to strengthen collaboration and shared access arrangements across agencies and institutions. Emerging examples of coordinated infrastructure planning and management were noted as valuable models for broader application.

Building the future science workforce and profile of government science

Members discussed opportunities to strengthen awareness of government science and support the State's future science workforce. The Network noted that many scientific careers across government remain relatively unknown compared with careers in universities and research institutions, despite government scientists making significant contributions in areas including environmental management, emergency response, public health, forensics and resources.

Members highlighted the importance of engaging students early, strengthening links between education and employment, and promoting the diversity of careers available across government science. Opportunities were discussed to improve outreach, increase community engagement and showcase WA's scientific strengths to help attract, develop and retain future talent.

Future Priorities

The Network identified several areas for collective action, including:

- Trialling practical approaches to research translation, commercialisation and intellectual property management through exemplar projects.
- Improving visibility and utilisation of scientific capability, infrastructure and expertise across government to support collaboration and shared outcomes.
- Sharing lessons from successful collaboration models to improve coordination and maximise the impact of government science.
- Developing a focused work program to address shared challenges and opportunities across the government science system.

Next Steps

The Network will continue to progress work across these priority areas and develop a coordinated work program focused on practical outcomes, collaboration and strengthening the impact of government science across WA. The Network will continue to identify opportunities for collaboration, share lessons from successful initiatives and provide a forum for addressing common challenges across the government science system.

