Impact Investment: WA's Sleeping Giant?

May 2025



1. Spend it!







2. Perpetual Endowment

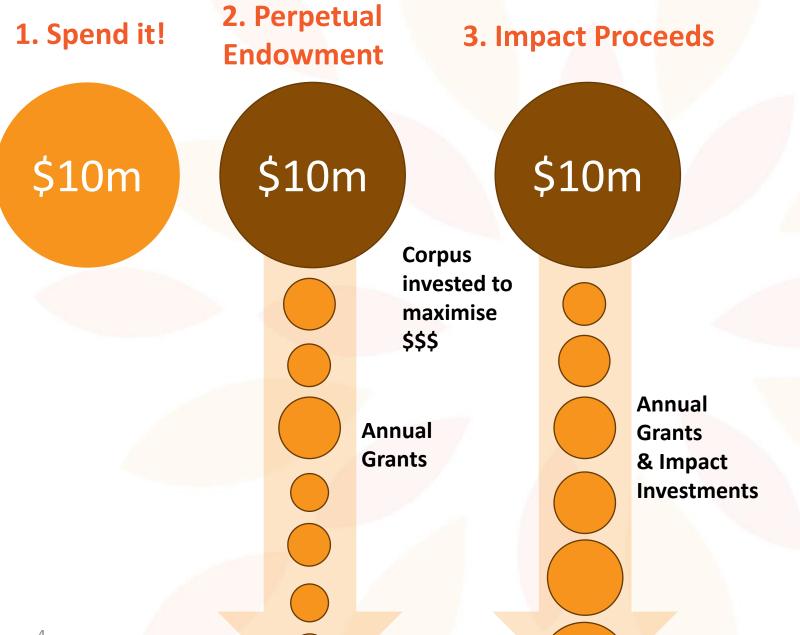
\$10m

\$10m

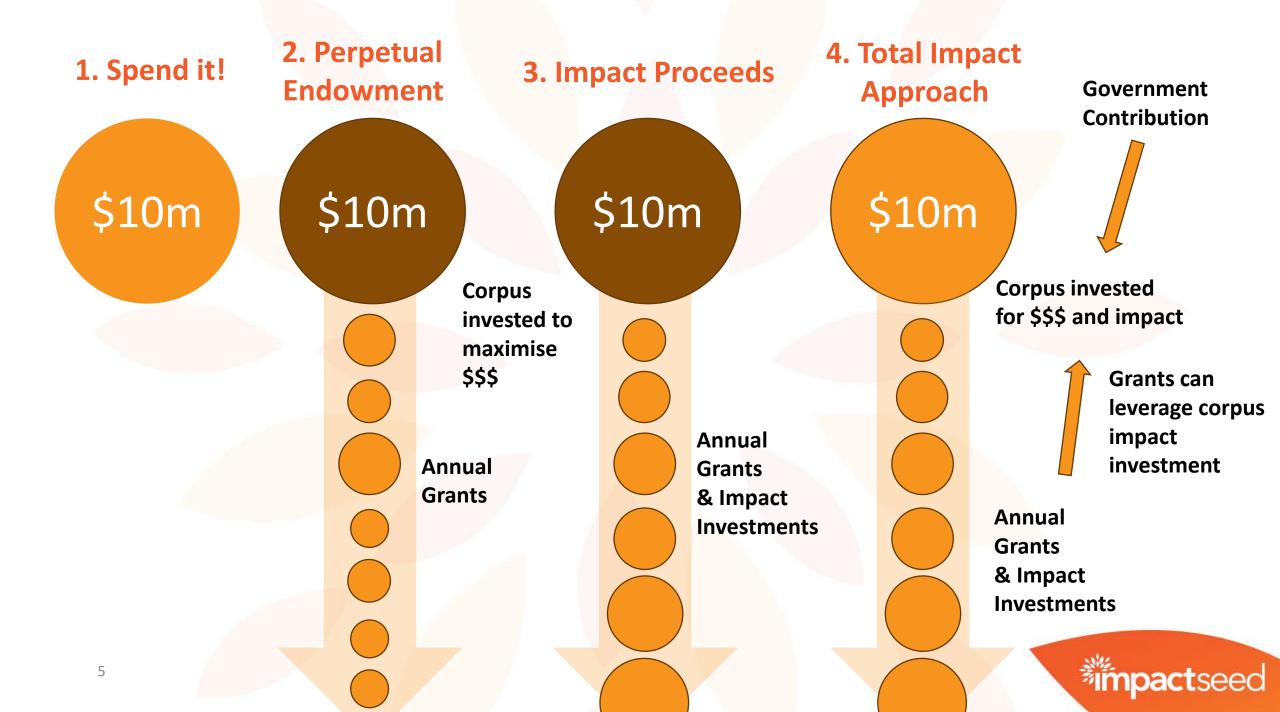
Corpus invested to maximise \$\$\$

Annual Grants











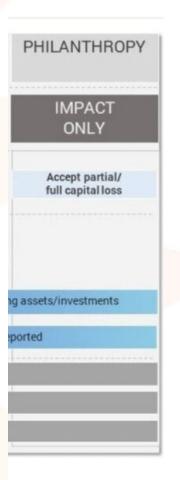
impact investments

Noun: Impact investments are investments made with the intention to generate positive, measurable social or environmental impact alongside a financial return.



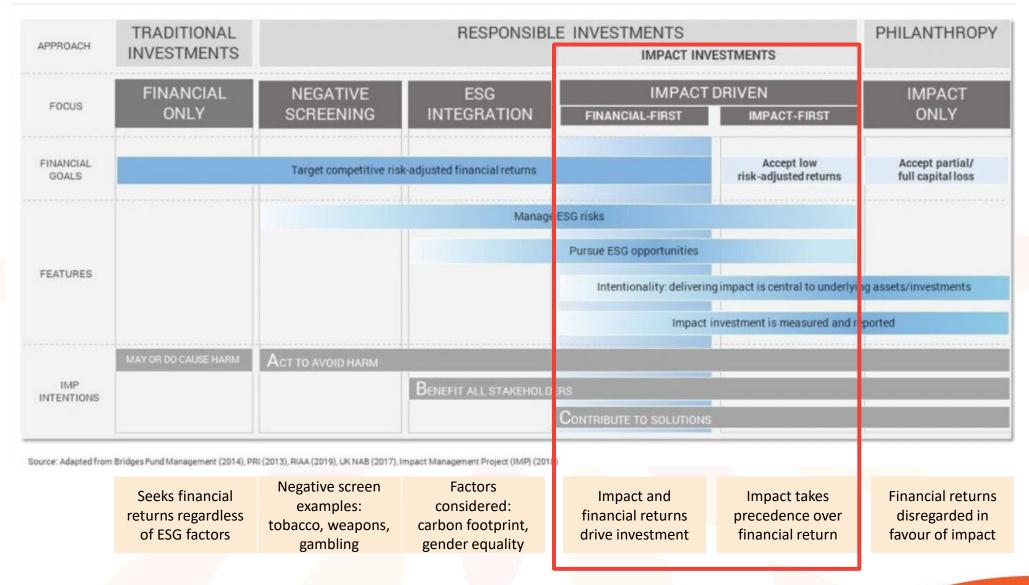
The Investment Spectrum (CA. 1970)

APPROACH	TRADITIONAL INVESTMENTS
Focus	FINANCIAL ONLY
FINANCIAL GOALS	
FEATURES	
	MAY OR DO CAUSE HARM





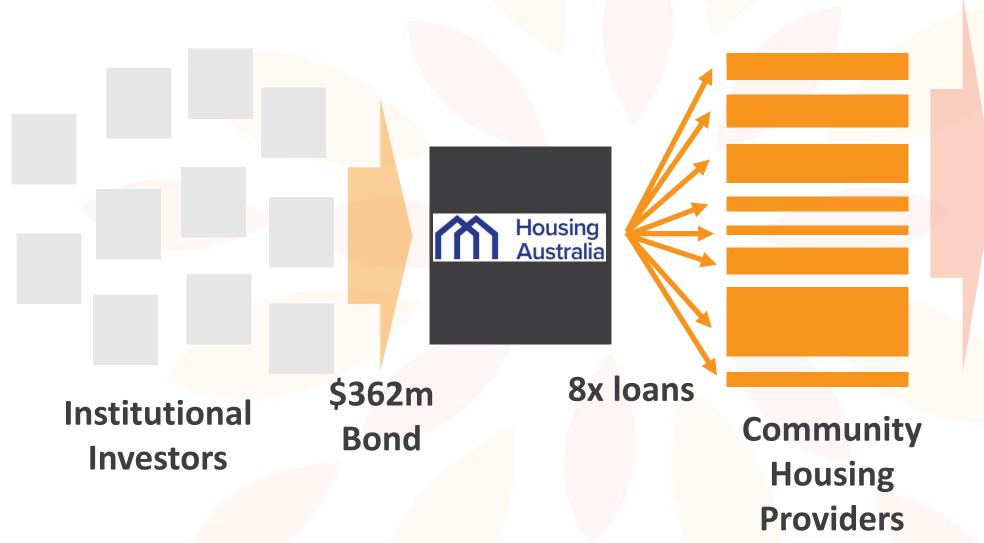
The Investment Spectrum (2025)





Ex. 1: Social Bond to aggregate impact capital for affordable housing

Housing Australia social bond #5 (issued 2021)



Affordable Housing Construction



Ex. 2: Total impact approach by major philanthropic foundation



"We believe that by considering the impact of the way in which our whole Balance Sheet is invested (rather than a pure focus on impact through our grant making and impact investing)

PRF will have greater success in the pursuit of its Charitable Purpose: to break cycles of disadvantage.."

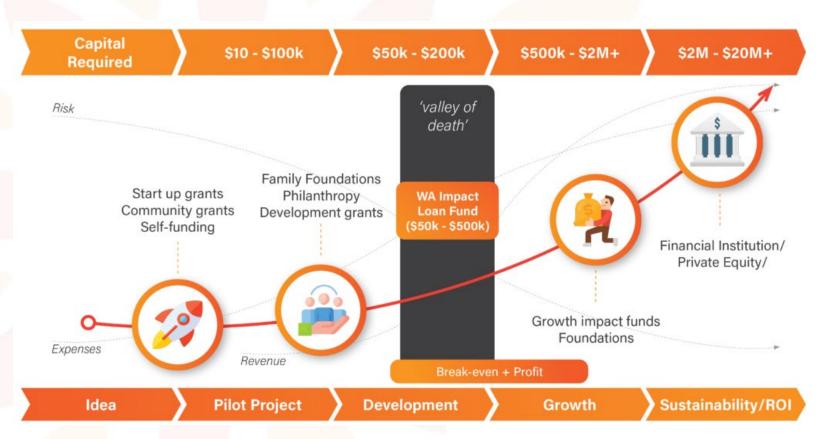
Paul Ramsay Foundation, Total Impact Approach, Dec 2023

- \$60m Impact-first allocation: non-inflationary break-even return
- 10% of portfolio in Mission fund CPI+3.5%, and demonstrable positive social impact
- Responsible investment approach to rest of portfolio



Ex. 3: Private market debt finance to social enterprises - WA Impact Loan Fund

- Patient debt capital (3-7+ years)
- Concessionary terms
- Loan sizes of \$50-500k
- Criteria:
 - Enterprise and impact grounded in WA
 - Impact enterprises at the Development Stage (working towards financial sustainability)
 - Committed and capable leadership
 - High social impact in the area of breaking cycles of disadvantage (e.g. job creation, health, education)





Ex. 4: Aboriginal Trust portfolio allocation to local enterprise development

MG Charitable Trust



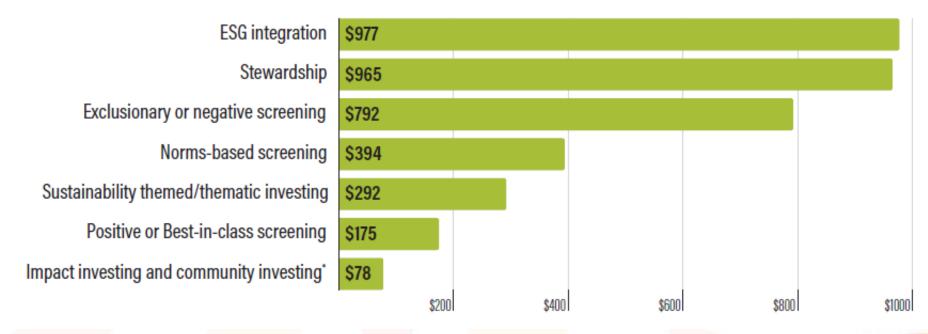
- \$14m corpus over 10-year State Contribution Period
- Corpus and 50% of returns in "traditional low to medium risk investments"
- 50% of returns applied for benefit of Miriwoong-Gadjerrong people –
 eg, education, funerals, community events
- After the 10-year contribution period, up to 25% in "high risk" investments, including lending to "local business ventures" with a projected return at least equal to CPI.



\$78b Impact Investments in Australia

(excluding private market activity)

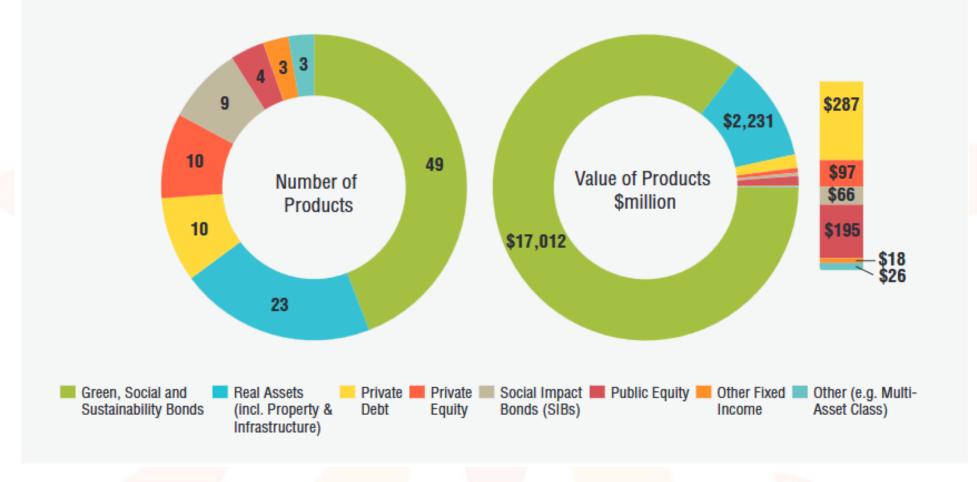
FIGURE 10a | AUM covered by the seven RI approaches of survey respondents (\$ billions)



Source: RIAA 2024 Benchmark Report



FIGURE 46 Number and value of impact investment products by asset class as at 31 December 2019 (n=111)



Source: RIAA 2020 Impact Investment Benchmark Report



\$2 billion



\$5.6 billion **Keystart**.

\$30 billion



Governments are natural impact investors!



\$8 billion

Housing
Australia





WA's Latent Impact Capital

\$30.5b

WA Treasury Corporation

\$1.5b

Aboriginal Trusts in WA

\$45b

WA Charities financial asssets

\$500b

Superannuation Assets of WA residents



WA's Latent Impact Capital

\$31b
WA Treasury
Corporation

\$2b+
Aboriginal
Trusts in WA

\$45b
Financial assets of WA charities

\$500b

Superannuation
Assets of WA
residents

1%

25%

10%

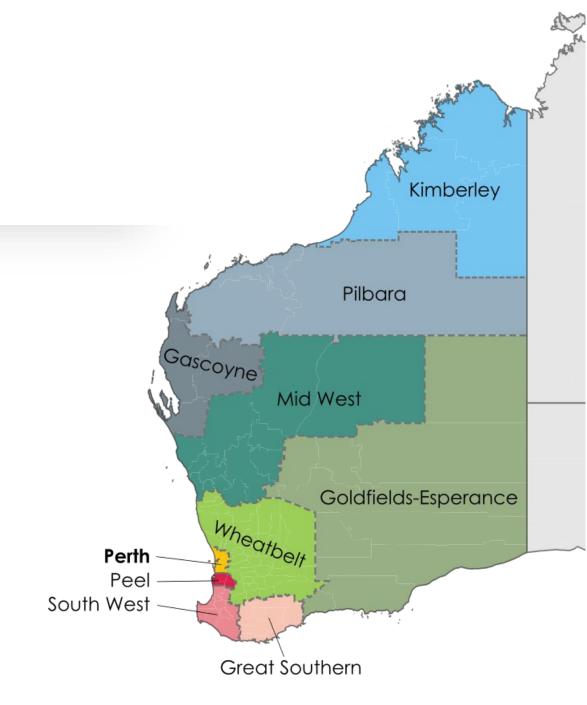
1%

= \$10 billion low hanging fruit Impact Investment in WA



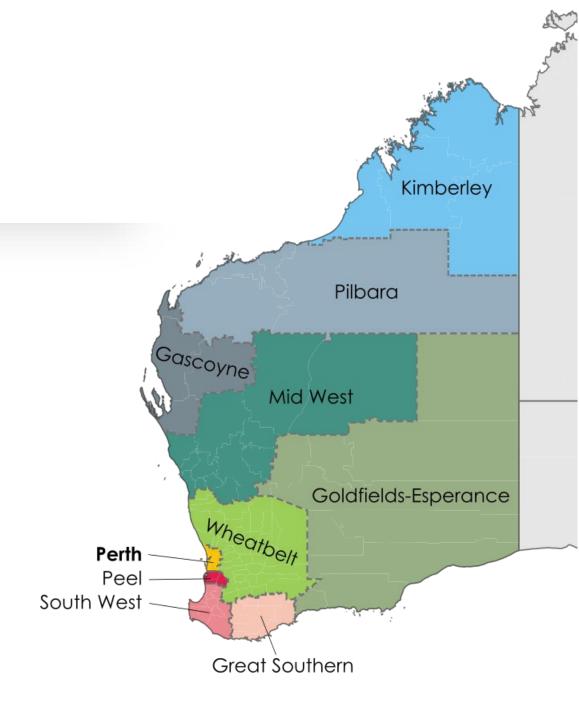
Unique features of WA Impact Capital Ecosystem

- Perth NOT a finance hub
- New money, mining industry dominance
- Focus on First Nations capital, empowerment and outcomes
- Land mass and dispersed remote population = difficulty with aggregation
- Government emphasis on regional development and procurement lens, rather than impact investment generally
- Scepticism of policy innovation
- Bad luck



Our strengths

- WASEC established as peak body for WA social enterprise = demand-side flourishing
- Increasing investor interest, from family offices to institutional investors to intermediaries
- CSI Network community of practice growing by the day in number and influence
- Gov't priorities can't be delivered without leveraged impact finance (esp. Closing the Gap, housing, climate)
- Sound precedents for action in Qld, NSW, Vic



Thank you and questions!

