



**GOVERNMENT**

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# WA ‘missing’ from national investment narrative: Cook

By [Jack McGinn](#)



Roger Cook said WA was often overlooked on a national level.

**W**estern Australian deputy premier [Roger Cook](#) labelled WA ‘missing’ from east coast investment conversations while launching an updated public sector intellectual property policy in Perth today.

Speaking on the need to attract funding to deliver on facets of the recent Future State diversity strategy at a Committee for Perth event this morning, [Mr Cook](#) said the state's economic achievements and potential were often overlooked on a national level and invited advice from business leaders on changing the narrative.

"We're having discussions internally, within the WA government, on how we [can be] more impactful, and how we disrupt the perceptions in terms of attitudes from the rest of Australia," he said.

"We're missing. We don't exist, essentially. I know that's an experience that [WA business leaders have] all had from time to time.

"I was going to say we're not taken seriously, but it's not even that. We're not even part of their thinking. We have a lot to do to change these things."

[Mr Cook](#) pointed to the April sod turning at Perdaman's urea project in the Pilbara, an event he said was largely ignored by east coast media and politicians despite being a project of national significance with a total budget of \$6.4 billion. The project attracted partial finance via the Northern Australian Infrastructure Fund and Energy Finance Australia.

Last week, federal treasurer Jim Chalmers [talked up the significance of WA's output to the federal economy](#) at a business breakfast in Perth while encouraging industry to put its support behind changes to LNG taxation policy.

[Mr Cook](#), who holds the state development, jobs and trade portfolio, also announced the launch of an updated public sector intellectual property policy which he said would encourage innovation within the sector in support of the diversification strategy.

The policy offers guidance on the creation, management and use of intellectual property to assist WA government agencies to optimise the benefits of their IP.

The government said it was designed to facilitate commercialisation "where appropriate and viable". It comes off the back of a discussion paper released in October last year.

"To ensure we can capitalise on our innovation ecosystem and support the growth of our industries in the state, we need to ensure that we protect and commercialise our groundbreaking ideas," [Mr Cook](#) said.

"In the course of delivering their core functions, government agencies often generate intellectual property which is a valuable asset with potential economic, social and environmental benefit for the state."

[Mr Cook](#) highlighted an example from Royal Perth Hospital of a world-leading innovation being developed at our doorstep.

"In the bowels of Royal Perth Hospital we have a group of engineers that are working on leading-edge 3D printing technology," he said.

“These guys have developed the capability to essentially 3D print parts of peoples’ skulls, providing a matrix into which the skulls will ultimately grow – essentially creating new skull infrastructure from peoples’ brains.”

Mr Cook will next week lead a delegation to Texas, where the WA government is setting up a recently announced trade office.

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### Mentioned People

Roger Cook

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