



WHEATBELT INNOVATION ROADMAP

JUNE 2018



1. The Wheatbelt Innovation Partnership and Roadmap

The Wheatbelt Innovation Partnership (the Partnership) is an alliance of regional leaders¹ committed to driving innovation in the region to support job creation, economic growth and community vibrancy. The key mechanism for gaining alignment on the initiatives that will best support sustainable impact from innovation is the development of the Wheatbelt Innovation Roadmap (the Roadmap).

The New Industries Fund (NIF) is a \$16.7 million State Government program that is an important catalyst to implementing elements of the roadmap. The fund has been designed to support venture creation and accelerate business growth to diversify the Western Australian economy and create new jobs. To optimise State-wide economic outcomes, \$4.5 million of the NIF has been allocated to the State's nine regions as sub-program referred to as the Regional New Industries Fund (RNIF).

The RNIF comprises two allocations, a Regional Stream and a State Network Stream, totalling \$4.5 million over four years. Funded projects may span a maximum of four years, ending in the 2020-2021 financial year and require a 1:1 ratio of matched contribution (cash and in-kind services) that has an appropriate cash flow.

Each of the nine Regional Development Commissions will establish and coordinate a Regional Innovation Partnership in their region. The Partnership is to be inclusive and consist of an appropriate mix of public, private and academia stakeholders with an interest in innovation and business growth. To be eligible for funding, the Partnership will collaboratively develop a regionally-owned innovation roadmap, action plan and project proposals that build and enhance their region's economy.

¹ Partnership members were self-nominated at the initial Regional Innovation Forum and are listed at Attachment 3.

The innovation roadmap and project proposals that meet the guideline criteria will be the basis of the application and assessment for funding through the RNIF.

It is anticipated that activity and initiatives outlined in this Roadmap go well beyond the scope and investment of the NIF and be a foundation for an ongoing innovation agenda for the Wheatbelt.

2. Shared Vision

The Partnership and Roadmap will act as catalysts, enabling new business/ enterprise activity to continue to add to the diversity and the vibrancy of the Wheatbelt's economy and community.

Ultimately effective implementation of the Roadmap will see:

- jobs growth in sectors and enterprises that seize opportunity from global trends aligned to the Wheatbelt's areas of strength (food production, mining, transport, logistics and niche manufacturing and population services), and
- effective transition of those parts of the Wheatbelt economy that are impacted by climate change, digitization, demographic changes and economic restructuring.

The objectives of the Partnership are to:

1. Identify and gain alignment about agreed outcomes, strategy and delivery mechanisms (projects) to drive innovation that delivers sustainable value and growth to Wheatbelt enterprises and outline these priorities in the Wheatbelt Innovation Roadmap;
2. Identify and promote existing initiatives and implement new initiatives by seeking out and connecting business partners, collaborators and agencies that can assist with new ideas; and
3. Undertake ongoing review of Roadmap implementation.

3. Value Proposition

The Partnership agrees that initiatives that are most likely to deliver best impact in the Wheatbelt are those which have:

- Strong alignment of vision of what a dynamic innovative Wheatbelt looks like;
- Stated measurable and observable outcomes to be achieved ;
- Strategies that build on the good things in place, maximising collaboration and minimising duplication and replication;
- Action learning underpinning capacity building by coaching/ mentoring;
- An emphasis on building capacity, attracting investment and/or growing markets; and
- Alignment to the prioritisation criteria used by the WDC Board to determine high impact initiatives, namely:
 - Jobs and economic growth
 - Private Investment growth
 - Population attraction (particularly work force)
 - Vibrant communities (focused on service reform)
 - Innovative solutions and governance that drive collaboration

The Partnership will maintain the momentum of innovation by building the following characteristics of the innovation pillars for the Wheatbelt.

Talent, Skills and Entrepreneurship

Wheatbelt Strategic Pillar: Clever People: Lifelong learning – innovation and leadership drive economic growth and community vibrancy.

- Regional education, training, research bodies and/or industry specialists underpin initiatives and are able to provide support and programs to match need
- Outside expertise is accessed through digital platforms and alternative methodologies used where digital connectivity is an issue
- Those businesses that diversify the economy and grow jobs in new sectors and for aboriginal and young people are targeted

Investment and Infrastructure

Wheatbelt Strategic Pillar: Vibrant Economy – A diversified base builds on the Region's assets and aligns with state, national and international opportunity; Key Infrastructure is identified and invested in.

- Continue to maximise new opportunities for investment in the region
- Invest in digital platforms that allow for information exchange and enhanced collaboration
- Monitor the roll out of digital infrastructure and capacity and seek to influence future investment decisions to address gaps
- Continue to identify and advocate for solutions to gaps in economic infrastructure that inhibit innovation.

Culture and Collaboration

Wheatbelt Strategic Pillar: Effective Partnerships – Cost effective and high impact investment occurs as a result of good information, quality project management and leveraged investment.

- Challenge current perceptions within and external to the region about the region's potential
- Encourage collaboration as a key activity of all initiatives
- Identify successful innovators and share their stories to inspire others and promote the region
- Support enterprises which enable Aboriginal and young people to gain economic independence

Marketing and Promotion

Wheatbelt Strategic Pillar: Marketing Wheatbelt Opportunities – the Wheatbelt value proposition is clear to investors in government and private enterprise and families wishing to live, work and visit.

- Continue to drive a regional brand that captures the diversity of opportunities across the Wheatbelt, including the profiling of successful innovators
- Participate in the development and implementation of cross regional marketing (including branding) and promotion campaigns
- Align marketing effort to target markets



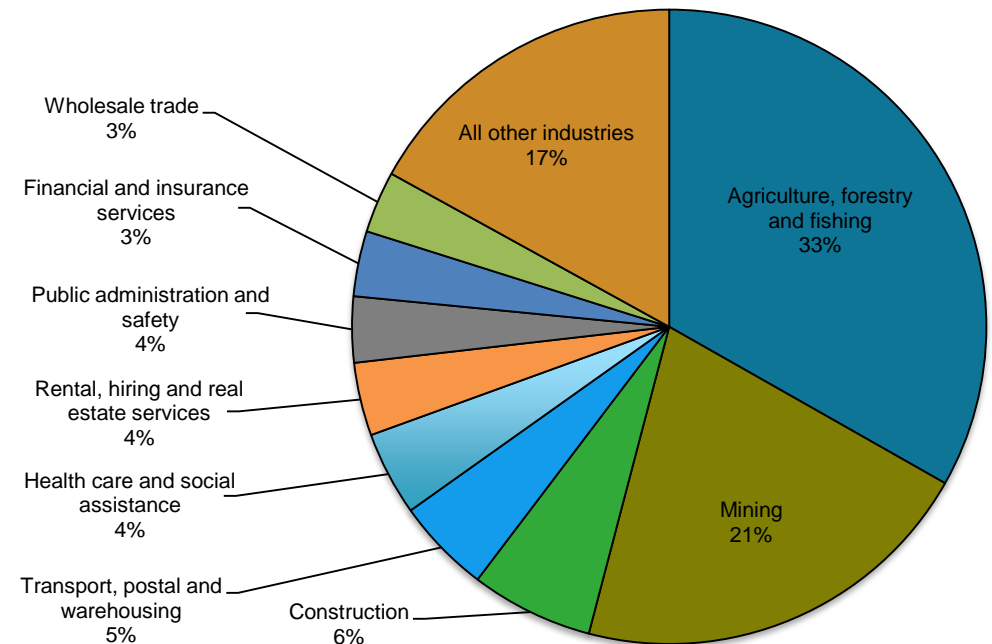
4. Wheatbelt Regional Overview

- GRP of \$6.66 billion in 2017¹, growing at 2.0% AAGR (2012 – 2017)²
- Largest Agricultural producer, producing \$3.35 billion of gross value of agricultural commodities (41% of WA's production)³
- Nearly 10,000 small businesses driving the Wheatbelt economy
- WA's third most populous region, with nearly 75,000 people⁴, growing at an AAGR of 0.81% (2006 – 2016)⁵
- Population distributed across 5 sub-regions (Table 1)⁶
- 4.5% of the population is Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander⁷
- 16% of the population is born overseas⁸
- Outmigration of 15 – 44 year olds
- 20% of the population is over 65⁹ increasing by 54.7% since 2006¹⁰
- 24.7% employment concentrated in the agricultural, forestry and fishing sector¹¹
- 2016 unemployment rate of 6.1%, a significant increase from 3.6% in 2011¹²
- 2016 labour force participation rate of 58.1%, a significant decrease from 67.5% in 2011¹³
- Wheatbelt total personal median income is \$666 per week, less than WA's (\$724 per week)¹⁴
- High volunteer rate of 29.4%, compared to WA's of 19.0%¹⁵
- Wheatbelt high school enrolments have increased by 14.2%, at an AAGR of 3.5% from 2014 to 2018¹⁶

Table 1: Wheatbelt Sub-regional Populations

Sub-region	Estimated Resident Population	Proportion of Wheatbelt Population
Avon	26,700	36%
Central Coast	14,000	19%
Central East	9,600	13%
Central Midlands	6,200	8%
Wheatbelt South	18,000	24%

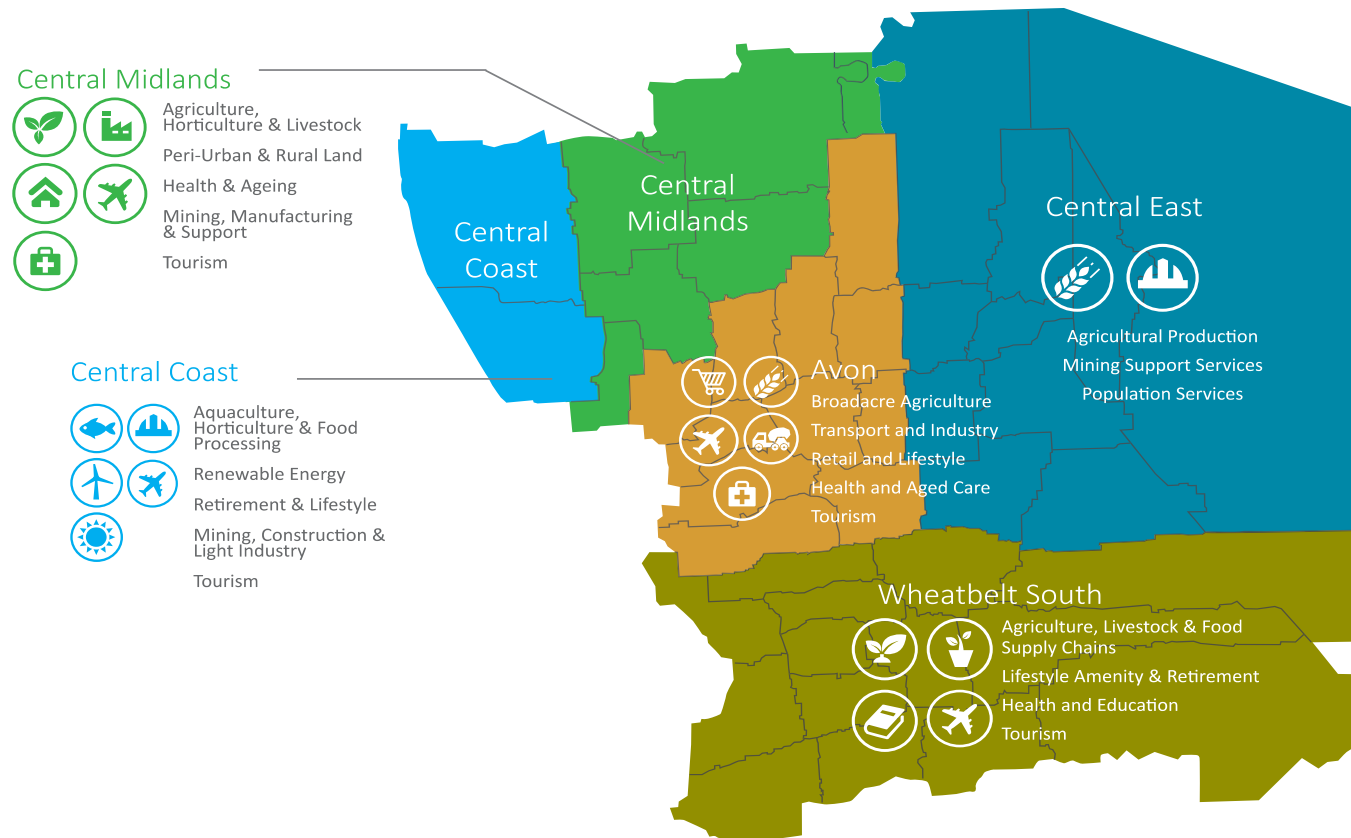
Industry Share to Wheatbelt GRP, 2017



5. Wheatbelt Economic Growth Prospects

Sub-regional Summary of Economic Opportunities

The Map below provides a summary of each sub-region's opportunities for economic growth as identified in sub-regional economic planning strategies.



6. Building on areas of strength – Mapping the Wheatbelt Innovation Eco-system

There are a range of individuals, organisations, alliances and partnerships in the Wheatbelt that support this innovation agenda. They include:

- **Innovation Champions:** individuals who provide political, business or financial support to sponsor change
- **Innovation Drivers:** organisations who coordinate with stakeholders and facilitate action towards outcomes
- **Benchmark leaders:** regions who have lead successful changes in communities and can share knowledge or experience
- **Keystone businesses:** firms that represent the largest employers or investors in the region
- **Focus clients**²: entrepreneurs and innovators being supported by the ecosystem to turn economic inputs into outputs at an accelerate pace

The Wheatbelt is a highly dispersed region in terms of population, economic activity and the ecosystems that support innovation. Most regions are able to develop 'critical mass' innovation support systems through the existence of significant existing business

support and capability development organisations (CCIs, LGAs, Universities, business support organisations). With five regional centres supporting nearly 200 communities; multiple small CCIs supporting nearly 10,000 small businesses and relatively low innovation capacity within the business themselves due to their size and access to capital, the sustainability and vibrancy of the small business support mechanisms themselves must be a focus of innovation activity in the Wheatbelt.

However, as existing entrepreneurs have proven, small and nimble is a key enabler to quick development and adoption of innovative practice, and again initiatives within a Wheatbelt innovation agenda should account for this advantage.

The diagram below is representative of who will be involved and targeted in terms of profiling existing and supporting new innovation activity. A priority of the Roadmap is to bring together this 'coalition of the willing' and support them in their efforts to build business enterprise. It is anticipated that as the Partnership grows and the Roadmap matures, this ecosystem will continue to evolve.

² For a more comprehensive list refer Attachment 4 and the RDA Wheatbelt 2016, 'Entrepreneurial Innovation in the Wheatbelt'



7. Innovation Pillars – What is important in the Wheatbelt Context

INNOVATION PILLARS			
Talent, skills & Entrepreneurs	Investment & Infrastructure	Culture & Collaboration	Marketing & Promotion
<p><i>How do we build and maintain a strong pipeline of talent with a relevant mix of STEM and entrepreneurial skills to commercialise ideas globally?</i></p> <p>There are individuals and niche areas of innovation in the Wheatbelt. Strengthening the lifelong learning opportunities and attracting new talent with STEM and entrepreneurial skills will result in the creation of new jobs as well as growth and greater diversity in the economy.</p> <p><i>Workforce development including service delivery reform in the education and training sector:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadening career paths • Linking education and training to Wheatbelt employment opportunities • Teaching and valuing creativity and entrepreneurialism. • Develop mechanisms to provide innovative environments so that the 	<p><i>How do we ensure an accessible network of transport, telecoms and capital to facilitate the movement of people, information and goods?</i></p> <p>The Wheatbelt's transport network provides strong market access to the metropolitan area and 6 of the State's ports. There are some parts of the network that are ageing and require upgrades.</p> <p>The Region's telecommunications network is generally poor although most major towns have some connectivity.</p> <p>There is minimal capital available in the region with a necessity to attract external investment to undertake major projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase telecommunication band width to build the Wheatbelt's innovation capacity • Create a digital platform (digital infrastructure) that 	<p><i>How do we increase connectivity between regions and stakeholders to better support entrepreneurs and innovators for success?</i></p> <p>While a number of collaborative platforms and organisations exist in the Wheatbelt there is not a specific focus on collaboration of entrepreneurs and innovators. An improved culture of valuing creative thinkers and innovation and working collaboratively will support regional innovators to develop and commercialise concepts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage stakeholders to excite and ignite different ideas • Capitalise on mutually beneficial, cross-regional innovation linkages • Use a digital platform to connect a wide spectrum of unique individuals, 	<p><i>How do we collaborate our successes and develop a consistent globally recognised brand that attracts investment and talent to our regions?</i></p> <p>The Wheatbelt brand and current perceptions of the region are mixed in relation to innovation and entrepreneurship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showcase Wheatbelt innovation case studies • Promote good news stories, "can do" growth and opportunity to attract business, investment and people and inspire innovation • Build regional alumni network (share and promote success) • Investigate cooperatives and/or clusters around start-ups to support marketing and promotion • Support targeted marketing to grow trade opportunities


7. Innovation Pillars – What is important in the Wheatbelt Context

INNOVATION PILLARS			
Talent, skills & Entrepreneurs	Investment & Infrastructure	Culture & Collaboration	Marketing & Promotion
<i>talent, skills & entrepreneurs can flourish</i> <i>Skills sharing and importation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support talented people to live and work in the region • Utilise digital linkages to connect to skills external to the region 	<i>easily transports valuable information and ideas</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen partnerships to attract investment 	<i>institutions, businesses and stakeholders</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support diverse activity (mentoring, experts in residents, 'Geeks and Hacks') to maximize impact 	

8. Wheatbelt Innovation Action Plan

Given the above analysis, the Roadmap action plan will be targeted at:

- Driving collaboration across a diverse economic landscape comprised of the most part micro and small businesses;
- Strengthening an innovation culture and encouraging new industry sectors;
- Facilitating economic participation;
- Transitioning the mature commodity based Wheatbelt economy to grow value from higher value niche activity.

 1. Develop a Roadmap: <i>The Wheatbelt develops, implements and continually refines an Innovation Roadmap that grows jobs and new industry sectors</i>				
Outputs	Strategy	Project/s	Lead	Time Horizon
1.1 Wheatbelt Innovation Roadmap is effectively implemented and reviewed	Drive, co-ordinate, promote, link to other resources, monitor and evaluate Innovation agenda	Co-ordinator	Wheatbelt Development Commission <i>(dependent on resourcing)</i>	Horizon 1
		Independent evaluation	Wheatbelt Innovation Partnership /WDC Board	Horizons 1, 2 & 3 (ongoing)
1.2 Innovation enablers in the Wheatbelt are recognised and strengthened	Map the ecosystem: Collaboration (community & key stakeholders) to identify innovation inhibitors and enablers	Innovation Partnership	Wheatbelt Innovation Partnership	Horizon 1
1.3 Innovation ideas are connected to support mechanisms and investment opportunities	Build a database of public and private initiatives that support innovation	Co-ordinator <i>Refer to Business database and innovation platform</i>	Wheatbelt Development Commission and Wheatbelt Business Network/CCIs	Horizon 1



2. Talent Skills and Entrepreneurs: *The Wheatbelt uses an innovation agenda to maximise economic participation and transition economies through skills development*

Outputs	Strategy	Project/s	Lead	Time Horizon
<p>2.1 Enterprises driving participation of Aboriginal and young people grow in number and value</p> <p>2.2 New industry sectors diversify the economic base of the Wheatbelt economy</p>	<p>Target new industry sectors, geographic locations and demographics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal Enterprise • Creative enterprise • Central East economic transition • Young people – pathways to employment • ITC/Big data • Intensive AG – Value add • Niche manufacturing • New tourism products • Aviation • Aged Care/NDIS 	RDAW Noongar Enterprise Program	RDA Wheatbelt	Horizon 1
		Grants program to support economic enterprise activity (NIF, RED and others)	Wheatbelt Innovation Partnership, DPIRD	Horizon 1
		Continue and strengthen partnership and connection to academia -Wheatbelt Service Learning -Wheatbelt Graduate Program -Post Graduate research -CRC support in relevant disciplines	Wheatbelt Innovation Partnership	Horizon 1
		Use Digital Innovation Platform (below) to drive targeted capability building	Wheatbelt Innovation Partnership	Horizon 1,2,3



2. Talent Skills and Entrepreneurs: *The Wheatbelt uses an innovation agenda to maximise economic participation and transition economies through skills development*

Outputs	Strategy	Project/s	Lead	Time Horizon
2.3 Highly skilled and adaptive workforce including leadership and community groups drive adoption of new ideas	Partnership and connection with education (including the University sector) and training	<p>Advocate for an education system that genuinely supports innovation (virtual classrooms & coding)</p> <p>Advocate for community systems that actively include people who are different</p>	Wheatbelt Innovation Partnership	Horizons 1, 2



3. Investment and Infrastructure: *The Wheatbelt is digitally connected, facilitating the collaboration of Wheatbelt residents to pioneer new ideas and foster innovation*

Outputs	Strategy	Project/s	Lead	Time Horizon
3.1 An enduring digital innovation platform networks (connects) enterprises to each other and the right expertise to foster new ideas and drive enterprise growth	Identify and invest in the best platform to build on comparative advantage at the regional level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build the business model to ensure biggest reach and sustainability (ongoing platform maintenance and upgrade, resource to support/activation of the platform) 	<p>Wheatbelt Innovation Partnership</p> <p>Wheatbelt Business Network (dependent on resourcing)</p>	Horizons 1, 2 and 3 (ongoing)



3. Investment and Infrastructure: *The Wheatbelt is digitally connected, facilitating the collaboration of Wheatbelt residents to pioneer new ideas and foster innovation*

Outputs	Strategy	Project/s	Lead	Time Horizon
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to build on the Wheatbelt database and link it to the network platform 'Match' business to business and business the expertise opportunity 'Innovation gardening' 	Wheatbelt Innovation Partnership Wheatbelt Business Network	Horizon 1
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Link to other regional networks 	Wheatbelt Innovation Partnership	Horizons 1, 2 and 3 (ongoing)
	Ongoing collaboration with community and key stakeholders to identify innovation inhibitors and enablers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of and engagement with innovation influences and influencers including people from diverse backgrounds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capture innovation and creativity expertise of 'baby boomer' in migration Challenge the expert forums Hackathon 	Wheatbelt Innovation Partnership	Horizons 1, 2 and 3 (ongoing)



4.Culture and Collaboration: *Local and global innovation capability will be shared across the community to spark new ideas, increase the Wheatbelt's capacity to expand innovation activity and promote the region*

Outputs	Strategy	Project/s	Lead	Time Horizon
4.1 Wheatbelt innovation is showcased and global innovation ideas expand innovation activity	A program of activity 'excites and ignites' enterprises to pursue new initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an enabling environment for start-ups – connecting to expertise via the network and digital platform, coaching, mentoring in a global context – this can be achieved by continuing to build on current networks of Wheatbelt business networks and CCI's and maximizing reach of Digital Innovation Platform 	Wheatbelt Innovation Partnership	Horizons 1, 2 and 3 (ongoing)
	A Creative Industries Forum is initiated to foster and promote creative enterprise to drive economic activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Kick off' forum promotes innovation as a growth strategy, showcases Wheatbelt innovation, guest speakers ignite opportunity and calls participants to action including sign up to network platform. 	Wheatbelt Innovation Partnership	Horizon 1
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing forum program facilitates product development, investment attraction and grows markets (linked back to network) 	Wheatbelt Innovation Partnership	Horizons 1, 2 and 3 (ongoing)



4.Culture and Collaboration: *Local and global innovation capability will be shared across the community to spark new ideas, increase the Wheatbelt's capacity to expand innovation activity and promote the region*

Outputs	Strategy	Project/s	Lead	Time Horizon
	Geographic 'hotspots' are supported to drive place based initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Target specific locations wishing to build on existing innovation activity 	Wheatbelt Innovation Partnership	Horizon 2,3
4.2 Highly skilled and adaptive workforce including leadership and community groups drive adoption of new ideas	Partnership and connection with education (including the University sector) and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate for an education system that genuinely supports innovation (virtual classrooms & coding) 	Wheatbelt Innovation Partnership	Horizons 1 and 2
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wheatbelt graduate program 	University of Western Australia/ Curtin University/ Murdoch University	Horizon 1
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wheatbelt service learning 	University of Western Australia	Horizon 1



5. Marketing and Promotion: *The Wheatbelt's 'Heartland of Australia' brand has strong recognition and the region is seen as one that 'can do', supporting entrepreneurs and start-ups*

Outputs	Strategy	Project/s	Lead	Time Horizon
5.1 A strong recognised brand that captures the Wheatbelt's innovative 'can do' capabilities	Profile investors and use them to strategically market the Wheatbelt's innovation brand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing promotion by all Innovation Partners through digital communications platforms (WBN, RDAW and others) 	Wheatbelt Innovation Partnership	Horizon 1, 2 & 3 (ongoing)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of digital and other forums to showcase local cases of innovation to the wider public 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Events held to share success stories and connect academia, business and government 		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to run the Wheatbelt Winners and "Faces of the Wheatbelt" campaign profiling innovative individuals and enterprises 		
5.2 Market research and trade activity deliver new market opportunities	Create stronger links to Trade Start initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and support enterprises ready to participate in Trade Start initiatives 	RDA Wheatbelt	Horizon 1,2

9. Monitoring, Measuring and Celebrating Success

The monitoring and evaluation of the Wheatbelt Innovation Roadmap will occur at 3 levels:

- With-in the context of the governance of the Regional New Innovation Program;
- At a regional level by the Board of the Wheatbelt Development Commission and the Partnership; and
- On a project-by-project basis through grant agreements, monitoring and acquittal processes.

The Wheatbelt Development Commission Board and Innovation Partnership will work within the evaluation process determined by the NIF Program (to be determined at time of writing) and will be particularly focused on measuring impact from effort and investment in terms of such things as:

- Activity (volume, geographic, sector impact, support mechanisms developed) generated;
- Leveraging (cash, in kind and economic benefit) generated;
- Employment benefits (jobs growth, participation rates, skills/worker shortages filled and/or improved, in/out migration)
- Ease of doing business

- Establishment and/or growth of enterprise in target sectors; and/or
- Value proposition understanding



9.1 Our Scorecard: Outcomes and Measures of Roadmap Success

Horizon 1: Next 2 years	What will we have achieved	How we will know – our specific measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roadmap endorsed and widely accepted The Partnership is strongly engaged and championing innovation activity Platform established, network membership and participation continues to grow Enterprise supported into new activity Enterprise growth Partnership with academia 	<p>WDC and Partnership endorsement, network use of the Roadmap</p> <p>Partnership promotion of Roadmap, participation in the platform</p> <p>Platform Activity: diversity of topics, support offered, usage level</p> <p>Number supported, tracking enterprise journey, degree of sharing learnings, measuring jobs and economic growth??</p> <p>Jobs growth</p> <p>Quantify academic involvement in Wheatbelt projects</p>
Horizon 2: 3 – 5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Industry sectors emerging 	Jobs growth in new sectors
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New skills development programs align to address skills shortages 	Skills program audit
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Heartlands of Australia/WA brand is widely used across the region and has high brand recognition 	Evidence of use of brand Market Survey
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The innovation networks continue to expand 	Use of network/platform
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wheatbelt education applying coding and virtual classrooms 	Number of Wheatbelt schools using coding and virtual classrooms
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing presence of talented, skilled and entrepreneurial individuals 	Skilled workforce expansion – 2021 Census
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cross regional innovation linkages 	Number of coordinated projects with other regional innovation partnerships
Horizon 3: 6 -10 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High value niche economy established 	Industry share analysis of GRP
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Global leadership in regional innovation 	Wheatbelt innovation showcased in other areas (WA, Australia & global)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An annual Wheatbelt Innovation festival 	Number of attendees

9.2 Project Assessment

The RNIF Assessment criteria are:

RNIF OBJECTIVE 1. IMPACT (50% weighting)	
1.1	Does the project leverage industry strengths and opportunities to support innovation and economic transformation?
1.2	Does the project provide an environment to promote and accelerate entrepreneurs and start-ups?
1.3	Does the project supports high growth SMEs to scale activities and access new markets?
1.4	Does the project have a strong emphasis on, and be inclusive of, Aboriginal business development?

RNIF OBJECTIVE 2. COLLABORATION (20% weighting)	
2.1	Does the project build partnerships that expand the existing regional innovation ecosystem to accelerate competitiveness, job creation and business opportunities?

RNIF OBJECTIVE 3. VALUE FOR MONEY (30% weighting)	
3.1	Does the project leverages external funding and in-kind services will be used to create additional value.
3.2	The project funding will be used to build regional capabilities and generate sustainable outcomes.

For Cross Regional Projects: In addition to these criteria, when assessing and prioritizing Cross Regional Projects WDC will provide feedback on cross regional projects according to their ability to:

- Address a priority and deliver outcomes outlined in the Wheatbelt Innovation Roadmap (including the degree to which the Wheatbelt was involved in the co-design of the project);
- Drive strong cross regional outcomes;
- Support capacity building in the region/s for the region/s;
- Be sustainable and not have ongoing resource impact for the region;
- Represent value for money;
- Grow regional business/innovation; and
- Build on identified and agreed economic opportunities and defined outcomes.

For Wheatbelt projects submitted to the **Wheatbelt specific fund**, the following assessment and prioritization process is proposed:

- Staff undertake a high level assessment (using regional knowledge) of the project as it relates to program, regional priorities and the projects risks, including capacity of the proponent to deliver. Regional priorities are:
 - Jobs and economic growth
 - Private Investment growth
 - Population attraction (particularly work force)
 - Vibrant communities (focused on service reform)
 - Innovative solutions and governance that drive collaboration

To maximise economic growth and new business activity, areas to be targeted are new industry sectors, geographic locations and specific demographics including:

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| • Aboriginal Enterprise | • Niche manufacturing |
| • Creative enterprise | • New tourism products |
| • Central East economic transition | • Aviation |
| • Young people – pathways to employment | • Aged Care/NDIS |
| • ITC/Big data | |
| • Intensive AG – Value add | |

Staff recommend projects to the Board as:

- not suitable to submit to assessment at this time;
- suitable to submit to the assessment process; and
- those that are preferred projects in terms of their potential impact and alignment to Wheatbelt priorities.

Submit Board recommendations to the DPIRD assessment process (expert panel) which undertake more detailed due diligence of the project proposals.

Attachment One: New Industry Fund Guidelines
Attachment Two: TOR for Innovation Partnership
Attachment Three: Members of the Wheatbelt Innovation Partnership
Attachment Four: Listing of Wheatbelt Innovators
Attachment Five: Application Template
Attachment Six: Delivery Lead Application Form
Attachment Seven: Application, Assessment and Approval Flow Chart showing process

SOURCES

- ¹ Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development 2018, Western Australia Gross Regional Product
- ² Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development 2018, Western Australia Gross Regional Product
- ³ Australian Bureau of Statistics 2017, Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, Australia, 2015 – 2016, Cat No. 7503
- ⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics 2017, Estimated Resident Population
- ⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics 2017, Census of Population and Housing 2016, Time Series Profiles
- ⁶ Australian Bureau of Statistics 2017, Census of Population and Housing 2016, General Community Profiles
- ⁷ Australian Bureau of Statistics 2017, Census of Population and Housing 2016, General Community Profiles
- ⁸ Australian Bureau of Statistics 2017, Census of Population and Housing 2016, General Community Profiles
- ⁹ Australian Bureau of Statistics 2017, Census of Population and Housing 2016, General Community Profiles
- ¹⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics 2017, Census of Population and Housing 2016, Time Series Profiles
- ¹¹ Australian Bureau of Statistics 2017, Census of Population and Housing 2016, General Community Profiles
- ¹² Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development 2017, Labour Force and Unemployment Data
- ¹³ Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development 2017, Labour Force and Unemployment Data
- ¹⁴ Australian Bureau of Statistics 2017, Census of Population and Housing 2016, General Community Profiles
- ¹⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics 2017, Census of Population and Housing 2016, General Community Profiles
- ¹⁶ Department of Education 2018, Schools Online, Student Numbers – Trends: Available from:
<https://www.det.wa.edu.au/schoolsonline/home.do>.