

11 November 2022

Ms Rebecca Brown  
Director General  
Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation  
Level 11, 1 William St  
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Chamber of Commerce  
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Dear Ms Brown

### **Western Australian Government Intellectual Property Policy Review – CCIWA submission**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the review of Western Australia's Government Intellectual Property Policy (WA Govt IP Policy). Intellectual property is a valuable asset with significant benefits for our community and economy. It is also an enabler of innovation, as long as the right IP policy settings are in place.

And now, more than ever, innovation plays a critical role in the growth and diversification of our economy. It is therefore important that the IP policies the State Government and individual government agencies have in place encourage individuals to create and innovate, and allow businesses to grow, rather than be prohibitive.

The current WA Govt IP Policy provides very little, if any, guidance around how agencies should address or manage IP ownership, and the sharing of benefits of commercialisation between parties.

As identified by stakeholders within the Western Australian public sector itself, the current policy framework has become a barrier to innovation that does not encourage the commercialisation of IP.

CCIWA acknowledges that this review focuses on addressing the gaps identified previously. In addressing these gaps, CCIWA strongly urges the State Government to think creatively rather than simply adopt the approach of other jurisdictions.

Updating this policy is a great opportunity to establish WA as the premier place to innovate, by creating a unique framework around IP ownership and benefit-sharing that encourages and incentivises the creation and pioneering of world-first technologies and ideas, and reduces the barriers to commercialisation.

We also urge the Government to:

- Remove the ambiguity surrounding the development, management and ownership of IP by ensuring that any relevant employment contracts and commercial or funding agreements explicitly address these topics.

- Easily enable avenues to commercialisation, including the formation of spin-offs, to ensure that the wider community can capitalise on the benefits of the new products or services more quickly.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the letters 'C' and 'R' in a stylized, cursive font, followed by a horizontal line.

Chris Rodwell  
**Chief Executive Officer**