



WA Biodiversity Science Institute: Early Days

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Long Gestation

2010 – Idea first formed

2012 – Seed funding, consultants engaged

2012-2014 – End User Surveys

End of 2014 – Several reports produced

**2015 - Funding proposal made to
WA State government**

2015 - WABSI funded and launched

2016 - WABSI is born

Board meeting – Feb

2 Node Leaders appointed – March

I was appointed – May

On-going funding - May

Still in the formative stages and finding our way.



What we are not

- Many other types of organisations with similar gestation periods to WABSI such as CRC's, WAMSI, other science institutes, alliances etc.
- Major difference is whether research plan is funded
- WABSI is a “Field of Dreams”
 - “If you build it, funds will come”
- We are funded to operate only
- But one of our objectives is to develop projects and **get them funded.**

Why

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Overall Outcomes

Biodiversity Conservation

More effective and efficient strategies for setting priorities and conserving Western Australia's biodiversity

Facilitation of Sustainable Development

More effective, efficient and timely processes for environmental assessment, regulation and management

WABSI Purpose

- Shape strategic priorities for acquiring and managing terrestrial biodiversity knowledge
- Deliver excellence in terrestrial biodiversity research by fostering active collaboration across sectors and between researchers
- Ensure information is available in a form that is relevant and accessible to government policy makers, industry, land managers and other stakeholders

Who are the Joint Venture Partners?



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Achieve International Excellence



Murdoch
UNIVERSITY



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Mines and Petroleum**



Other Key End-User Stakeholders

NGO's
Mining
Indigenous communities
Agriculture
Forestry
Urban Developers
Land Managers
Government

Fair to say that the end-user survey has focused on the mining industry to date.

We intend to broaden that over the next 12 months





5 Core Principles

- 1. End-User Outcome Focused**
- 2. First Class Environmental Science**
- 3. A Collaboration Mechanism**
- 4. Focus on Projects that Make Sense for WABSI**
- 5. A 'Lite' Institute**

WABSI will create impact and ROI by:

- Supporting effective **prioritisation and execution** of strategies and investments in the management and conservation of biodiversity;
- **Reducing investment uncertainty** by ensuring that decisions relating to environmental approvals are made on the basis of the best scientific knowledge that is accessible and which secures community confidence;
- Supporting efforts to **streamline regulatory processes**, and ensure they are **timely and effective**;
- Promoting **co-ordinated and outcomes focused investment in biodiversity research** through partnerships that engage research providers, industry and other end-users; and
- Facilitating the **uptake of research** findings by end-users (which includes regulators, industry and land managers).





How will we get projects funded??

Clearly the challenge for WABSI is to seek funding for research

We have three options

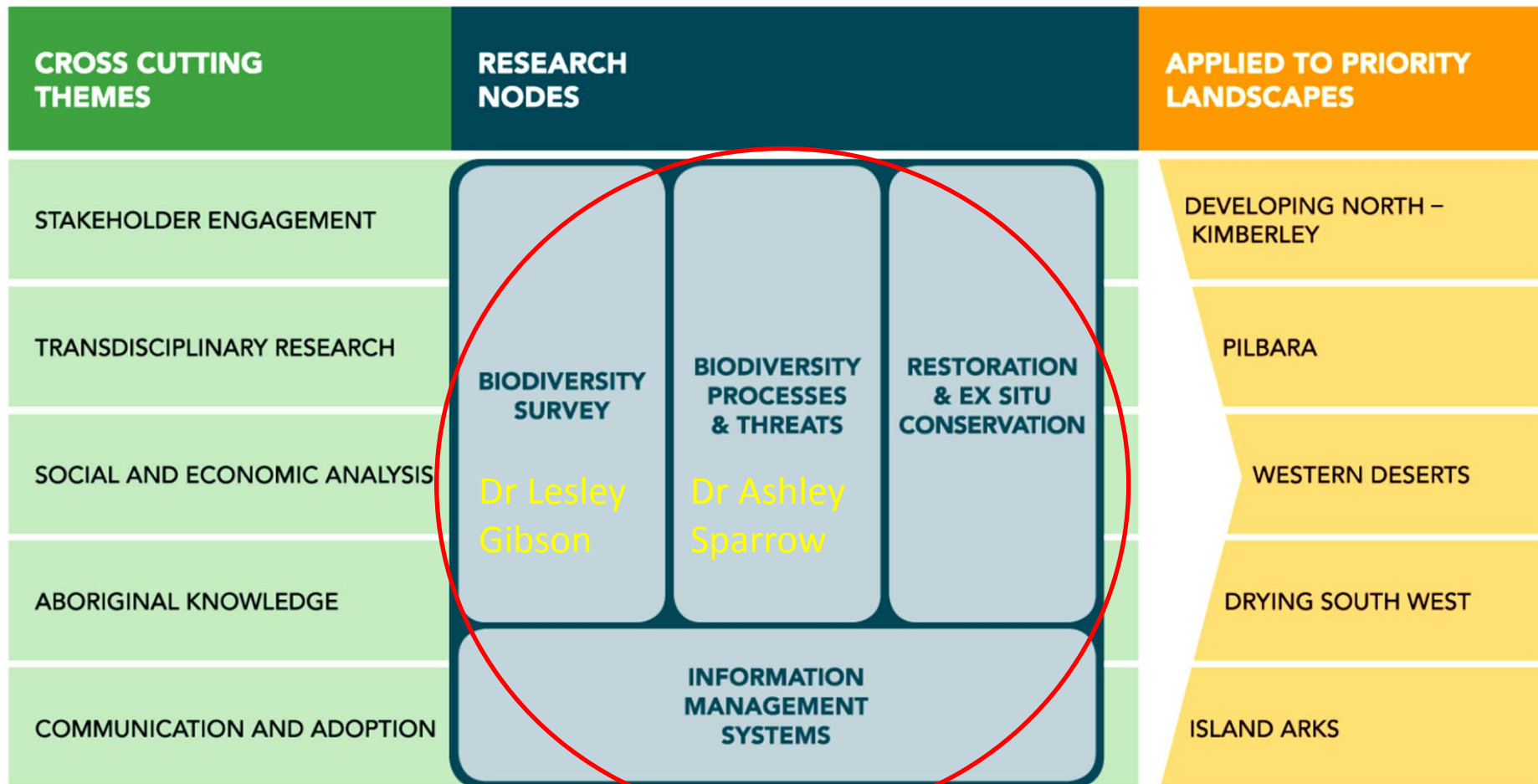
1. Wait for funding opportunities to arise and then compete for them.
2. Prepare a project proposal and go to potential funders seeking their support
3. Talk to funders now to use WABSI as their delivery vehicle for biodiversity research in WA.



What do we offer Funders??

- Independent.
- We can become their vehicle to deliver on any biodiversity science.
- Ability to deliver collaborative projects
 - Funders looking for this approach
 - Ability to bring the best team together as we have a detailed understanding of the capability that exists in WA
 - Understand what end users outcomes are and can ensure the research is delivered, fills the knowledge gap

Research Framework





Biodiversity Survey Node End-user Outcomes

1. Capacity to **accurately identify** elements of biodiversity
2. **Understand the geographic distribution** of species, ecological communities and genetic diversity
3. Capacity to **prioritise conservation effort** against agreed criteria, biodiversity condition and trends for the purposes of environmental assessment and conservation planning
4. **Simple, efficient and effective** guidelines for environmental impact assessments associated with regulatory processes



Biodiversity Processes and Threats Node End-user Outcomes

- **Evaluation of priorities** for management of threats to species and communities of conservation concern.
- Development of **effective management strategies** that integrate responses to the suite of processes and threats facing different geographic locations through time.

Focus areas

1. Identifying and prioritising key threats and processes
2. Integrated management and process interactions
3. Capacity to understand and manage specific processes and threats

➔ **reductionism vs holism/integration**



Restoration and Ex-situ Conservation End-user Outcomes

- An understanding of the science required to define appropriate **criteria for restoration and translocation** success.
- Guidelines and policy frameworks through which standards for restoration, can be identified and set for different sites.
- Proven **low cost, scalable technologies** for the restoration of ecological communities and translocation of plants and animals.



Restoration and Ex-situ Conservation End-user Outcomes

- Capacity to **measure and monitor restoration and translocation success**, particularly in early formative stages.
- Capacity to house, store, breed and release (translocate) a representative range of Western Australia's plant and animal species.



Information Management Systems Context

A **great deal of information** on the State's biodiversity has been **collected and interpreted** by research agencies and industry. However, the existing knowledge base **is fragmented and difficult to access**.

All surveyed stakeholders agree that an enhanced information base, which can be effectively interpreted by decision-makers, **will improve decision-making**.



Information Management Systems Node End-user Outcomes

- Capacity to **efficiently secure** electronically (web-based) access to available biodiversity data of **known quality and origin** to support **better planning and decision making** processes.
- User friendly interface and tools to discover, interpret and analyse data using accredited methodologies.
- Streamlined processes including **data standards and quality guidelines** that **improve data quality**, avoid duplication in collection of environmental data and therefore reduce costs and delays associated with both development and conservation planning.
- 4. **Improved collaborations and knowledge sharing** leading to enhanced conservation management and research outcomes.

Thank you

