



Update for ARC Stakeholders – June 2022

On 28 June 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's review of the ARC found that change is needed for the capability to be continued.
- Following strong interest shown through a market sounding process the WA Government is progressing a 'Single Stage Limited Request' process to identify 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 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 May 2022

- The request process is still in the evaluation phase, and this is now nearing completion.
- The Evaluation Panel has considered the proposals and expert advice and made a recommendation to decision makers in the WA Government.
- We remain on track to notify proponents of a decision in July 2022.
- The next step in the request process will then be to enter into negotiations with the preferred party and formalise transfer arrangements for the ARC capability.
- An announcement regarding the preferred provider will be made as soon as appropriate.
- Assisting ARC staff in the transition process and balancing ongoing service delivery will be a priority in coming months.
- A question from the previous stakeholder update was answered. The stakeholder asked how one of the evaluation criteria would be assessed. It was confirmed that:
 - the criteria focusses on broad benefits to WA,
 - the criteria was designed to provide an opportunity for respondents to articulate how their future vision for the ARC would support broader outcomes for WA, and
 - it was recognised that the ARC and any future provider would not be directly delivering the benefits such as new drug development or industry diversification.

Next steps

- The WA Government will continue to provide regular updates.
- An announcement regarding the preferred provider will be made in due course.