



Update for ARC Stakeholders – October 2022

The Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (JTSI), on behalf of WA Government agencies, provides stakeholders the below update regarding the Animal Resources Centre (ARC).

Background

- The WA Government's review of the ARC found that change is needed for the capability to be continued.
- 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.
- The WA Government undertook a 'Single Stage Limited Request' process to identify an independent provider to acquire the ARC's assets and continue its operations.
- The WA Government identified a 'Preferred' and 'Reserve' Respondent through this process.

Updates since ARC Stakeholder briefing in September 2022

- The 'Preferred' Respondent is Ozgene Pty Ltd.
- Ozgene Pty Ltd has a clear plan for continuing the ARC as a sustainable provider and understands the importance of sustained access to a range of products and services.
- The WA Government and Ozgene Pty Ltd have both signed an 'Animal Resources Authority Sale of Assets' agreement.
- This agreement has several conditions that require resolution prior to completion of the transaction. The Government and Ozgene Pty Ltd are working to resolve these conditions by the December 2022 completion date.
- This agreement signing is an important step in the process, as it will enable Ozgene Pty Ltd to interview ARC staff interested in transitioning their employment.
- Assisting ARC staff in the transition process and balancing ongoing service delivery continues to be a priority.

Next steps

- The WA Government will continue to provide regular updates each month.
- Ozgene will attend a future stakeholder briefing.
- A formal announcement regarding the new ARC provider will occur after the commercial agreement's December 2022 completion date.