



Update for ARC Stakeholders – November 2021

On 23 November 2021 the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (JTISI) invited stakeholders to attend an update by senior government officials and the Chief Scientist of Western Australia regarding the Animal Resources Centre (ARC). The update was coordinated by JTISI on behalf of State Government agencies.

Background

- The State Government has undertaken a review of the ARC and found that change is needed for the capability to be continued.
- A market sounding process has been undertaken and has shown that there is strong third party interest in working with the State Government on a new approach.
- The State 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 State 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 operator, and minimises disruption to the ARC's stakeholders.

Updates since ARC Stakeholder briefing in October

- The State Government has decided on an approach to identify an appropriate non-government party with suitable expertise and capability to take up the ARC's operations.
- The State Government will invite a limited number of parties to participate in a 'Single Stage Limited Request' process, the outcome of which will be the selection of a preferred party to acquire the ARC's capability.
- Parties will be invited to participate in this process as a result of Expressions of Interest submitted during the market sounding process. The State Government expects to be in a position to select a preferred party by approximately mid-2022.
- The State Government will provide further information on timing and other details, as soon as this information becomes available.
- 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.
- The State Government will shortly introduce legislation that repeals the Animal Resources Authority Act. This is an administrative step that will allow assets to transfer from the State Government to a third party entity. We understand that the legislation will likely be introduced on 24 November 2021, with debate to occur in the first half of 2022.
- The introduction of the legislation also importantly provides a framework for the ARC CEO to provide staff with guidance on their employment options and to commence planning for this phase of the process.

Next steps

- The State Government understands stakeholder desire to be kept informed throughout this process and we will continue to provide regular updates as soon as they become available. The next stakeholder update will be in December.
- The Australian Government will soon release the exposure draft of the *2021 National Research Infrastructure Roadmap*. Submissions on the exposure draft are encouraged. The State Government's submission will outline the information we have about the role of the ARC in supporting national medical research endeavours.