



Update for ARC Stakeholders – March 2022

On 16 March 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 market sounding, 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 throughout this transition, so that research enabled by the ARC 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 February 2022

- On 24 February 2022 the legislation that will amend and repeal the *Animal Resources Authority Act 1981* was debated and passed through the Western Australian Legislative Assembly.
 - It is still pending debate in the Legislative Council.
 - This legislation is an administrative step that will allow assets to transfer from the WA Government to a third party entity.
- The WA Government's 'Single Stage Limited Request' process is progressing well- the respondents involved are all highly engaged.
- The WA Government will continue to provide regular updates on timing and progress of this process, 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 about 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 services with minimal disruption.
 - This will include working with the new independent provider to confirm and extend contracts and other service arrangements where possible, to provide certainty to customers and suppliers.
- The ARC CEO continues to work with government entities including the Public Sector Commission, to provide guidance to ARC staff on their employment options.
- Staff are critical to the operations of the ARC, and every effort is being made to support them. ARC staff will be provided further detail in the coming months on their three options:
 - Redeployment within the public sector,
 - Voluntary severance, or
 - Potential transfer of employment to the new independent provider (noting that this is dependent on the provider's requirements).

Next steps

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