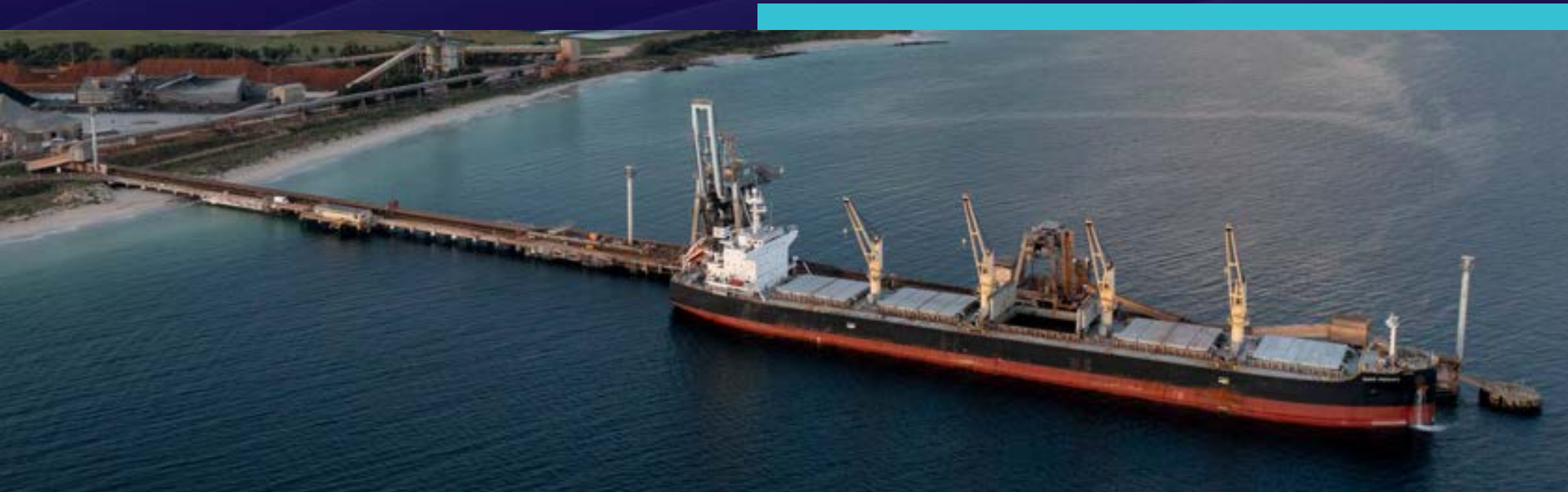




# Diversify WA

**Final report on Supply Chain Development Plan 2021-2022**

NOVEMBER 2024



# Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation acknowledges the Traditional Custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to the land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all members of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and their cultures, and to Elders past and present.

Cover image: Kwinana Strategic Industrial Area. CREDIT: DevelopmentWA  
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## Contents

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Premier's foreword	3
Report on actions	5
Investment attraction	5
Workforce and skills	8
Infrastructure access	11
Innovation	14
Digital connectivity	15
Science and technology	17
Defence industries	18
Mining and METS	20
Energy	23
Health and medical life sciences	25
Primary industries	26
Space industries	28



## Premier's foreword

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The Western Australian Government launched the Diversify WA: Supply Chain Development Plan 2021-22 in October 2021. The plan was developed in response to the opportunity for Western Australia to harness new global supply chains that were being disrupted, or growing, as a result of changing geopolitical dynamics, new technologies such as automation and digitisation, and growing social and environmental awareness. All of these disruptors were accelerated as a result of COVID-19.

With new supply chain opportunities key to supporting the State's diversification objectives, eleven supply chain opportunities aligned to Western Australia's competitive advantages were outlined in the plan, alongside tangible actions to guide Government's efforts.

Since the plan's release, the Western Australian Government has made significant progress against these actions, ensuring the State's supply chains remain adaptive, flexible, and responsive to external shocks, while helping to lay the foundations for Western Australia to seize new opportunities in the global economy in areas of the State's traditional and emerging capabilities.

To capitalise on these opportunities, the Western Australian Government has taken steps to ensure that the State is positioned as a hub for investment and innovation. To support investment attraction, the Western Australian Government has invested in the expansion of the Invest and Trade Western Australia network to include new offices across key markets.

Recently, this has included the launch of the State's new office in the United States, providing an opportunity to leverage new opportunities across green energy, defence industries and health and medical life sciences supply chains.

As the world rapidly invests in decarbonisation and new opportunities for a cleaner future, enhancing our ability to be competitive in new supply chain opportunities is critical. This is why the Western Australian Government launched the Investment Attraction Fund, a key deliverable under the Plan, which has already delivered millions of dollars of grants to projects that will enrich and diversify our economy.

Other achievements include:

- » Supporting an innovation economy through industry Innovation Hubs, the New Industries Fund, and launching Western Australia's Innovation Strategy.
- » Launching Western Australia's first State Infrastructure Strategy, laying the foundations for infrastructure planning and delivery for the next two decades.
- » Establishing the WA Jobs Taskforce, which oversaw the implementation of the WA Jobs Plan.

In early 2023, the Western Australian Government released Future State: Accelerating Diversify WA. Together, the Diversify WA economic framework and Future State focus on the most significant opportunities for investment aligned to global trends, and identify supply chain development as a key enabler to economic growth as part of a broader, integrated approach to economic diversification.

This report closes out the Diversify WA: Supply Chain Development Plan 2021-22 and is published alongside the Diversify WA: 2024 Update, which reports on the progress of the State's economic diversification objectives.

Future activities to grow the State's participation in global supply chains will be reported through Diversify WA, the State's enduring framework for long term economic diversification.

**Hon Roger Cook MLA**

**Premier; Minister for State and Industry Development, Jobs and Trade; Public Sector Management; Federal-State Relations**



# Report on actions



Achieved or embedded into ongoing activity








In Progress or Planning

## Investment attraction

Western Australia has historically benefited from positive net investment, particularly in the resources sector. To support the diversification of the State's economy, the Western Australian Government continues to pursue opportunities to attract domestic, and international investment into more targeted supply chain opportunities. These opportunities are helping to diversify local industry, increase demand for local goods and services and secure trade in new markets


Key actions	Update	Comment
Develop a multi-year whole-of-government strategy that consolidates and prioritises investable opportunities, is responsive to unanticipated opportunities and changing market conditions, and establishes clear outcomes and key performance indicators for Western Australia's investment attraction approach.		In 2023, the Western Australian Government released Future State: Accelerating Diversify WA. Building on the Diversify WA economic framework, Future State highlights targeted opportunities that match Western Australia's strengths with global opportunities and trends.

Key actions	Update	Comment
Establish a \$100 million Investment Attraction and New Industries Fund to develop new and emerging industries.		The Investment Attraction Fund was launched in March 2022, committing over \$100 million to attract new investment to Western Australia, create local jobs, and diversify the State's economy. Additional funding has since been committed to the Investment Attraction Fund for future rounds, including the New Energies Industries Funding Stream. As at November 2024, \$156.4 million in grant funding has been allocated to 42 successful applicants through the inaugural round of the Fund.
Leverage the State's international network to strengthen Western Australia's trade and investment relationships.		Since reopening the State's borders in March 2022, the Western Australian Government has leveraged the State's network of international investment and trade offices to conduct 48 Ministerial Missions to over 27 markets (to October 2024). Invest and Trade Western Australia has also undertaken extensive in-market investment and trade events to showcase Western Australia's industry capabilities. New offices have been established in key markets, including Germany, Malaysia, the Philippines and the United States of America.
Support Australia's Free Trade Agreements, including with India and Indonesia to facilitate greater trade and investment opportunities for the State.		<p>The Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (2020) and Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (2022) are two of Australia's most recent Free Trade Agreements. As key markets of future growth and partnership, Invest and Trade Western Australia continues to engage with both local and overseas stakeholders to foster and facilitate mutually beneficial trade and investment partnerships.</p> <p>Since borders reopened in March 2022, the Invest and Trade WA Perth Hub has serviced 16 inbound delegations from Indonesia and 33 from India respectively (to 31 Oct 2024). As part of their delegate program, stakeholders can engage in roundtable discussions with industry and government stakeholders to discuss opportunities for trade and investment, and the impact of existing or proposed Free Trade Agreements.</p> <p>The Western Australian Government has also led several major trade missions to India and Indonesia to support Western Australian companies in investigating and accessing new markets. In 2023, the Indonesia Connect Roadshow trade mission led by the Premier included over 130 key government and business representatives and focused on trade and investment outcomes across multiple sectors including energy, international education, primary industries, creative industries and tourism.</p>



Key actions	Update	Comment
<p>Build on existing Free Trade Agreements and assist business to ensure their trade engagement is simpler, faster and more accessible.</p>		<p>Support for local and international businesses to harness existing Free Trade Agreements is being provided through Invest and Trade Western Australia. Over the past three years, the State's international network has expanded to the Americas and the services that the network can provide have become more comprehensive. There are currently 17 locations across the Americas, ASEAN, Greater China, India-Gulf, North East Asia and United Kingdom/Europe regions.</p> <p>The Western Australian Government is also an active participant of the Ministerial Council on Trade and Investment, hosting the Council's third meeting in April 2024. The Council aims to coordinate effort and information sharing across jurisdiction to support trade and investment outcomes.</p>
<p>Leverage the Collie Futures Fund and Collie Industry Attraction and Development Fund to attract investment that will support economic diversification and jobs in the Collie region.</p>		<p>The Collie Futures Fund and Collie Industry Action and Development Fund have supported more than 83 recipients to deliver a broad range of projects in Collie with a combined total project value of over \$135 million. Both programs support economic vibrancy, through a wide range of industries, including tourism, manufacturing, primary industries, mineral processing and energy.</p>


## Workforce and skills

Building out Western Australia’s supply chains while diversifying local industries requires the realignment of the State’s workforce capability. The Western Australian Government has invested in developing a range of general and specialised skills, and an agile labour market to meet the workforce needs of supply chain development priority areas. Since 2021, these investments have helped to introduce a coordinated approach to building workforce capability through new training initiatives targeted at reskilling and upskilling. With the progress made against these opportunities, Western Australia’s workforce is on its way to support the economy of the future.

Key actions	Update	Progress
<p>Establish a WA Jobs Taskforce to oversee implementation of the WA Jobs Plan, including identification of local job creation opportunities in new and existing industries, mapping skills gaps, identifying regional job opportunities and increasing training requirements to meet workforce needs.</p>		<p>The WA Jobs Taskforce was established in 2021 and successfully oversaw the implementation of the WA Jobs Plan with diversification of Western Australia’s economy as its core motivation. Key achievements of the Taskforce include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» identifying local job creation opportunities in new and existing industries resulting in development of the WA Advanced Manufacturing Prospectus</li> <li>» mapping skills gaps which resulted in the use of an interstate FIFO workforce and mapping of the workforce that will be required in regional Western Australia for new industries</li> <li>» identifying regional job opportunities, including development of the Economic Assessment of the Western Australian Warehousing Industry report, which has informed several government departments as they move from a ‘just in time model’ to a ‘just in case model’</li> <li>» increasing training requirements to meet workforce needs.</li> </ul> <p>The Taskforce ceased operation in November 2023 and has transitioned to an Advanced Manufacturing Council, chaired by Hon Stephen Dawson, Minister for Innovation and the Digital Economy. The Council has been constituted with an inaugural meeting to occur in the first half of 2024. The Council’s membership features industry and government stakeholders from priority sectors and its remit is advising government on initiatives to build Western Australia’s advanced manufacturing capability, capacity and competitiveness.</p>







Key actions	Update	Progress
<p>Develop and implement skills and training initiatives in partnership with industry and South Metropolitan TAFE (and other WA TAFE Colleges) to meet the needs of existing and emerging industries.</p>		<p>The Western Australian Government has introduced a range of initiatives to grow the pipeline of skilled workers in the State, while providing free and low fee training, growing local capability in targeted opportunities and enhancing workforce mobility across supply chains. Initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» embedding the importance of preparing a skilled workforce for the energy transition and the development of emerging industries through the Western Australian State Training Plan</li> <li>» supporting the planned Pilbara Hydrogen Hub to deliver education and training for the emerging hydrogen industry</li> <li>» developing the 2022–27 Western Australian Defence Industry Workforce Development Plan, a WA joint force approach to building defence capabilities</li> <li>» investing \$11 million to further build the Western Australian defence industry’s professional and para-professional workforce</li> <li>» South Metropolitan TAFE launching the inaugural delivery of the Australian Signals Directorate’s post-pilot Essential Eight Assessment Course in 2023</li> <li>» delivering the \$9.5 million specialist Agricultural Machinery Training Centre at the Muresk Institute in Northam, delivering skilled agricultural workers and maximising efficient farming practices.</li> </ul>
<p>Establish a new partnership with the Wirrpanda Foundation to provide Aboriginal jobseekers with targeted assistance to address specific barriers to employment.</p>		<p>In 2021, the Department of Training and Workforce Development engaged the Waalitj Foundation (formerly Wirrpanda Foundation) to provide practical assistance to Aboriginal youth job seekers aged 15-24 years who are not at school, to address individual barriers to participating in employment or training leading to employment.</p> <p>The Western Australian Government committed a further \$1.6 million over two years to provide targeted assistance to Aboriginal jobseekers to help address barriers to entering employment or training, which commenced in 2024.</p>



Key actions	Update	Progress
<p>Boost apprentices and training opportunities, particularly for SMEs with Group Training Schemes and for mature-aged apprentices through the Jobs and Skills WA Adult Apprentice Employer Incentive (AAEI).</p>		<p>In 2023, the Western Australian Government announced a further extension to the Group Training Organisation (GTO) Wage Subsidy, with an additional 150 places available to GTOs from 1 January 2024, lifting total investment in the program to \$66.3 million.</p> <p>The AAEI, introduced on 1 July 2021, was a \$5.2 million commitment to provide financial assistance to Western Australian businesses to employ mature aged apprentices. The AAEI was well received by employers, and all places were exhausted.</p> <p>As of 31 December 2023, there were over 41,000 apprentices and trainees in training which represents a 50% increase on the pre-pandemic numbers recorded in December 2019.</p>

## Infrastructure access

The availability of project-ready land and access to key infrastructure is critical to attracting investment and de-risking new projects. To ensure that Western Australia has the infrastructure and available land to support future industries, the Western Australian Government continues to support the development of the State's Strategic Industrial Areas (SIAs). Since 2021, significant progress has been made upgrading facilities at both the Australian Marine Complex (AMC) and the Western Trade Coast, positioning the State to take advantage of new and emerging industries in this strategic industrial corridor.





Key actions	Update	Progress
<p>Establish the Western Trade Coast (WTC) Precinct as a Global Advanced Industries Hub to support key strategic priorities of government and industry development strategies for the battery and critical minerals, renewable hydrogen, defence, LNG and other advanced manufacturing industries. The hub will enable the State to not only capture the global opportunities that are currently on offer, but cement Western Australia in the global supply chains of the world's emerging industries.</p>		<p>The Western Australian Government is transforming the Western Trade Coast (WTC) Precinct into a Global Advanced Industries Hub, with a focus on four target industries: renewable hydrogen; future facing minerals processing; and shipbuilding and sustainment; and port-related logistics, manufacturing and processing activities.</p> <p>In 2023, a rapid current state assessment of the WTC was delivered, guiding future land and infrastructure investment aligned to industry needs.</p> <p>The WTC Infrastructure Strategy (WTCIS) was released in mid-2024, outlining options for infrastructure development to support the growth of existing and future industries and to activate the region into a Global Advanced Industries Hub.</p> <p>As part of this work, the Western Australian Government is currently working on several potential pathways to activate undeveloped land in Latitude 32, one of four industrial estates within the WTC.</p> <p>A consolidated Defence Precinct at Henderson will be the home of depot-level maintenance for nuclear-powered submarines as part of AUKUS, which supports the diversification of Western Australia's economy. The Defence Precinct is aligned with and supported by the WA Government's Western Trade Coast Infrastructure Strategy, identifying critical infrastructure for de-constraining of the Western Trade Coast.</p>
<p>Leverage the \$50 million Industrial Lands Fund to develop project-ready land to meet industry needs and unlock future supply chain development.</p>		<p>The Industrial Land Development Fund was established in 2021, and now supports private sector investment in Western Australia across strategic and general industrial areas. Further funding, totalling \$85 million, has since been allocated to the fund to support industrial land development, including the Pilbara Strategic Industrial Areas Activation Roadmap.</p>

Key actions	Update	Progress
<p>Facilitate transformational infrastructure upgrades at the AMC to shape the development of the precinct as a world-class, globally competitive hub for manufacturing, fabrication, assembly, maintenance and technology development, servicing the defence, marine, oil and gas, and resource industries.</p>		<p>Four critical infrastructure upgrades for the AMC were identified in the 2020 WA Recovery Plan. All of these have either been completed or are under construction, supporting the development of the precinct as a globally competitive marine hub. The upgrades include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» construction of an upgraded vessel transfer path within the AMC’s Common User Facility (CUF)</li> <li>» construction of an extension to an existing wharf to support the sustainment of naval vessels</li> <li>» intersection upgrades within the AMC to improve traffic flow and safety</li> <li>» construction of a new commercial shipbuilding hall within the northern CUF (under construction).</li> </ul> <p>More infrastructure upgrades are expected to be required within the precinct to support AUKUS related activities. The Australian Government has committed to establishing a consolidated Defence Precinct in Henderson that will be capable of building and sustaining larger and more complex vessels. The Australian Government is committing an initial \$127 million over 3 years to progress planning, consultations, preliminary design and feasibility studies as well as enabling works.</p>
<p>Finalise the State Infrastructure Strategy to understand the State’s infrastructure needs and priorities over the next 20 years and identify solutions to improve the State’s infrastructure system.</p>		<p>Western Australia’s first State Infrastructure Strategy was published in 2022 and lays the foundations for infrastructure planning, delivery, and management for the next two decades.</p> <p>The State Infrastructure Strategy has been developed by Infrastructure Western Australia, Western Australia’s independent infrastructure advisory body that provides advice and assistance to the WA Government on infrastructure matters.</p> <p>The WA Government’s formal response was delivered in February 2023, with 98% of the 93 recommendations supported either in part or in full by the Western Australian Government.</p>

Key actions	Update	Progress
Implement the 10 Year Industrial Lands Strategy		<p>Implementation of the 10 Year Industrial Lands Strategy is underway, with the Western Australian Government approving the Pilbara Strategic Industrial Areas Activation Roadmap and the Native Title Strategy in 2023.</p> <p>In the 2024-25 State Budget, the WA Government announced it will establish the \$500 million Strategic Industries Fund to deliver common-user and other enabling infrastructure at SIAs across regional and metropolitan WA. Funding was also allocated through the 2023-24 Budget to undertake detailed planning and de-constraining activities for strategic industrial land in the Pilbara and the Mid West.</p>
Support the development of Westport to meet Western Australia's long-term freight needs.		<p>Westport is the Western Australian Government's long-term program to investigate, plan and build a future port in Kwinana with integrated road and rail transport networks. Planning continues, with a preferred design for Westport announced in late 2023.</p> <p>As part of Westport's long-term, strategic planning approach, the Western Australian Government is investigating what new technologies and logistic trends may be on the horizon, as well as changes arising from AUKUS within the planned broader Westport precinct. This includes considering everything from hydrogen power to global changes in shipping logistics trends.</p>




## Innovation


The Western Australian Government has sought to facilitate innovation to improve supply chain productivity, efficiency and competitiveness by investing in industry and supporting innovation hubs. Innovation in one segment of a supply chain, can benefit the competitiveness of the whole supply chain and transfer to other supply chains. While Western Australia is a demonstrated world leader in innovation within the resources sector, the State still faces many key challenges such as labour costs, skills and infrastructure constraints, and remoteness. These challenges could limit the State's ability to lead in new and emerging industries; however, these challenges can be overcome through innovation and leveraging the State's strengths.

Key actions	Update	Progress
Leverage \$16.7 million from the Investment Attraction and New Industries Fund to further develop and accelerate innovation-based technologies, and their application to support new and emerging industries' growth and participation in regional and global value chains.		In addition to the Investment Attraction Fund, the now \$25.8 million New Industries Fund (NIF) is accelerating new and emerging businesses in the innovation sector through grants, innovation hubs, awards and sponsorships. The \$40 million partnership between the Western Australian Government and Chevron will see the establishment of a new GreenTech innovation hub and Lower Carbon Grants (LCG) Program.
Continue to support innovation hubs, including the WA AustCyber Innovation Hub, MTPConnect WA Life Sciences Innovation Hub and the WA Data Science Innovation Hub to accelerate innovation and capability development for startups and SMEs.		The Western Australian Government, through the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation, continues to provide support and funding to industry Innovation Hubs. This funding is helping to build capability, economic resilience, jobs and connect small and medium-sized enterprises to local, national and international networks. The WA AustCyber Innovation Hub has been renamed to CyberWest, and a fourth hub has been launched: the Creative Tech Village, based in Bunbury.
Support the establishment of an industry representative body for cybersecurity to facilitate collaboration within industry and with government to increase Western Australian's cybersecurity capability.		The Western Australian Government, through the New Industries Fund, and in partnership with both the City of Joondalup and Edith Cowan University, has helped to establish CyberWest, a new cyber security innovation hub in Western Australia. CyberWest is helping to facilitate connections across industry and build capability by inspiring more people to join the sector and support cyber startups and scale-ups.
Support the expansion of the Cyber Check Me initiative to support local SMEs participating in supply chains become more aware of and safeguard against cyber-attacks.		Delivered by CyberWest, the Cyber Check Me initiative has supported businesses and students to boost their understanding of cybercrime and awareness. Key activities of CyberWest also include networking events and activities, community advocacy, and tertiary and secondary school outreach. This initiative has since been closed and will re-launch with a new name.

## Digital connectivity

The growth of supply chain activities in Western Australian, especially those that are transitioning rapidly to robotics and automation, requires competitive digital connectivity and a digitally enabled workforce. Recognising the importance of digital technologies in enabling future industry, the Western Australian Government has made significant progress in upgrading digital infrastructure both within government and across the State, with a particular focus on regional connectivity.



Key actions	Update	Progress
Support digital transformation to improve the productivity, efficiency and competitiveness of the State's supply chain activities.		In 2023, the Western Australian Government undertook initial scoping work to explore opportunities to develop Western Australia's digital economy. The WA Government is currently engaging with stakeholders as part of the development of a Digital Industries Acceleration Strategy, focused on speeding up the digital transformation of Western Australian industries. It is anticipated that this strategy will be finalised in 2024.  Leveraging the established Local Capability Fund, the Western Australian Government recently successfully piloted a round of grants to support the digital transformation of Western Australian businesses.
Invest in regional digital infrastructure and ICT capabilities to improve digital connectivity and support the development of supply chain activities for agricultural and pastoral businesses and communities across regional Western Australia.		Programs like the Western Australian Regional Digital Connectivity Program, the Mobile Black Spot Program and the Digital Farm Grants program have enabled the State to leverage support from the Australian Government, industry and third-parties to co-fund the continued expansion and improvement of mobile coverage, internet broadband and other digital connectivity programs in regional and remote communities of Western Australia.
Invest in Austmine's Western Australian METS Digital Mining Export Hub to build export capacity, knowledge and opportunities between regional, remote and metropolitan SMEs.		In partnership with the Australian Government, the Western Australian Government supported the launch of Austmine's Western Australian METS Digital Mining Export Hub with a \$350,000 contribution. Since its establishment in 2020, the hub has become the focal point for Western Australian METS companies, state and federal agencies and other stakeholders interested in exporting.

Key actions	Update	Progress
<p>Commit to upgrade ICT systems across government to ensure that service delivery keeps pace with public expectations.</p>		<p>In 2021, the Western Australian Government launched the Digital Strategy for the Western Australian Government 2021-2025, to accelerate and guide the public sector's digital transformation journey. Under this strategy, the Western Australian Government has committed to four strategic priorities, including Better services, Informed decisions, Safe and secure, and Digitally inclusive. Since its launch, the WA Government has invested over \$1 billion towards progressing the delivery of the strategy through the Digital Capability Fund.</p>




## Science and technology



Science and technology are critical to supporting supply chain activities through new product development and improvements in processes and productivity. Leveraging Western Australia’s existing science and technology capability in the resources sector, the Western Australian Government has helped to identify opportunities to deploy more technologies, to improve the productivity and competitiveness of supply chain activities across a range of industries and emphasise the crucial role of a qualified STEM workforce. Since 2021, Western Australian has seen particular success related to technologies such as automation, robotics and remote operations

Key actions	Update	Progress
Continue to fund a supply chain SME capability building pilot program through National Energy Resources Australia to connect LNG companies and first tier contractors to SMEs with innovative solutions, including in automation, robotics and remote processes.		In 2021, National Energy Resources Australia, in partnership with the Western Australian Government, launched the GeneratER Open Innovation Challenge Program. Since the program’s establishment, it has helped SMEs from across Western Australia connect with the energy supply chain, demonstrate local solutions to industry challenges and maximise opportunities for collaboration and innovation.
Establish the Automation and Robotics Precinct (AARP) at Neerabup to enable testing, research, development and training in autonomous, remote operations, and robotic systems and equipment.		The Western Australian Government invested \$20 million to establish the Automation and Robotics Precinct in Neerabup. Since the precinct’s launch in 2021, it has become a world leading facility for testing, research and development, and training in robotics and automation.

## Defence industries

Defence is a growing industry both nationally and globally. Since 2021, the Australian Government has reshaped its national defence strategy under the Defence Strategic Review (DSR) and committed to acquiring new nuclear submarines under the AUKUS trilateral partnership. This has already begun to introduce new opportunities for the defence industry in Western Australia, with HMAS Stirling positioned to be the home of Submarine Rotational Force – West. To support these new opportunities, the Western Australian Government has invested significantly in local defence industry capability, including through workforce development, industry development, and investment attraction and trade promotion activities.



Key actions	Update	Progress
<p>Continue to invest in fabrication, sustainment and maintenance infrastructure development at the AMC to increase the capability of Western Australian businesses to deliver vessel fabrication and maintenance contracts.</p>		<p>The Western Australian Government is working with the Australian Government to ensure the Australian Marine Complex (AMC) has the ability to support Australia's defence industries and capability requirements.</p> <p>The announcement of the Enhanced Lethality Surface Combatant Fleet by the Australian Government in February 2024 highlights significant future shipbuilding and sustainment work to be undertaken at the AMC. The WA Government will continue to work with the Australian Government to understand and maximise opportunities for Western Australian businesses.</p> <p>Following release of the Defence Strategic Review in 2023, work has begun on the development of a register of infrastructure for the State-wide Defence Infrastructure Strategy (SDIS) to identify current civilian infrastructure that could be leveraged by Defence. The Western Australian Government continues to work with key stakeholders to identify these opportunities.</p>



Key actions	Update	Progress
<p>Attract large defence prime contractors to Western Australia to increase opportunities for local businesses in the defence supply chain.</p>		<p>Western Australia continues to work and partner with defence primes to grow opportunities for the State's local defence industries. In November 2023, Western Australia signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the world's largest nuclear submarine manufacturer, Huntington Ingalls Industries, to support industry and workforce development as the State prepares for AUKUS. Two further MOUs were signed with Babcock and ASC in 2024, creating immediate opportunities for Western Australian SMEs to uplift capability and tap into the global supply chain.</p> <p>The Western Australian Government is also supporting defence industries to access skilled workers to support their operations in the State. Raytheon Australia has partnered with South Metropolitan TAFE as part of their Invested in Exmouth program, designed to provide the community with the robust skills and knowledge needed to create strategic naval and space capabilities.</p>
<p>Develop a defence capability promotion plan to improve the visibility of the State's defence capability to national and international markets, increasing opportunities to secure global defence contracts.</p>		<p>The Western Australian Government is currently developing defence industries capability statements to promote partnerships and leverage Western Australia's strength in the sector, alongside hosting the Indian Ocean Defence &amp; Security Conference and participating in the Land Forces International Land Defence Exposition, the Indo-Pacific International Maritime Exposition and the Avalon Australian International Airshow. The statements will be distributed both domestically, and in the State's key defence markets, including the United Kingdom, United States, India, Japan and Indonesia.</p>


## Mining and METS

Western Australia’s mining and METS sector is diverse and world leading and continues to be a key contributor to the State and national economy. In addition to reliable supply, Western Australia has strong comparative advantages that include advanced technical mining expertise, a world-class services sector, an enabling and robust legislative framework and close proximity to key Asian markets.

To meet global demand for the critical minerals needed for future renewable energy technologies, the Western Australian Government is investing into the mining and METS sector to expand upon the State’s existing strengths and unlock new value-adding opportunities, and ensure our supply chains remain robust and reliable for our trading partners.






Key actions	Update	Progress
Establish a Local Manufacturing Investment Fund (LMIF) to support Western Australian manufacturers to invest in capital and undertake research and development on innovative manufacturing techniques to increase their capability to manufacture iron ore rail car parts.		<p>The \$15 million LMIF was established in 2022 and, to date, it has committed funding for a number of initiatives, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» \$6.9 million for Gemco Rail to upgrade its Forrestfield facility and establish a new rail wagon manufacturing and maintenance facility in Karratha</li> <li>» \$1 million to support the CORE Innovation Hub to establish a Rail Collaboration Centre in Karratha, with hubs located in Newman and Perth</li> <li>» \$1 million support to UGL Rail Services to establish a rail car manufacturing workshop at their Bassendean premise</li> <li>» \$340,929 to Gemco Rail to modernise their Forrestfield facility.</li> </ul>
Explore the implementation of a certification process for critical minerals products to demonstrate the quality and sustainability of Western Australia’s battery and critical minerals mining and processing operations.		<p>In 2022, the Ministerial Taskforce overseeing implementation of the Western Australian Battery and Critical Minerals Strategy considered the recommendations of a working group established to investigate certification options. Following consideration of the working group’s advice, it was decided that a certification scheme for Western Australian would not be pursued at this time.</p> <p>The Western Australian Government continues to monitor the development of existing schemes with a view to assessing the merits of endorsing an existing certification scheme, or developing a new scheme, where clear market advantage to do so can be established.</p>




Key actions	Update	Progress
<p>Attract investment in pre-cursor/cathode active materials manufacturing to support Western Australia to move up the global battery value chain.</p>		<p>To date, the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (JTSI) has successfully attracted interest and preliminary investment in precursor cathode active materials manufacturing, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» IGO and Wyloo metals, in partnership with a planned battery chemical partner, are progressing development of an integrated battery material facility, producing pre-cursor cathode active material (P-CAM), and have been allocated land in the Kwinana Strategic Industrial Area (SIA).</li> <li>» Investment Attraction Fund grant recipient Austvolt is planning to develop P-CAM manufacturing in Western Australia and has been allocated land in the Rockingham-Kwinana SIA.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, JTSI supported the launch of the Cathode Precursor Production Pilot Plant in Bentley in July 2022, aiming to demonstrate the commercial and technical viability of manufacturing P-CAM.</p>
<p>Identify future skills needs in the battery and critical minerals industries and implement training packages to address skills gaps.</p>		<p>In 2021, South Metropolitan TAFE completed and published the Vocational Skills Gap Assessment and Workforce Development Plan, assessing the skill and job requirements for value-add activities in the battery and critical minerals sector,</p> <p>The Western Australian Government has also invested in developing specialised vocational training related to the battery and critical minerals industries, such as the design and installation of on-grid and off-grid battery storage systems.</p> <p>Work continues to assess new skill requirements for this developing sector and the WA Government is also in negotiations with the Australian Government to establish a Clean Energy TAFE Centre of Excellence in Western Australia.</p>

Key actions	Update	Progress
<p>Support local manufacturers to provide mining fabrication, equipment and maintenance services.</p>		<p>The \$15 million Local Manufacturing Investment Fund (LMIF) is supporting manufacturers to provide services to the mining sector. An example of this is Perth-based company Gemco Rail, which was allocated \$6.9 million in funding to support the company's railcar manufacturing capabilities. The funding will be used by Gemco to upgrade its Forrestfield facility and establish a new facility in Karratha, supporting the construction of 100 iron ore railcar wagons for Rio Tinto, and other work.</p> <p>Additionally, a \$1 million funding package has been committed to the CORE Innovation Hub to establish a new Rail Collaboration Centre in Karratha, with hubs located in Newman and Perth.</p>

## Energy

The global transition to decarbonisation is driving unprecedented demand for low carbon energy sources and renewables. This has presented significant opportunities for Western Australia, which is well placed to become a global clean energy producer and export leader given the State's abundant resources, track record in building large-scale energy industries, and excellent infrastructure and technical prowess in commodity development. In order to position the State as a major global clean energy leader, the Western Australian Government has provided support to large-scale renewable projects while also investing in downstream value-adding activities.




Key actions	Update	Progress
Identify appropriate industrial land for use as a manufacturing hub for wind turbine blades and invest \$10 million to support the development of a wind turbine manufacturing industry.		As part of the Western Australian Government's Wind Turbine Manufacturing Initiative, a full feasibility study was undertaken by an independent consultant to explore opportunities for Western Australian businesses to manufacture and service wind turbine components. An Interagency Wind Turbine Manufacturing Working Group has been established and is considering progression of key recommendations arising from the study.
Fund and deliver 900 stand-alone power systems (SPS) over five years to increase the reliability of power supply, particularly in the regions.		Following a successful trial at six farming properties in the Great Southern region that commenced in 2016, Western Power has rolled out 52 stand-alone power system (SPS) units in 2020, and 72 in 2022. A further 180 SPS units are planned to be rolled out before the end of 2024, with up to 4,000 SPS units to be rolled out across the grid over the coming decade.
Undertake a downstream industries critical infrastructure review to provide an understanding of where infrastructure investment is required to facilitate new downstream gas processing projects.		The Western Australian Government commissioned an internal review into downstream critical infrastructure in 2022 and is continuing to work closely with industry to facilitate new gas processing projects.
Develop and publish an annual Domestic Gas Commitment Statement to assist proponents to assess the domestic gas market and secure gas supply for their operations.		The Domestic Gas Commitment Statement is published annually in December. The Western Australian Government continues to consult with industry to inform the development of the annual statement.
Model the renewable hydrogen value chain to identify bottlenecks and opportunities for capability development.		Renewable hydrogen value chain modelling was undertaken in 2022-23 across Western Australia with contributions from an interagency working group. The modelling indicated that hydrogen production in Western Australia is competitive with respect to other global production sites. The Pilbara and Mid-West regions were identified as priorities for infrastructure development, while hydrogen pipelines were identified as the most cost-efficient method for hydrogen transportation.

Key actions	Update	Progress
Undertake 3D modelling of geological storage for renewable hydrogen to increase understanding of the State's storage potential.		Stage One reporting provided a list of priority depleted oil and gas reservoirs for hydrogen storage and has been published. Funding for the Stage Two modelling project was unable to be secured by the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety.
Review relevant existing legislation, regulations and standards affecting the hydrogen industry and develop a regulatory framework that will enable growth of the renewable hydrogen industry.		<p>In 2021, a preliminary review of the legislative framework affecting the hydrogen industry was completed, identifying priority legislative amendments required to facilitate and regulate the emerging sector.</p> <p>Since 2021, the Western Australian Government has completed, or is progressing, several initiatives including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» introducing diversification leases, and mechanisms to allow for the exploration and production of natural hydrogen and blending of hydrogen in transmission pipelines under existing State legislation</li> <li>» working with the Australian Government to amend the National Gas Rules to accommodate hydrogen and develop National Codes of Best Practice for hydrogen production safety, hydrogen refuelling stations and hydrogen appliances, plant and equipment compliance.</li> </ul> <p>Guidance and policy documents clarifying the Western Australia Government's policy position on land access for large scale renewable hydrogen projects have been drafted and are expected to be published in 2024. Development of a Renewable Hydrogen Target to support demand is also progressing.</p>
Prepare a business case for the development of a Mid-West Hydrogen Hub in the Oakajee SIA.		<p>The Mid-West Clean Hydrogen Hub: Activation of the Oakajee Strategic Industrial Area business case was developed in 2022, and supported by a \$6 million investment by the Western Australian Government for preliminary planning works and studies.</p> <p>Six proponents allocated land for key strategic hydrogen projects in the Oakajee Strategic Industrial Area by the Industrial Lands Panel.</p>





## Health and medical life sciences





With increasing global demand for health and medical products and services, particularly since the emergence of COVID-19, as well as opportunities for trade with growing markets, Western Australia’s innovative health and medical life sciences sector is well placed to become a bigger part of growing global health supply chains, and support the diversification of our economy. In recognition of the sector’s importance, the Western Australian Government is investing in the sector to ensure the State’s health and medical life science industry is globally competitive.

Key actions	Update	Progress
Launch a Health and Medical Life Sciences Industry Strategy to provide a coordinated and collaborative approach to develop the health and medical technology sector.		The Health and Medical Life Sciences Industry Strategy was launched in 2021 and was supported by an \$11.5 million investment to support its implementation.
Raise the profile of Western Australian health and medical life sciences companies to improve visibility of the State’s capability to national and international markets, and attract investment.		<p>The Western Australian Government has supported the health and medical life sciences industry through the following initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» providing funding to the WA Life Sciences Innovation Hub and Life Sciences WA to help raise the profile of the Western Australian sector locally and externally, including inbound and outbound delegation support</li> <li>» leveraging Life Sciences WA and WA Life Sciences Innovation Hub to share market insights with industry</li> <li>» supporting Western Australian presence at international delegations, including at AusMedtech2023, AusMedtech2024, BIO23, BIO24, AusBiotech2023 and 2024 Bioshares Biotech; leading delegations; promotion and information booths; and providing travel support grants for WA companies</li> <li>» leveraging the WA Life Sciences Innovation Hub and Life Sciences WA to support better connectivity, networking and market insights for industry</li> <li>» providing funding to companies to attend major events and conferences to engage with prospective partners and promote their capability.</li> </ul>
Review local health and medical supply chain risks and develop risk mitigation strategies to ensure sovereign capability is maintained.		The Department of Health conducted a review of health and medical supply chains following the experience of the COVID-19 pandemic. Risks that were identified as part of this review are being managed through the Department of Health’s Supply Chain Resilience Project and increased inventory holdings.

## Primary industries



Primary industries have long played a key role in Western Australian economy. To maintain the State's competitive advantage, the Western Australian Government has provided support to industry to take advantage of value-adding opportunities while also ensuring supply chains remain resilient.

Key actions	Update	Progress
Continue to implement the Food and Beverage Fund to support the growth of metropolitan and regional food processing operations and further value-adding.		The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) continues to administer the Food and Beverage Fund, which includes the Value Add Investment Grants Program, which aims to boost local food and beverage manufacturing and value-adding.
Leverage existing project facilitation services to attract and support large-scale food and beverage processing companies to locate to Western Australia.		<p>The Western Australian Government continues to support the growth of metropolitan and regional food processing operations, as well as value-adding activities.</p> <p>Through DPIRD, the WA Government promotes and facilitates investment into agriculture, agri-tech, fisheries and food industries by supporting businesses and investors, engaging with industry and collaborating across government. This includes through delivery of programs such as the Investor Readiness Program, which aims to support Western Australian agriculture, food and beverage businesses to be more internationally competitive.</p> <p>Invest and Trade Western Australia also plays a key role in facilitating investment and trade into WA, with the network expanding to now include offices across six international hubs including ASEAN, North East Asia, India-Gulf, UK and Europe, the Americas, and China.</p>

Key actions	Update	Progress
Develop and implement the agribusiness investment attraction strategy to attract large-scale food and beverage processing companies to invest and establish operations in Western Australia.		<p>The Western Australian Government continues to promote and support investment attraction in the agribusiness sector. This includes through the Value Add Investment Grants (VAIG) Program, which supports agriculture, food and beverage businesses to invest in the expansion or relocation of their value-adding and manufacturing operations in Western Australia.</p> <p>\$17.56 million has been committed through VAIG over three grant rounds, supporting 66 value-adding food and beverage businesses with high-growth potential to invest in new projects or expansion opportunities to build competitiveness and grow business opportunities in WA. This has unlocked \$152 million in private sector investment and created an estimated 909 new jobs.</p>
Support development of submissions for Australian Government funding into agricultural freight infrastructure to increase the efficiency and timeliness of agricultural supply to export markets, and the competitiveness of Western Australia's agricultural exports.		The Western Australian Government continues to engage with the Australian Government to secure funding to improve the competitiveness of Western Australia's agricultural exports.
Build capacity of perishable food and beverage exporters to use suitable sea and air freight solutions and associated technologies and management to enable continued international competitiveness.		The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) Agribusiness Food and Trade Team works closely with food and beverage manufacturers to build capacity, sustainability, and competitiveness. DPIRD administers a range of support programs for agrifood exporters, including the Agrifood and Business Voucher (ABV) Program and the Value Add Investment Grants (VAIG) Program.
Undertake a study into COVID-19 agrifood supply chain disruptions to inform future government investment to improve logistics supply chains.		The Western Australian Government has completed a review into COVID-19 Agrifood supply chain disruptions, and this is informing future government planning and investment.

## Space industries

Western Australia’s southern hemisphere location, longitude, dry environmental conditions, radio quiet zones and clear skies have provided ideal conditions for major space projects since the late 1950s. Today, Western Australia is involved in a range of space operations and hosts significant space infrastructure for both civil and defence applications. The Western Australian Government has continued to support the sector in leveraging these advantages by providing direct support to industry, building a STEM-qualified workforce, and promoting the State’s space capabilities both domestically and internationally.

Key actions	Update	Progress
Develop a WA Space Industry Strategy to build capability and promote Western Australia’s geographic and competitive advantages to attract investment and grow supply chain opportunities.		The Western Australian Government is currently progressing work on the WA Space Industry Strategy, which is anticipated to be launched in late 2024.
Continue to support Australian Remote Operations for Space and Earth (AROSE) consortium, Space Automation, Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Control Complex (SpAARC), Australian Space Data Analysis Facility and Curtin University’s Binar Space Program.		The Western Australian Government continues to support space industries through investments into a variety of projects across the State. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» \$5.5 million to support the establishment and operations of AROSE</li> <li>» \$750,000 to support the Australian Space Data Analysis Facility</li> <li>» \$3.5 million to support the establishment of SpAARC, which launched in November 2022</li> <li>» \$5 million to support SpAARC space mission operations</li> <li>» \$3 million to support Curtin University’s Binar CubeSat Space Program, which in August 2021 launched Western Australia’s first satellite (Binar-1) into space</li> <li>» \$500,000 to support The University of Western Australia’s TeraNet project to establish a commercial optical space communications network.</li> </ul>

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