



BIOSECURITY COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Annual Report

2023-24



Acknowledgement of Country and People

The Biosecurity Council of Western Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country, the Aboriginal people of the many lands that we work on and their language groups throughout Western Australia and recognises their continuing connection to the land and waters. The Council respects the continuing culture of Aboriginal people and the contribution they make to the life of all our regions, and we pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

Executive support

Executive Officer

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
1 Nash Street, PERTH 6000
Locked Bag 4, Bentley Delivery Centre, BENTLEY 6983

Email: EOBiosecurityCouncil@dpiird.wa.gov.au

Contact: +61 447 889 973

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Important disclaimer

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From the Chair

The process of renewing and enhancing the skills of the Biosecurity Council of WA continued over the past year. Minister Jarvis appointed new members Professor Owen Nevin and Renata Paliskis at the start of the year. They have brought new perspectives and diversity of expertise to our team. In December we farewelled Brad Adams whose knowledge and enthusiasm for aquatic biosecurity will be sorely missed, with his input providing valuable end-user perspectives complemented by a strong strategic perspective on WA's biosecurity needs. Brad's departure led to the appointment of Professor Shashi Sharma. All three new members bring a wealth of experience across the biosecurity sector and have been a welcome addition to the Council.

Throughout 2023-24 the review process for the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* continued. In February, the Minister asked the Council to consider the recommendations in the final review report and provide insight and advice to help her deliberations and the development of the government's response.

Our regional visit this year was held in Geraldton. The Council met with a diverse group of stakeholders in a community committed to Biosecurity. We heard their issues and acknowledged the challenges and concerns for the region providing a report to the Minister which included 8 recommendations (which can be viewed on the Council's webpage).

This year we continued to investigate where improvements can be made to biosecurity at our state borders, how to ensure a sufficient workforce is in place for current and future needs across the biosecurity continuum, where technology can address issues with capacity and timeliness of responses, and how greater awareness and engagement with positive biosecurity behaviours can be enabled across the Western Australian community. The Council continued to engage with stakeholders in relation to incursions and established pests and weeds. Examples included referring complementary actions for responses to polyphagous shot hole borer to Government and contributing to meetings of the WA Feral Cat Working Group to assist with vertebrate pest control.

The council is continuing to focus our attention on strategic priorities. In May we developed new work plans covering 9 focus areas that align to the National Biosecurity Strategy priorities and state goals. These plans will guide Council's work over the coming years.



Justin Bellanger
Chair, Biosecurity Council of Western Australia



The Biosecurity Council of Western Australia

Overview

The Biosecurity Council of Western Australia (Council) was established in 2008 as a specialist advisory group to the Minister for Agriculture and Food (Minister), currently the Hon Jackie Jarvis MLC, and Director General (DG) of Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD).

The Council operates at a strategic level, with a long-term vision for effective biosecurity in Western Australia (WA) for the protection of WA's environment, agriculture and aquaculture industries, social amenity, and economic development.

Matters the Council may provide advice on include, but are not limited to:

- the requirements of a comprehensive and effective biosecurity system for WA
- significant gaps in, or necessary improvements to the biosecurity system
- opportunities to improve industry, public awareness, and support for biosecurity objectives
- opportunities to improve government, community, and industry cooperation and collaboration on biosecurity matters
- issues referred to the Council by the Minister or DG. Refer to Appendix 1 for more detail.

Focus areas

Understanding the needs and challenges of industry, community and government is key to ensuring relevant and constructive advice to government. Council does not distinguish between biosecurity sectors but takes a holistic approach to protecting the whole of WA from pests and diseases. Council monitors biosecurity-related developments at national and state levels and proactively engages with industry, community and government on biosecurity matters.

The key areas of focus are currently:

- Review and analysis of WA's shared biosecurity culture.
- Embed biosecurity into broader decision-making.
- Gain deeper understanding of how government deals with higher level departmental integration.
- Investigate opportunities for strengthening collaboration and engagement in prevention and eradication stages of the invasion curve.
- Biosecurity workforce and participation strategy.
- Coordination-focused surveillance and response continuous improvement system.
- Return on investment for managing established pests, weeds, and diseases.
- Statutory review of the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (BAM Act review).
- Ensuring adequate representation of biosecurity in 10-year Science and Technology Plan.

Council membership

Council membership consists of a Chair and 7 ordinary Members. Each member is highly experienced in agriculture, forestry, fishing, aquaculture, pearling or related commercial activities, natural resource management, environmental protection, or regional communities. Appointments are all made by the Minister and approved by Cabinet.

Chair

Mr Justin Bellanger is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Aquaculture Council of WA and Biosecurity Lead for the National Biosecurity Hub at NRM Regions Australia. He is also serves as a Director with the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, Deputy Chair of the National Environmental Weeds Priority Working Group and is a member of both the National Implementation Committee for the National Biosecurity Strategy and the National Environmental Biosecurity Advisory Group. Additionally, he co-convenes the National Biosecurity General Surveillance Community of Practice.



Members

Prof Owen Nevin has over 25 years of experience in global conservation and biodiversity management, coupled with extensive experience in senior leadership roles in higher education and research. He serves as a Specialist Director on the Board of the Society for Conservation Biology Oceania. As CEO of the WA Biodiversity Science Institute (WABSI), Owen leads a joint venture with various research institutes and industry partners, focusing on biodiversity conservation to support sustainable development. His career has included significant international environmental management in the United Kingdom and Canada.



Dr Melissa Thomas is the Deputy Director of Biosecurity and One Health with the Harry Butler Institute at Murdoch University. She is working on projects to develop innovative surveillance tools to detect and deter introduced species using artificial intelligence, molecular biology, and chemistry. Melissa has extensive experience across the entire biosecurity continuum, including pre-border mitigation strategies, border quarantine procedures, post-border detection, and invasive species management. She has a keen interest in island and environmental biosecurity, with focusing on terrestrial ecosystems.



Dr Tracy Sullivan is a representative on the Board of the Australian Veterinary Association, the Policy Councillor for Cattle Australia (CA). She also represents CA on the National Farmers Federation Indigenous Engagement Working Group. Tracy is a veterinarian with master's and PhD degrees in Veterinary Science and over 20 years of combined experience working as a clinician, researcher, and teacher. She also has extensive experience as a primary producer of beef and cereal having owned as or managed stations around Australia.



Mr Anthony (Tony) Dean is the WA Local Government Association (WALGA) representative appointed to the Council. He brings a wealth of experience in science, agriculture, advocacy and teaching. Tony has over 22 years of experience in local government and is currently the shire President of Nannup. He serves as President of the Southwest Local Government Association and the Warren Blackwood Alliance of Councils. Additionally, Tony is a Board member on the Southwest Development Commission and State Councillor for the WALGA, where he chairs the People and Place Policy Team.



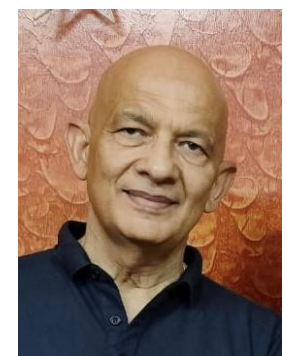
Dr Kelly Pearce is the inaugural Director of the WA Agricultural Research Collaboration, which includes DPIRD, CSIRO, Growers Group Alliance and the 4 public universities of WA in its remit. Her portfolio includes Director at the WA Meat Industry Authority and Committee Member to the Gene Technology Technical Advisory Committee. Kelly is a Nuffield farming scholar, and a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. She has worked in agricultural and environmental research for over 23 years and runs a large sheep farm in Yealering. Kelly strives to ensure WA has an effective biosecurity system based on science and innovation.



Ms Renata Paliskis has a long history with the agricultural industry and is currently the Non-Executive Director of Animal Health Australia (AHA), where she chairs the Audit and Risk Management Committee. She has extensive executive experience, having held 18 board and committee positions over 24 years, including roles with the Cattle Industry Funding Scheme, Sheep Cooperative Research Centre, WA Meat Industry Authority, and WA Cattle and Pig Industry Compensation Research Advisory Committees. Renata is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a primary producer, owning and managing a beef breeding and feedlot business.



Prof Shashi Sharma has spent over 40 years in the food and agriculture sector, making significant contributions to plant health management. His career includes roles as Professor and Chair in Biosecurity and Food Security at Murdoch University, as well as international consultant, President of the World BioProtection Forum, and Chairman of the World BioProtection Research Foundation. He co-authored *Vision Infinity for Food Security*, emphasizing the 3Ps (Produce, Protect, Provide) for food security. Shashi is unwavering in his dedication to strategic global biosecurity, food security, and planetary health management.



Members retired 2023-24

Mr Bradley Adams served as a Council member from 1 July 2020 – 31 December 2023. A third-generation fisherman, he has been involved in the abalone industry all his life, including commercial diving and pioneering a sea-based abalone culture technology. He is the founder and Executive Director of Rare Foods Australia Ltd, based in Augusta. Brad is passionate about aquatic biosecurity to ensure the future of sustainable fishing and aquaculture production of seafood. He is President of the Abalone Association of Australasia, Director of the Aquaculture Council of WA, and has also been Director, and past Chair of the WA Fishing Industry Council.



Retired Member Bradley Adams Abalone Diving

Biosecurity Council membership terms

| Name | Position | Expiry of term |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Mr Justin Bellanger | Chair | 31/12/2025 |
| Mr Bradley Adams | Member (retired) | 31/12/2023 |
| Dr Kelly Pearce | Member | 31/12/2025 |
| Dr Tracy Sullivan | Member | 31/12/2025 |
| Dr Melissa Thomas | Member | 31/12/2025 |
| Mr Tony Dean | Member (WALGA representative) | 30/06/2025 |
| Ms Renata Paliskis | Member | 30/06/2026 |
| Prof Owen Nevin | Member | 30/06/2026 |
| Prof Shashi Sharma | Member (Appointed 01/01/2024) | 31/12/2026 |

Council activities in 2023-24

Overview

During 2023-24 WA faced some big challenges in the biosecurity area. Council has remained vigilant in monitoring evolving issues relating to incursions, responses to declared pests, new incursion risks and is prepared to provide advice when needed. Of the 33 C1 declared pests (exclusion) and additional 27 C2 declared pests (eradication) in WA the following have been of particular concern to biosecurity in this year:

- Polyphagous Shot-hole Borer
- High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza
- Red Dwarf Honey Bee
- Varroa Mite
- Myrtle Rust
- Kiwifruit Canker

The Council engaged with stakeholders on establish declared pests regarding the control of feral pigs, feral cats, a range of woody weeds.

Ministers update

Council regularly liaises with the Minister through email, letters, reports and face-to-face meetings to discuss the progress on workplans and Minister directed projects. In September 2023 the Chair also met with Hon Reece Whiby MLA Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Action to raise the awareness that Council's remit also covers environmental biosecurity. Council committed to keeping Minister Whitby informed of their work that addressed environmental issues.

Government – Biosecurity Seniors Officers Group

The Biosecurity Senior Officer Group (BSOG) comprises senior staff from agencies with biosecurity responsibilities including DPIRD, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), the Forest Products Commission, the Department of Health, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) and WALGA.

The objective of BSOG is to deliver efficient management of the State's responsibilities for biosecurity through effective cooperation, where these agencies have a joint responsibility, or where there is an overlap of responsibility. The Chair represents the Council as an ex-officio member of BSOG participating in all meetings, providing updates on its activities, and collaborating with other agencies in biosecurity-related tasks and discussions.

Industry and community engagement

Over the course of the year, the Council was invited to present at and participate in various industry and community events. The Council used these opportunities to highlight its role, the work being undertaken and, where appropriate, its recommendations on key issues.

This included:

- Ex-officio member on the WA Feral Cat Working Group
- Board involvement with AHA and the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions
- Presentation and participation at the Recognised Biosecurity Group Forum
- National Myrtle Rust Working Group meeting
- Premier Science Fellowship Advisory Group Meetings.



Biosecurity Council of WA members with Hon Jackie Jarvis MLC, Minister for Agriculture and Food and the Member for Geraldton, Lara Dalton MLA

Regional stakeholder engagement

The Council is committed to holding an annual meeting in regional WA. The intent of the regional meetings is to:

- engage with regional stakeholders on biosecurity matters
- build networks and relationships with key biosecurity stakeholders and
- provide a conduit to government for regional biosecurity stakeholders, to showcase biosecurity initiatives as well as express concerns or issues.

The Council provides a report on the outcomes to the Minister and DG.

Since 2019 the Council has conducted regional visits to:

- Kununurra – East Kimberley (2019)
- Augusta – Southwest (2020)
- Carnarvon – Gascoyne (2021) and
- Esperance – Southeast (2022).

In 2023 the Council visited Geraldton encompassing the Midwest region and gained a wealth of knowledge that has fed into their work.

The Council plans to return to Kununurra in 2024 providing an opportunity to identify changing needs and priorities in the region.

Geraldton 20 to 23 November 2023

The region of Greater Geraldton has a highly profitable food production sector including broad acre agriculture, wild catch fisheries, intensive horticulture, orchard farming, aquaculture, and large and small livestock farming. It also has a peri urban horticulture area producing crops of mainly cucumbers.

Geraldton is an important service and logistics centre for regional mining, fishing, wheat, sheep and tourism industries.

Council attended 2 tours, held 12 meetings and 5 networking functions with biosecurity stakeholder groups, organisations and subject matter experts to learn about their biosecurity work or areas of concern. The Minister also met with the Council during the visit.

Common themes raised by stakeholders during the meetings included:

- Education including the introduction of biosecurity concept and units into education platforms for TAFE, University and general employment training.
- Biosecurity communications such as resources for stakeholders, new landholders and interested parties.
- Limited availability of wash-down infrastructure near the Geraldton Port.
- Long-term effectiveness of the management of feral pigs.
- Limited resources to combat existing and emerging pests, weeds and diseases.
- Risks associated with first port-of-entry ports, particularly for the tourism sector.
- Lack of product diversity (small farming groups) which can lead to significant risk if diseases pertinent to existing crops incur.
- Challenges of indigenous joint management, and the delivery of complementary activities by other stakeholders within or adjacent to DBCA tenured lands.

Council provided a report on their findings to the Minister and DG.

Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 review

The Council continued to contribute to the review of the BAM Act and to its consideration by government by providing advice and information to the independent panel that undertook the review and the Minister, when requested.

Throughout 2023-24 the BAM Act Review continued and at the request of the Minister, Council considered the review recommendations and provided insight and advice to help inform deliberations and development of the government's response.

Work planning

In May, Council conducted a workshop to review workplans and develop focus areas to prioritise and guide the future directions. This included a review of all outstanding recommendations from reports made to government by the Council, the status of recommendations made by the Auditor General in relation to biosecurity, and a review of previous priority work areas of the Council. From the workshop, 9 focus areas were outlined that aligned to the National Biosecurity Strategy and WA State Goals. Individual plans were developed for each focus area outlining initiatives for 2024 and beyond. Items that the Council will work toward in each focus area are detailed in: Directions for 2024-25 at the end of the report and outlined in the table below.

The Council is engaging with DPIRD to align these work areas with priority focus areas of the Department to enable a complementary approach. This will be assisted through more regular meetings between DPRID and Council to assist with tactical planning.

| NATIONAL BIOSECURITY STRATEGY PRIORITY AREAS | WA GOAL (PROPOSED) | BIOSECURITY COUNCIL OF WA FOCUS AREAS |
|---|---|---|
| Shared biosecurity culture | Enhance WA culture of biosecurity action so that everyone understands its importance and plays their part. | <p>Shared biosecurity culture</p> <p>Embed biosecurity into broader decision-making</p> |
| Strong partnerships | Strengthen and expand WA partnerships and networks between all biosecurity stakeholders at local, regional, national and international levels. | <p>Determine appropriate fora (including BSOG) for resolving interdepartmental integration</p> <p>Investigate opportunities for strengthening collaboration and engagement in prevention and eradication stages of the invasion curve</p> |
| Highly skilled workforce | Develop and sustain a highly skilled WA biosecurity workforce to ensure we have the right capability and capacity, in the right place, at the right time. | Biosecurity workforce and participation strategy |
| Coordinated preparedness and response | Boost the adaptability of WA's biosecurity system and its capacity to prevent, detect, manage, respond to and recover from outbreaks. | <p>Continuously improving our surveillance and response system</p> <p>Return on investment for managing established pests, weeds, and diseases</p> |
| Sustainable investment | Ensure WA biosecurity funding and investment is sufficient, co-funded, transparent, targeted to our priorities and sustainable for the long term. | Statutory review of the BAM Act |
| Integration supported by technology, research, & data | Create a more connected, efficient and science-based WA biosecurity system that facilitates timelier, better informed and risk-based decisions. | Ensure adequate representation of biosecurity in 10-year Science & Technology Plan |

Presentations and meetings

The Council met with a wide range of stakeholders and received updates on relevant areas of biosecurity to enable to progress of work.

| Date | Title | Name | Organisation |
|------------|---|--|--|
| 7/09/2023 | Environmental biosecurity and role of the BCWA | Hon Reece Whiby MLA Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Action | State Government |
| 13/09/2023 | DPIRD Border Biosecurity | Bruno Mezzatesta, Victoria Aitken, Anita Wytje | DPIRD |
| 19/09/2023 | State and National update | Victoria Aitken | DPIRD |
| 19/09/2023 | Animal Welfare and project updates | Michelle Rodan | DPIRD |
| 19/09/2023 | BAM Act Review update | Rebecca Rees | DPIRD |
| 22/11/2023 | Forecasting trade and biosecurity risk under climate change: the climate change model | Tom Kompas, James Camac | Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis (CEBRA) |
| 22/11/2023 | State and National update | Victoria Aitken | DPIRD |
| 22/11/2023 | Invasive Species Prioritisation Project | Ron Shepherd | DPIRD |
| 08/03/2024 | State and National update | Victoria Aitken | DPIRD |
| 08/03/2024 | Biosecurity research priorities for Science Fellowship Program | Ben Philips, Brenton von Takach | Curtin University |
| 08/03/2024 | DBCA update | Kylie Ireland & Tony Mennen | DBCA |
| 08/03/2024 | State and National update | Victoria Aitken | DPIRD |
| 08/03/2024 | WA Livestock Research Council overview (WALRC) | Bronwyn Clarke, Caroline Jacobson | WALRC |
| 17/05/2024 | State and National update | Ron Shepherd | DPIRD |
| 17/05/2024 | Plant Biosecurity update | Vincent Lanoiselet & Monique Sakalidis | DPIRD |

Statutory meetings 2023-24

As stipulated under the BAM Act, Council hold 4 statutory meetings per year. The Chairperson may convene special meetings of the Council if necessary to deal with urgent matters requested by the Minister or DG.

Council membership and attendance at quarterly, statutory meetings

| Name | Expiry of term | #62 | #63 | #64 | #65 |
|---------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Mr Justin Bellanger | 31/12/2025 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Mr Bradley Adams | 31/12/2023 | Yes | No | Retired | Retired |
| Dr Kelly Pearce | 31/12/2025 | N/A | Apologies | Yes | Yes |
| Mr Anthony Dean | 30/06/2025 | Apologies | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Dr Melissa Thomas | 31/12/2025 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Ms Renata Paliskis | 30/06/2026 | Yes | Yes | Apologies | Yes |
| Dr Tracy Sullivan | 31/06/2025 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Apologies |
| Prof Owen Nevin | 30/06/2026 | Yes | Apologies | Yes | Yes |
| Prof Shashi Sharma | 31/12/2026 | N/A | N/A | Apologies | Yes |

Governance

Council documents and policies

The governance framework that shapes operations include a range of documents, processes, and procedures which are reviewed by council as required. These include:

- BAM Act
- member's instrument of appointment
- government code of ethics
- council ratified code of conduct
- Chair, member, and secretariat duty statements
- conflict of interest /disclosure of interest procedures
- annual reporting requirements
- financial management
- monitoring and evaluation
- Investment Decision-Making Policy

New member induction

Owen Nevin and Renata Paliskis were appointed to Council from 1 July 2023 and Professor Shashi Sharma was appointed on 1 January 2024. All new members receive an in-depth face-to-face induction with the Council Chair and secretariat. The two-hour induction includes reviewing all governance documents, raising the awareness of current and past Council projects and an in-depth dive into the past years meeting minutes and actions. New members are allocated the lead on a primary focus area.

Annual performance review

The Council aims to conduct an annual review of its performance. This assessment process allows for a constructive analysis of its operations, providing an opportunity to reflect on the breadth of work covered and identify potential improvements to enhance Councils effectiveness.

Although a formal review was not undertaken this year, the Council carried out an in-depth planning and future directions workshop in November. This workshop addressed the Council's work functions and developed clear focus areas, along with new documents to capture the activities undertaken by the Council. A formal review will be completed next year, incorporating the effectiveness and progress of the new workplans.

Operational Costs

Council's operational costs for 2023-24 amounted to \$169,903.

| Description | Cost |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Board member fees | \$122,530 |
| Superannuation and oncosts | \$13,105 |
| Travel expenses | \$24,769 |
| Professional services – consultancies | \$7,095 |
| Meeting/workshop expenses | \$2,326 |
| Misc | \$78 |
| Total | \$169,903 |

DPIRD provide executive services to the Council which includes a fulltime Executive Officer and financial management services. These costs are not included in the expenditure.

Council Partnership with Government

The Council published the following reports between 2019 to 2024:

- Mechanisms for Funding Biosecurity and Pest Management in Western Australia (2022)
- Biosecurity Research and Development (2019)
- Sustaining a Biosecurity Response (2019)

Conclusions in these reports cover a diverse range of topics, broadly categorised into funding; coordination and capability; and formal processes.

This advice is available to the Minister and DPIRD to inform ongoing improvements to WA's biosecurity system. These have addressed processes including species declaration, research and development needs, and consideration of alternative models for resourcing.

Directions for 2024-25

All future directions for the Council will align to the recently developed priority focus areas and National Biosecurity Priorities. Our strategic work plans outline the work for Council in 2024 and beyond.

Shared Biosecurity Culture

Focus areas:

- Analysis/review of WA's shared biosecurity culture
- Embedded biosecurity into broader decision-making

The Council plans to dedicate a quarterly meeting to the priority of shared biosecurity. Relevant organisations and stakeholders will be invited to discuss and share information at this meeting. Plans and smaller focus projects will be identified and developed to address the WA culture of biosecurity and embed biosecurity into broader decision-making in partnership with DPIRD.

Strong Partnerships

Focus areas:

- Determine appropriate fora for resolving interdepartmental integration
- Investigate opportunities for strengthening collaboration and engagement in the prevention and eradication stages of the invasion curve

We will work with DPIRD and BSOG to understand their perspective, needs and requirements and assess current strategy and partnerships and engagement practices.

Highly skilled workforce

Focus areas:

- Biosecurity workforce strategy

Undertake an assessment to identify and understand the workforce training and development needs, potential collaboration and partnerships available, and resources required to support a biosecurity workforce.

Coordinated preparedness and response

Focus areas:

- Coordination-focused surveillance and response continuous improvement system
- Return on investment for managing established pest, weeds and diseases

Determine state and local government expenditure on biosecurity, assess the coordination challenges and opportunities, and bottom-line benefits from biosecurity investment.

Sustainable investment

Focus areas:

- BAM Act Review

The Council will continue to provide advice and input, where appropriate.

Integration supported by technology, research and data

Focus areas:

- Ensure adequate representation of biosecurity in the 10-year Science and Technology Plan

The WA government is identifying specific research and development priorities to direct future funding, investment and initiatives to form a 10-Year Science and Technology plan. Council will seek to review the draft plan to ensure biosecurity is adequately considered.

Acronyms

List of acronyms used more than once.

| | |
|----------------|---|
| AHA | Animal Health Australia |
| BAM Act | Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 |
| BAM Act Review | Statutory review of the BAM Act |
| BSOG | Biosecurity Senior Officers Group |
| CEO | Chief Executive Officer |
| Council | Biosecurity Council of Western Australia |
| DBCA | Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions |
| DPIRD | Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development |
| DG | Director General DPIRD |
| DWER | Department of Water and Environmental Regulation |
| Minister | Hon Jackie Jarvis MLC, Minister for Agriculture and Food |
| NRM | Natural Resource Management |
| WA | Western Australia |
| WALGA | Western Australian Local Government Association |

Appendix 1. Instrument of Appointment

BIOSECURITY AND AGRICULTURE MANAGEMENT ACT 2007 **INSTRUMENT ESTABLISHING AND APPOINTING MEMBERS OF THE** **BIOSECURITY COUNCIL**

1. This instrument replaces previous instruments.
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.

| Member | Term |
|---|---|
| Mr Justin BELLANGER (Chairperson) | for a term expiring on 31 December 2025 |
| Dr Tracy SULLIVAN | for a term expiring 31 December 2025 |
| Assoc Prof Melissa THOMAS | for a term expiring 31 December 2025 |
| Dr Kelly PEARCE | for a term expiring 31 December 2025 |
| Mr Anthony DEAN | for a term expiring on 30 June 2025 |
| Ms Renata PALISKIS | for a term expiring on 30 June 2026 |
| Professor Owen NEVIN | for a term expiring on 30 June 2026 |
| Professor Shashi SHARMA | for a term expiring on 31 December 2026 |
| Mr Bradley ADAMS | term expired on 31 December 2023 |

- 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 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).
2. Significant gaps in, or necessary improvements to, the biosecurity system.
3. Opportunities to improve industry and public awareness and support for biosecurity objectives.
4. Opportunities to improve Government, community and industry cooperation and collaboration on biosecurity matters.
5. Matters referred to the Council by the Minister or the Director General.

MATTERS RELATING TO THE OPERATION OF THE COUNCIL

The Council should:

1. Be strategic by adopting a long-term perspective for biosecurity in Western Australia and by giving appropriate consideration to national and international obligations.
2. Be aware of changing industry, community and environment needs and of options for balancing the demands of different interests.
3. Provide advice to others, including to other Ministers and Directors General, only when specifically permitted.
4. 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.

The Chairperson 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.

