



Biosecurity Council of Western Australia

Annual Report
2016/2017

November 2017

Image (p.19 – prawns) Courtesy of Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

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Chair's report

I am pleased to report on a particularly productive year for the Biosecurity Council, with constructive government and industry engagement and several reports to Ministers for Agriculture and Food.

The Council's work was book-ended by an investigation into the acute issue of maintaining access to eastern Australian markets after the tomato-potato psyllid (TPP) incursion, and the ongoing challenge of maintaining capability and function under reduced agency budgets.

The Council's observations of the government response to the TPP incursion, and its conclusions for overcoming systemic weaknesses in plant biosecurity structures and capabilities, were relatively hard-hitting. In undertaking this work, we were mindful of the sensitivities within the (then) Department of Agriculture and Food, and were careful to explain that our conclusions were to do with matters of structure, capability and process rather than individual performance.

We are confident in our 11 recommendations, having interviewed affected growers and industry representatives, and consulted with agency personnel and interstate biosecurity officials. The Hon. Alannah MacTiernan, Minister for Agriculture and Food, and Ralph Addis, Director General of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) supported the conclusions of the report, and a working group has been formed to review the Council's recommendations.

There are, however, the persistent issues of budget constraints, capability weaknesses and falling short of industry expectations for engagement. Council acknowledge the constructive and frank feedback from industry, and the focussed work of the Biosecurity Senior Officers Group to address the issues in strained times.

In 2016/17 there was a change in government with resultant agency amalgamations. The formation of DPIRD presents an opportunity to consider what a contemporary biosecurity agency might be in terms of organisation, culture, capability and resourcing. This has been embraced by DPIRD's senior management and will be a major task for the Council in 2017/18 along with an investigation into better harmonising and resourcing environmental biosecurity.

On behalf of the members of the Biosecurity Council of Western Australia, I acknowledge and thank the respective Ministers for Agriculture and Food, Directors-General, senior agency staff, and industry and community representatives for their direction and contributions, and their confidence in our work. We are committed to improving Western Australia's biosecurity system, with important work to do.

Kevin Goss
Chairperson
Biosecurity Council of Western Australia



1 The Biosecurity Council of Western Australia

1.1 Overview

The Biosecurity Council of Western Australia (the Council) was established on 27 February 2008 as a specialist advisory group to the Minister and Director General with responsibility for the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act) — that is, the Minister for Agriculture and Food (the Minister) and the Director General of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD).

Establishing the Council is a requirement under the BAM Act, with inaugural members appointed in March 2008.

The principal role of the Council is to provide advice to the Minister for Agriculture and Food and the Director General of DPIRD on any biosecurity matter, 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 effective biosecurity in Western Australia (WA) that considers national and international treaties and obligations. The advice provided by the Council is based on sound assessment, and balances the needs of industry, community and government.

Current membership consists of the Chair and six ordinary members. Membership is drawn from people who are experienced or actively involved in agriculture, silviculture, fishing, aquaculture, pearling or related commercial activities; natural resource management; environmental protection; and/or regional communities. Nominations are sought from industry, research organisations 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 DPIRD.



Biosecurity safeguards our primary industries from pests and diseases.



1.2 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
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 DPIRD Director General, or of its own motion.

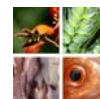
See Appendix A for the Council's instrument of appointment.

1.3 Biosecurity Council membership

Kevin Goss (Chairperson) works in the agricultural, natural resource management and environmental fields, with a background in policy and research management in Western Australia and interstate. He is Deputy Chair of the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation and Chair of the Research and Development Committee of the Western Australian Marine Science Institution, and he is an Honorary Senior Research Fellow with the University of Western Australia. Kevin has held senior executive roles with Future Farm Industries Cooperative Research Centre Ltd, the Murray-Darling Basin Commission and the WA Department of Agriculture.

Simon McKirdy (Deputy Chairperson) has a long history in the biosecurity/quarantine area. He is currently Professor in Biosecurity and Director of the Harry Butler Institute at Murdoch University. Prior positions held include the Biosecurity Science and Risk Manager for Chevron Australia and Chief Executive Officer of the Plant Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre. Simon has worked on various biosecurity-related committees including seven years with the Plant Biosecurity Quadrilateral Scientific Collaboration Working Group, which included representatives from Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the USA.

Michelle Allen has a farming and community background, and experience as a grain and livestock producer in the northern agricultural area of Western Australia. She has extensive experience working within community, industry and government organisations 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 for 11 years. During that time she chaired a Parliamentary Review of the WA Wild Dog Control Program.



David Jarvie is the General Manager Wellard Feeds Pty 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. Until recently, David was a Director of LiveCorp and the Chair of the Cattle Industry Funding Scheme Management Committee. He currently is Chair of the Western Australian Live Exporters Association and is a Director of the Australian Livestock Exporters' Council.

Barry Large runs an 8500 hectare (ha) family farm in the Milling area. The main focus of the farm is a 6000 ha cropping program, which is complemented by a merino flock. As well as sitting on a number of national agricultural bodies, Barry is a grower representative on the Biosecurity GrainGuard, a Director of Grain Producers Australia and a Director of the Grains Industry Market Access Forum. Until recently, Barry was also the Chair of the Grains, Seeds and Hay Industry Funding Scheme Management Committee.

Tina Thorne is the Executive Officer of the state peak aquaculture industry body, the Aquaculture Council of Western Australia. Prior to this position, Tina worked for the Department of Fisheries for more than 20 years with positions in the Regional Services Division, Aquaculture Program and Fish Health Section, and has broad experience in aquatic biosecurity policy, legislation, compliance and research. Tina has been appointed to various Ministerial Advisory Committees, including the Aquaculture Development Council and the Rock Lobster Industry Advisory Committee.

Cliff Winfield is a third generation primary producer and a grower member of several horticulture groups. He held positions across the state in the WA Department of Agriculture and Department of Parks and Wildlife predecessors, and then moved to Manjimup to develop a vineyard, pulpwood plantation and, currently, a citrus orchard. He has a long involvement in biosecurity management from local government, conservation agency and primary producer perspectives. Cliff is a keen advocate for community involvement and using interpretation to communicate science objectives. He is a management committee member of WA Citrus, a board member of the South West Catchment Council (NRM), Manjimup Shire Deputy President, and a member of Warren Donnelly Water Advisory Committee.

The membership of the Biosecurity Council is summarised in Table 1.

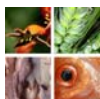
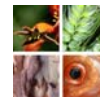


Table 1 Summary of the terms of members of the Biosecurity Council of WA.

Name	Position	Expiry of term
Mr Kevin Goss	Chairperson	27 February 2018
Dr Simon McKirdy	Deputy Chairperson	31 December 2019
Mr David Jarvie	Member	27 February 2018
Mr Barry Large	Member	27 February 2018
Mr Cliff Winfield	Member	27 February 2018
Mrs Michelle Allen	Member	31 December 2019
Ms Tina Thorne	Member	31 December 2019



2 Council activities in 2016/17

2.1 Overview

Developing constructive biosecurity advice to government requires a comprehensive understanding of the needs and challenges of industry, government and community. It also requires an understanding of the potential impacts of changes to the Western Australian biosecurity system on these groups as well as on the biosecurity of the State. During 2016/17, the Council continued its commitment to engaging with key stakeholders. The strong consultative processes used by the Council enabled robust advice to be developed for government. The main area of focus during the year was government's investment in Western Australia's biosecurity. The key areas of advice that were progressed were:

- Biosecurity resource allocation and prioritisation within (the then) Department of Agriculture and Food
- Funding agricultural biosecurity
- Biosecurity and market access; and
- Environmental biosecurity.

In addition, the Council kept a watching brief on the biosecurity-related developments at the national and state levels, including participating in the reviews of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity and the National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement (NEBRA). The Council also provided its views on managing widespread and established pests and diseases in WA, in response to a draft government policy paper.

This section of the report documents the activities undertaken by the Council during the 2016/17 financial year. Government progress on past recommendations is discussed in Section 3.

2.2 Biosecurity resource allocation and prioritisation within Agriculture and Food

Maintaining a resilient agricultural biosecurity system underpins the productivity, sustainability and competitiveness of Western Australia's agriculture and food sector. At a time of diminishing agency budgets and heightened industry expectation that a core role for the (then) Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia (DAFWA) is to protect market access and area freedom, a rigorous process of establishing priorities is critical to enabling defensible decisions on resource allocation. In February 2016, the Minister for Agriculture and Food requested advice and guidance from the Council on resource prioritisation and allocation with regard to biosecurity and associated regulatory functions within DAFWA.



To develop its advice, three key activities were undertaken — a review of relevant national studies; participation in the DAFWA ‘stocktake and future directions’ process (stocktake); and face-to-face discussions with senior DAFWA staff with responsibility for biosecurity-related programs.

In August 2016, the Council delivered its report to government. The report concluded that the prioritisation process being used at that time was sound, although greater technical strength in the assessments and transparency in the process was advised. The Council made three recommendations, believed to better support robust decision-making and a resilient agricultural biosecurity system for Western Australia. These recommendations are documented below, along with the progress made by government to address them.

1. *A clear, consistent, and agreed framework for prioritisation is developed and used.* A robust, transparent process for establishing priorities is necessary for defensible decisions on resource allocation. This includes increased rigour and consistency in assessments; and evaluation to collect critical data to strengthen the prioritisation process.

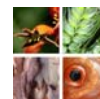
Progress: Surveillance strategies and plans are being developed. A Policy Regulation and Compliance Task (PRaCT) group was established to lead and ensure the development of a contemporary regulatory and policy framework for the Biosecurity area within DPIRD.

2. *Increased resources are directed toward DAFWA’s biosecurity and related functions.* The Council concluded that resourcing of DAFWA’s biosecurity portfolio was inadequate (at that point in time). It was highlighted that resources will continue to be stretched as pressures on the biosecurity system increase.

Progress: At a time of declining resources, DAFWA was able to reallocate resources within its overall budget to ensure resourcing for its biosecurity functions was maintained in the 2016/17 financial year.

3. *Opportunities for attracting and retaining appropriately skilled staff are identified and implemented.* DAFWA budget and staff cuts, and the decrease in active research, have affected the retention of specialist staff with skills essential to the deployment of biosecurity activities.

Progress: With the recent amalgamation of the Departments of Agriculture and Food, Fisheries, and Regional Development into the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, the agency is taking the opportunity to review its functions and staff skillsets. A renewed focus on research, development and innovation is anticipated to help attract and retain specialised staff.



2.3 Funding agricultural biosecurity

In February 2016, the Minister for Agriculture and Food requested advice and guidance from the Council on policy and regulation relevant to the funding of agricultural biosecurity activities — specifically, its adequacy, appropriateness and efficiency.

The request for advice noted that ‘further progress will be predicated on a clear policy position...that articulates who is responsible for in-kind and cash contributions to various parts of and functions within the biosecurity system within Western Australia’. This ‘clear policy position’ was to be developed by DPIRD, with the Council’s work informing the policy.

To develop its advice, a document review was conducted and in-depth discussions were held with people directly involved in regulated industry-based biosecurity funding (i.e. members of Industry Funding Scheme management committees and Agricultural Produce Commission producer committees). These discussions revealed stakeholder uncertainty — particularly, feelings of cost-shifting and increasing government expectations for industry funding. Consequently, industry input on a future policy framework was limited.

The difficulties in progressing the ‘who pays’ question with industry stakeholders, lead to the Council presenting a statement on the current situation to government, including a number of recommendations. Many of the recommendations related to the process that government might use to develop a cost-sharing and cost-recovery policy. The statement and recommendations were delivered to government in November 2016.

Progress: The structural and staffing changes within DPIRD have resulted in policy development being postponed. It is anticipated that the cost-sharing and cost-recovery policy will be progressed in 2018.

2.4 Biosecurity and market access

In late April 2017, the Minister requested advice from the Council on the capability and capacity of (the then) DAFWA for securing market access. The recent incursion of tomato-potato psyllid (TPP) was to be used as a starting point for advising on how agency capability could be improved for future biosecurity incidents.

An ‘issues statement’ was developed to provide a summary of the potential underpinning factors that may have contributed to the major loss of market access and inability to recover access in a timely way, during the TPP incident. This was used to inform in-depth interviews with industry and government stakeholders. The information that was gathered provided a strong foundation for the Council’s advice to government.



The TPP/*Candidatus* complex and the wide range of host plants implicated made this one of the most challenging incursions for DAFWA in recent years. DAFWA took immediate and decisive action on managing the incident, and engaged industry through its key representatives.

There were, however, weaknesses. These were systemic and, in part, attributable to inexperience, loss of key skills and a reduction in key functional areas (such as surveillance). From the interviews, four key issue areas were identified — strategy and structure; DAFWA staffing; industry collaboration; and complexity at the national level.

In June 2017, the Council put forward [11 recommendations](#) that are anticipated to help address staff capacity and capability issues and support the preparedness of the department for market access negotiations in any future plant biosecurity incursion. The Minister directed the department to form a working group to respond to the Council's recommendations. This response is expected in the next reporting period (2017/18).

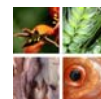
2.5 Environmental biosecurity

In 2013, during investigations of cross-agency collaboration, the Council identified a fundamental breakdown in situations where biosecurity actions span multiple state government agencies — such as for environmental biosecurity. The reasons for this breakdown are complex, and have been highlighted in further work undertaken by the Council since that time¹. In broad terms, the issues can be categorised into i) definitions; ii) roles and responsibilities; and iii) resourcing; with unclear government policy an important contributing factor.

In late 2016, the Council resolved to further this work, with a focus on how environmental biosecurity is being addressed in WA. The Council held a workshop with members of the Biosecurity Senior Officers Group in April 2017 to discuss and clarify state government activities to maintain the biosecurity of WA's environmental assets. Initial scoping identified two key areas requiring attention: harmonising a whole-of-government approach; and resourcing. The workshop enabled these areas to be explored and the issues to come to the fore.

This work was then put on hold as the Council focused on urgent advice for the Minister on biosecurity and market access (see section 2.4). The environmental biosecurity work will resume in the 2017/18 financial year, once the structure of DPIRD has been finalised.

¹ See the [Biosecurity Council stakeholder engagement report](#) looking at roles and responsibilities in biosecurity decision-making (2014) and the [stakeholder workshop report](#) (2015).



2.6 Meetings

During the 2016/17 year, the Biosecurity Council formally convened four times (August, November, February and April), held four half-day Council workshops and had two teleconferences (February, June). Table 2 documents Council member attendance at meetings.

Table 2 Biosecurity Council member attendance at meetings during 2016/17.

Name	No. meetings attended	No. workshops attended	No. teleconferences attended
Mrs Michelle Allen	3	3	0
Mr Kevin Goss	4	4	2
Mr David Jarvie	3	3	2
Mr Barry Large	4	2	2
Dr Simon McKirdy	4	2	2
Ms Tina Thorne	4	4	2
Mr Cliff Winfield	4	4	2

As per the Council's Instrument of Appointment (Appendix A), the Council should be aware of changing industry, community and environment needs, and of options for balancing the demands of different industries. Furthermore, the Council adopts a long-term perspective on the biosecurity of Western Australia, and gives appropriate consideration to national and international treaties and obligations. To assist, Council meeting agendas include presentations that address key biosecurity activities and issues. Some of these presentations are open to agency staff members to support an environment of knowledge-sharing. Table 3 lists the presentations made to the Council during 2016/17. In addition, the Chairperson of the cross-agency Biosecurity Senior Officers Group provided an update on current biosecurity activities, advances and issues from both national and state perspectives at each meeting.

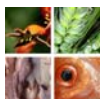


Table 3 Presentations to the Biosecurity Council during 2016/17.

Date	Title	Name	Organisation
12 August 2016	Plant biosecurity surveillance and incident response	John van Schagen	DPIRD (agriculture and food)
18 November 2016	Experiences with community-coordinated pest management	Sue Metcalf	Chittering Landcare
2 February 2017	Biosecurity v pest management	Simon McKirdy	Murdoch University
7 April 2017	Biosecurity in the forestry sector	Ruth Harvey	Forest Products Commission

2.7 Other activities

2.7.1 Boosting our Biosecurity Defences

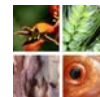
'Boosting our Biosecurity Defences' (BBD) is a \$20 million Royalties for Regions funded project under the Seizing the Opportunities in Agriculture initiative. The BBD project incorporates 11 subprojects, and will build significant capacity within the agricultural sector, and within government, to better manage the biosecurity risks to Western Australia's economy and rural community.

The Biosecurity Council is the external Reference Group for the project, advising on the planning and conduct of the project. The Reference Group held one meeting during 2016/17, chaired by the project manager (Dr Debra Cousins, DPIRD).

2.7.2 Interactions with government

Biosecurity Senior Officers Group

As part of its role to advise the Minister and DAFWA Director General, the Biosecurity Council liaises with the Biosecurity Senior Officers Group (BSOG) through its Chair. The BSOG is comprised of senior executives from the state government agencies that have biosecurity responsibilities. In the 2016/17 financial year, these agencies were:



- the Department of Agriculture and Food (Chair)
- the Department of Parks and Wildlife
- the Department of Fisheries
- the Forest Products Commission
- the Department of the Premier and Cabinet; and
- the Department of Defence (Commonwealth).

Throughout 2016/17, the Council continued to keep the BSOG informed of 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, including those of the National Biosecurity Committee.

Meetings

The Council resolved to meet regularly with the Minister and Director General of DPIRD to ensure they are kept updated on the progress of the Council's work. During 2016/17, the Council Chair and Deputy Chair met twice with the Minister and three times with the Director General.

Comment on government legislation, policy and strategies

The Biosecurity Council provided feedback on various pieces of government work or participated in government-coordinated consultation during 2016/17 including:

- The review of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity – meeting held 7 July 2016 (with David Jarvie and Rebecca Heath) and written submissions made to the initial review and draft report
- The review of the National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement (NEBRA) – workshops held January 2017 (with Tina Thorne and Kevin Goss) and written submission in response to the NEBRA review discussion paper
- An Environmental Biosecurity Stakeholder Engagement Roundtable – attended by Cliff Winfield; hosted by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources and the Department of the Environmental and Energy (Commonwealth)
- Comment on a draft State Government policy on managing widespread and established pests and diseases in WA
- Feedback to the Minister on a proposal to secure a national partnership for biosecurity research and innovation ('SmartBiosecurity')
- Advice on a paper for the Agriculture Minister's Forum on data sharing to inform surveillance; and
- Feedback on the draft State Plant Surveillance Strategy.



2.7.3 Engagement with industry and community

Over the course of the year, the Biosecurity Council were invited to present at and/or participate in various events. The Council used the opportunities to highlight the role of the Council, the work being undertaken and, where appropriate, their recommendations on key issues. During 2016/17, these events included:

- The State Emergency Management Committee workshop on animal and plant biosecurity, 8 September 2016, where Tina Thorne and David Jarvie attended
- The 20th Australasian Weeds Conference, 12 September 2016, with Cliff Winfield participating
- The launch of the Western Australian Biosecurity Strategy, 21 November 2016, attended by Kevin Goss, Tina Thorne and David Jarvie; with Kevin providing an introduction to the Strategy and welcome speech; and
- The State Horticulture Update, 6 April 2017, attended by Kevin Goss.

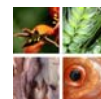
2.7.4 Invasion curve animation

In 2015/16, the Council released a short video explaining the 'generalised invasion curve' and how it can be used to assist in decision-making, with reference to the Western Australian situation. The video is available on the [DAFWA YouTube channel](#).

It was anticipated that the video would be a useful tool to engage industry and community in targeted biosecurity action. Since its release, the video has been viewed more than 3800 times. It has received international attention resulting in its translation to Spanish and French, and been promoted by various organisations across Australia and the world² and shared via social media. The video is being used for training purposes by New Zealand's Department of Environment and the WA's Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions.

Up-to-date information about the Biosecurity Council continues to be freely available on the [Biosecurity Council's webpages](#) on the DPIRD – Agriculture and Food website.

² Including the International Plant Protection Convention (Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations), Nature Fiji (Fiji), Oregon Sea Grant (Oregon State University), Inland Fisheries Ireland, Greater Sydney Local Land Services, Biosecurity Tasmania, Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International's Invasive Species Compendium and others.



3 Progress on past Council recommendations to government

This section reports on government's activities to address the unresolved recommendations made by the Council in previous years.

3.1 Emergency response preparedness and cross-agency collaboration (2013)

Western Australia is obligated under national arrangements to maintain adequate capacity to undertake a sustained response to a major biosecurity outbreak. Furthermore, collaboration across state government portfolios is necessary in many biosecurity-related situations, including emergency response.

The Council's investigations identified a high level of operational risk for biosecurity emergency response. It was the Council's recommendation that this was best addressed via collaborative, outcomes-based planning at the state level, particularly around a state-wide biosecurity strategy; interagency biosecurity threats; and biosecurity emergency response capability.

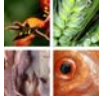
Progress: The Western Australian Biosecurity Strategy 2016-2025 was released in November 2016. The purpose of the strategy is to 'set the overall direction for the management of emerging and ongoing biosecurity issues within WA'.

The area of emergency response capability continues to improve, with training for staff, improved data systems, procedures and tools, and the continued development of internal response plans. A State Hazard Plan for animal and plant pests and diseases has been approved by the State Emergency Management Committee.

The BSOG continues to develop a strategic biosecurity management risk register and undertake biosecurity threat impact and gap analysis.

Western Australia has an excellent record of industry participation in biosecurity. However, the Council believed industry could play a greater role in biosecurity response and preparedness. It was the Council's recommendation that government investigate ways to build industry's biosecurity capacity and leadership.

Progress: This area continues to progress via the BBD 'Industry liaison training'. The purpose of this work is to involve industry (across the supply chain) in training, response exercises and the recovery stage of emergency response. The use of industry resources during biosecurity emergency response is a key principle of the Emergency Management training, and training packages for industry are nearing completion including 'just in time' online training.



4 Cost of Council operations in 2016/17

The direct costs of the Council operations during the 2016/17 reporting year amounted to \$119 180 (Table 4). Executive Officer and administrative support (salaries, overheads and operating) were \$62 514. Additionally, DAFWA provided other services to the Council throughout the year, such as accounting and other general support.

Table 4 Biosecurity Council of Western Australia expenditure for 2016/17.

Description	Total \$
Sitting fees	106 783
Travel expenses	8 843
Meeting/workshop expenses	2 855
Teleconferencing	381
Conference registration	318
TOTAL	119 179

Notes:

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



5 Direction for 2017/18

The Council has two major pieces of work planned for 2017/18:

- Provide advice to government on how the combined skills and resources of DPIRD can better sustain a high-level biosecurity response whilst retaining the integrity of its other functions — a request for advice from the Minister; and
- Continue to investigate ‘environmental biosecurity’, with a view to providing advice to government.

In order to develop robust advice on ‘sustaining a biosecurity response’, the Council will undertake a three-phase process. The first phase will focus on information gathering to identify i) the essential characteristics of a biosecurity combat agency; ii) the skillsets required to respond to biosecurity incidents; and iii) ways biosecurity combat agencies minimise the impact of incident response on other business areas within the agency. This phase is expected to be completed by the end of 2017.

The focus of the second phase is on inquiry, and is likely to involve stakeholder consultation. Here, key government, industry and community stakeholders will have an opportunity to give their views on the characteristics of an effective biosecurity combat agency. The Council will then move into the third phase (reporting), to develop advice for government. It is anticipated that the final report will be completed by the end of August 2018.





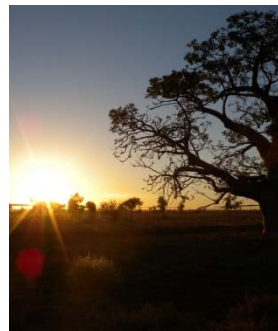
The Council will resume its investigations into the biosecurity of WA's environmental assets (including social amenity), which was put on hold during 2016/17. A discussion paper will be developed, based on the information gathered at the workshop held with the BSOG in April 2017 (see section 2.5). The discussion paper will highlight:

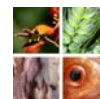
1. The issues surrounding the biosecurity of Western Australia's environment and social amenity; and
2. Actions that may be taken to address the issues.

It is anticipated that the paper will provide a basis for robust discussion with relevant state government agencies. The information gathered through the agency discussions will be used by the Council to develop draft recommendations on how Western Australia can improve the biosecurity of our environment and social amenity. It is anticipated that these will then be further discussed with key stakeholders before being finalised and delivered to government in 2018.

The Council will also continue to monitor the implementation of the BAM Act and its subsidiary legislation, as the legislated foundation for much of the State's biosecurity system. Similarly, the development and implementation of biosecurity-related subsidiary legislation under the recent *Aquatic Resources Management Act 2016* and the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* will be closely monitored.

In 2017/18, the Council will actively take steps to maintain its good relationships with the BSOG, DPIRD Director General and the relevant senior agency staff during this time of agency restructure. This will include holding its quarterly meetings at different locations to further build the relationships between the Council and the various organisations involved across the biosecurity spectrum — agriculture, fisheries, environment and forestry.





Appendix A. Copy of 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 18 February 2015.
2. As required by section 48(1) of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007*, the Biosecurity Council is established and the following persons are appointed as members of the Council for the term specified.

Members	Term
Mr Kevin GOSS (Chairperson)	for a term expiring on 27 February 2018
Mrs Michelle ALLEN	for a term expiring on 31 December 2019
Mr David JARVIE	for a term expiring on 27 February 2018
Mr Barry LARGE	for a term expiring on 27 February 2018
Prof. Simon McKIRDY	for a term expiring on 31 December 2019
Ms Tina THORNE	for a term expiring on 31 December 2019
Mr Clifford WINFIELD	for a term expiring on 27 February 2018

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.

Signed by the Minister for Agriculture and Food on 1 December 2016.