A Science Statement for Western Australia

GROWING WESTERN AUSTRALIA

FIVE SCIENCE PRIORITY AREAS

Medicine and Health

Radio Astronomy

Biodiversity and Marine Science

Mining and Energy

Agriculture and Food

For more information please visit www.dpc.wa.gov.au/science
THE WAY FORWARD AND THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF SCIENCE
The Office of Science was established in 2013 as a stand-alone office within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, reflecting the importance of science and a science culture to the future development of the State.

Role:
Provide a long-term strategic context for the delivery of research and development programs across Western Australia.

Support the coordination of research and development across Government Departments to enable efficiencies of scale and scope to be identified.

Facilitate linkages across Government agencies and between industry, research and academic organisations at a local, national and international levels.

Encourage and facilitate co-investment from the private sector, State and Commonwealth Government and other national funding bodies.

Key priorities over the next two years:
• Facilitate links across the State’s significant scientific and industrial capacity to support the development of strategies for the State Government’s science priority areas.
• Strengthen existing links with the Commonwealth Government and support the building of stronger links with international science organisations, including across the Asia Pacific region.
• Support State Government agencies to understand their science needs and facilitate cross-Government linkages.
• Work with the Commonwealth Government and relevant State Government agencies to establish the Australian SKA site in accordance with agreed international timeframes.
• Maximise the economic and social benefits of the SKA project to Western Australia, including ensuring that Western Australia is best placed to exploit the opportunities in the data intensive sector.
• Work with Government and other organisations to develop a new data linkage model that builds on the pioneering population level data linkage system in Western Australia’s health sector.
• Lead and facilitate collaboration across science education and engagement providers to maximise the impact of their activities in Western Australia.
• Support the identification of a new location for Scitech and strategic planning for the future of the organisation.

CHIEF SCIENTIST
Professor Peter Klinken is the current Chief Scientist of Western Australia.

The Chief Scientist reports directly to the Minister for Science and provides independent, external advice to the State Government on:

• Science and innovation in Western Australia.
• Broadening the economy through science.
• Developing science industries in the State.
• Promoting Western Australia as a science leader in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Chief Scientist works closely with the Office of Science and plays a key role in:
• Enhancing collaborations locally, nationally and internationally.
• Attracting Commonwealth and industry investment into Western Australian science.
• Building leading-edge scientific capacity in the State
• Promoting science policies and initiatives at meetings across academia, industry, Government and the community.
• Acting as an ambassador for science, helping the State Government raise public awareness of the importance of science.

Key priorities for the Chief Scientist over the next two years:
• Work with the Office of Science to guide the development of science strategies underpinning the State Government’s science priorities.
• Co-Chair the Marine Science Roundtables in support of the Blueprint for Marine Science 2050.
• Provide advice to the State Government on the Peel-Harvey estuary.
• Work with stakeholders to develop a long-term strategy for agricultural research in the State.