

Our Governance

MRIWA's robust governance and contemporary fit-for-purpose corporate practices are outlined in this section highlighting some of the mechanisms in place to improve our performance, deliver business outcomes and ensure compliance.

Message from the Audit and Risk Committee Chair

The Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) had a number of changes to committee membership in the middle of the financial year. At the end of 2022 Helen Cook stepped down as Chair of the ARC having completed her tenure with MRIWA, and I took on the role of Chair in February 2023. In February 2023 we also welcomed Rylee Campbell onto the ARC joining myself and Larry Lopez.

Throughout the financial year, the ARC continued providing oversight to governance, risk, audit, and the financial matters of MRIWA. The strong internal audit and risk practices by the MRIWA team in the last financial year resulted in MRIWA being listed by the Office of Auditor General as one of 20 small government organisations having positively completed a 2022FY audit with best practice performance.

With the ever-increasing risk of cyber fraud and breaches, the ARC continued its strong focus on cybersecurity and related IT issues. During this financial year MRIWA achieved Essential 8 Level 1 standards for its IT systems. Monitoring of MRIWA's cybersecurity systems will continue being assessed on an ongoing basis.

Another highlight this year was an extensive review of MRIWA's Intellectual Property (IP) practices. The review has helped MRIWA work towards implementing more robust IP procedures across the organisation in line with its overall legislative remit.

Once completed, MRIWA's updated IP practices will be referenced against the WA government's ongoing review of IP policies to further strengthen and align MRIWA's IP practices with overall government procedures.

The Research Portfolio Management Manual is reviewed on an ongoing basis in the interests of continual improvement. In addition, a Work Health and Safety Framework was developed in line with legislation changes made during the financial year.

A review was undertaken of the organisation's business continuity processes which resulted in the development of an action matrix to address absences by the CEO/CFO, and separately, a review of the procedures to board appointment which led to the development of a new process to ensure the best possible candidates for future roles can be identified.

Internal audits were undertaken on the policy register, and against contract agreements and grant management processes set within the organisation's internal management software program CMAPS. Other ongoing work during the financial year included continuous improvement of the organisation's financial management practices and Internal Audit and Reporting Plan.

The ARC continues to assess ongoing emerging risks to the organisation at each committee meeting and incorporates identified risks to MRIWA into the risk register.

At the end of this financial year end, I acknowledge the tenure of the previous Chair, Helen Cook who provided strong governance, risk, and financial leadership through the ARC to MRIWA for nine years.

I also extend my appreciation to both Larry and Rylee for their attentive focus on governance, financial, and risk matters. Importantly, implementation of the operational aspects of the ARC outcomes and audit findings continued with the support of Nicole Roocke and Stephanie Ahlfeld and our financial management services provider, Deloitte.

Linda Tompkins
Chair
Audit and Risk Committee



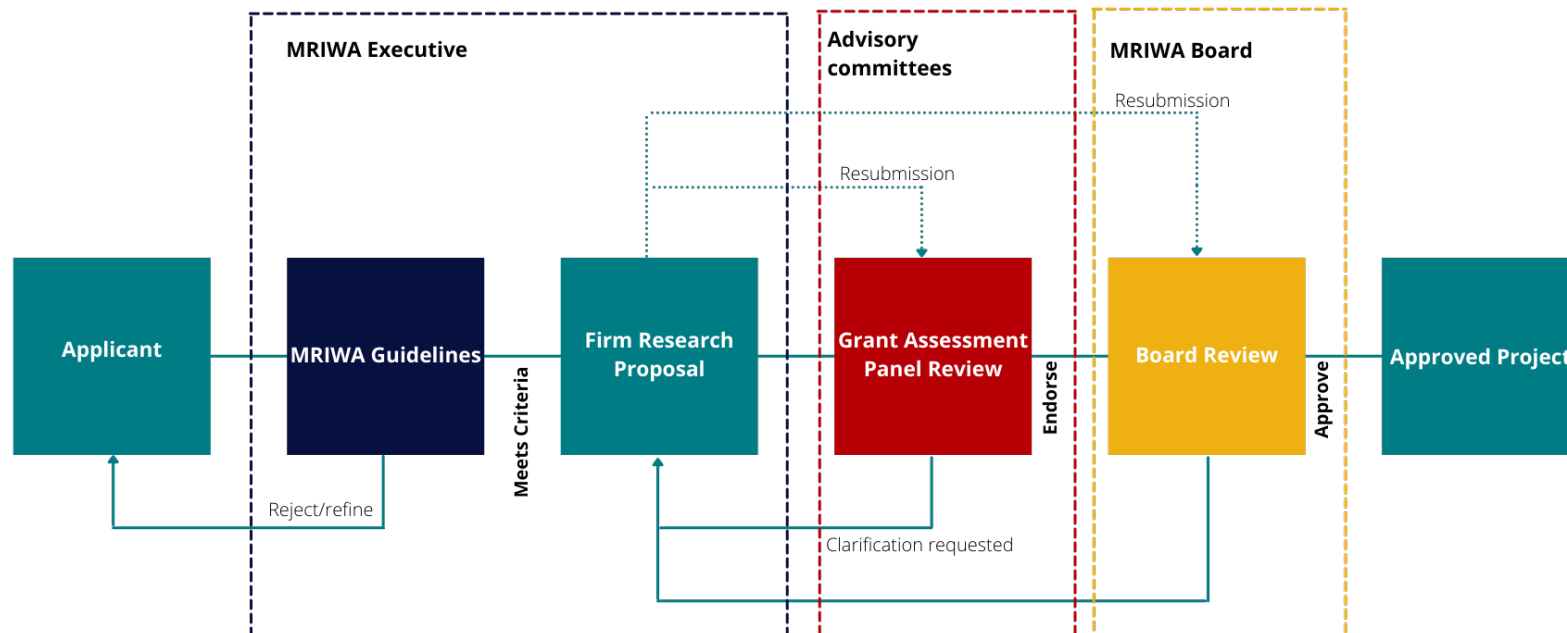
Committee Structure and Decision-Making Framework

Control and management of MRIWA is vested in a Board of seven members (MRIWA Board), who are appointed by the Minister. The CEO administers day-to-day operations, subject to the direction of the MRIWA Board.

The MRIWA College is an advisory group appointed by the MRIWA Board to provide advice to MRIWA and the MRIWA Board on minerals research priorities. The MRIWA College assists in the assessment of research grant applications which seek to address the challenges facing the State's minerals industry to ensure it can deliver an economic and social benefit for Western Australia.

The MRIWA College is comprised of individual representatives with specific knowledge and experience relevant to one or more of the program areas in the MRIWA Research Priority Plan¹. These representatives are drawn from a range of industry, research community and government organisations.

Research applications are developed by an Applicant with input from MRIWA, before being reviewed by a Grant Assessment Panel (GAP). Members of the GAP are drawn from the MRIWA College. The GAP make a recommendation to the MRIWA Board on each project. It is the role of the MRIWA Board to approve investment decisions for all projects.



1. <https://www.mriwa.wa.gov.au/research-funding/research-priorities/>



Disclosures

Shared Responsibilities with Other Agencies

The Institute did not share any responsibilities with other agencies in 2022-23.

Ministerial Directives

There have been no Ministerial directives to MRIWA in 2022-23.

Other Financial Disclosures

Capital Works

MRIWA has no capital works projects.

Employment and Industrial Relations

As of 30 June 2023, MRIWA employed 8 people, with one vacant role, equating to 8.8 full-time equivalents (FTE).

During the year, 2 people ceased employment with MRIWA.

MRIWA employment profile

Employment Type	2023	2022
Permanent Full-Time	3	3
Fixed Term Full-Time	4	4
Fixed Term Part-Time	1	0

Staff Development

MRIWA is committed to supporting its employees through the provision of training and development opportunities.

Diversity Profile

Diversity Group	2023	2022
Women on the Board	50%	71%
Women in Senior Executive Services (SES)	100%	100%
Indigenous Australians on the Board	17%	0
Indigenous Australian Employees	0	0
Employees from Culturally-Diverse Background	1	1
Employees with Disabilities	0	0
Youth (under 25 years)	1	0

Occupational Safety & Health; Workers Compensation and Injury Management

MRIWA is committed to providing a safe work environment. A new Workplace Health and Safety Framework, directly linked to the MRIWA Risk Register, was introduced as the control mechanism for reducing the risk of injury to employees, contractors, students and visitors.

During 2022-23 there were no Workers Compensation claims lodged and there are no employees on return-to-work plans.

Unauthorised use of credit cards

Officers of MRIWA hold corporate credit cards where their functions warrant usage of this facility.

One instance occurred where a Western Australian Government Purchasing Card was used for personal purposes during the period.

The aggregate amount of personal use expenditure for the reporting period: **\$12.23**.

This amount was settled by the due date.

The number of referrals for disciplinary action instigated by the notifiable authority during the reporting period: **None**



Governance Disclosures

Advertising

In accordance with section 175ZE of the *Electoral Act 1907* (WA), MRIWA has incurred the following expenditure for advertising agencies, market research, polling, direct mail or media advertising agencies:

Expenditure	Total	Amount
Advertising agencies, Market research organisations, Polling organisations, Direct mail organisations	Nil	Nil
Media advertising organisations	2,528	
- The Conversation (<i>Event advertisement</i>)		1820
- Initiative Media Australia (<i>Recruitment</i>)		708

Board and Committee Representation

To achieve its objective, MRIWA draws substantially on members of the minerals community contributing their experience and knowledge. This is particularly the case for the members of the MRIWA Board and supporting advisory committees.

MRIWA Board members are appointed in accordance with Section 27(1)(a) of the MRIWA Act and are remunerated by an annual fee set by the Public Sector Commissioner. The fee has not been varied since first established on 20 December 2013.

Further information on MRIWA Board membership can be located in the *Overview* section of the Annual Report.

Under the MRIWA Act, the MRIWA Board has the authority to establish any committee or appoint any organisation or individual to provide it with advice, especially on the merit of applications for research grants (section 60).

From 17 February 2020, the advisory committee convened by MRIWA has taken the form of an assessment panel comprised of Core Members and subject matter experts drawn from the MRIWA College and known as a Grant Assessment Panel.

Members of MRIWA College are appointed in accordance with Section 60(1) of the MRIWA Act and are remunerated based on attendance at a rate set by the Public Sector Commissioner.

Four Grant Assessment Panels and one Scholarship Panel were convened in 2022-23.

College members were also involved in further consultation activities including the 2022 College Colloquium.

MRIWA College Colloquium

The 2022 MRIWA College Colloquium was held on 14 October 2022, with attending members participating in focus group activities examining priority areas of minerals research activity.

Facilitated by the MRIWA Research Portfolio Manager team, attendees were led through group discussions and conversation addressing research needs and opportunities for Western Australia in relation to:

1. The Mining Equipment, Technology and Services (METS) sector;
2. Mineral exploration, and;
3. Alternative uses of tailings and waste.

The views surfaced through these workshop activities were captured by MRIWA to inform and support strategic planning for these focus areas.

The Board considered outcomes from the Colloquium as part of their strategic planning for 2023-2024.

The next MRIWA College Colloquium will be held on 30 October 2023.



College - Core Membership

Up to ten (10) persons will be appointed as Core Members of the College. At the expiry of their term as a Core Member, individuals may continue to participate in the College as a subject matter expert. Core Members are invited to attend all Grant Assessment Panel meetings, to ensure a consistent approach in the assessment of research grant applications.

Name	Position	Appointment Approved	Term Expiry	Sitting Fees \$
Gerard Danckert	Chair	1-Jun-20	31-Dec-26	1,802 ^(a)
Ian Suckling	Chair	1-Jun-21	13-Nov-22	2,040 ^(a)
Alison Morley	Core Member	1-Jun-20	28-Feb-23	-
Allan Trench	Core Member	1-Jun-20	31-May-26	1,564 ^(a)
Joanne Heyes	Core Member	1-Jun-23	31-May-26	-
Laura Kuhar	Core Member	1-Jun-20	31-May-26	1,768 ^(a)
Rob Hough	Core Member	1-Jun-20	31-May-26	-(b)
Sara Braund	Core Member	1-Sep-22	31-Aug-25	1,122 ^(a)
Vanessa Lickfold	Core Member	1-Jan-21	31-Dec-26	2,006 ^(a)

(a) Foregoes all remuneration for use in the MRIWA Education Program.

(b) Ineligible for remuneration in accordance with Premier's Circular 2022/02 State Government Boards and Committees

College Members

Name	Position	Appointment Approved	Term Expiry	Sitting Fees \$
Alexander Logan	Member	1-Sep-20	31-Aug-26	442 ^(a)
Allon Brent	Member	1-Jan-21	31-Dec-23	-
Andy Fourie	Member	1-Jun-20	31-May-26	442 ^(a)
Andy Lamb	Member	1-Sep-20	31-Aug-26	680 ^(a)
Anel Joubert	Member	1-Jun-20	31-May-26	442 ^(a)
Anna Kaksonen	Member	1-Jun-20	31-May-26	-
Bryan Maybee	Member	1-Jun-20	31-May-26	884 ^(b)
Caroline Perring	Member	1-Jun-20	31-May-26	-(a)
Charles Elliott	Member	22-Jun-20	31-May-26	680
Charlotte Hall	Member	1-Jun-20	31-May-23	-(c)
Chitra Viswanathan	Member	1-Sep-20	31-Aug-26	-(c)
Chris Kirkland	Member	1-Jun-20	31-May-26	-(a)

Name	Position	Appointment Approved	Term Expiry	Sitting Fees \$
Christopher Baker	Member	1-Jun-20	31-May-23	-
Deborah Lord	Member	1-Sep-20	31-Aug-23	680
Erkan Topal	Member	22-Jun-20	31-May-26	-
Eugenia Phegan	Member	1-Mar-23	28-Feb-26	442 ^(a)
Fiona Haslam-McKenzie	Member	1-Jun-20	31-May-26	-(a)
Ian Suckling	Member	14-Nov-22	30-Nov-25	-(a)
Ivor Roberts	Member	1-Jun-20	31-May-26	-(c)
Jeremy Smith	Member	1-Jun-23	31-May-26	-
Joanne Heyes	Member	1-Jun-20	31-May-23	442 ^(a)
John Clout	Member	1-Sep-20	31-Aug-23	1,122 ^(a)
John Dell	Member	1-Jun-20	31-May-26	-
Jon Hronsky	Member	1-Jun-20	31-May-26	442 ^(a)
Kane Moyle	Member	1-Jun-20	31-May-23	442 ^(a)
Karen Caple	Member	1-Sep-20	31-Aug-23	-(c)
Kerryl Bradshaw	Member	1-Jun-20	31-May-23	-(a)
Louisa O'Connor	Member	1-Jun-20	31-May-23	680
Louise McNab	Member	1-Sep-22	31-Aug-25	680 ^(a)
Marilena Stimpfl	Member	1-Sep-22	31-Aug-25	442 ^(a)
Mark Jessell	Member	1-Jun-20	31-May-23	1,122 ^(a)
Melanie Blanchette	Member	1-Jun-20	10-Aug-22	-
Michelle Keegan	Member	1-Jun-20	31-May-26	680 ^(a)
Nicolas Herbert	Member	1-Mar-23	28-Feb-26	
Peter Bewick	Member	1-Jun-20	31-May-26	1,122
Pietro Guj	Member	1-Nov-20	31-Oct-26	-
Rathy Brandes de Roos	Member	1-Jun-20	31-May-23	-(a)
Renee Hallam	Member	1-Nov-20	31-Oct-23	-
Russell Staines	Member	1-Dec-22	30-Nov-25	-
Ryan Fraser	Member	1-Nov-20	31-Oct-23	-

(a) Foregoes all remuneration for use in the MRIWA Education Program.

(b) Foregoes a portion of remuneration for use in the MRIWA Education Program.

(c) Ineligible for remuneration in accordance with Premier's Circular 2022/02 State Government Boards and Committees



Contracts with Senior Officers

No member of MRIWA staff had any interest or benefit from any contract entered by MRIWA.

Freedom of Information

The *Freedom of Information Act 1992* (WA) enables the public to apply for access to documents held by MRIWA. No freedom of information request was received by the organisation in 2022-23.

Public Sector Standards and Ethical Codes

All members of MRIWA Board and MRIWA College are aware of the need to comply with Part 4 – Administration, Subdivision 3 of the *Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia Act 2013* (WA), which sets out the provisions for disclosure of material personal interest, and MRIWA's Code of Conduct.

MRIWA has complied with Section 31(1) of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* (WA) in the administration of the MRIWA's human resource management practices relating to Public Sector Standards, Western Australian Public Sector Code of Ethics and MRIWA's Code of Conduct.

MRIWA utilises the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety's human resources services and is confident their human resources management principles have adequate checks in place to ensure compliance requirements are met.

In 2022-23 no breach claims were lodged in relation to either the Public Sector Standards or the WA Public Sector Commission's Code of Ethics.

MRIWA is compliant with the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003* (WA). In accordance with this Act, the Chief Executive Officer is the designated Public Interest Disclosure Officer.

In 2022-23 no public interest disclosures were lodged under the Act. MRIWA submitted the 'Public Sector Entity Survey to the Public Sector Commission with no reports for breach of discipline under the *Public Sector Management Act 1994* (WA).

Quarterly reporting of MRIWA's gift and benefits register to the MRIWA Board continues to ensure no inappropriate acceptance of gifts or benefits and to monitor any notable trends.

Record Management Plan

In line with the Digital Strategy for the Western Australian Government 2021-25, MRIWA transitioned its main systems to the Cloud. The impact on our recordkeeping practices warranted the creation of a new Recordkeeping plan.

The State Records Commission approved the Institute's Recordkeeping Plan in August 2022.

WA Multicultural Policy Framework

The MRIWA Multicultural Plan 2021-24 was submitted in January 2021.

MRIWA is committed to all opportunities to expand knowledge about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, history and experiences for our staff, board members and PhD student cohort.

We actively strive to identify ways where we can increase the engagement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the work we do and ensure they are supported in doing so.

MRIWA believes in supporting and empowering mining industry thought leaders and research champions of the future. In FY22 we introduced the MRIWA Indigenous Postgraduate Research Scholarship, open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander applicants only, to further enhance our multicultural engagement.

All MRIWA staff have completed the Public Sector Commission's Cultural Awareness training and Office of Multiculture Interest's Diverse WA training.



Other Legal Requirements

Annual Estimates^(a)

Statement of Comprehensive Income

For financial year 2023-24

	Estimate 2024 \$
COST OF SERVICES	
Expenses	
Research grants	11,250,629
Scholarships	486,904
Loss on disposal of assets	-
Employee benefits expense	2,008,408
Institute Contractor fees	52,000
Board and committee fees and costs	148,633
Supplies and services	1,135,815
Other expenses	139,243
Accommodation expenses	152,086
Depreciation expense	-
Total cost of services	15,373,718
Income	
Revenue	
Interest revenue	166,972
Other revenue	397,404
Revenue from Industry Sponsorship	1,236,826
Total revenue	1,801,202
Total income other than income from State Government	1,801,202
NET COST OF SERVICES	13,572,516

	Estimate 2024 \$
Income from State Government	
State Government Grant	6,946,000
Resources received free of charge	152,086
Total income from State Government	7,098,086
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	(6,474,430)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD	(6,474,430)

Note:

- (a) As MRIWA's Total Cost of Services has been less than \$10m in the two most recent comparative periods it is exempt from preparing Annual Estimates in accordance with Treasurer's Instruction 953 'Annual Estimates' and the Treasurer's Direction dated 16 March 2022.

As a matter of good practice, and given MRIWA is still required to disclose budgets for each financial year in the Annual Report in the form of:

- Statement of Comprehensive Income
- Statement of Financial Position
- Statement of Cash Flows,

annual estimates have been prepared for this future use.



Statement of Financial Position

For financial year 2023-24

	Estimate 2024 \$
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	2,100,645
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	8,402,582
Receivables and other assets	570,474
Other Current Assets	41,743
Total Current Assets	11,115,444
Non-Current Assets	
Property, plant and equipment	-
Total Non-Current assets	-
TOTAL ASSETS	11,115,444

	Estimate 2024 \$
LIABILITIES	
Current Liabilities	
Payables	48,955
Provisions	173,500
Deferred revenue	2,496,286
Total Current Liabilities	2,718,741
Non-Current Liabilities	
Provisions	49,000
Total Non-Current Liabilities	49,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES	2,767,741
NET ASSETS	8,347,703
EQUITY	
Accumulated surplus	8,347,703
TOTAL EQUITY	8,347,703



Statement of Cash Flows

For financial year 2023-24

	Estimate 2024 \$
Cash flows from State Government	
Cash receipts from Government	6,946,000
Cash flows from operating activities	
Payments	
Research Grant & Scholarship Payments	(11,738,578)
Employee benefits	(1,975,408)
Institute Contractor Fees	(52,000)
Board and Advisory Committee Fees	(148,633)
Supplies and Services	(1,427,144)
GST Paid on Purchases	(1,189,595)
<i>Other payments</i>	
Receipts from Sponsors	1,433,901
Receipts from Events	397,404
Interest received	166,972
GST received on sales	100,373
Net GST refunded from ATO (or paid)	1,089,222
Cash generated from operations	(13,343,486)
Cash flows from investing activities	
Purchase of non-current assets	-
Net cash from investing activities	-

	Estimate 2024 \$
Cash flows from financing activities	
Related entities loans	-
Proceeds from other borrowings	-
HP Financing	-
Finance leases	-
Net cash from financing activities	-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	(6,397,486)
Cash and cash equivalents 1 July	16,900,713
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT END OF YEAR	10,503,227

