



## Update for ARC Stakeholders – December 2021

On 13 December 2021 the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (JTISI) invited stakeholders to attend an update regarding the Animal Resources Centre (ARC). The update was coordinated by JTISI on behalf of WA State Government agencies.

### Background

- The WA Government has undertaken a review of the ARC and found that change is needed for the capability to be continued.
- Based on strong interest shown through a market sounding process, the State Government is progressing with a 'Single Stage Limited Request' process, the outcome of which will be the identification of an independent provider to acquire the ARC's capability.
- The WA Government and the ARC appreciate that stakeholders need confidence that the range of services and the high quality product they have come to expect from the ARC will be maintained, so that research can continue without disruption.
- The WA Government is aiming to exit ownership and operational control of the ARC in a way that retains the capability in Western Australia, secures a sustainable future with a new independent provider, and minimises disruption to the ARC's stakeholders.

### Updates since ARC Stakeholder briefing in November

- The WA Government is inviting a limited number of parties to participate in a 'Single Stage Limited Request' process to acquire the ARC's capability.
- Details of the parties invited and their proposals are commercially sensitive and will not be released. However the WA Government will continue to provide regular updates on timing and progress.
- The WA Government expects to identify a new independent provider by approximately mid-2022.
- The ARC continues to deliver the range of services and high quality product that customers expect. Once a successful proponent is identified, the ARC will work with them to ensure they are in an excellent position to continue those services without disruption.
- On 25 November 2021 the WA Government introduced legislation that repeals the Animal Resources Authority Act. This administrative step will allow assets to transfer from the State Government to a third party entity. This legislation will likely be debated in the first half of 2022.
- The ARC CEO has commenced planning with government entities including the Public Sector Commission in order to provide staff with guidance on their employment options. Further targeted information for ARC staff will be provided in the first half of 2022.
- The Australian Government has released the exposure draft of the *2021 National Research Infrastructure Roadmap* which identifies the need for national facilities to support pre-clinical and clinical research, and for reasonably urgent national consideration or animal model provision. Submissions on the exposure draft are due 22 December 2021. JTISI's submission will outline the role of the ARC in providing national facilities to provide high quality, ethical animal models and the need for national facility upgrades in this area.

### Next steps

- The WA Government understands stakeholder desire to be kept informed throughout this process and we will continue to provide regular updates. The next stakeholder update will be in either late January or early February.