

## MEDIA PACKAGE

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## FACT FILE

### About WABSI

- The Western Australian Biodiversity Institute (known as WABSI) is a [joint venture](#) between the State's leading research organisations: CSIRO, Curtin University, Murdoch University, Edith Cowan University, The University of Western Australia, the Department of Mining, Industry, Regulation and Safety, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.
- We are funded by the Office of Science (Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation).

### Purpose

- To bring stakeholders together to identify and prioritise the gaps in knowledge about biodiversity in the State.
- To build a shared resource of biodiversity data so that government, industry and community can access quality information to make more informed decisions about development, environmental policy, regulation and management.
- To enable better biodiversity outcomes and help balance conservation and sustainable economic development.

### Capabilities and Governance

- Capabilities: A [small executive team](#) oversees the development of collaborative research projects that align to the State's biodiversity priorities; as identified in conjunction with end users of knowledge.
- Governance: The Institute is overseen by a [Board of Directors](#) and the [Collaboration, Leverage and Integration Committee](#) that advises on prospective collaboration between participants for projects, grant and research funding opportunities.

## DOWNLOAD BROCHURES

<http://wabsi.org.au/publications>

- WABSI Brochure
- Our journey so far

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## QUOTES

### **Stephen Dawson MLC, Minister for Environment**

“It is crucial for us to better understand our rich and unique biodiversity through accurate scientific knowledge and good collaboration. The Western Australian Biodiversity Science Institute is a focal point for skills and knowledge to be shared and help define the State’s research priorities to ensure that scientific information meets the dynamic needs of industry.”

### **Tom Hatton, Chairman, Environmental Protection Authority**

“One of our challenges is formulating advice with limited available information. Our participation in WABSI means supporting science collaborations to help build valuable networks of environmental knowledge as well as access to critical biodiversity information required for informed decision making.”

### **Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC, Governor of Western Australia**

“While a lot of effort is being expended to protect the State’s world-renowned native plants and animals, we need to do more. Having the community and business become key partners as well as advocates, means it is a challenge I feel confident we can meet. We’re very supportive of WABSI helping us better understand biodiversity across our State and building a shared resource. It will mean that our conservation areas continue as part of our heritage and contribute to our quality of life.”

### **Ex-Premier of Western Australia, Colin Barnett, October 2015**

"Science is crucial to ensuring our rich and unique biodiversity assets are here for future generations to enjoy. At the same time, the main drivers of our economy - mineral exploration and processing, broadacre agriculture and tourism - intersect with the State's biodiversity, as does urban development."

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