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Curtin University



BANKWEST CURTIN ECONOMICS CENTRE

# THE COSTS OF DOING BUSINESS IN WA

Pressures and barriers to industry performance

Focus on Western Australia Report Series, No. 4  
July 2015

Report Launch - Program

Wednesday 29 July 2015  
from 7:30am until 9:00am  
The Hyatt  
99 Adelaide Terrace, Perth  
#WAbusiness

# About the Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre

The Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre is an independent economic and social research organisation located within the Curtin Business School at Curtin University. The Centre was established in 2012 through the generous support from Bankwest (a division of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia), with a core mission to undertake high quality, objective research on the key economic and social issues of relevance to Western Australia.

The Centre's research and engagement activities are designed to influence economic and social policy debates in state and Federal Parliament, regional and national media, and the wider Australian community. Through high quality, evidence-based research and analysis, our research outcomes inform policy makers and commentators of the economic challenges to achieving sustainable and equitable growth and prosperity both in Western Australia and nationally.

The Centre brings a unique philosophy to research on the major economic issues facing Western Australia. By bringing together experts from the research, policy and business communities at all stages of the process - from framing and conceptualising research questions, through the conduct of research, to the communication and implementation of research findings - we ensure that our research is relevant, fit for purpose, and makes a genuine difference to the lives of Australians both in WA and nationally.

The Centre is able to capitalise on Curtin University's reputation for excellence in economic modelling, forecasting, public policy research, trade and industrial economics and spatial sciences.

Centre researchers have specific expertise in economic forecasting, quantitative modelling, micro-data analysis and economic and social policy evaluation. The Centre also derives great value from its close associations with experts from commercial, public service and not-for-profit organisations.

## Program

7:15am	Registrations open
7:30am	Guests seated and welcomed by MC Di Darmody Breakfast is served
7:40am	Introduction Donna Dalby WA State Manager, Business Banking, Bankwest
7:55am	Report Launch The Costs of Doing Business in WA: Pressures and barriers to industry performance Prof Alan Duncan Director, Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre
8:20am	Panel Discussion and Q&A facilitated by Di Darmody Anne Nolan Director General, Department of Finance Greg Watkinson Chief Executive Officer, Economic Regulation Authority WA Bronwyn Barnes Executive Chair, Windward Resources Ltd Professor Alan Duncan Director, Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre
8:55am	Vote of thanks Professor Graeme Wright Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Development, Curtin University  Session wrap-up by MC Di Darmody
9:00am	Event ends

## Welcome from Professor Alan Duncan



Welcome to the launch of the fourth report in the Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre's *Focus on Western Australia* series: *The Costs of Doing Business in WA: Pressures and barriers to industry performance*.

Our research will explore a number of key questions relating to the business cost burdens faced by West Australian companies. What are the key cost components for companies in WA, and how have these costs varied over time, across sector and by firm size? Are there specific cost factors that affect WA companies to a greater extent than in the rest of Australia? Are there regional differences in the costs of doing business in WA?

Information included in the report has been sourced from a range of databases, including numerous Australian Bureau of Statistics products, the Property Council of Australia, FuelWatch, specialised commercial sales price data sourced from Landgate and information from the Department of Regional Developments Regional Price Indices.

The report casts light on the main barriers to business activities and performance cited by companies in different industry sectors - including skills shortages and labour costs, input costs, and burdens of regulation or compliance - and looks at those barriers that particularly affect the activities, growth or survival of small businesses in the State. These findings provide an important evidence base to inform business policies at Federal and state level.

At this breakfast, assisted by commentary from an outstanding panel of experts: Anne Nolan, Director General, Department of Finance; Greg Watkinson, Chief Executive Officer, Economic Regulation Authority WA; Bronwyn Barnes, Executive Chair, Windward Resources Ltd, we hope to generate discussion among our audience on strategies and steps that can be taken to improve on the current situation.

Please enjoy breakfast and networking with friends, colleagues and new acquaintances. We hope that this report series continues to inform debate and build policy on key issues of importance to the State and the nation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Duncan'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

**Professor Alan Duncan**  
Director, Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre  
Curtin Business School, Curtin University



### Donna Dalby

WA State Manager, Business Banking, Bankwest

Donna joined Bankwest in September 2014 as State Manager – Business Banking WA. She is responsible for leading, developing and coaching a diverse team, who are dedicated to helping and servicing the financial needs of the WA Business Community.

Donna began her career in banking over 27 years ago, most recently having spent 7 years with Commonwealth Bank as General Manager - Local Business Banking. In this role, Donna was responsible for the implementation of the local business bankers into the Queensland store network. This change allowed for greater accessibility to clients, with the focus on up-skilling the workforce to enable them to service a more diverse clientele and extend their skills to the SME market.

Donna is an exceptional people leader which is reflected not only in her current team's capabilities but also her sporting achievements outside of Bankwest. Donna has represented her country as part of the Australian Women's Indoor Cricket Team, and captained the Australian team from 1997 to 2004 where they won four World Cup titles. She now coaches the Australian team, enjoying more success at World Cups.



### Greg Watkinson

Chief Executive Officer, Economic Regulation Authority WA

Greg Watkinson has been the Chief Executive Officer of the Economic Regulation Authority since 2010 and with the ERA since 2004. During his time at the ERA, Greg has played a leading role in regulatory decisions in the gas, electricity, water and rail industries. While at the ERA, Greg has also guided the preparation of independent economic advice to the State Government on various matters, including recently on the microeconomic reform priorities for the Western Australian economy. Prior to joining the ERA, Greg has worked as an economist at the Western Australian Treasury, New Zealand Treasury and New Zealand Department of Education. Greg has a Masters degree in economics from the University of Waikato in New Zealand.



### Anne Nolan

Director General, Department of Finance

Anne Nolan is the Director General of the Department of Finance in Western Australia which was established in July 2011.

Anne has had a wealth of experience in leading and developing public sector agencies and had responsibility in areas as diverse as industry and resource development, tax policy, energy policy, economic forecasting, intergovernmental relations, corporate governance, strategic planning and government trading enterprise policy and performance.

Positions Anne has previously held include Director General, Department of State Development; Deputy Director General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet; Coordinator of Energy and Executive Director (Economics) at the Department of Treasury.

Anne has a Bachelor (Honours) and Masters of Economics from the University of Western Australia.

Anne is currently on the Boards of the Western Australian Symphony Orchestra, University of Western Australia Business School, Bureau of Resources and Energy Economics and Western Australian Coastal Shipping Commission.



### Bronwyn Barnes

Executive Chair, Windward Resources Ltd

Ms Barnes has over 16 years' experience in the resources sector, and has worked for a range of companies ranging from BHP Billiton to emerging juniors in director, leadership and operational roles. With extensive experience in working on international mining development projects Bronwyn has overseen project developments in Guatemala, Cuba, and South East Asia and was most recently General Manager – Corporate and Deputy CEO for a \$1billion development project in Guinea, West Africa. She is currently Executive Chair of Windward Resources, an Independent Director for the Martu Peoples Ltd, and is a Member of the Advisory Council for Curtin University School of Business. Earlier this year Bronwyn was awarded the prestigious Outstanding Woman in Resources Award 2015 from the WA Chamber of Minerals and Energy.

## Attendees

**Arjun Adhikari**  
Manager  
Lumbini Nepalese Restaurant

**Josh Allsop**  
Sales Manager  
Wood Mackenzie

**Suzanne Ardagh**  
Manager, International Division  
Australian Institute of Company Directors

**Tina Arthur**  
A/Director Asset Management  
Dept of the Attorney General

**Lydia Atmadji**  
Administrative and  
Finance Officer  
Curtin University

**Helen Axton**  
Manager Communications and  
Marketing  
Small Business Development  
Corporation

**Bronwyn Barnes**  
Executive Chair  
Windward Resources Ltd

**Matthew Bartlett**  
Finance Manager  
Joondalup Health Campus

**Barry Bennett**  
Principal Building Surveyor  
City of Perth

**Carolyn Bennett**  
Principal  
LCC

**Catherine Bentley**  
Strategy Manager  
LandCorp

**Meredith Billett**  
Lecturer  
WCI

**Anne Bontempo**  
Managing Director  
Bontempo Nominees Pty Ltd

**Richard Borozdin**  
General Manager  
Department of Mines and  
Petroleum

**Ryan Buckland**  
Principal Economist,  
Macroeconomics  
CCIWA

**Shannon Burdeu**  
Manager - Economics & Tax  
CME

**Fiona Butler**  
Snr Manager, Communications  
Bankwest

**Roslyn Cameron**  
Research Fellow Curtin  
University

**Gianna Cammarano**  
Director, Policy  
ATO

**Michael Carr**  
Technician  
Telstra

**Joe Carter**  
Senior Accountant  
Curtin University

**Grant Cheesman**  
Special Counsel  
Borrello Legal

**Dorcas Lu-Ann Chia**  
Compliance Consultant  
Curtin University

**Peter Chong**  
GM China Practice W.A.  
KPMG

**Tony Chong**  
Partner  
Lavan Legal

**Anna Ciuppa**  
PhD Student  
University of Newcastle

**Glen Clarke**  
Deputy Auditor General  
Office of the Auditor General for  
WA

**Justin Clarke**  
Finance Manager  
Outcare Inc

**Max Clarke**  
Head of Contact Centre  
Bankwest

**Dave Coggin**  
Director  
Connect Government Relations

**Alizanne Collier**  
Senior Policy Research Officer  
Department of Finance

**Paul Collings**  
External Relations  
Curtin University

**Kylie Coulson**  
Adjunct Professor  
Curtin University

**Andrew Crevald**  
College Director  
Curtin College (Navitas)

**Donna Dalby**  
State Manager Business  
Banking WA  
Bankwest

## Attendees

**Kieron D'Arcy**  
CEO  
Next Power

**Katrina de Haas**  
Corporate Events Coordinator  
Curtin University

**Paul De Lange**  
Dean Teaching and Learning  
Curtin Business School

**Christopher Desierto**  
Property Consultant  
Self-employed

**Anibeth Desierto**  
Academic  
Curtin University

**Lisa Di Paolo**  
Principal Policy Adviser  
Office of the Treasurer

**Amanda Dorn**  
Licensee  
Urban Residential

**Brett Dorney**  
Executive Director  
West Coast Institute of Training

**Rebecca Douthwaite**  
Manager  
Property Council

**Angela Doyle**  
Business Adviser  
Business Foundations

**Christine D'Souza**  
Communications Manager  
Bankwest

**Alan Duncan**  
Director Bankwest Curtin  
Economics Centre

**Kerry Dunn**  
Senior Policy Officer  
Department of Agriculture and  
Food

**Leza Duplock**  
Administrative Officer  
Curtin University

**Robert Durand**  
Professor of Finance  
Curtin University

**Tim Dymond**  
Researcher  
Unions WA

**Len Estrade**  
Manager Strategy, Risk and  
Compliance  
Bankwest

**Ryan Evans**  
Commercial Analyst  
Woodside Energy

**Chris Farley**  
Senior Project Officer  
Department of Training and  
Workforce Development

**Peter Farr**  
Chairman  
Peter Farr Consultants  
Australasia Pty Ltd

**Rogelio Fernandez**  
Home Loan Consultant  
Home Loan

**David Forbes**  
Research Analyst  
Office of Senator Zhenya Wang

**Natalia Francis**  
Consultant  
Pracsys

**Nebojsa Franich**  
Economist  
CCIWA

**Paula Gadsby**  
Senior Economist  
CCIWA

**Susan Gallacher**  
Manager, Population Strategy  
Program  
Department of Local  
Government and Communities

**Raguragavan  
Ganeshasundaram**  
Principal Policy Officer  
Department of Finance

**Mark Garland**  
Director  
Modern Computer Systems

**Nanette Garland**  
Planning Manager  
Department of Planning

**Lyn Genoni**  
Executive Director,  
Economic and Deregulation  
Department of the Premier and  
Cabinet

**Chanelle Gibbs**  
Events & Communications  
Bankwest Curtin Economics  
Centre

**Peter Goodall**  
Treasurer  
Lesmurdie & Districts  
Community Association

**Diane Graham**  
Media Officer  
Small Business Development  
Corporation



## Attendees

**Ken Green**  
Research Facilitator  
Ausindustry

**Debbie Greig**  
Human Resources  
Bankwest

**Dave Grills MLC**  
Member for Mining and  
Pastoral Region  
Parliament of Western Australia

**Doug Hall**  
Principal  
Consultant  
Doug Hall

**Karen Hall**  
General Manager  
Department of State  
Development

**Kay Hallahan AO**  
Member  
Curtin Alumni

**Valerie Halliday**  
Senior Project Officer  
Department of Training and  
Workforce Development

**Meredith Hammat**  
Secretary  
UnionsWA

**James Hammond**  
Economist  
CCIWA

**Lauren Hancock**  
Director  
Perceptive Dynamics

**Carol Hanlon**  
CEO  
Belmont BEC

**Peter Hansen**  
CFO  
Nash Pearls

**Jill Hansen**  
Managing Director  
Nash Pearls

**Kylie Hansen**  
Director  
Turnaround Group

**Kumeshini Haripersad**  
Business Manager  
Bankwest Curtin Economics  
Centre

**Martin Hasselbacher**  
Director Policy and Advocacy  
Small Business Development  
Corporation

**David Hilditch**  
Business Manager  
Curtin Graduate School of  
Business

**Helen Hodgson**  
Associate Professor  
Curtin Law School

**Nichola Holgate**  
Head of Communications and  
Public Affairs  
Bankwest

**Ben Holloway**  
Lawyer  
Norton Rose Fulbright Australia

**Geoff Hutchinson**  
External Relations  
Curtin University

**Chau Huynh**  
Director  
Corser & Corser Lawyers

**Zel Iscel**  
Principal Consultant  
Inclusive World

**Susie Jackson**  
Principal  
Jackson Business Consulting

**Brad Jolly**  
Executive  
Director Department of Local  
Government and Communities

**Anaka Jones**  
Strategy Analyst  
Bankwest

**Shambhu Kandel**  
Manager  
Annapurna Nepalese Kitchen

**Rowena Keel**  
Business Consultant  
Beauty Distinction

**Mia Kelly**  
Accountant  
Curtin University

**Phillip Kemp**  
Chief Executive  
Business Foundations

**Adelaide Kidson**  
Research Officer  
Office of Ben Wyatt MLA

**Peter Kiossev**  
General Manager  
Dept. of State Development

**Alastair Kirkby**  
Graduate Officer  
Department of Finance

**Annemi Kruger**  
Office Manager  
Office of Senator Zhenya Wang

## Attendees

**Peter Laing**  
Policy Research Officer  
Department of Finance

**Steven Laing**  
Owner  
Northern Scooters

**Shirley Lancaster**  
Proprietor  
Ascot Accounting

**Irving Lane**  
Chair  
TCFWA

**Sally Langer**  
Partner  
Derwent Executive

**Alan Langford**  
Chief Economist  
Bankwest

**John Langoulant**  
Strategic Advisor to Curtin  
University Vice-Chancellor  
Curtin University

**Dorothy Lavell**  
Director  
Oars Across the Waters

**Joe Lazzara**  
Principal  
Borrello Legal

**Denis Leonov**  
Director  
TGBA

**Sean L'Estrange MLA**  
Member of the Legislative  
Assembly (MLA) Parliament of  
Western Australia

**David Letts**  
Head of Advisory Services  
W.A. Treasury Corporation

**Matthew Lilly**  
Head of Legal Group Services  
Bankwest

**Eugene Lim**  
Senior Vice President  
Singapore Chamber Of  
Commerce Western Australia

**Geoff Lim**  
Manager  
Project Services TSA Group

**Sue Lines**  
Senator  
Senator for WA

**Conrad Liveris**  
**Karyn Lochore**  
Manager Housing Policy  
Department of Housing

**Katie London**  
Business Development Manager  
The Western Australian Club

**Artur Lugmayr**  
Associate Professor  
Curtin University

**Jorgen Mackie**  
Manager Community  
Development  
The Smith Family

**Daniel Marsh**  
Lead Environment and  
Social Adviser  
INPEX

**Aymee Mastaglia**  
Regional Manager WA  
Chartered Accountants  
Australia and New Zealand

**Andrew Maurice**  
MD  
Management West

**Mick McCarthy**  
Director South  
West Group

**David McCormick**  
Director  
McCormickIT

**Sarah Mewett**  
Manager Research and Analysis  
Department of Housing

**Helen Miller**  
Masters Student  
Curtin University

**Peter Moore**  
Executive Director Strategic  
Engagement  
Curtin Business School

**Carolyn Morris**  
General Manager - Head of  
Stores & Lending Bankwest

**Clare Mullen**  
Manager, Training, Education,  
Activity Based Management  
Department of Health

**Jasmyn Mumme**  
Principal  
Active Debt Specialists and BPW  
WA

**Nicky Munro**  
Director  
Research Solutions

**Sarah Newbold**  
MBA Student  
University of Western Australia

## Attendees

**Evan Nicholas**  
Director, External Relations  
Curtin University

**Julia Nicol**  
Director, Public Relations  
Curtin University

**Veronica Nivatvongs**  
Business Development  
Coordinator  
Department of State  
Development

**Anne Nolan**  
Director General  
Department of Finance

**David Nolan**  
Head of Legal and Government  
Affairs  
Bankwest

**John Noonan**  
Senior Lecturer Agribusiness  
Curtin University

**Angeline Ong**  
Project Officer  
Department of Finance

**Kailash Pandey**  
Researcher  
Middlebury College

**Lauren Parker**  
Graduate Officer  
Department of Finance

**Jamie Parravicini**  
Research Officer  
Office of Ben Wyatt MLA

**Jennifer Peate**  
Business Analyst  
Department of State  
Development

**Felipe Penna**  
Immigration Officer  
Department of Immigration and  
Border Protection

**Kim Phan**  
Analyst and Research Officer  
Department of Finance

**John Phillimore**  
Executive Director  
JCIPP, Curtin University

**Joseph Poprzeczny**  
Columnist  
Business News

**Luke Pratt**  
Account Executive  
Willis Australia Ltd

**Russell Quinn**  
Media  
Bankwest

**Pandey Raj**  
Researcher  
Murdoch University

**Sam Ramadanoski**  
Senior Manager in Tax  
Grant Thornton

**Val Raubenheimer**  
Vice President Corporate  
Relations & Development  
Curtin University

**Robert Rees**  
State Manager Private Banking  
Bankwest

**Brian Rettinger**  
Senior Project Manager  
PM Consultancy

**Alix Rhodes**  
Manager, Housing Policy  
Department of Housing

**Jeanette Roberts**  
Board Member  
State Training Board

**Julian Roche**  
Consultant  
Office of Ben Wyatt MLA

**Paula Rogers**  
Marketing & Comms Manager  
Baptistcare

**May Rom**  
Business Consultant  
Beauty Distinction

**Harshana Rupasinghe**  
Senior Tax Accountant  
Grant Thornton

**Chris Ryan**  
Director  
CRHR

**Belal Sarwari**  
Student  
Curtin University

**Andy Separovic**  
Principal Consultant  
- Workforce Development  
Department of Training and  
Workforce Development

**Roma Sharp**  
Senior Policy Adviser  
APPEA

**David Sharpham**  
Executive Manager - Strategy  
Bankwest

**Kurt Sibley**  
Senior Analyst  
WA Treasury

**Jeff Simper**  
CFO  
Baptistcare

## Attendees

**Ashvinder Singh**  
Student  
UWA

**Jesvinder Singh**  
Commerce Student  
Curtin University

**Satvinder Singh**  
Traffic Services Manager  
Main Roads WA

**Michael Starling**  
Director  
Quantum MC

**Lien Stewart**  
External Relations  
Curtin University

**John Stockbridge**  
Director  
SharePoint Factory

**Peter Strachan**  
Director  
StockAnalysis

**Ali Sumner**  
CEO  
POWA Institute

**Joachim Tan**  
Treasurer  
Singapore Chamber of  
Commerce

**Ngor Tan**  
Country Manager China  
Department of State  
Development

**Huoy Wei Tang**  
Senior Business Development  
Officer  
Department of State  
Development

**Yashar Tarverdi**  
Research Assistant  
Bankwest Curtin Economics  
Centre

**Jason Thomas**  
Business Analyst  
Greensense

**Anna Thomas**  
Policy Advisor  
Resources Industry Training  
Council

**Robyn Timms**  
A/Senior Project Coordinator  
Dept of Health

**Richard Titelius**  
Administrative Coordinator  
Department of the Attorney  
General

**Rebecca Tomkinson**  
Director  
Baptistcare

**Jeff Tonkin**  
Senior Account Executive  
Willis Australia Ltd

**Tony Travaglione**  
Pro Vice-Chancellor  
Curtin Business School

**Anastasia Travaglione**  
Contract Manager  
Synergy

**Brett Treby**  
Strategic Planner/ Research  
Manager  
Department of Sport and  
Recreation

**Norm Trethewey**  
Manager - Business  
Development  
Willis Australia Ltd

**Brian Truman**  
Director Afric-Ais Technical  
solutions

**William Ung**  
Director  
Stem Robotics

**Sue Van Leeuwen**  
CEO  
Leadership WA

**Anthony Vella**  
Head of Strategy  
Bankwest

**Ron Villaflor**  
CEO  
Eastern Guruma Pty Ltd

**Paul Vivian**  
GM Products & Pricing  
Bankwest

**Jo Voola**  
Director  
Afric-Ais Technical solutions

**Karthika Vyravanathan**  
Student  
Curtin University

**Jim Walker**  
Chair  
State Training Board

**Greg Watkinson**  
CEO  
Economic Regulation Authority  
WA

**Jim Weimin**  
Managing Director  
ASMtechnology

**Adam Welch**  
Senior Policy Adviser  
APPEA

# Attendees

## **Terri-ann White**

Director  
UWA Publishing

## **Sue Wilson**

Pro Chancellor  
Curtin University

## **Nigel Wilson**

Consultant  
Self employed

## **Graeme Wishart**

Chairman  
Council for the National Interest

## **Mark Wlossak**

General Manager - Group Credit  
Risk  
Bankwest

## **Susanna Wolz**

Media Consultant  
Curtin University

## **Ben Wood**

Membership and Marketing  
Services Advisor WA  
CEDA

## **Mark Woods**

Executive Officer Dept of  
Agriculture and Food

## **Megan Worsdell**

Managing Consultant  
WACOSS

## **Graeme Wright**

Deputy Vice-Chancellor,  
Research & Development  
Curtin University

## **Eliza Wroth**

Project Officer  
Department of State  
Development, WA

## **Ben Wyatt MLA**

Member for Victoria Park Office  
of Ben Wyatt MLA

## **Billy Yan**

Accountant  
Curtin University

## **Kristie Young**

Director  
Diversity Network

## **Marzia Zamir**

Project Manager  
Department of State  
Development



## Contact

### **Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre**

Curtin University  
Kent Street Bentley WA 6102  
GPO Box U1987 Perth WA 6845  
Tel: +61 8 9266 2873  
Email: [bcec@curtin.edu.au](mailto:bcec@curtin.edu.au)  
Twitter: @BankwestCurtin

[business.curtin.edu.au/bcec](http://business.curtin.edu.au/bcec)

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