

2014-2015

# TIAC Annual Activity Report



# TIAC

**Technology and Industry Advisory Council**

Hon Michael Mischin MLC  
Minister for Commerce  
Level 10  
Dumas House  
2 Havelock Street  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Minister

On behalf of the Western Australian Technology and Industry Advisory Council (TIAC), I am pleased to submit the TIAC Annual Activity Report for the year ending 30 June 2015, for your information and subsequent presentation to Parliament in accordance with Section 26(1) and Section 26(2) of the *Industry and Technology Development Act 1998* (ITD Act).

TIAC has also reported through the Department of Commerce Annual Report and Financial Statement in accordance with Section 26(3) of the ITD Act in compliance with Section 62 of the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985*.

Yours sincerely



**Mr Alan Bansemer**  
**Chair**

24 August 2015

On behalf of Council members:

Current members (as of 30 June 2015):

Mr Alan Bansemer (Chair)  
Professor Lyn Beazley AO  
Professor Shaun Collin  
Professor Barry Marshall AC

Dr Jim Ross AM  
Mr Andy Farrant  
Mr Brian Bradley PSM (ex officio)

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## Introduction

The Western Australian Technology and Industry Advisory Council (TIAC), provides independent advice to the State Government on any matter relating to the Objects of the *Industry and Technology Development Act 1998* (ITD Act). TIAC is uniquely positioned to provide strategic, evidence-based advice identifying and encouraging innovation in industry, science and technology to drive economic growth and diversity in Western Australia.

The ITD Act ensures the existence and continuation of TIAC as a key independent advisory body reporting directly to the Minister responsible for the ITD Act.

The members of TIAC are appointed by the Minister and endorsed by the State Cabinet. Members are selected on merit to provide advice to the Government on the strategic direction for industry, science and technology in Western Australia.

TIAC, under the ITD Act, may independently publish any report that it prepares.

TIAC reports through the Minister to Parliament under Section 26(1) and Section 26(2) of the ITD Act. TIAC reports under the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985* through the Department of Commerce under Section 26(3) of the ITD Act.

## TIAC Membership

The members of TIAC during the 2014–2015 financial year were:

### **Mr Alan Bansemer (Chair)**

TIAC Chair  
Director  
Banscott Health Consulting Pty Ltd

### **Mr Andy Farrant**

Principal  
One Degree Advisory

### **Professor Lyn Beazley AO**

Sir Walter Murdoch Distinguished Professor of Science, Murdoch University

### **Professor Shaun Collin**

Director, UWA Oceans Institute  
The University of Western Australia

### **Mr Brian Bradley PSM (ex officio)**

Director General  
Department of Commerce

### **Professor Barry Marshall AC**

Nobel Laureate  
The University of Western Australia

### **Dr Jim Ross AM**

Chairman  
Earth Science Western Australia

## **Resignations and Appointments**

Mr Alan Bansemer (Chair), Professor Lyn Beazley AO and Professor Shaun Collin, Mr Andrew Farrant, Dr James Ross and Professor Barry Marshall continued to serve as members through 30 June 2015 under Section 1 of Schedule 1 of the ITD Act.

## **Objects of the *Industry and Technology Development Act 1998***

The objects of the ITD Act (Section 3) are to:

1. promote and foster the growth and development of industry, trade, science, technology and research in the State;
2. improve the efficiency of State industry and its ability to compete internationally;
3. encourage the establishment of new industry in the State;
4. encourage the broadening of the industrial base of the State; and
5. promote an environment which supports the development of industry, science and technology and the emergence of internationally competitive industries in the State.

## **Functions of the Western Australian Technology and Industry Advisory Council**

- 1) The Council, under Section 21 of the ITD Act, is required to:
  - a) provide advice to the Minister, at the initiative of the Council or at the request of the Minister, on any matter relating to the objects of the *Industry and Technology Development Act 1998*; and
  - b) carry out, collaborate in or procure research, studies or investigations on any matter relating to the objects of this Act, including matters relating to the:
    - i) role of industry, science and technology in the policies of government;
    - ii) social and economic impact of industrial and technological change;
    - iii) employment and training needs and opportunities relating to industrial, scientific and technological activities in the State;
    - iv) adequacy of, priorities among and coordination of, scientific, industrial and technological activities in the State;
    - v) methods of stimulating desirable industrial and technological advances in the State;
    - vi) application of industrial, scientific and technological advances to the services of the Government; and
    - vii) promotion of public awareness and understanding of development in industry, science and technology.

- 2) The Council may publish and make available any report or finding produced as a result of any research, study or investigation under subsection (1).
- 3) The Council is to liaise with and advise any person, body or organisation with respect to the conduct of any research, study or investigation into a matter relating to industry, science and technology in the State.
- 4) In carrying out its functions the Council is to:
  - a) have regard to the needs of the Western Australian community and the resources of the State;
  - b) promote developments in industry, science and technology that increase productivity and competitiveness; and
  - c) support developments that create employment opportunities.
- 5) The Council has the power to do all things necessary or convenient to be done for or in connection with the performance of its functions.

### **Ministerial Directions**

Under Section 25 of the ITD Act, the responsible Minister may give directions in writing to the Council with respect to the performance of its functions or the exercise of its powers.

During the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, the responsible Minister for TIAC was the Hon Michael Mischin MLC, Attorney General; Minister for Commerce.

TIAC worked with the Office of the Minister for Commerce identifying advisory needs and options for providing advice, as such there was no requirement for the Minister to provide any formal directions in writing.

## **TIAC Activities in 2014–2015**

### ***Charter***

At its twenty seventh meeting in June 2015, TIAC approved the annual revision of its Charter (Appendix).

### ***Advice to the Minister***

To ensure advice is provided to the Minister, following each Council meeting, a summary of key discussion points was provided to his office.

### **TIAC's Work Plan: The Way Ahead**

In the context of the revised purpose statement and suggested TIAC functions in the ITD Act, the Council drafted its work plan for the next two to four years commencing in January 2013 and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

The work plan reflects TIAC's recognition of the importance of industry, scientific and technological developments as key drivers of Western Australia's long term prosperity and economic development.

### **Implementation of the Work Plan - The Way Ahead**

During the 2014–2015 financial year, TIAC progressed a number of activities and research projects, including consultation with key stakeholders to implement its work plan *The Way Ahead*. An overview of these activities:

- Progressing the *Optimisation of STEM Support in Western Australian Schools* Report.
- Progressing the *Economic Growth through Innovation* agenda.

### ***Optimisation of STEM Support in Western Australian Schools***

The finalised Optimisation of Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) report was submitted to the Minister for his consideration on 25 February 2014 and published on the TIAC website on 30 June 2014. Since the public release of the report a series of consultations have been undertaken by Dr Jim Ross as Chair of the Science Education Committee. The Science Education Committee has completed its initial body of work and provided advice through the STEM project.

TIAC's STEM project has resulted in the establishment of the not-for-profit organisation STEM-WA, to progress the implementation of a trial project. STEM-WA seeks to bring together Commonwealth and private funding and to be a point of contact for engagement with schools. The education sectors in Western Australia are enthusiastic about a proposal to conduct a trial project in Western Australia being forwarded to the Federal Government for consideration.

The STEM-WA Steering Committee met twice in the first half of 2015. The Patron of STEM-WA will be Her Excellency, the Honourable Mrs Kerry Sanderson, AO, Governor of Western with TIAC members, Professors Lyn Beazley AO and Barry Marshall AC as Vice-patrons. STEM-WA is working closely with the Office of Science.

STEM is a priority articulated under the Education and Engagement opportunities in the Premier's Science Statement released on April 2015.

### ***Economic Growth through Innovation (EGTI) Initiative***

Western Australia's economy has been firmly established on the State's strengths of mining, energy production and agriculture and will remain so for the foreseeable future. There is an opportunity to broaden the economic benefits of Western Australia's traditional industries whilst developing emerging Western Australian capabilities to underpin the State's long term prosperity. The Economic Growth through Innovation project is overseen by TIAC member Mr Andy Farrant. In early 2015, the Council developed action plans to deliver timely strategic advice to the Minister for Commerce and the State government on this topic.

As a result of discussions between TIAC and the Minister for Commerce, Hon Michael Mischin MLC, it was agreed that the Minister would benefit from short, specific and timely advice on a number of projects in the technology and innovation sector. Subsequently, TIAC member Mr Andy Farrant, met with the Minister's Office and identified two projects that the Minister would like TIAC's advice on; a) The Innovation Centre – options for future operation; and b) Technology Park Bentley – options for the future. Advisory papers were provided to the Minister's Office.

The EGTI is continuing to work with the Ministers Office to identify topics that would assist the Minister and Government through targeted advisory papers.

### **Advice to the Department of Commerce**

The Department of Commerce, responsible for the ITD Act, works on topics that are also a focus for TIAC and reports to the Minister responsible for liaising with TIAC. TIAC has provided advice to assist the Department in activities related to the ITD Act and technology opportunities for the State:

- on approaches to bioprospecting and biodiscovery to inform the development of new legislation.
- on Government Intellectual Property, issues on IP commercialisation and its importance to the economy.
- on venture capital in Western Australia and the need for Venture Capital Limited Partnership company structures.

### **Submissions and Engagement**

The Council makes submissions to reviews, consultations and inquiries in topics related to its role. During the 2014-15 year the following submissions were made:

- Feedback during the consultation phase of the revision of the *Limited Partnership Act 1909* to allow for Venture Capital Limited Partnerships.
- Feedback to the Department of Education Services on the Draft Strategic Plan for Higher Education.

### **Monitoring**

TIAC is monitoring development in Australian-Chinese technology and research linkages and providing support for initiatives as appropriate. TIAC has been invited to assist with promoting the Australia-China Joint Research Centres initiatives in the new financial year.

### **Engagement with Industry and Academic Institutions**

At TIAC's fourteenth meeting in February 2013, TIAC agreed to investigate opportunities for future meetings to be held at academic and industry sites to ensure broad insight into Western Australian research and innovation capability. During the 2014–2015 financial year, two Council meetings were conducted at the premises of its constituents. One industry stakeholder presented to the Council at the offices of the Department of Commerce.

TIAC's twenty third meeting in August 2014, held at the Department of Commerce featured a presentation from Chevron Global Technology. TIAC members were provided with an overview of the company's activities in the Gorgon and Wheatstone projects and the technology required to implement the projects. Members were also informed about the challenges of aligning research and development and technical services of Chevron's Energy Technology Centres globally to the needs of the upstream and downstream businesses in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.

TIAC's twenty fifth meeting in February 2015 was held at the Department of Fisheries Research Facility at Hillarys. TIAC's visit provided members with an insight into the operations of the Department of Fisheries Research Division that operates within four branches with facilities including the fish ageing laboratory and the industry disease monitoring area. It was noted that excess marine samples were sent to the Western Australian Museum to be added to their extensive collection.

TIAC's twenty seventh meeting in June 2015 was held at the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research. The visit and presentation provided members with a tour of the facilities that houses Perkins research laboratories which investigate a range of diseases including cancer, leukaemia, diabetes and melanoma. With over 450 research staff based at the QEII site it represents a substantial investment in medical research capability in Western Australia.

TIAC has benefited from receiving feedback on the challenges industry faces in research, innovation, science and industry in Western Australia. TIAC's engagement with its constituents allows TIAC to provide the Minister with informed fact-based independent advice. The feedback from these meetings is also being considered in future TIAC activities.

### **TIAC Secretariat**

As per the Operating Protocol between the Department of Commerce and TIAC, the Department makes a team of staff (known as the Secretariat) available to TIAC, who provide direct advice and the following support to TIAC:

- secretariat support:
  - minutes
  - agenda
  - conflict of interest registry
  - booking conference and event attendance;
- project management support;
- budget and financial administration; and
- public interest disclosure officer, direct advice and desktop research.

The Manager, Secretariat and the Executive Officer will be the main point of contact for TIAC. Their role will be to liaise with the Department of Commerce and TIAC to ensure continuity of information and advice (as per the Operating Protocol).

The Manager, Secretariat and the Executive Officer will be invited to attend TIAC meetings as observers. Other Departmental staff may be invited to attend TIAC meetings at TIAC's discretion.

## **Financial Statement**

TIAC reports under the *Financial Administration and Audit Act 1985* through the Department of Commerce Annual Report and Financial Statements.

## **Financial Provisions**

While there is capacity for TIAC expenses to be provided for under Section 15 of the ITD Act via the Western Australian Industry and Technology Development Account. TIAC's budget is currently provided as part of the Department of Commerce annual operating budget.

## **Remuneration**

### ***Remuneration of Council Members***

Council members' remuneration was recommended by the Public Sector Commissioner under provisions of Section 24 of the ITD Act as follows:

(a) Chairperson's Salary:	\$40,000 (per annum)
(b) Member's Sitting Fee – Non-Public Sector:	\$660 (per meeting)
(c) Member's Sitting Fee – Public Sector:	Nil

The recommendation was made pursuant to Premier's Circular 2010/02 – "State Government Boards and Committees" which excludes those on the public payroll from receiving fees.

TIAC met on five occasions between July 2014 and June 2015: on 12 August 2014, 24 November 2014, 17 February 2015, 13 April 2015 and 26 June 2015.

## **Outlook for 2015–2016**

TIAC's work plan *The Way Ahead*, underpins TIAC's focus moving forward. Future initiatives include:

- providing advice and demonstrating the economic benefits of science, research and technology;
- examining innovative approaches to a range of opportunities and challenges facing Western Australia; and
- investigating the State's changing economy to identify new technologies and emerging industries.

TIAC will continue to work with the Minister and his Office to identify specific areas of advice that will support the Minister and progress the objectives of the ITD Act.

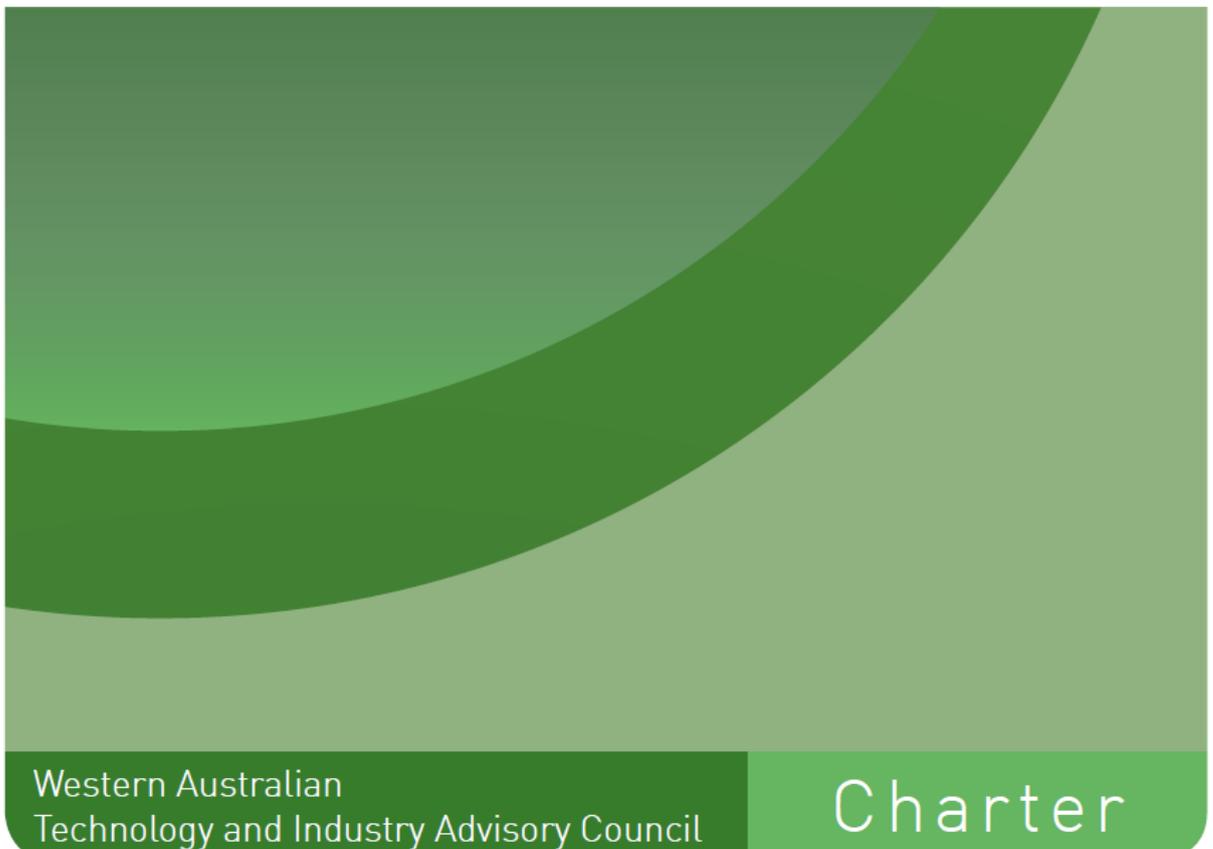
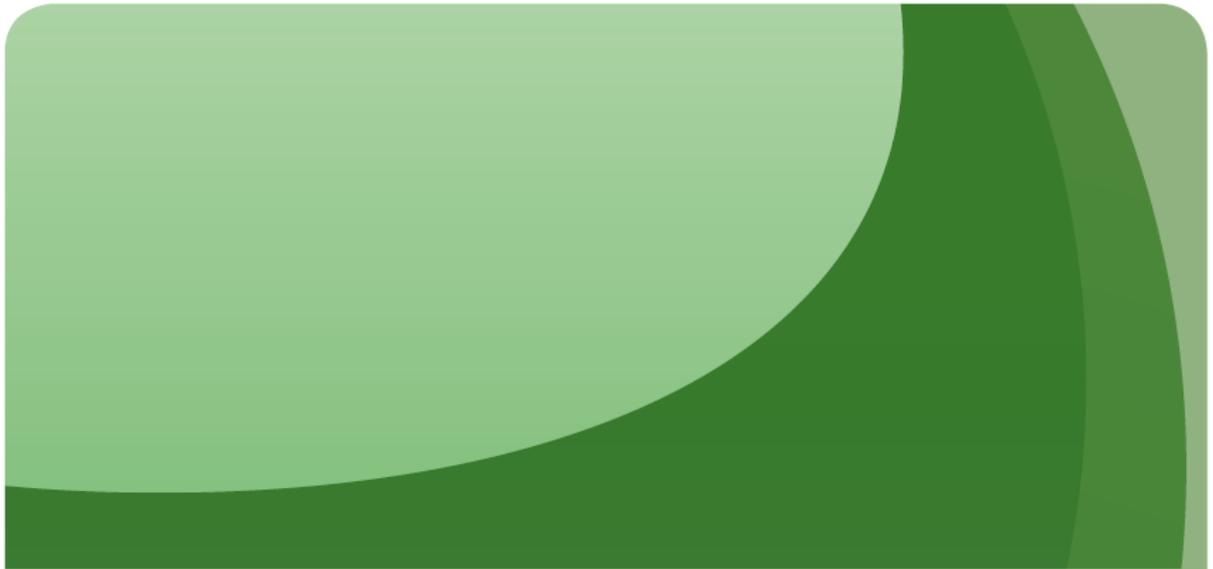
### ***Future Engagement Activities***

In order to facilitate and provide the responsible Minister with informed fact-based independent advice, TIAC also intends to meet with private and public organisations to improve the flow of information and to gain insight into important issues in 2015 and 2016.

TIAC also intends to develop expert network to provide leading insights and early advice on emerging trends.

***Appendix***

*Western Australian Technology and Industry Advisory Council Charter*



Western Australian  
Technology and Industry Advisory Council

Charter

## **WESTERN AUSTRALIAN TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL CHARTER**

### **Introduction**

The Technology and Industry Advisory Council (Council) is established under the *Industry and Technology Development Act 1998* (ITD Act).

### **Objective**

The objects of the ITD Act under Section 3 are:

- to promote and foster the growth and development of industry, trade, science, technology and research in the State;
- to improve the efficiency of State industry and its ability to compete internationally;
- to encourage the establishment of new industry in the State;
- to encourage the broadening of the industrial base of the State; and
- to promote an environment which supports the development of industry, science and technology and the emergence of internationally competitive industries in the State.

According to Section 21 of the ITD Act:

1. The Council is to —
  - a. provide advice to the Minister, at the initiative of the Council or at the request of the Minister, on any matter relating to the objects of this Act; and
  - b. carry out, collaborate in or procure research, studies or investigations on any matter relating to the objects of this Act, including matters relating to:
    - i. the role of industry, science and technology in the policies of government;
    - ii. the social and economic impact of industrial and technological change;
    - iii. employment and training needs and opportunities relating to industrial, scientific and technological activities in the State;
    - iv. the adequacy of, priorities among and co-ordination of, scientific, industrial and technological activities in the State;
    - v. methods of stimulating desirable industrial and technological advances in the State;
    - vi. the application of industrial, scientific and technological advances to the services of the Government; and
    - vii. the promotion of public awareness and understanding of development in industry, science and technology.

2. The Council may publish and make available any report or finding produced as a result of any research, study or investigation under subsection (1).
3. The Council is to liaise with and advise any person, body or organisation with respect to the conduct of any research, study or investigation into a matter relating to industry, science and technology in the State.
4. In carrying out its functions the Council is to —
  - a. have regard to the needs of the Western Australian community and the resources of the State;
  - b. promote developments in industry, science and technology that increase productivity and competitiveness; and
  - c. support developments that create employment opportunities.
5. The Council has the power to do all things necessary or convenient to be done for or in connection with the performance of its functions.

## Reviewing

The Charter and Code of Conduct will be reviewed annually.

## Reporting Structure

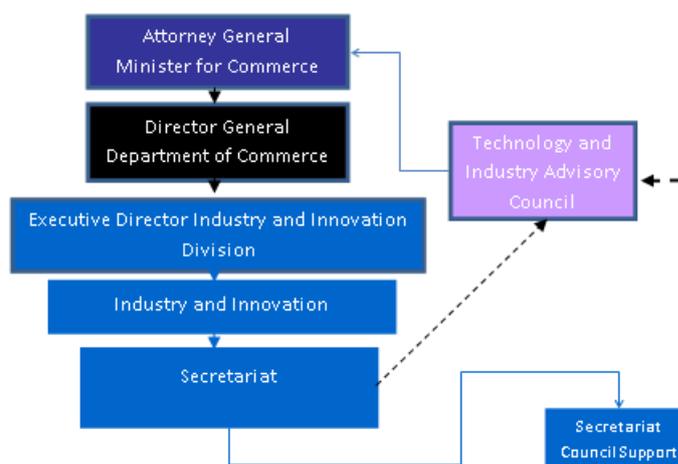


Diagram: Technology and Industry Advisory Council reporting structure in relation to the Department of Commerce.

## Structure of the Council

The Council will include members with wide experience in industry and innovation in practice. As per ITD Act 1998, Part 6, Section 22(2).

The Minister is to appoint a chairperson of the Council from among the appointed members of the Council, as per ITD Act 1998, Part 6, Section 22(3).

Members will be appointed for a term as specified in their appointment, not exceeding three years, but may from time to time be re-appointed, as per ITD Act 1998, Schedule 1 Section 23(1).

### **Resignation, removal, etc.**

As per ITD Act 1998 Section 23 Schedule 1 (2.1 and 2.2).

### **Minister may give directions**

The Minister may give directions in writing to the Council with respect to the performance of its functions or the exercise of its powers, either generally or in relation to a particular matter, and the Council is to give effect to any such direction, as per ITD Act 1998, Part 6, Section 25(1).

The text of a direction given under subsection (1) is to be included in the annual report of the Council under Section 26.

### **Operations**

The Council will meet at the times and places that the Council determines at intervals not longer than 2 months.

The Manager, Secretariat will be the main point of contact between TIAC and the Department of Commerce. The Manager will be invited to attend TIAC meetings as an observer.

An Executive Officer, appointed by the Department of Commerce, will coordinate meetings and prepare minutes which will be recorded and stored in accordance with public sector record management standards.

The Chairperson, will submit a copy of the minutes of each meeting to the Minister within 14 days after the meeting at which the minutes were confirmed.

### **Annual report of the Council**

The Council, must, as soon as practicable after 1 July, and in any event on or before 31 August, in each year, prepare and give to the Minister a report on its operations and proceedings for the previous financial year, as per ITD Act 1998, Part 6, Section 26(1).

The Minister is to cause the Council's report to be laid before each House of Parliament within seven (7) sitting days of the House after the Minister has received it, as per ITD Act 1998, Part 6, Section 26(2).

This section does not affect any duty of the accountable authority of the Department under Part 5 of the Financial Management Act 2006 to prepare and submit an annual report containing information about the Council or the operation of that Act in relation to that annual report.

### **Remuneration or Sitting Fees**

Members are remunerated under Section 24 of the ITD Act 1998.

On 24 November 2010, the Public Sector Commissioner provided a determination for remuneration of TIAC members being:

- a. Chairman - \$40,000 per annum; and
- b. Members - \$660 per day for meetings of 4 hours or more or \$430 per day for meetings less than 4 hours.

The recommendation is made pursuant to Premier's Circular 2010/02 – "State Government Boards and Committees" which excludes those on the public payroll from receiving fees.

On June 2012, the Public Sector Commissioner provided a determination for remuneration for Science Education Committee members being:

- a. Chairman - \$830 per day for meetings of 4 hours or more or \$540 per day for meetings less than 4 hours; and
- b. Members - \$540 per day for meetings of 4 hours or more or \$350 per day for meetings less than 4 hours.

The recommendation is made pursuant to Premier's Circular 2010/02 – "State Government Boards and Committees" which excludes those on the public payroll from receiving fees.

### **Code of Conduct**

This Code of Conduct (Code) is based on the Western Australian Public Sector Code of Ethics (Code of Ethics) as issued by the State Government's Public Sector Commissioner. It is applicable to most public sector bodies, including boards, and Councils created for a public purpose under Western Australian legislation.

In this Code, "member" means a Technology and Industry Advisory Council member duly appointed by the Minister under the ITD Act 1998.

Members are expected to:

- Act with care and diligence and make decisions that are honest, fair, impartial, and timely and consider all relevant information.
- Treat people with respect, courtesy and sensitivity and recognise their interests, rights, safety and welfare.
- Use the resources of the state in a responsible and accountable manner that ensures the efficient, effective and appropriate use of human, natural, financial and physical resources, property and information.

### **Personal behaviour**

Members are expected to:

- act ethically and with integrity;
- act according to the legislative requirements, policies and ethical codes that apply;
- make decisions fairly, impartially and promptly, considering all available information, legislation, policies and procedures;
- treat members of the public and colleagues with respect, courtesy, honesty and fairness, and have proper regard for their interests rights, safety and welfare;
- not harass, bully or discriminate against colleagues, members of the public and support staff;
- contribute to a harmonious, safe and productive work environment by their work habits, and professional workplace relationships; and
- serve the government of the day by fulfilling their purpose and statutory requirements.

### **Communication and official information**

Members are expected to:

- not disclose official information or documents acquired through their work, other than as required by law or where proper authorisation is given;
- not misuse official information for personal or commercial gain for themselves or another;
- adhere to legal requirements, policies and all other lawful directives regarding communication with Parliament, ministers, ministerial staff, lobbyists, members of the media and members of the public generally; and
- respect the confidentiality and privacy of all information as it pertains to individuals.

### **Fraudulent and corrupt behaviour**

Members are expected to:

- not engage in fraud or corruption;
- report any fraudulent or corrupt behaviour;
- report any breaches of the code of conduct; and
- understand and apply the accountability requirements that apply.

## **Use of public resources**

Members are expected to:

- be accountable for official expenditure;
- use publicly-funded resources diligently and efficiently. These include office facilities and equipment, vehicles, cab charge vouchers, corporate credit cards;
- not use office time or resources for party political work or for personal gain, financial or otherwise;
- keep to policies and guidelines in the use of computing and communication facilities, and use these resources in a responsible and practical manner; and be careful to ensure that any travel for official purposes is only done so when absolutely necessary.

## **Record keeping and use of information**

Members are expected to:

- record actions and reasons for decisions to ensure transparency;
- ensure the secure storage of sensitive or confidential information;
- comply with the public sector record keeping plan; and
- where permissible, share information to fulfil their role.

## **Conflicts of interest**

Under Schedule 1 (16). Disclosures of Interests of the ITD Act 1998, a member who has a material personal interest in a matter being considered or about to be considered by the Council must, as soon as possible after the relevant facts have come to the member's knowledge, disclose the nature of the interest at a meeting of the Council. Penalty: \$5,000.

A disclosure under subclause (1) is to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

In addition, members are expected to:

- ensure personal or financial interests do not conflict with their ability to perform their official duties in an impartial manner;
- manage and declare any conflict between their personal and public duty; and
- where conflicts of interest do arise, ensure they are managed in the public interest.

## **Public Sector Requirements**

The Public Sector Commissioner monitors compliance with the Western Australian Public Sector Code of Ethics and applicable codes of conduct. The Commissioner may report any public sector bodies, found to be in breach of the codes, to their relevant Minister and to Parliament.

Accordingly members on appointment will:

- Receive a copy of this Charter and are expected to read and abide by it.
- Receive a copy of the Western Australian Public Sector Code of Ethics and are expected to read and comply with it.
- Receive a copy of the ITD Act 1998 and are expected to read and abide by it.
- The Council accepts the minimum requirements set out in the Conduct Guide for Boards and Committees. This code of conduct builds on these minimum requirements.

## **Legislation, Policies and Procedures**

Members will be subject to the following legislation, policies and procedures.

### **Relevant legislation**

- *Auditor General Act 2006*
- *Corruption and Crime Commission Act 2003*
- *Equal Opportunity Act 1984*
- *Fair Trading Act 2010*
- *Financial Management Act 2006*
- *Freedom of Information Act 1992*
- *Industry and Technology Development Act 1998*
- *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984*
- *Parliamentary Commissioner Act 1971*
- *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003*
- *Public Sector Management Act 1994*
- *State Records Act 2000*
- *State Superannuation Act 2000*
- *State Supply Commission Act 1991*
- *Western Australian Equal Opportunity Act 1984*
- Other general requirements may be imposed by:
- Administrative Instructions, Approved Procedures, Public Sector Commissioner's Circulars, Premiers Circulars and Delegations, Treasurer's Instructions.

### **Relevant policies/guidelines**

Other general requirements may be imposed by:

- Administrative Instructions
- Approved Procedures
- Public Sector Commissioner's Circulars
- Premiers Circulars
- Delegations
- Treasurer's Instructions
- Western Australian Public Sector Code of Ethics 2002
- Public Sector Standards in Human Resource Management 2001
- Department of Premier and Cabinet Disciplinary Procedures Guide
- Contact with Lobbyists Code
- Department of Commerce Policies and Guidelines