



Update for ARC Stakeholders – February 2022

On 9 February 2022 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 WA Government is progressing a 'Single Stage Limited Request' process, the outcome of which will be the identification of an independent provider to acquire the ARC's assets and continue its operations.
- The WA Government and the ARC appreciate that stakeholders need confidence that the ARC's services will be maintained through this transition, 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 December 2021

- The WA Government has invited a limited number of parties to participate in a 'Single Stage Limited Request' process to acquire the ARC's assets and continue its operations.
- A probity advisor has been appointed to ensure the process is fair and impartial.
- The WA Government will continue to provide regular updates on timing and progress, however details of the parties and their proposals are commercially sensitive and will not be released.
- The WA Government expects to identify a new independent provider by roughly mid-2022.
- Once a successful proponent is identified, the ARC will work with them to ensure they are in an excellent position to continue to deliver ARC services with minimal disruption.
- On 25 November 2021 the WA Government introduced legislation that repeals the *Animal Resources Authority Act 1981*. This administrative step will allow assets to transfer from the State Government to a third party entity. This legislation will likely be debated in late February or early March 2022.
- The ARC CEO continues to work with government entities including the Public Sector Commission, to plan and develop guidance for ARC staff on their employment options. Further targeted information for ARC staff will be provided in the first half of 2022.
- Submissions on the Commonwealth Government's exposure draft of the *2021 National Research Infrastructure Roadmap* closed on 22 December 2021. JTISI's submission reiterated the importance of the ARC in providing national facilities that support medical research. Once finalised, the Roadmap will inform the Commonwealth Government's *2022 Research Infrastructure Investment Plan*.

Next steps

- The WA Government will continue to provide regular updates, the next one will be in March.