



Department of  
**Jobs, Tourism, Science  
and Innovation**

# Chief Scientist of Western Australia

Registration of Interest  
Information Pack

**Registrations of interest close: 5.00pm (AWST) on  
Friday 29 November 2024**



# Introduction

The Government of Western Australia is seeking registrations of interest for the provision of Science Advisory Services to the Minister for Science as the next Chief Scientist of Western Australia. The Chief Scientist provides advice on matters covering science, technology and innovation in Western Australia, including how science, technology and innovation can help diversify and decarbonise the Western Australian economy and contribute more broadly to the wellbeing of Western Australians.

After an illustrious ten years, the tenure of the currently appointed Chief Scientist concludes in June 2025. The Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (JTSI) is coordinating the registration of interest and appointment processes for the next Chief Scientist on behalf of the State.

## About the Chief Scientist

The Chief Scientist of Western Australia (the Chief Scientist) provides Science Advisory Services directly to the Minister for Science and provides high quality, independent, external advice to the WA Government on:

- Science, technology and innovation in Western Australia, including how science, technology and innovation can help diversify and decarbonise the Western Australian economy and contribute more broadly to the wellbeing of Western Australians.
- Supporting the development of the State's science and technology capabilities and performance, including advising the Minister on attracting talent and investment and new models of collaboration and translation.
- Advocating for Western Australia as a science and technology leader nationally and internationally.
- Promoting science and technology across government, community and business, including inspiring young people and supporting diversity and inclusion in science and technology fields.

## Key responsibilities

The Chief Scientist plays a key role in supporting the delivery of the State's strategic priorities by building and championing the State's science and technology capability and performance, including its translation and impact.

The Government sees science, technology and innovation as a key enabler in their overarching economic framework *Diversify WA* and associated *Future State: Accelerating Diversify WA*. Achieving a diversified, decarbonised and digitalised Western Australia – a smarter Western Australia – is a key strategic objective of Government.

The State also has important strategic priorities articulated in other documents such as the Western Australian Climate Policy, Innovation Strategy, STEM Skills Strategy,

Health and Medical Life Science Industry Strategy, Space Industry Strategy, Battery and Critical Mineral Strategy, and the Defence Industries Strategic Plan.

The Government's upcoming 10 Year Science and Technology Plan will also provide a clear vision for the State to be a world leader in science and technology to drive the ongoing wellbeing, resilience and sustainability of the Western Australian economy, community and environment. The Plan will highlight key research priorities in areas such as Decarbonisation and Clean Energy, Environment and Sustainability, Mineral Supply and Value Adding, Health and Wellbeing, Sustainable and Secure Food and Critical and Emerging Technology.

Specific responsibilities of the Chief Scientist include:

- Supporting science and technology policy and planning priorities by working closely with senior leaders from industry, universities, research institutes and across Government.
- Providing advice to the Minister and the WA Government, at the instigation of the Chief Scientist or at the request of the Minister.
- Attending forums, events and meetings with representatives of the science and technology community across academia, industry and Government to support the formulation of advice.
- Representing WA and contributing to national thinking on science through participation on the Forum of Australian Chief Scientists.
- Chairing the assessment panels for the annual Premier's Science Awards.
- Appointments as a member of advisory committees or evaluation panels where there is a role to provide independent scientific advice to the WA Government.

## Working with Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation

The Chief Scientist works closely with JTSI, along with other relevant agencies, to advance WA science and technology capabilities and performance. This includes:

- enhancing collaboration locally, nationally and internationally;
- attracting Commonwealth and industry investment into WA science and technology;
- building leading-edge scientific capacity in the State;
- working to progress science innovation and translation/impact;
- promoting science and technology policies and initiatives at meetings across academia, industry, Government and the community; and
- acting as an ambassador for science and technology, helping the WA Government raise public awareness of their importance, and supporting diversity and inclusion in science and technology fields.

The Division of Science and Technology of JTSI also provides administrative, research and policy support to the Chief Scientist through dedicated staff resources.

## Terms of engagement

<b>Engagement type</b>	The Chief Scientist is appointed as an independent consultant to government under a contract for service (Science Advisory Services).
<b>Term of contract</b>	3 years fixed term, to commence in June 2025 (or by negotiation).
<b>Work hours</b>	Negotiable. The services may be provided on either a full or part time basis, as agreed by the appointed candidate and the WA Government.
<b>Salary</b>	Competitive remuneration package.
<b>Location</b>	Perth, Western Australia Office and meeting room facilities available, co-located with JTSI at Level 12, 1 William Street, Perth.
<b>Reporting</b>	For the purposes of contract management, the Chief Scientist reports to the Director General of the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation through the Division of Science and Technology.

## Registration of interest

The tenure of the currently appointed Chief Scientist concludes in June 2025.

JTSI is currently seeking registrations of interest to identify potential candidates who may be suitable for and interested in undertaking the provision of Science Advisory Services - Chief Scientist, in the future.

### Registering your interest

All registrations of interest are to be submitted online via at [Chief Scientist of Western Australia: Registrations of interest](#) by 5.00pm (AWST) on Friday 29 November 2024.

Late registrations will not be accepted after the closing date and time.

You will need to provide:

- A covering letter (up to 3 pages) demonstrating your skills, knowledge and experience and your ability to meet the eligibility requirements.
- A Curriculum Vitae of a **maximum of four (4) pages**, including details of your qualifications, work experience, skills, publications and achievements.

## More information

For more information regarding this role, you are encouraged to contact Linda Dawson, Deputy Director General, Industry, Science and Innovation Group at [linda.dawson@itsi.wa.gov.au](mailto:linda.dawson@itsi.wa.gov.au) or telephone (08) 6277 2916 or Andrew Dolling, Executive Director, Division of Science and Technology at [andrew.dolling@itsi.wa.gov.au](mailto:andrew.dolling@itsi.wa.gov.au) or telephone (08) 9262 1698.

## Eligibility requirements

1. Submissions in response to the registration of interest are limited to Australian citizens and those who hold permanent resident status. Those wishing to register an interest from outside Western Australia are welcome to do so; however, the appointed WA Chief Scientist will need to reside in Western Australia.
2. On appointment the next Chief Scientist must have a registered Australian Business Number (ABN) and appropriate arrangements in place for Australian taxation purposes.
3. As the Chief Scientist is engaged as an external consultant to the WA Government, on appointment the Chief Scientist will be required to hold the following:
  - Public Liability Insurance,
  - Professional Indemnity Insurance,
  - Workers Compensation Insurance, and
  - Motor Vehicle Third Party Liability Insurance.

## Criteria

The WA Government is seeking highly qualified candidates who:

- have an extensive career in science and technology; and
- can demonstrate significant experience in a leadership role.

The candidate must:

- be a passionate ambassador of science and technology in WA with:
  - knowledge of the State's science and technology eco-system; and
  - demonstrated ability and experience engaging with stakeholders at a local, national and international level;
- seek to advance science and technology to achieve benefits for the broader community and the State, including through:
  - the creation of jobs and diversification of the economy;
  - building scientific capacity in the State, and
  - the promotion of science policies.

- have demonstrated skills and experience in developing and maintaining effective collaborative and genuine partnerships across academia, industry, Government and the community; and
- have demonstrated experience attracting local, national and/or international interest, research activity and/or investment to the State.

## General information

Interested parties should read the following information before completing their registration of interest.

### 2025 State Election

The timelines for this process may be varied due to the caretaker conventions governing the operation of the Western Australian public sector for the 2025 State election. JTSI will provide applicants with relevant advice should this occur.

### Freedom of Information

Applicants are informed that the Department is subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1992*, which provides a general right of access to records held by Western Australian State and Local Government agencies.

Further information on the operation of the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act can be obtained from the [Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation](#) or by contacting the Department's FOI Coordinator at [foi@jtsi.wa.gov.au](mailto:foi@jtsi.wa.gov.au).