



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**Biosecurity Council
of Western Australia**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2012 - 2013**

November 2013

Images:

p.11 Forest Path © Nicholas Rjabow | Dreamstime.com

p.19 Eucalyptus rust, Dr L. Morin © CSIRO

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Biosecurity Legislative Reform

The passing of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act (BAM Act) 2007* and its subsidiary regulations has been a significant step for Western Australia.

Previously, legislation was spread across 15 different Acts. Under the BAM Act it is recognised that controls should be consistent across the board, regardless of the nature of a harmful organism and regardless of which aspect of Western Australian life it threatens. This approach enables partnerships across government agencies and with producer or community groups.

Maintaining modernised legislation is vital, given that biosecurity risks inevitably escalate. Given the changing face of agriculture and other industries, and the value our communities place on other aspects of life in Western Australia including concern for the natural environment and community welfare, the BAM Act is a welcome advance because it has involved the review and update of all previous legislation.

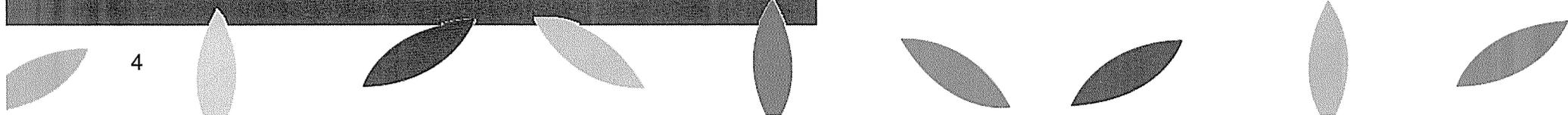
Preface: Biosecurity in Western Australia

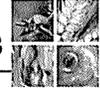
Biosecurity can be defined as preventive measures designed to reduce the risk of infectious diseases, weeds and pests coming into Western Australia.

Biosecurity is also the management of any established pests and diseases through programs to eradicate, contain within an area or control populations to minimise their impact.

Western Australia is free from many exotic animal and plant pests, diseases and weeds found elsewhere in Australia. Biosecurity preserves and enhances our unique environment, vibrant economy and lifestyle standards that are highly valued by our community.

Decisive policies are necessary for biosecurity to work efficiently, and many different people with valuable skill sets, services and systems are involved in planning strategies and on-the-ground operations.





Key biosecurity challenges faced by WA

- Increased risks from exotic plant and animal pests and diseases as international and domestic trade continues to expand rapidly, and the movement of people and commodities becomes quicker and easier.
- Maintaining market access by demonstrating freedom from pests and diseases.
- The increasing incidence, both domestically and internationally, of new and re-emerging diseases.
- Increasing demand from domestic and international consumers for production systems that produce safe food while protecting the environment, coupled with increased recognition of the impact of exotic plant and animal pests and diseases.
- Establishment and spread of exotic pests and diseases that cause chronic decline in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem health and threatens biodiversity.
- Growing and maintaining the State's biosecurity emergency response capability to ensure we have the ability to adequately respond to serious biosecurity incursions.
- An agreed understanding and acceptance of the roles and responsibilities of government, industry and the community, with regard to biosecurity in Western Australia.

Western Australia...

- is free of more than 1200 weeds that exist elsewhere in Australia.
- is free of a number of serious animal diseases, such as anthrax, bat viruses and liver fluke.
- is free of many plant pests and diseases, such as codling moth, *Sirex* wasp, stem nematodes.
- remains relatively free of European wasps, house sparrows and Indian Myna birds, and largely free of wild deer and starlings, which affect the natural and community environments of eastern Australia.
- has one of only 25 biodiversity hotspots in the world—the South West Botanical Province. It is the only biodiversity hotspot in Australia.
- champions its 'clean and green' image as a key advantage for domestic and international food product markets.



Hon. Ken Baston MLC
Minister for Agriculture and Food
Level 4, London House
216 St Georges Tce
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Minister

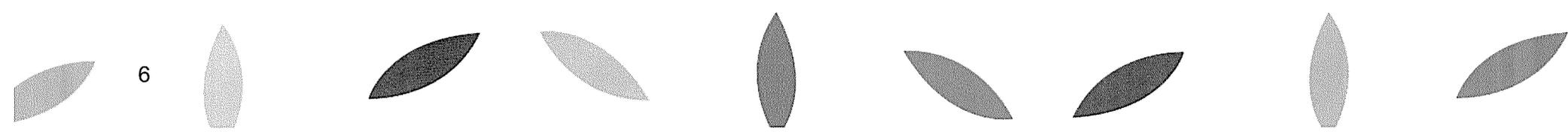
Pursuant to s51 of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* and on behalf of my fellow Members, it gives me great pleasure to deliver the sixth Annual Report of the Biosecurity Council of Western Australia (the Council) for your information and presentation to Parliament.

This is the first full year of operation for the current Council since its restructure in early 2012. It is my belief that the restructure to a seven-member Council and revised operation and direction has been a beneficial change.

We have focused our work at the strategic level in order to provide valuable advice to Government on key biosecurity issues. As requested, we have spent time working on five key areas of advice, and we are pleased to have been able to provide you with recommendations that we believe will improve biosecurity outcomes across the State.

The Council has been involved in many activities over the past 12 months—we undertook nation-wide consultation on cross-jurisdiction collaboration using eucalyptus rust as a case study, coordinated three cross-agency emergency response scenario workshops, played an important role in the inaugural Biosecurity Forum and proactively built relationships with key biosecurity stakeholders across Australia, among other things.

During 2013-14, we will put our networks to good use to identify innovative biosecurity activity from across Australia that can be shared with West Australian practitioners. We believe this knowledge-sharing is essential for Western Australia to maintain an effective biosecurity system into the future. We also look forward to progressing our advice on biosecurity investment decision-making, the declaration process for plant and animal





pests and diseases and the operation of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*.

I am pleased with the progress the Council has made, and the passion and enthusiasm of the members. This is highlighted by the increasing recognition Council is receiving as a valuable contributor to the State's biosecurity effort. For instance, we participated in the Senate inquiry into the Commonwealth Biosecurity Bill 2012 and the Inspector General of Biosecurity Bill 2012 where we highlighted the State's concerns about the potential impact of the legislative changes on biosecurity risks and costs for WA. We were also involved in the planning stage of the Office of the Auditor General's inquiry into the management of declared plants and animals.

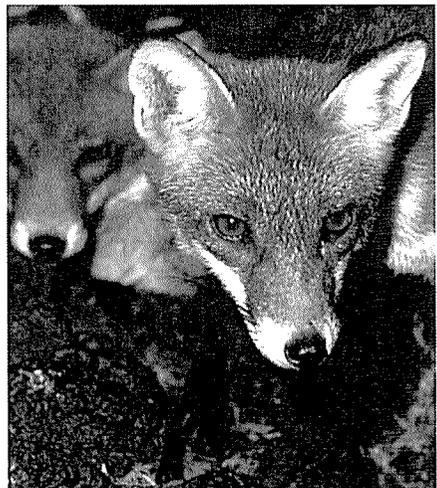
The Council is committed to operating at a strategic level and to be assertive in its advice. We are confident that our plans for delivering robust and strategic advice will help the Government deliver a comprehensive and effective biosecurity system for Western Australia. We look forward to maintaining constructive working relationships with key stakeholders throughout 2013-14 to assist in this.

Yours sincerely

Emeritus Professor Alan Robson
Chairman
Biosecurity Council of Western Australia
18 November 2013



Patterson's curse—a declared pest in Western Australia



The European red fox predates on native animals and livestock

1. The Biosecurity Council of Western Australia

The Biosecurity Council of Western Australia (the Council) was established on 27 February 2008 as a specialist advisory group to the Minister for Agriculture and Food and the Director General of the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DAFWA).

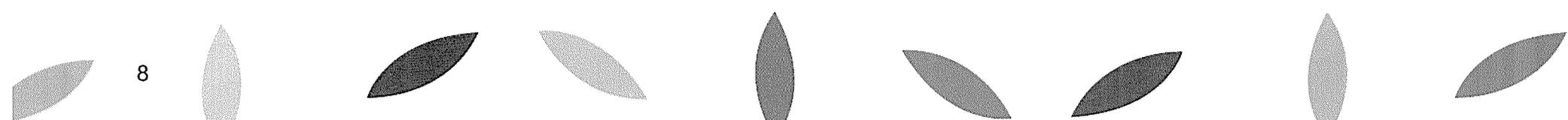
The establishment of the Council is a requirement under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*, with the inaugural members appointed in March 2008.

The principal role of the Biosecurity Council is to provide advice to the Minister for Agriculture and Food and the Director General of DAFWA on any matter related to biosecurity, whether referred to the Council by the Minister or Director General, or of its own motion.

The Council operates at a strategic level, with a long-term vision for biosecurity in WA that considers national and international treaties and obligations. The advice provided by the Council is based on sound scientific assessment of the risks posed by harmful organisms, and balances the needs of industry, community and government.

The Council originally convened with 14 members (including the Chair). Current membership consists of the Chair and six ordinary members. Membership is drawn from people who are experienced or actively involved in agriculture, fishing, aquaculture, pearling or related commercial activities, natural resource management, environmental protection and/or regional communities. Nominations are sought from industry, academia and community organisations, with appointments (for up to three years) made by the Minister.

Executive and administrative support for the Biosecurity Council's operation is provided by the Department of Agriculture and Food WA.



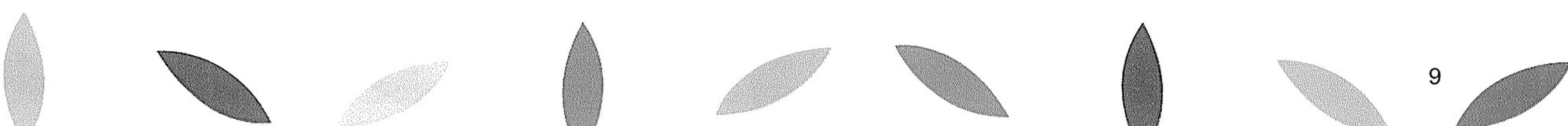
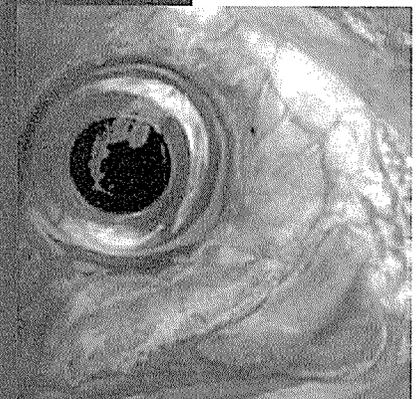
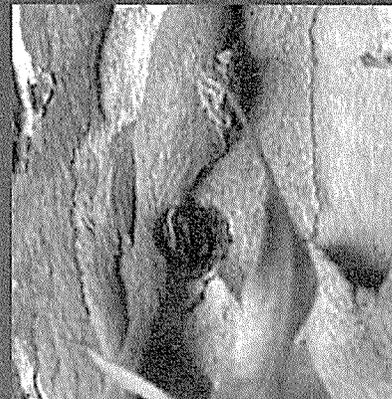
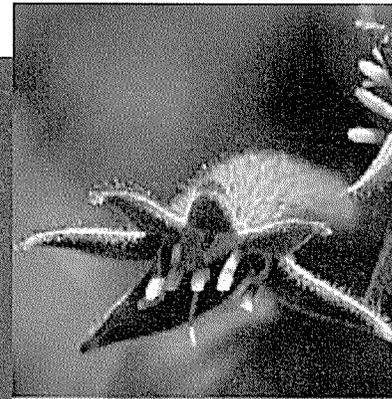


Terms of Reference

Biosecurity matters on which the Council provides advice include:

1. The requirements of a comprehensive and effective biosecurity system for the State of Western Australia, including the necessary linkages to national and international biosecurity systems;
2. Significant gaps in, or necessary improvements to, the biosecurity system;
3. Opportunities to improve industry and public awareness and support for biosecurity objectives; and
4. Opportunities to improve Government, community and industry cooperation and collaboration on biosecurity matters;

The Council also provides advice on other biosecurity-related matters as requested by the Minister or DAFWA Director General. See Appendix A for the full terms of reference.





2. Biosecurity Council Membership

2012-13 saw the first full year of operation for the restructured Council. In February 2012, the Minister for Agriculture and Food initiated a restructure of the Council that involved reducing the membership from twelve to seven and revising the Council's Instrument of Appointment.

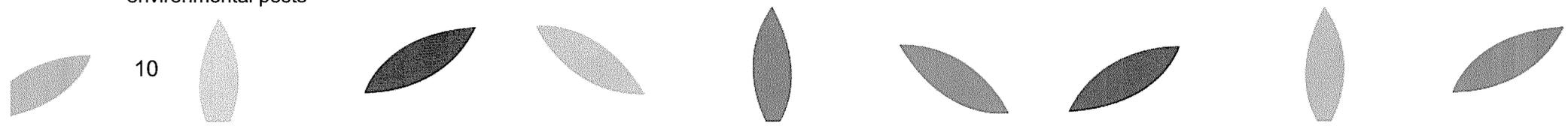


Exotic bird species can escape from aviaries to become social and/or environmental pests

Alan Robson (Biosecurity Council Chairman) is the former Vice Chancellor of the University of Western Australia (UWA) and is currently Emeritus Professor, School of Earth and Environment (UWA). Alan's background is in agricultural sciences, particularly in the areas of plant nutrition and soil fertility. Alan has been actively involved on many boards, including the CSIRO Board and the Premier's Science Council.

Michelle Allen has a farming background and experience as a grain and livestock producer in the Northern Agricultural Region of Western Australia. She has been involved at local, state and national levels mainly in the fields of biosecurity, natural resource management and grains research and development. Michelle has 15 years experience with biosecurity policy and regulation in Western Australia, and served on the Agriculture Protection Board of WA (APB) for 11 years. The APB had statutory responsibility for the control and management of declared plant and animal pests in the state. During that time she chaired a Parliamentary Review of the Wild Dog Control Program of WA. Michelle is an inaugural member of the Biosecurity Council of Western Australia.

David Anderson was a Senior Operations Officer (Quality and Compliance) for the Potato Marketing Corporation for four years. He previously served as a Board member of the Perth Market Authority, vegetablesWA, Potato Growers Association of WA and AUSVEG Ltd serving for a short period as Chairman. He is a former vegetable grower with more than 20 years experience in the fresh produce industry, growing produce for both the domestic and international markets. David is an inaugural member of the Biosecurity Council of Western Australia.



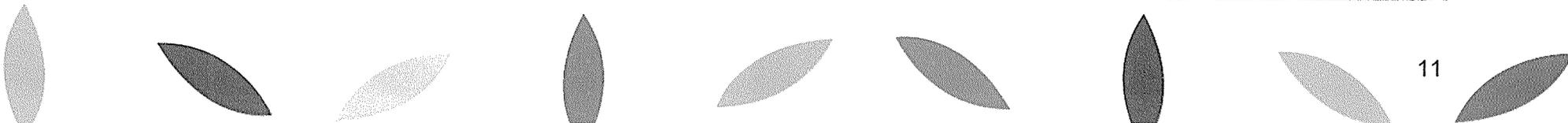


Kevin Goss is the former Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Future Farm Industries Cooperative Research Centre Ltd. Kevin has worked in agricultural, natural resource management, policy and environmental fields with the Murray-Darling Basin Commission, the Department of Agriculture and Food, and the now Department of Parks and Wildlife. Currently, he is an Honorary Senior Research Fellow with the University of Western Australia, and chairs the Research and Development Committee of the Western Australian Marine Science Institution.

David Jarvie is the General Manager Feeds and Animal Production Ltd., Group Veterinarian and Transport Division Manager at Wellard Rural Exports. David joined the Wellard Group in 1990 after positions in veterinary practice in the Riverina and with Metro Meat Ltd. as on-board Veterinarian, Live-Export Manager and Manager at Geraldton Abattoir. From 1985-90, David was an AQIS Veterinary Officer based in Melbourne, supervising livestock exports. David has been a Director of LiveCorp since 2007, and is Chair of the Cattle Industry Funding Scheme Management Committee.

Barry Large runs an 8,500 ha family farm in the Miling area. The main focus of the farm is a 6,000 ha cropping program, which is complemented by a Merino flock. As well as sitting on a number of national agricultural bodies, Barry is Chairman of the Grains, Seeds and Hay Industry Funding Scheme Management Committee, a grower representative on the Biosecurity GrainGuard, a Director of Grain Producers Australia and a Director of the Grains Industry Market Access Forum.

Johann van der Merwe is responsible for the Barrow Island Quarantine Management System for Chevron. This system has set new benchmarks in the management of biosecurity risks, particularly those associated with large resource projects in sensitive locations. Johann was previously the Parks Director for South African National Parks where he managed biosecurity threats to biodiversity, including management of highly contagious diseases (e.g. anthrax, bovine tuberculosis, foot and mouth) and a massive invasive species management program. Johann is considered an international authority on conservation planning and development, protected area management, and associated sustainable regional development.





Summary of member terms

Name	Position	Expiry of Term
E/Prof. Alan Robson	Chairman	27 February 2015
Mr Kevin Goss	Member	27 February 2015
Mr David Jarvie	Member	27 February 2015
Mr Barry Large	Member	27 February 2015
Mrs Michelle Allen	Member	31 December 2013
Mr David Anderson	Member	31 December 2013
Mr Johann van der Merwe	Member	31 December 2013



Invasive plant and animal pests pose a risk to the WA economy, environment, social amenity and human health.



3. Interaction with Government

As part of its role to advise the Minister and DAFWA Director General, the Biosecurity Council liaises with the Biosecurity Senior Officers Group (BSOG). The BSOG is comprised of senior executives from the State Government agencies that have biosecurity responsibilities—

- the Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA);
- the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC);
- the Department of Fisheries (DoF);
- the Forest Products Commission (FPC); and
- the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC).

These Agencies are committed to a comprehensive and integrated approach to manage biosecurity threats across the environment, the community and all primary industries within Western Australia.

The Biosecurity Senior Officers Group

Throughout 2012-13, the Council have continued to keep the BSOG informed of the activities being undertaken. Additionally, at the Council’s request, the BSOG was involved in the planning and analysis phase of the Council’s ‘eucalyptus rust’ work, and have been an important contributor of information to assist the Council in their work.

Similarly, the BSOG have actively participated at each ordinary Council meeting to provide the Council with updates on the key issues and biosecurity activities at both the State and National levels.

The Council will continue to engage with the BSOG during 2013-14 in order to maintain the working relationship they have built over the past 12 months.

The BSOG provides the Council with updates on biosecurity activities and issues. The BSOG is also kept apprised of the Council’s activities. During 2012-13, the BSOG included:

John Ruprecht (Chair)

Department of Agriculture and Food

Gordon Wyre

Department of Parks and Wildlife

Rae Burrows

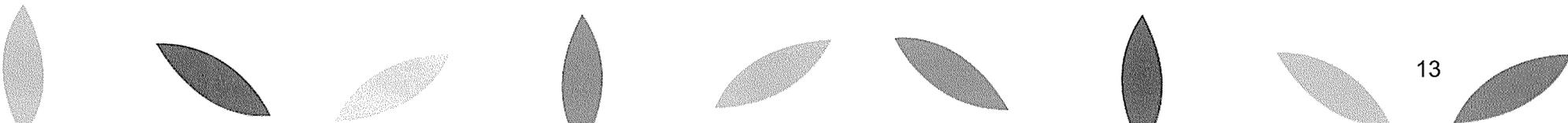
Department of Fisheries

Andrew Lyon

Forest Products Commission

Rosh Ireland/Paul Tzaikos

Department of Premier and Cabinet





4. Council Activities in 2012-13

Overview

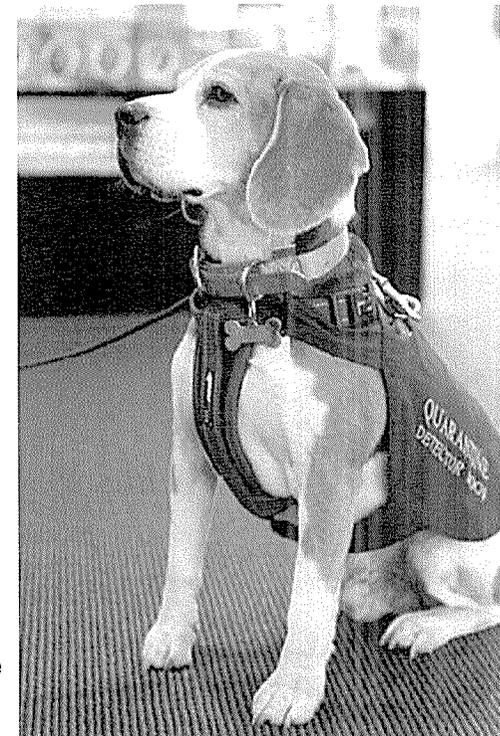
There were six major areas for advice to the Minister and/or Director General that the Council worked on during the year:

- Our preparedness for likely major biosecurity threats (emergency response preparedness);
- Collaboration across portfolio areas;
- Effective points of obligation where private beneficiaries can contribute to biosecurity measures (biosecurity investment decision-making);
- Recognised biosecurity groups as a mechanism for joint responsibility;
- The operation of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*; and
- The transition to the new Commonwealth biosecurity legislation.

In addition, the Council kept a watching brief on the implementation of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity (IGAB) and National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement (NEBRA).

To help provide robust and timely advice to the Minister on

the above, the Council, in conjunction with the BSOG, developed a work plan. The work plan outlined the activities to be undertaken and provided a timeline for delivering advice to the Minister. At each ordinary meeting, Council reviewed and updated the work plan to reflect the changing environment and priorities. A Risk Reporting Matrix was also used that identified key biosecurity risk areas and strategic actions to mitigate the risks. The Council reviewed the progress of the mitigation actions at each ordinary meeting.



Detector dogs inspect luggage and mail for quarantine risk material.



Meetings

During the 2012-13 year, the Biosecurity Council held four ordinary meetings and two workshops.

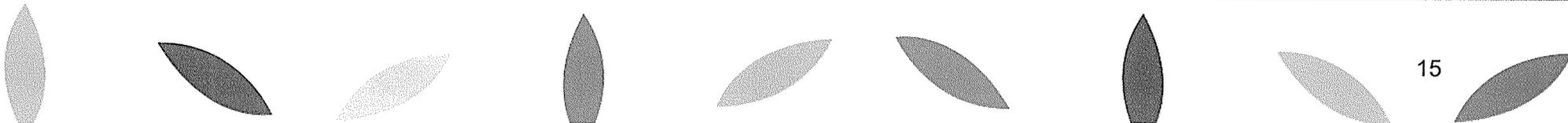
Name	No. meetings attended	No. workshops attended
E/Prof. Alan Robson	4	2
Mr Kevin Goss	4	2
Mr David Jarvie	3	2
Mr Barry Large	2	2
Mrs Michelle Allen	2	2
Mr David Anderson	1	2
Mr Johann van der Merwe	3	0

2012-13 Directions and advice

- Requests for advice received from Minister: 0
- Requests for advice received from Director General: 1
- Advice provided to Minister: 2
- Advice provided to Director General: 2

Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity

The Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity (IGAB) is an agreement between the Commonwealth, State and Territory governments to enhance the national biosecurity system and strengthen a collaborative approach to biosecurity. The National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement (NEBRA) is the first deliverable of the IGAB, and sets out emergency response arrangements, including cost-sharing arrangements, for responding to biosecurity incidents that primarily impact the environment and/or social amenity and where the response is for the public good (www.daff.gov.au).





Council advice on emergency response preparedness and cross-agency collaboration

Western Australia is free from a number of significant exotic animal and plant pests and diseases. Freedom from these biological threats supports market access for Western Australian produce and has safeguarded the State's unique and diverse flora, fauna and ecosystems.

The nationally agreed position is that each jurisdiction should have the ability to respond to, and affect initial recovery from, at least one serious (e.g. level 3) incident.

Collaboration across State government portfolios is necessary in many biosecurity-related situations, including emergency response. Cross-portfolio emergency response training, accreditation and support can be important factors in maintaining a biosecure State.

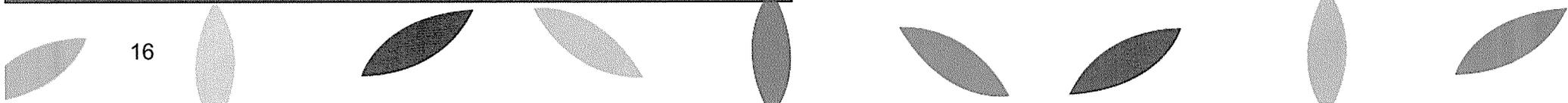
Additionally, collaboration is necessary for successful monitoring and surveillance programs, and dealing with specific cross-jurisdictional issues such as eucalyptus rust, wild dogs and feral camels.

A level 3 incident is defined as an event requiring a State-wide response, that is managed at the State level and includes the establishment of one or more 'Local Control Centres' and a 'State Coordination Centre' (National Biosecurity Incident Management System).

Cross-agency collaboration and emergency response preparedness are two areas of Council advice requested by the Minister for Agriculture and Food. To develop this advice, the Council:

- were briefed by the Director, Regulation and Response (DAFWA) on the State's obligations and current capacity with regard to biosecurity emergency response;
- were briefed by the four biosecurity agencies on a) biosecurity emergency responses undertaken; and b) areas for potential cross-jurisdictional collaboration;
- included the issues as 'risk areas' in their risk reporting matrix, which were subsequently reviewed at each meeting;
- undertook national consultation to investigate a) the State's preparedness for a likely biosecurity threat; and b) cross-jurisdictional collaboration using eucalyptus rust as a case study; and
- hosted inter-agency emergency response scenario workshops to identify gaps in the State's ability to support the first one to two weeks of level three biosecurity incidents, including cross-jurisdictional collaboration.

More detail on the Council's independent investigations (eucalyptus rust case study and emergency response scenario workshops) are provided on pages 18 and 19.





Based on this work, the Council made three recommendations to the Minister for Agriculture and Food. With the Minister's approval, the advice was also provided to the Ministers for Environment, Fisheries and Forestry.

Recommendation 1. Establish formal mechanisms for interagency collaboration on biosecurity

Constructive communication and cooperation does occur between State Government biosecurity agencies. However, the informal nature of these interactions can (and has) lead to situations where biosecurity activity is stalled owing to differing priorities of different Government agencies.

Formal mechanisms should enable the identification of shared biosecurity priorities, and the timely allocation and sharing of resources to address these priorities. Through the work undertaken by Council, it was clear that a multi-agency 'authority' to coordinate activity and act decisively on whole-of-government biosecurity was required.

Recommendation 2. Investigate ways of building an outcomes-based approach into biosecurity planning

The scenario workshops, in particular, identified a high level of operational risk for biosecurity emergency response. The Council believed this would best be handled as part of collaborative, outcomes-based biosecurity planning at the State-level. Three key areas for planning were identified:

- Strategic planning (vision/outcomes for biosecurity in WA)
- Interagency biosecurity threats
- Biosecurity emergency response capability.

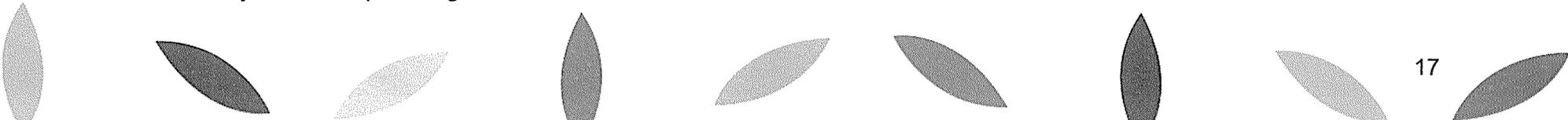
Recommendation 3. Investigate ways to build the capacity and leadership of industry for biosecurity across WA

Western Australia is a world leader for industry participation in biosecurity. However, industry can play a greater role in biosecurity response and preparedness.

The Council believed the critical first step was to clearly define and articulate the roles and responsibilities of Government and industry with regard to biosecurity, and then investigate ways to build industry's biosecurity capacity and leadership.

More detailed information on the Council's recommendations to Government is provided in Appendix B.

The Council received responses to their advice from all four Ministers. The BSOG are currently implementing the Council's recommendations including developing BSOG terms of reference to reflect a cross-agency 'authority', and whole-of-State planning discussions have been initiated.





Khapra beetle is a serious pest of stored products such as wheat, barley oats, rye, maize, rice, flour, malt and noodles. It is classed as one of the 100 worst invasive exotic species.

Avian influenza is a highly infectious disease of poultry and other birds. The disease has the potential to seriously affect human health.

Abalone viral ganglioneuritis has the potential to decimate up to 90% of WAs wild abalone populations and severely impact the State's commercial and recreational fisheries, aquaculture industry and the associated supply chain.



Participants at the Khapra beetle scenario workshop

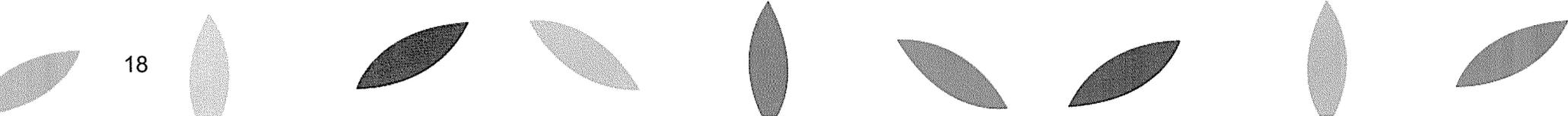
Emergency Response Scenario Workshops

The Council sponsored a scenario-based approach to identify State Government planning needs to support the first one to two weeks of a level three biosecurity incursion.

A highly qualified facilitator was engaged, and initial planning meetings were held to develop the scenarios. These meeting involved government agencies (Department of Agriculture and Food and Department of Fisheries), the Biosecurity Council and the facilitator, and culminated in the development of three scenarios based on incursions of avian influenza, Khapra beetle and abalone viral ganglioneuritis (AVG).

The scenarios were considered at three half-day planning workshops, attended by 71 people from across five government agencies.

The workshops involved a facilitated expert panel discussion of the scenario followed by structured small and whole group discussion. The workshop participants established consensus views on gaps in emergency response capability, completed a risk assessment of these gaps and identified possible next steps for addressing the gaps. The Council used the outcomes from these workshops to inform their advice to the Minister.





Eucalyptus Rust Case Study

Eucalyptus rust (also known as myrtle rust or guava rust) was used as a case study because its management involves significant inter- and intra-agency collaboration; it affects both private and public assets; and it is a legitimate biosecurity threat for Western Australia given its prevalence in the Eastern States. Additionally, the case study approach helped to ensure that the resultant advice to the Minister was supported by practical, on-ground examples rather than generalised statements.

The Council used evaluation consultants to plan and deliver the review. A participatory method was used, which included the Biosecurity Senior Officers Group (BSOG) and the Council, to develop the methodology and consider the draft findings.

Twenty-one semi-structured interviews were conducted with key stakeholders from across Australia to gather information on collaboration and emergency response preparedness. This included Commonwealth Government agencies, State Government agencies, industry and research institutes.

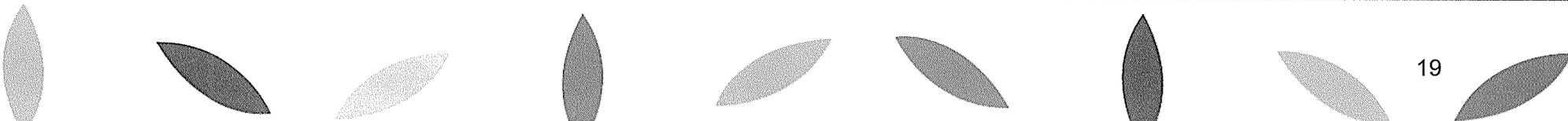
A facilitated workshop was held with the BSOG and Council to collectively consider and discuss the successes and lessons identified by the review. The findings from the review were used to inform the Council's advice to the Minister.

Eucalyptus Rust is a plant fungal disease affecting many species of native flora. It was first detected in New South Wales in 2010 and has quickly spread to numerous locations in the eastern States.

The rust impacts the forestry, nursery and garden industries, native forests and parks, threatened and endangered plant species and backyard gardens.



Eucalyptus rust





Biosecurity investment decision-making

A coordinated and cooperative approach between industry and government is required to minimise biosecurity risk. The State Government is committed to this partnership and will resource biosecurity where there is significant community and wider industry benefit. Where there is primarily a private benefit, it is believed industry should invest in managing the biosecurity risk.

During 2011-12, the Council developed draft principles for biosecurity investment decision-making. The Council's work in this area has continued in response to the Minister's request for 'effective points of obligation where private beneficiaries can contribute to biosecurity measures' in March 2012.

The Council identified a need for a shared understanding and agreement on the roles and responsibilities of government, industry and community with regard to biosecurity in Western Australia. Subsequent to this is the development of agreed principles to underpin this delineation of responsibility. The Council firmly believe that this information must be developed in collaboration with all stakeholders, and will continue their work in this area during 2013-14 to help further the development of a Government policy on biosecurity investment decision-making.

Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007

The *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act) is an important piece of legislation that was developed in partnership with key primary industry, natural resource management and community groups over several years.

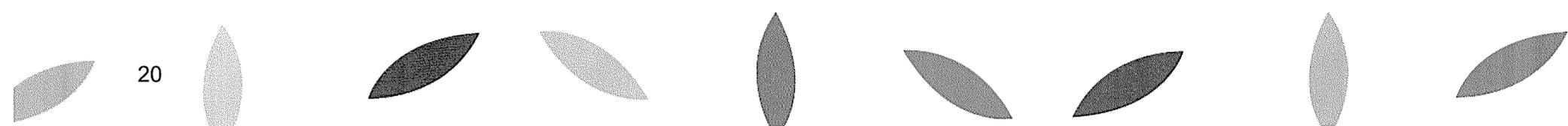
The Act establishes a modern biosecurity regulatory scheme to prevent serious animal and plant pests and diseases from entering and becoming established in Western Australia, and to minimise the spread and impact of any that are already present within the State (Biosecurity WA website).

Full implementation of the Act came into effect in May 2013.

The Council have kept up-to-date with the implementation, and continue to be briefed on the operation of the Act as the regulations are 'tested' in real situations.

Recognised Biosecurity Groups

Council were asked to provide advice on Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBGs) as a mechanism for joint biosecurity responsibility. During the year, the Council have received briefings on the implementation of pastoral RBGs, and progress with regard to the implementation of agricultural RBGs. The Council will continue to keep a watching brief throughout 2013-14, including participation in the RBG Forum to be held in December 2013.





Transition to the new Commonwealth legislation

In July-August 2012, the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) met with Western Australian organisations to discuss the proposed new biosecurity legislation – the Biosecurity Bill 2012 and the Inspector General of Biosecurity Bill 2012.

The Council were involved in bilateral discussions between DAFF and State Government agencies (Department of Fisheries, Department of Agriculture and Food, Department of Parks and Wildlife) as well as participating in the public consultation sessions. The Council discussed the outcomes at their August 2012 meeting, and subsequently provided proactive advice to the Minister to highlight the Council's concerns on three key areas:

- The tension relating to maintaining regional differences in import risk assessments, particularly for Western Australia

Recognised Biosecurity Groups

RBGs are groups that control pests that impact on public as well as private interests. They raise funds to carry out programs to control established animal and plant pests. The funds are matched dollar-for-dollar by the State Government. The RBG framework gives communities the opportunity to come together to address locally-significant biosecurity issues.

and Tasmania, and the potential loss of this information on the Biosecurity ICON website;

- A question around the potential costs to the State if the Commonwealth's responsibilities, via the increased powers being considered in the legislation, are delegated to the State; and
- The consultation did not appropriately engage with WA Industry, with inadequate timelines for notice of workshops and an expectation that this could be addressed by industry members travelling to Canberra for a workshop.

The Council also made a formal submission to DAFF on the draft legislation to highlight the Council's concerns.

The two Bills were introduced into Parliament in November 2012 and were subsequently referred to the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee for inquiry. The Biosecurity Council were invited to appear before the Senate Committee to provide a Western Australian perspective on the Bills, which was attended by three Council members.

With the change of Commonwealth government, the Bills lapsed and will need to be re-introduced to Parliament to progress. The Council will keep a watching brief on the progress of this legislation, and will actively participate in the consultation process for input to the associated regulations.



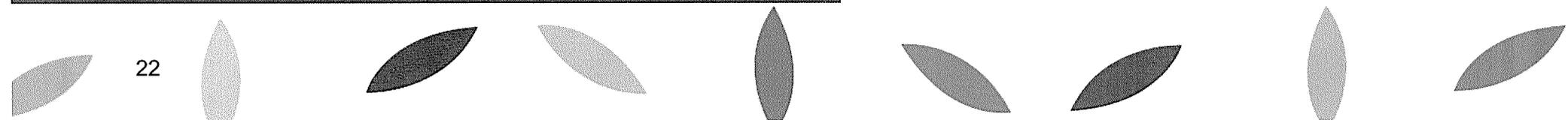
Participants at the inaugural State Biosecurity Forum 2012

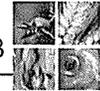
Communications

Up-to-date information on the Biosecurity Council of Western Australia continues to be freely available on the Biosecurity WA website (www.biosecurity.wa.gov.au). The website is promoted regularly to industry and community, and includes information on industry and community-based biosecurity (Industry Funding Schemes and the Recognised Biosecurity Groups).

Other activities

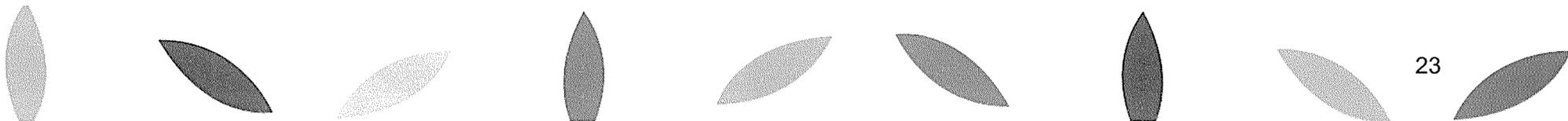
- With the Department of Agriculture and Food WA, the Council hosted the inaugural State Biosecurity Forum. The Forum was held on 7 November 2012 at the Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle WA, and focused on the best ways to counter current and emerging biosecurity threats to industry and the environment. The Forum was attended by 120 people representing government, industry and the community.
- In response to a request from the Office of the Auditor General, the Council provided input to the feasibility study for auditing invasive species management in WA. Input was provided on the potential scope of the audit and the potential risks and gaps.
- The Council put in place a process whereby the Council are notified of significant biosecurity emergency responses being undertaken by the State (minimum of level three incident). Briefings were received from the Department of Fisheries regarding incursions of Asian paddle crab and Asian green mussel.





Presentations to Council

Date	Title	Name	Organisation
3 August 2012	State and national biosecurity arrangements	Luke Morgan, Manager	DAFWA
3 August 2012	Biosecurity incident response preparedness	John Ruprecht, Executive Director	DAFWA
9 November 2012	Cross-agency collaboration	Melanie Strawbridge, Director`	DAFWA
9 November 2012	Current cost-sharing arrangements in WA	Cathy Lyons, Senior Policy Officer	DAFWA
9 November 2012	Recognised Biosecurity Groups	Viv Read, Director	DAFWA
9 November 2012	Biosecurity incident response preparedness / incident evaluation	Sarah Wylie, Director	DAFWA
1 February 2013	Biosecurity investment decision-making	David Cook, Senior Economist	DAFWA
1 February 2013	Audit of invasive species	Jason Beeley and audit team	Office of the Auditor General
1 February 2013	Overview of biosecurity activity in the Forest Products Commission	Andrew Lyon	Forest Products Commission
17 May 2013	BAM Act implementation	Cathy Lyons, Senior Policy Officer	DAFWA
17 May 2013	Overview of the Department of Environment and Conservation biosecurity activities	Paul Blechynden, Principal Coordinator	Department of Environment and Conservation
17 May 2013	Overview of the Department of Fisheries biosecurity activities	Rae Burrows, Manager	Department of Fisheries



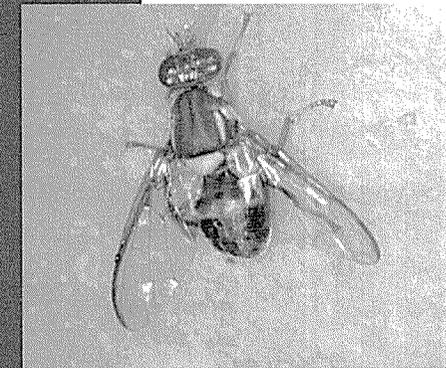
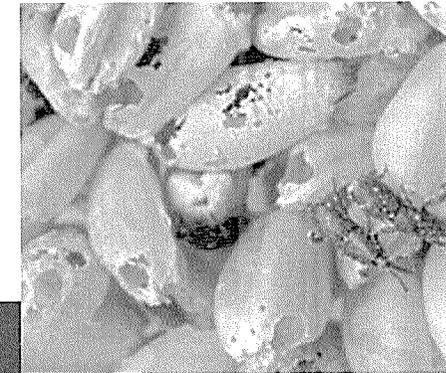


5. Cost of Council Operations in 2012-13

The direct costs of the Councils' operation during the 2012-13 reporting year amounted to \$183,792 (Table 1). This total does not include executive, accounting, administrative and other general support that was provided throughout the year by the Department of Agriculture and Food WA.

Table 1: Biosecurity Council of WA expenditure for 2012-13

Description	Total \$
Sitting Fees	117,001
Consultancies	54,650
Travel expenses	4,952
Catering	3,738
Venue hire	2,755
Printing	696
Total	183,792



Pest species affect industries and the environment.

Notes:

- (1) Data sourced from the accounting records of the DAFWA.
- (2) Costs of executive, accounting, administrative and other general support not included.





6. Future Direction

Advice to the Minister and Director General

The Biosecurity Council operates at a strategic level to provide the Minister for Agriculture and Food and the Director General of DAFWA with independent, robust and timely advice on priority biosecurity issues. For 2013-2014, the Council is focussed on providing strategic advice, as requested by the Minister, on:

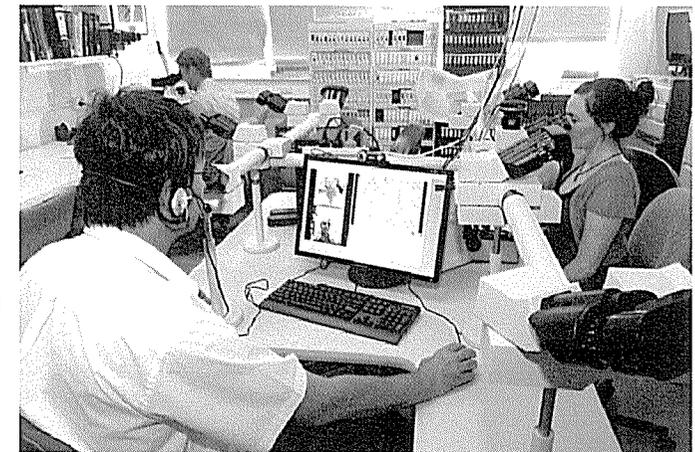
- Biosecurity investment decision-making;
- Recognised biosecurity groups as a mechanism for joint responsibility;
- The declared pest list; and
- The operation of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*.

The Council will also monitor and advise in two other areas of significance to future biosecurity management in the State:

- Implications of new Commonwealth biosecurity legislation; and
- Implementation of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity and the National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement.

Although the Council have provided its advice on the issues of collaboration across portfolio areas and our preparedness for likely major biosecurity threats, these two issues will be regularly considered through the Council's risk reporting process. In addition, Council will actively monitor the implementation of its three recommendations for Government with regard to these two issues.

Council's consideration of the key areas and preparation of advice will be underpinned by robust processes including consultation with stakeholders, independent investigations and by requesting reports from relevant agencies.



Rapid and accurate diagnosis is vital for an effective response to a disease or residue issue.



Appendix A—Instrument of Appointment

BIOSECURITY AND AGRICULTURE MANAGEMENT ACT 2007

INSTRUMENT ESTABLISHING AND APPOINTING MEMBERS OF THE BIOSECURITY COUNCIL.

1. This instrument replaces the instrument signed on 12 March 2012.
2. As required by section 48(1) of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*, the Biosecurity Council is established and

Members	Term
Mr Alan ROBSON (Chairman)	for a term expiring on 27 February 2015
Mr David JARVIE	for a term expiring on 27 February 2015
Mr Kevin GOSS	for a term expiring on 27 February 2015
Mr Barry LARGE	for a term expiring on 27 February 2015
Mrs Michelle ALLEN	for a term expiring on 31 December 2013
Mr David ANDERSON	for a term expiring on 31 December 2013
Mr Johann VAN DER MERWE	for a term expiring on 31 December 2013

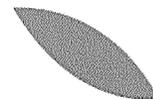
the following persons are appointed as members of the Council for the term specified.

3. Set out below are the matters on which the Council is to give advice and other matters relating to the operation and procedures of the Council:

MATTERS ON WHICH COUNCIL IS TO GIVE ADVICE

The Council is to give advice to the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (the Act) Minister and Director General of the Department of Agriculture and Food on any matter related to biosecurity and in particular:

1. The requirements of a comprehensive and effective biosecurity system for the State of Western Australia and necessary linkages to other biosecurity systems (national and international); and
2. Significant gaps in, or necessary improvements to, the biosecurity system; and
3. Opportunities to improve industry and public awareness and support for biosecurity objectives; and
4. Opportunities to improve Government, community and industry cooperation and collaboration on biosecurity matters; and
5. Matters referred to the Council by the Minister or Director General.





MATTERS RELATING TO THE OPERATION OF THE COUNCIL

The Council should:

- a. Be strategic by adopting a long term perspective for biosecurity in Western Australia and by giving appropriate consideration to national and international treaties and obligations.
- b. Be aware of changing industry, community and environment needs and of options for balancing the demands of different interests.
- c. Provide advice to others, including other Ministers and Directors General, only when specifically permitted.
- d. Act and be seen to act with integrity, as set out in the Western Australian Public Sector Code of Ethics.

On or before 30 November of each year, the Council must prepare and submit to the Minister an annual report on its activities throughout the preceding financial year in accordance with section 50 of the Act.

MEETINGS AND CONDUCT OF THE COUNCIL

The Council is to hold four ordinary meetings each year. For consideration of issues out-of-session, agenda papers will be directed to all members by the Secretariat and the outcome of any decision will be communicated to all members.

The Chairman may convene special meetings of the Council if it is necessary to deal with any urgent matters requested by the Minister or Director General.

The Council must maintain a formal record of its proceedings and make that record available to the Minister and the Director General or their nominees.



Appendix B—Council Advice to the Minister

Recommendation 1: Establish formal mechanisms for interagency collaboration on biosecurity

Constructive communication and cooperation does occur between State Government biosecurity agencies. However, the informal nature of these interactions can (and has) lead to situations where biosecurity activity is stalled owing to differing priorities of different Government agencies.

With biosecurity responsibility currently across four State Government portfolios (Agriculture and Food, Forestry, Environment and Fisheries), formal mechanisms for interagency collaboration are necessary. It was the Biosecurity Council's recommendation that mechanisms for cross-agency collaboration on biosecurity are established and formalised.

Formal mechanisms should enable the identification of shared biosecurity priorities, and the timely allocation and sharing of resources to address these priorities. Through the work undertaken by Council, it was clear that a multi-agency 'authority' to coordinate activity and act decisively on whole-of-government biosecurity was required.

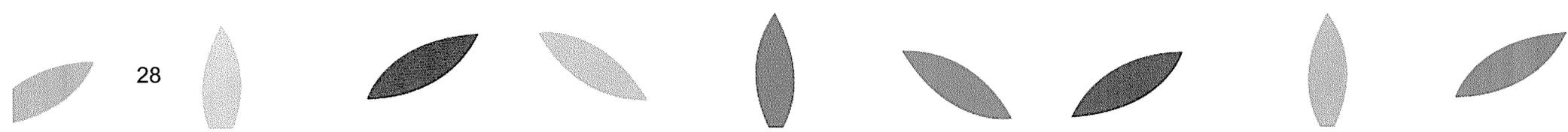
The Council noted that there is an opportunity to modify the

current Biosecurity Senior Officers Group (BSOG) terms of reference in order for the BSOG to fulfil this new role. This would provide a functional solution to State-level biosecurity planning and delivery, including cross-jurisdictional biosecurity emergency response.

Recommendation 2: Investigate ways of building an outcomes-based approach into biosecurity planning

The scenario workshops, in particular, identified a high level of operational risk for biosecurity emergency response needing logistics planning for access to trained staff, the mobilisation of human resources, functional information and communication systems, and clear finance and legislative delegations. The Council believed this would best be handled as part of collaborative, outcomes-based biosecurity planning at the State-level. Three key areas for planning were identified:

- Strategic planning – the development of a vision and medium-term outcomes for biosecurity in Western Australia.
- Interagency biosecurity threats – the development of principles and guidelines for interagency collaboration





including interagency cost-sharing; the identification of key State-level (i.e. cross-agency) biosecurity threats; and the development of agreed response plans and preparedness programs for the identified threats.

- Biosecurity emergency response capability – the development of targets for trained, certified staff, and guidelines for accessing and mobilising them; the identification of an integrated functional information system for shared data gathering and inquiry, decision support, and communication; and the identification of delegations for procurement and resource access, and implementing regulations under the BAM Act.

The Council thought the BSOG (as the cross-agency biosecurity ‘authority’ – see recommendation 1) could coordinate this planning, and investigate how an outcomes-based approach would be integrated into existing processes.

Recommendation 3: Investigate ways to build the capacity and leadership of industry for biosecurity across WA

Western Australia is a world leader for industry participation in biosecurity. However, industry can play a greater role in biosecurity response and preparedness. Not only does

industry partner with Government to fund or co-fund biosecurity activities, they are very important in terms of communications, leadership and the detection of biosecurity threats.

The Council believed the critical first step was to clearly define and articulate the roles and responsibilities of Government and industry, with regard to biosecurity, noting that a collaborative approach be used to ensure both Government and industry have a shared understanding of their roles.

The Biosecurity Council are exploring this as part of their work to provide advice on biosecurity investment decision-making, which is one of the strategic issues Council were asked to investigate.

Once industry’s role in biosecurity has been clearly defined, it was the Council’s recommendation that Government investigate ways to build industry’s biosecurity capacity and leadership. Two suggestions that emerged from the Council’s work were: 1) the formation of an industry panel to work with the BSOG on biosecurity planning; and 2) the establishment of a register of expertise that may be used during emergency responses.