



## Update for ARC Stakeholders – May 2022

On 25 May 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 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 through the transition, ensuring research continues 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 April 2022

- The submission period for the 'Single Stage Limited Request' process closed on 3 May 2022.
- The WA Government, through its established Evaluation Panel, has commenced evaluation of the offers received. Offers will be assessed against the below criteria, which align with the WA Government's objectives for the transition:
  1. **Business Continuity:** respondent's methodology for assuming operational control of the ARC capability and minimising disruption to service delivery and stakeholders.
  2. **Commercial vision:** respondent's plan for ensuring the short term and longer term sustainability of the services provided by the ARC, including opportunities for growth.
  3. **Capacity to deliver:** relevant capability and demonstrated experience of the respondent to undertake the services provided by the ARC, relevant capability and demonstrated experience of the respondent's key personnel, financial viability of the respondent and the governance of the respondent.
  4. **Local Capability:** respondent's commitment to maintain the ARC's services and infrastructure in Western Australia.
  5. **Benefits to WA:** respondent's strategy for optimising long term outcomes for WA, including financial returns to the State, industry attraction, industry diversification, research excellence, human health advancements and leveraging funding (or other) opportunities.
- The Evaluation Panel will seek expert advice to assist in the assessment, including (for example) from probity, commercial, legal, and relevant sector experts.
- We expect the evaluation to take approximately eight to ten weeks. The evaluation panel's recommendation will then be considered by the WA Government.
- As the evaluation progresses and a preferred provider is identified, a more detailed timetable for the transition will be developed. This will prioritise consideration of ARC staff and ongoing service delivery.

### Next steps

- The WA Government will continue to provide regular updates.