

BUILDING THE SCIENCE TO DRIVE THE WA ECONOMY

WABSI led the development of a state-level investment framework to attract private capital into land restoration, culminating in ***The Restoration Economy: A roadmap towards a sustainable industry with better environmental outcomes.***

Stakeholder workshops shaped a prioritised research framework tackling biodiversity loss from Perth's rapid urban growth and climate change, with focus areas published in the ***Building biodiversity for thriving urban ecosystems.***

WABSI delivered a world-first milestone as part of BHP's Technical Advisory Team, contributing to the Beenup Site Pilot Case Study, a natural capital accounting study at BHP's rehabilitated Beenup Mineral Sands site. It tracked outcomes for nature from mining to restored habitat for threatened species, aligned with UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Building on 2022 consultations, the Biodiversity Economics and Finance program advanced the work on measuring, valuing and financing biodiversity, releasing ***Assessing knowledge gaps in biodiversity economics and finance*** to guide future research priorities.

2023–2024



TRANSFORMING KNOWLEDGE INTO INSIGHTS

Scaling up the WA restoration economy was launched, proposing a state-wide approach to restoration and monitoring. The ***Restoration Standards for the Western Australian Wheatbelt*** delivered a practical framework and 5-star recovery system to guide consistent, science-based restoration of the Wheatbelt's Eucalypt Woodlands.

A focus on end user needs delivered ***Identifying gaps in knowledge, management and conservation in the Northern Jarrah Forest and Strategic opportunities for environmental offsets in the Northern Jarrah Forest***, developed under the South West Sustainability Partnership.

Advancing work on biodiversity economics and finance, WABSI published ***Nature on the Balance Sheet***, a prioritised research program built on economics, value and measurement developed through extensive stakeholder and Traditional Owner consultation.

A fresh round of end-user consultations underpinned ***From Knowledge to Action: Western Australia's Biodiversity Knowledge Priorities***, refreshing the priorities first set in 2022. A plain language guide ***Nature's Big Questions*** made concepts around biodiversity science and evidence based decision-making more accessible to broader audiences across education, policy and community.

2025–2026



The next decade and beyond

Leading research collaboration for a thriving, nature-positive economy

- Build capabilities in world-leading biodiversity research, transforming science into decision-ready tools, meeting real-world needs and enabling an innovative science and technology sector.
- Deliver stable returns from public investment in a trusted research partnership, underpinning long-term competitiveness of Western Australia's industries, economic and social well-being.

THE WABSI JOURNEY

From a decade of leading research
collaboration to the next horizon
of biodiversity science

wabsi.org.au

Why WABSI?

The need for a collaboration mechanism

The Government of Western Australia undertook a 2-year consultation with industry, government and community organisations. It revealed several key findings — duplication of research effort in the State, fragmented, complex and inaccessible environmental information and critical gaps in knowledge, hampering environmental decision-making.

In short, the knowledge that end users needed for decisions was either not generated or was not accessible. There was a clear need for collaboration, to guide research effort to meet end user needs.

A decision was made to establish an independent organisation that could lead research collaboration and build a clear pathway for scientific knowledge to reach the people who needed it to make decisions.



Joint venture partnership

WABSI is a partnership with leading Western Australian science research organisations, allowing access to multi-disciplinary research expertise.



Support from multiple sectors

The Government of Western Australia provides core funding for WABSI through the Department of Energy and Economic Diversification, supported by investment from industry, philanthropy and the community.

WABSI ESTABLISHED

WABSI was officially launched in October 2015, with funding from the Western Australian Government through the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation.

Over the next twelve months, a governance structure was put in place by the Participant Council which comprised WABSI's research partner organisations. They established the WABSI Board to guide strategy and operations and the Collaboration, Leverage and Integration Committee to guide targeted research development for meeting end user needs.

The late Professor Mick Poole was appointed as inaugural Board Chair, and The University of Western Australia as the host institution, to provide corporate support services.

2015–2016

“Early end user consultation enabled WABSI to build a distinct brand, a clear strategic roadmap and its first targeted research program, ensuring knowledge reached decision makers as practical, usable tools.”

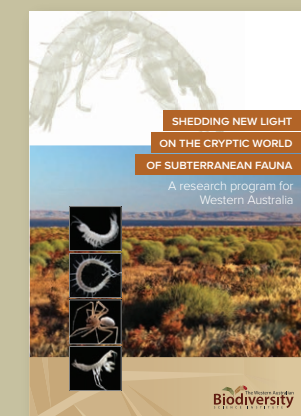
STRATEGIC ROADMAP AND THE FIRST RESEARCH PROGRAM

In its early establishment phase, WABSI began connecting with biodiversity science end users across government, regulators, industry and community to better understand knowledge needs and key issues of concern.

A critical issue to emerge was the high level of uncertainty in subterranean fauna assessments. WABSI brought together, for the first time, representatives from the resources sector and environmental regulators, to identify critical gaps in knowledge and reach clear consensus on key focus areas where research was needed. As a result, WABSI's first, end user driven program was launched, publishing *Shedding new light on the cryptic world of subterranean fauna*.

This targeted program helped define WABSI's research development process — identify end user need, prioritise focus areas and coordinate targeted delivery with partners and stakeholders.

2017–2018



TWO MORE TARGETED PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS BIODIVERSITY CHALLENGES

Partners from the mining industry, government and research sectors worked together to develop the *Completion Criteria Framework*, a robust and scientifically informed framework for developing site-specific completion criteria and associated monitoring for Western Australian post-mining rehabilitation. It was endorsed by the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety (now restructured into the Department of Local Government, Industry Regulation and Safety).

WABSI led a series of end user consultations and workshops culminating in a new program. *Increasing knowledge to mitigate cat impacts on biodiversity* was launched to conserve native species through improved management of cats.

2019–2020



A STRATEGIC REFOCUS, END USER CONSULTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL DATA SHARING

WABSI unveiled an updated, 10-year *Strategic Plan 2022-2032*. This was also the time to review what was important to end users. WABSI undertook extensive consultation with more than 50 end user organisations. The consultation identified several large, complex issues as knowledge priorities for the next decade, and the findings were captured in the publication *Biodiversity Knowledge Priorities: Emerging themes from stakeholder consultation*.

The *Addressing weed threats to biodiversity* research program was also launched, identifying non-native invasive plants as one of the greatest threats to native biological diversity and a significant cost to agriculture in Western Australia.

WABSI's efforts in building an environmental data sharing and access culture took a giant leap forward, with the launch of the *Guide to a Shared Analytics Framework for the Environment* and a proposed concept for a *Shared Environmental Analytics Facility*, co-designed with end users.

2021–2022

