



Update for ARC Stakeholders – February 2023

On 20 February 2023 the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (JTSI) invited stakeholders to attend an update regarding the Animal Resources Centre (ARC). The update was coordinated by JTSI on behalf of WA Government agencies and Ozgene ARC Pty Ltd.

Background

- The WA Government is aiming to exit ownership and operational control of the ARC in a way that retains the capability in Western Australia, minimises disruption to the ARC's stakeholders and secures a sustainable future with the new independent provider Ozgene ARC Pty Ltd.
- The WA Government and Ozgene ARC Pty Ltd appreciate that stakeholders need confidence that the ARC's services will be maintained through the transition, ensuring research can continue without disruption.
- Ozgene ARC Pty Ltd has a strong commitment to supporting research quality and continuity, introducing leading practice process improvements and to maintain the ARC capability in WA.
- The WA Government and Ozgene ARC Pty Ltd have both signed an 'Animal Resources Authority Sale of Assets' agreement. Both agreed to adjust this agreement to allow for a staged transition during early 2023, with full handover of operations no later than 31 May 2023.
- Ozgene ARC Pty Ltd representatives presented their vision and plans for the ARC and fielded questions at the November 2022 update, and have been involved in updates since.
- Ozgene ARC Pty Ltd confirm they intend to continue supply existing ARC product strains, and will throughout 2023 keep to the published 2023 ARC price list.
- Detailed transition planning continues. A priority is the purchase of new Tecniplast individually ventilated cages (IVC's) to be set up in a discrete, separate section on the existing ARC premises. This is scheduled from mid-March 2023 to breed selected animal strains.
- A 'Frequently Asked Questions' document is available on the ARC website.

Updates since ARC Stakeholder briefing on 30 January 2023

- Weekly management meetings between Ozgene and ARC representatives to plan, co-ordinate and execute actions to progress towards the 31 May 2023 transition date have commenced.
- Ozgene ARC Pty Ltd are in the process of securing a new premise, which it will immediately fit out for a longer-term vivarium. Ozgene ARC Pty Ltd will transition to this facility as soon as it is fit for purpose.
- Ozgene ARC Pty Ltd are continuing the recruitment processes for staff for the new facility.
- Ozgene ARC Pty Ltd anticipates a full transition to the facility between September and the end of this year.
- An application for AAALAC accreditation is planned for the Ozgene ARC Pty Ltd operations in 2023 after the facility is established and fully operational.
- Every effort will be made to support ARC staff in the coming months.

Next steps

- The WA Government will continue to provide regular updates each month with Ozgene ARC Pty Ltd representatives.