



# Privacy Statement

## Privacy

The Wheatbelt Development Commission (WDC or Commission) respects your right to privacy and is committed to protecting your personal information.

## Introduction

This privacy statement explains:

- how and why the Commission may collect, store and disclose your personal information and for what purpose; and
- how to access and/or correct your personal information that is held by the Commission.

This statement explains the WDC's approach to personal information handling practices in recognition of our commitment to the privacy provisions under the *Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing Act 2024* ("WA privacy legislation"), anticipated to commence on 1 July 2026.

Until such time as the WA privacy legislation comes into effect, this statement follows the WA government's interim privacy position that requires our actions to be consistent with applicable Australian Privacy Principles set out in Schedule 1 to the *Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)*, with primary emphasis upon Principle 6 — "use or disclosure of personal information".

## Application

This statement applies to the WDC, its employees and all persons conducting business or activities on behalf of, or with, the Commission, including visitors, service providers, contractors and volunteers.

## Approach

The WDC aims to implement a 'privacy by design and default' approach to managing personal information. This means that we will ensure that privacy protections are embedded into the design and architecture of our information technology systems and physical infrastructure from conception.

As a standard business practice, the WDC will identify and minimise privacy risks associated with any policy changes or new projects. This will assist the WDC's aim of managing your personal information in an open and transparent way.

## What is Personal Information?

In this statement, the term "personal information" is used to refer to any information or opinion about an individual (living or deceased) that could reasonably be used to

identify them. The information or opinion does not have to be true or in a written form.

An individual could be a member of the public, an employee, contractor, supplier or any other stakeholder the WDC corresponds or engages with.

### **What is sensitive information?**

‘Sensitive information’ is used in this statement to refer to a specific type of personal information which generally has a higher level of privacy protection than other personal information. Sensitive information is personal information that contains information or an opinion about specific characteristics of a person including:

- racial or ethnic origin;
- political opinion or association;
- religious beliefs or affiliations;
- philosophical beliefs;
- trade or professional associations and memberships;
- union membership;
- sexual orientation or practices;
- criminal record;
- health or genetic information; or
- certain biometric information.

### **Personal information the Commission collects**

The WDC will typically collect your personal information directly from you. Sometimes the WDC may collect personal information obtained from your authorised representative or a third party. The Commission collects and holds different types of personal information, such as:

- Who you are:
  - Name, signature
  - age, date of birth, gender
  - photographs, videos, audio-visual recordings
- Your contact details:
  - street and/or postal address
  - telephone/mobile number, email address
  - emergency contact details, next of kin, referee details
- If you were, or currently are, an employee, contractor or service provider:
  - current and/or former employer, contractor and volunteer roles
  - education, training, qualifications and experience
  - hours of work, remuneration, leave records
  - current and/or past performance, professional development, discipline or performance case management
  - tax file number and superannuation fund details
  - records of engagement, resignation and termination
- Financial information:
  - bank account
  - credit card details
- Licensing, approvals and permits:
  - driver’s licence, equipment licence, and other approvals, licences and permits
  - citizenship, passport and/or visa information, travel details

- Information you give to the Commission via our surveys, forms (hard copy and electronic), attendances at WDC events or visits by our representatives
- The products and services you have applied for or enquired to the WDC about, together with any information provided that was necessary to deliver those products and services to you or respond to your enquiries
- Online information including information posted on our websites and social media platforms, cookie and clickstream data (unless disabled by you)
- Other types of personal information as may be collected from time to time in connection with carrying out the WDC's functions and activities.

Sensitive information collected:

The WDC may also collect a range of sensitive information about you, including your:

- Criminal records, for example as part of a WA national criminal history check
- Health information, for example health information collected under the Workers Compensation and Injury Management process
- Racial or ethnic origin, for example Indigenous background
- Religious beliefs or sexual orientation, for example, where volunteered by participants in the department's diversity, equity and inclusion programs
- Other types of sensitive information as may be collected from time to time in connection with carrying out the WDC's functions and activities.

### **Why the Commission collects and uses your personal information**

The Department collects and uses your personal information to perform its powers, functions and activities, including for the following purposes:

- Administering its legislation (Regional Development Commissions Act 1993)
- Conducting research to advance the State's primary industries. We may collect personal data from farmers, fishers, and community members to facilitate participation in surveys, trials, or consultations.
- Offering programs, grants or subsidies to support regional communities and industries. We may collect personal information to assess eligibility and provide assistance.
- Engaging with the public through consultation, surveys, and feedback forms to inform policy and program development. We may collect personal information which allows us to facilitate further communications if necessary.
- Providing training and accreditation for industry participants. We may collect personal details to assist us to manage registrations, certifications, and maintain training records.

### **Remaining anonymous**

In certain circumstances, you may choose to remain anonymous when interacting with us unless we require some of your personal information for us to do our work. For example, we may require personal information to assess your eligibility for a grant.

### **Disclosure of your personal information**

The WDC endeavours to not disclose personal information for purposes other than the primary purpose for which it was originally collected except in some specified circumstances such as:

- where you have consented to disclosure for a secondary purpose, different to the one which you had originally agreed to;
- where the secondary disclosure is authorised or required by law;
- where the Commission believes the secondary disclosure is necessary for such things as law enforcement activities or managing public safety;
- to take part in, initiate, or respond to legal proceedings; or
- where you would reasonably expect the WDC to use it for that secondary purpose, for example in emergency situations.

### **Disclosure of personal information overseas**

The WDC does not ordinarily disclose personal information overseas. We will inform you before collecting your personal information if, at the time of collection, we intend to use that information for overseas-based services or activities.

### **How we hold and safeguard your personal information**

The WDC holds personal information in a range of electronic, paper based and audio-visual records (including in cloud-based applications and services). We take reasonable steps to ensure the personal information we collect is held in a safe and secure manner to protect personal information from:

- unauthorised access or disclosure;
- changes;
- misuse; and
- loss and harm.

Personal information that we hold is managed securely through our record-keeping systems. We ensure that we safeguard our IT systems against unauthorised access and physically secure our paper-based files in on-site locations.

The Commission complies with the WA Government Cyber Security Policy, related security standards, and risk management practices. Personal information is protected by an appropriate level of cyber security controls documented within the WDC's Cyber Security Manual. We also ensure that we appropriately control staff access to personal information within our systems.

### **Retention and destruction**

The WDC will comply with all legal requirements in relation to the retention and destruction of records containing personal information, including information management requirements in the State Records Act 2000 and the State Records Commission Standards. When personal information is no longer required to be retained, we will delete or destroy it in accordance with the approved Retention and Disposal Authority and the WDC's Recordkeeping Plan.

### **How to access and correct your personal information**

You have a right to request access to personal information we hold about you, and if that personal information is not correct, you may request we correct it.

- If you are a member of the public, you can download an application form for access or correction of personal information from our Freedom of Information Officer.
- If you are a current or former employee, a workforce contractor or an external stakeholder then, in the first instance, you can submit a request via email or letter. For example, applicants for a grant program may first contact the program administrator. You may also use the contact details at the end of this

statement or, if the nature of your request is less straightforward, apply using the Freedom of Information process.

**Website privacy statement**

You can browse the general content of the WDC's website without disclosing your personal information. However, some of the functionality of the site may require you to provide personal information. Examples of this include where you wish to make an enquiry. We may need to collect, use or disclose your personal information to allow us to answer your enquiry or process your transaction.

**Privacy enquiries and complaints**

You can contact our Privacy Officer if you have questions, need information or would like to lodge a complaint about the way the WDC has handled your personal information.

Privacy Officer – Wheatbelt Development Commission

Phone: 9622 7222

Email: [info@wheatbelt.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@wheatbelt.wa.gov.au)

Website: [www.wheatbelt.wa.gov.au](http://www.wheatbelt.wa.gov.au)