



**Western Cape
Government**



CHEC

Cape Higher Education Consortium

Report on Joint CHEC - WCG Workshop

**Planning for Resilient Growth: Setting the
Research Agenda for Provincial Strategic
Goals 1 and 4**

DRAFT

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Background

The Western Cape Government (WCG) has recognised the critical role that innovative and up to date research plays in governance, regulation and policy-making. However, the WCG is also aware that they generally lack the capacity and resources themselves to develop this research. Similarly, Universities are often strive to develop research which supports public interest, but they are not always aware of the research priorities of the state. With these challenges in mind, a partnership was established between the WCG and the four universities in the Western Cape, under the umbrella of the Cape Higher Education Consortium (CHEC). This partnership is led by a Joint Task Team (JTT) made up of stakeholders from the WCG and representatives from the four universities.

The developmental priorities of the Western Cape are broadly set out in the Provincial Strategic Plan (PSP) 2014 – 2019, which details the WCG's vision and strategic priorities for this term of office. The PSP sets out five Provincial Strategic Goals (PSGs), which if achieved, should positively impact the lives of citizens. These are:

- PSG 1: Creating Opportunities for Growth and Jobs;
- PSG2: Improving Education Outcomes and Opportunities for Youth Development;
- PSG3: Increasing Wellness, Safety and Tackling Social Ills;
- PSG 4: Enabling a Resilient, Sustainable, Quality and Inclusive Living Environment; and
- PSG 5: Embedding Good Governance and Integrated Service Delivery through Partnerships and Spatial Alignment.

A workshop was convened on 15 August 2016 to focus on PSG 1 and PSG4, with the theme: Planning for Resilient Growth - Setting the Research Agenda for Provincial Strategic Goals 1 and 4.

The WCG-CHEC workshop, which took place on 15 August, intended to better align the needs of policy-makers and universities, and build stronger relationships between academics and public officials. The workshop was also intended to inform the

development of research agendas which will be used to frame the next CHEC JTT Call for Proposals for annual research grants. The annual research grants are for University based projects which address the developmental priorities of the Western Cape Province.

The workshop was designed to:

- Give academics a better understanding of provincial goals by sharing information about the PSP, with particular focus on PSG 1 and PSG 4;
- Strengthen relationships between university researchers and WCG policy-developers; and
- Identify common research agendas.

In the future, the WCG and the CHEC JTT hope to host a similar workshops regarding PSG 2, PSG 3 and PSG 5. Through this exercise, the CHEC JTT aims to develop research agendas that meet the needs of both the universities and the WCG in these strategic areas.

Overview

The WCG CHEC workshop was hosted at Elsberg Agricultural College, and was well attended, with a total of 41 participants (please see Appendix for further details). Coordinated as a collaborative event; participants were invited from WCG Departments, Universities¹ and CHEC. The workshop was deliberately structured to probe transversal thinking, and encourage constructive debate and collaboration between public officials and research institutions.

Key note Speaker, Ivan Turok, set the scene for the day by asking what it means to survive in the face of external threats. He highlighted that chronic stressors (such as unemployment and poverty) and acute shocks (such as fire and protests) compound one another. With this in mind; Prof Turok emphasised that resilience is about a systemic, context appropriate approach not a sectoral approach. After discussing what makes a resilient city, Prof Turok expanded on challenges of the Western Cape in trying to achieve resilience, e.g. low economic performance, service delivery, social unrest and corruption. To deal with these challenges, he

¹ Participating universities included Stellenbosch University, University of Cape Town, University of the Western Cape and Cape Peninsula University of Technology

stressed that it is critical to look at research to fuel the conversation around understanding the issue, and developing solutions.

Following the key note address, stakeholders were introduced to the broad research priorities of PSG 1 and PSG 4. These presentations were intended to frame their thinking as to how WCG is approaching the concept of resilient growth on a strategic level, and how research feeds into the strategic agenda.

A summary of priority research areas for PSG 1 include²:

- Informal economy
- Procurement policy
- Innovation in universities
- Inclusive growth
- E-skills platform
- Broadband impact study
- What does big data mean for industries?
- Disruption in universities
- Global halaal consumption trends
- Accessibility and viability of qualifications at Elsenberg
- Research into slow work uptake of graduates
- Green economy
- Niche tourism opportunities

A summary of priority research areas for PSG 4 include³:

- Climate Change
- Human Settlements
- Backyarders
- Land Use and Planning
- Resource Management
- Disaster Risk Management

² A more complete list of research themes and questions can be found in Ms Jo-ann Johnston's CHEC PSG 1 Research Priorities presentation

³ A more complete list of research themes and questions can be found in Ms Karen Shippey's CHEC PSG 4 Research Priorities presentation

Breakaway groups were given 1 hour to discuss research priorities. During the Breakaway sessions, individuals were purposefully mixed across disciplines and organisations to encourage transversal and creative thinking. Breakaway sessions were flexible and managed by the co-facilitator team, however breakaway groups were asked to engage with the following questions:

- What is resilient growth?
- What are the most pressing challenges or opportunities related to resilient growth?
- How can we (as government and universities) contribute to research regarding challenges or opportunities?

Academics were invited to share their own research agendas related to resilient growth, and stakeholders (WCG and academics) were challenged to identify synergies between research agendas.

Discussion Outcomes

Many of the Breakaway groups focused on the systemic challenges to collaborative research and research partnerships between the WCG and Universities. Breakaway groups discussed how to shift institutional systems in a way that could support collaborative research between WCG and Universities, and the following responses to existing challenges were raised:

- **The value of Systems Thinking in research within the public sector.** Systems thinking focuses on how issues, sectors or behaviours function together as part of the system. This approach is useful when dealing with complex issues or recurring problems where an action affects, or is affected by, the surrounding environment⁴.
- **Sharing information and data in a deliberate and systematized way** to ensure that stakeholders are empowered to work better on collaborative research, and avoid duplication. It was noted that it might be useful to develop a database or repository of information and data that could be shared, or sharing the details of information officers within departments

⁴ <https://www.solonline.org/page/SystemsThinking>

- **Developing a partnership between Western Cape and Academics** in a way that encourages sustained collaboration rather than a client/consultant relationship⁵. Practical ways of achieving this were suggested as follows:
 - Create a relationship of co-learning and joint agendas
 - Co-develop research proposals
 - Invite academics in the early stages of defining research to ensure the data collected is useful for both parties
 - Host a "speed dating" type of research event so that appropriate and interested researchers can be linked to departments which need specific research
 - Invite academics to act as a peer review group for consulting research projects
 - Leverage CHEC as the "window" into universities
 - Universities and public officials need to develop a better understanding of the institutional requirements and mandates of one another's institutions in order to facilitate a working relationship that meets the needs of both partners.
 - Investigate ways around institutional problems and mechanisms to ensure research can be done.
 - Facilitate a meeting between Government HOD's and Academic HOD's
 - Undertake a research audit to gain a holistic picture.
- **Funding needs to be leveraged more deliberately for collaborative research:**
 - Funding needs to be better coordinated to encourage WCG and universities to work better together – currently funding in, and outside of, universities does not support interdisciplinary, collaborative research.
 - Consider using the R100 000⁶ that is transferred by the WCG to CHEC to rather develop research proposals for donor funding.

⁵ It was agreed that Ms Jo-ann Johnston would lead this issue, with Ms Ammaarah Kamish supporting Ms Johnston.

⁶ Part of the R500 000 annual grant from the Department of the Premier to CHEC

- **Need for coordination in universities and WCG to develop a coherent, shared research agenda** was stressed, highlighting that it is currently an issue for both parties. It was suggested that WCG and academics work together to clarify issues surrounding POPI and Intellectual Property to ensure that data can be shared as freely as possible.

Academics and public officials also identified shared research priorities, agendas and synergies. The research themes, agendas and questions are captured in the table below.

Table 1: Shared Research Themes, Agendas and Questions relating to Resilient Growth

Shared Themes	Shared Agendas	Shared Research Questions
Skills, education and youth development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills Mismatch • Recognition of Prior Learning • Skills Mobility between iformal and informal sectors • Automation and jobs • Skills orientated education • Appropriateness of the current school curricula • Youth development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a Skills Mapping exercise to understand the mismatch between industries and skills in the economy. • What are the linkages between skills in the formal and informal sector? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ How do we get employers in the formal sector to accept adequate skilled individuals from the informal sector? • Investigate what soft skills, behaviours or aptitudes employers are looking for in learners. • What is the impact of automation on job creation? • Are the current school curricula appropriate for the youth? • Are there other ways to get people jobs besides higher education?
Economic Sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority economic sectors and economic policy • Entrepreneurship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validate the priority Khulisa sectors and investigate what is happening in other sectors. • Investigate the future of the Manufacturing Sector in South Africa? • Investigate if the current economic policy is flawed. • Investigate deliberate development for economic growth using areas in Provincial control (eg. Roads).
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food in the wider environmental system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the linkages between food, water and energy?
Urban settlements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Urban settlements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the issue of Backyard dwellers. • Understand participation in informal settlements.

Water and Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Management • Waste Water Management • Energy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an integrated water plan for Western Cape. • Investigate Waste water treatment and skills required for the sector.
Rural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that there is also a focus on rural areas in research • Rural and Urban Linkages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further investigate Rural and Urban Linkages
Technology, ICT and Digitisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICT in schools • Digital inclusion as tools for access, interpretation of information that would help move government into a digital era • Technology • Automation and affordability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further investigate the use of ICT in education.
Development Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial Planning • Resilient Growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect on past and current projects regarding spatial planning & scaling for budget projects • What is Resilient Growth?
Health Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills for the Health Sector • Health Sector – Public Health in particular 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the skills required to support the health sector?
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial Targets • Good ethical government and leadership • Institutionalisation within government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the longevity of Provincial target setting?
Social Transformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Unrest • Poverty and Inequality • human-well-being • Socio-economic transformation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate social unrest (amongst citizens and within universities). • Investigate poverty and inequality to understand other issues (such as Health and Environmental issues).

In addition to Breakaway report-backs, the following areas of interest or opportunity were raised during plenary sessions:

Informal Sector: The informal sector was an area of interest for the universities and WCG. Academics asked what is currently driving the thinking around the informal sector. WCG responded that they have done some research (including a modelling study of the sector), however they are still trying to shape their thinking around the informal sector, and hope that universities could assist in this regard.

Evaluations: it was noted that there is significant funding from National Department of Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) regarding government evaluations, however universities need to ensure that they are listed as "preferred service providers" on the DPME supplier database.

Concluding remarks

It was agreed that the workshop was a worthwhile event, and it was noted that beyond the structured discussion, there was a great deal of networking taking place between policy officials and academics.

While the stakeholders who were present contributed to a fruitful engagement, it was noted that some absent stakeholders would have been useful to include in the meeting, such as the Eskom and energy stakeholders, as well as research institutions and organisations.

Dr Platzky highlighted that the Department of the Premier, under the Provincial Transversal Management System (PTMS) would soon be undertaking the Provincial Strategic Plan mid-term review, which will provide a significant opportunity to work with universities.

It was agreed that CHEC JTT would relook at what they had intended to be included in the call by the end of the year, as the CHEC JTT wanted the call to go out with some level of detail. However, it was stressed that the discussion generated this afternoon would frame the call, as well as the way forward to strengthen the relationship between academics and public officials.

The way forward was agreed as follows:

- Review the process for the upcoming call for proposals, clarifying if the call would be focused on PSG 1 and 4 streams, or more broadly - across all Provincial Strategic Areas;
- Review process and system for ongoing work; and
- CHEC JTT agreed to schedule the next meeting with the same group of academics and public officials in 6 months' time. The meeting is estimated to be a 2 hour session.

Appendix

Attendance Register

Person	Organisation
Nasima Badsha	Cape Higher Education Consortium
Sharman Wickham	Cape Higher Education Consortium
Dina Burger	Cape Peninsular University of Technology
Ivan Turok	Human Sciences Research Council
Antoinette Smith-Tolken	Stellenbosch University
Allan Brent	Stellenbosch University
John Morrison	Stellenbosch University
Mawethu Nyakatya	Stellenbosch University
Louise Gammage	University of Cape Town
Tolullah Oni	University of Cape Town
Zoey Visser	University of Cape Town
Judy Favish	University of Cape Town
Amina Bayat	University of The Western Cape
Allan Roman	University of The Western Cape
Andries Du Toit	University of The Western Cape
Sean Pather	University of The Western Cape
Lois Dippenaar	University of The Western Cape



Henk Stander	University of The Western Cape
Florus Prinsloo	Western Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism
Jo-ann Johnston	Western Cape Department of Economic Development and Tourism
Gottlieb Arendse	Western Cape Department of Environment and Development Planning
Helena Jacobs	Western Cape Department of Environment and Development Planning
Karen Shippey	Western Cape Department of Environment and Development Planning
Nezaam Joseph	Western Cape Department of Environment and Development Planning
Tracey Jooste	Western Cape Department of Human Settlements
Bongiswa Matoti	Western Cape Government Department of Agriculture
Daniel Niemand	Western Cape Government Department of Agriculture
Dirk Troskie	Western Cape Government Department of Agriculture
Ilse Trautman	Western Cape Government Department of Agriculture
Joyene Isaacs	Western Cape Government Department of Agriculture
Aa-ishah Petersen	Western Cape Government Department of the Premier
Ammaarah Kamish	Western Cape Government Department of the Premier
Laurine Platzky	Western Cape Government Department of the Premier

Shakira Maharaj	Western Cape Government Department of the Premier
Tristan Gorgens	Western Cape Government Department of the Premier
Sonwabo Ngcelwane	University of Cape Town
Paul Hindiosi	Western Cape Department Of Environment And Development Planning
Joyce Raanhuis	PHD Student completing research Cape Peninsular University of Technology
Eda Barnard	Western Cape Department Of Local Government
Sylvia Behardien	Western Cape Department Of Local Government
Mark New	University of Cape Town

Report Back from Break Away Groups



BREAK AWAY REPORT BACK: BLUE GROUP

Shift Institutional Systems to Support Research

- Share information and research priorities and data
- Establish forum of Policy & Strategy units in WCG
- Host Bi- Annual workshops on opportunities for collaborative research
- Research partners need to look at what the province does to define research
- Institutional systems should be established to share contact details between WCG & academic bi-annual workshops research areas-
- Education foundations are missing
- data mismatch
- Many links exist but the research agenda is not coherent

Shared Research Priorities, Agendas and Synergies

- Rural vs Urban- Should we focus more on rural areas, and what are the linkages between rural and urban areas?
- Education foundations lacking in stem subjects (which is linked to ultimate skills mismatch)
- Should we only focus on the Khulisa sectors regarding economic growth, or are there additional sectors which should be reviewed? Validate the priority Khulisa sectors and investigate what is happening in other sectors.
- Deliberate development for economic growth using areas in our control (e.g. roads)
- A greater understanding of poverty and inequality is required to understand other issues (such as Health and Environmental issues)
- The economic aspect missing from environmental issues, and more attention needs to be paid to how these issues intersect
- Greater focus on rural areas
- Health problems are broader than just health
- Underlying issues of poverty and inequality are important to investigate
- Focus on the use of technology
- Do we have the skills to support the Health sector?

Way Forward

- Investigate what data we have and what research has been done



BREAK AWAY REPORT BACK: PINK GROUP

Shift Institutional Systems to Support Research

- Systems understanding and thinking is lacking, to the detriment of service delivery and public research.
 - There is some hesitancy around systems thinking because the functions do have specific mandates. Systems thinkers need to see how this concept manifests concretely for practitioners, and officials need to understand where they sit in the system.
 - Databases and data management is critical, because stakeholders need to know what is available and how it can be accessed.
 - We should consider sharing details of departmental information officers.
 - The Pink group suggested the following research project – what does it mean to transfer data within the confines of POPI
 - Creating a shared data base or repository of data was suggested, and it was highlighted that the South African Social Policy Research Institute are very knowledgeable into integrating official data sets (SAPRI)
 - Coordination of research is problematic in government and universities, but duplication must be avoided. We also need to be cognisant of what research is being developed for national government.
 - The Pink group suggested the following research project - and organisational system research study to look at why transformation (i.e shift from current structure) is so difficult.
 - Bringing on researchers/ academics in the early stages of defining research (conceptualisation) to ensure the data we collect is useful for both parties going forward.
 - We need to ensure that we don't define government as a client – this is about creating a relationship of co-learning and joint agendas, and it is important that we co-produce research proposals. An example was raised where DTPW came to CHEC and explained a challenge. From that point, researchers came joined a briefing and helped develop the TOR for the research required.
 - How does WCG engage with universities as partners rather than service providers (It was agreed that Jo-ann Johnstone to lead this with Ammaarah Kamish)
 - It was suggested that CHEC bring together WCG, COCT and research priorities



Shared Research Priorities, Agendas and Synergies

- Uplifting the manufacturing sector - what will the sector require going forward; what is the global shift/trend as well for locally situated global companies?
- Investigating the link between formal and informal sector regarding skills – people often leave formal to go into informal. How do we support people to move between? How do we get employees to accept people with skills from informal sector. How do we work around SAQA?
- How RPL can be leveraged.
- Food, water and energy nexus
- Backyarders issue and understanding the issue

Way forward

- For next call for proposals, we need to be pragmatic about the time and resource limitations of universities. We need to be realistic about what should go into call and what should go to consultants in terms of urgent or less urgent research priorities?
- It might be useful to bring in academics to work with WCG when they use consultants. Academics could assist by peer reviewing work and drafting. Furthermore, it would be useful to have an agreed process on peer review
- UWC and CPUT noted that Masters students can be a valuable resource in collecting data
- Regarding the call, it might be useful to see what the most interesting ones would be and co-produce those proposals.
- Investigate what is happening at universities in terms of research, and leverage CHEC JTT are windows into the institutions
- In terms of library and resources, universities are governed by licencing agreements, but we need to investigate how those resources can be shared with WCG

BREAKAWAY REPORT BACK: GREEN GROUP

Shift Institutional Systems to Support Research

- Systems thinking needs to be encouraged
- Funding doesn't encourage inter-disciplinary research and collaboration
- We should consider big international funding for collaborative Western Cape research projects
- We need to focus on partnerships rather than consultancy
- It might be useful to host a "speed dating" type of research event so that appropriate and interested researchers can be linked to departments which need specific research
- Need for facilitation
- Rules around Intellectual property need to be understood, and revised in a way that suits both parties.

Shared Research Priorities, Agendas and Synergies

- Youth focus –Mismatch of skills (produced/required)
- Total water integrated plan for Western Cape and skills required
- Waste water treatment optimization
- Use of ICT in education- Jobs pipeline (informal ways)
- Suggestion for Innovation fund- Mapping skills gaps and research in various sectors
- Reflecting on past and current projects regarding spatial planning & scaling for budget projects
- Digital inclusion as tools for access, interpretation of information that would help move government into a digital era



BREAKAWAY REPORT BACK: ORANGE GROUP

Shift Institutional Systems to Support Research

- Government role is to raise awareness about research needs (issues)
- Communication between and within universities
- Need new ways of thinking. – Holistic
- Regularity vs enabling/development
- Set a joint strategic research agenda
- Government changing language

Shared Research Priorities, Agendas and Synergies

- Balance between water for people and water for growth
- Youth
- Energy
- Understanding social unrest (amongst citizens and within universities)
- Socio-economic transformation
- Entrepreneurship
- Flawed economic policy
- Skills orientated education
- Good ethical government and leadership
- Institutionalisation within government
- Impact of automation on job creation
- Appropriateness of the current school curricula
- Automation and affordability
- Benefit sharing model
- Sustainable Urban settlements
- Longevity of Provincial target setting
- Why Growth? There is an economic connotation to this word, and there should be a focus on human-well-being, which includes issues of livelihoods, happiness, health etc.
- Clarify what we mean by Resilient Growth?

Way forward

- Proposal: Meeting of Government HOD's with Academic HOD's