



Update for ARC Stakeholders – October 2021

On 20 October 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. The update was coordinated by JTISI on behalf of a number of WA Government agencies. Key points from the October update are below.

- The ARC is run by a WA Government statutory Authority and was originally set up to supply high quality, disease-free laboratory animals for teaching, research, and diagnostic purposes in Western Australia.
- Over the last 40 years it has become Australia's largest supplier of animal models and provides crucial resources for medical researchers. The ARC is now a truly national research capability.
- The Western Australian 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 to understand the interest of third parties, commercial and not for profit, in facilitating a new model for service delivery.
- The market sounding has shown that there is strong interest in working with the WA Government on a new approach, that we can retain the capability in Western Australia and secure a sustainable future with a new independent operator.
- The WA Government is considering what a sustainable model could look like and a process is underway to identify an appropriate non-government party with suitable expertise and capability to take up the ARC's operations and ensure continuity of supply as soon as possible.
- The process that is underway will in future involve the introduction of legislation that repeals the Animal Resources Authority Act. This is an administrative step that will allow assets to transfer from the WA Government to a third party entity.
- The ARC appreciates that its customers and other 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 planning and implementation can continue without disruption.
- The WA Government is not in a position to discuss timing or details regarding the process to transfer assets. However, we envision continuity of products and services for people who routinely use the ARC's services.
- The WA Government will provide regular updates, at least once per month, to interested stakeholders. We will communicate as much information as soon as we possibly can.
- The interest, support and efforts of the research community to support the WA Government to navigate the path forward is deeply appreciated.