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## Biosecurity Council of Western Australia annual report 2018/2019

Biosecurity Council of Western Australia

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# Annual Report 2018/2019



**Biosecurity Council of Western Australia**

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## Images

Image 1 Photo credit: Waringa Farming

Image 2 © Richard Carey – stock.adobe.com

Image 3 Photo credit: Geoff Pegg, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Queensland

Image 4 Photo credit: Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions

## September 2019

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## Chair's report

Western Australia has a long history of biosecurity controls and activities. These, coupled with our geography, have provided a relatively bio-secure State free from many pests and diseases found elsewhere in Australia. However, maintaining our biosecurity is becoming increasingly complex due to factors such as climate change, increasing travel and trade, population spread and changing land use; and resource constraints mean it is more important than ever to ensure that biosecurity-related activities are being targeted in the most effective, efficient and appropriate way.

The formation of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), which brought together two agencies with biosecurity responsibilities (Agriculture and Fisheries) as well as the former Department of Regional Development, presented an opportunity to reimagine biosecurity delivery in Western Australia. Two years on, the structures within the new agency are almost in place and the time is ripe to re-evaluate Western Australia's biosecurity goals and how these can be best delivered – including the skillsets and resources that are required to protect our environmental and economic assets from harm and to enhance trade growth and continuity.

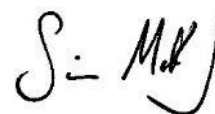
Over the past year, the Biosecurity Council has been working on advice to Government to help shape the State's biosecurity future. Specifically, we made recommendations to evolve DPIRD into an effective and contemporary biosecurity 'combat' agency; investigated opportunities to enhance biosecurity research and development in Western Australia;

and initiated a review into the effectiveness of the State's border biosecurity system.

From this work it is apparent that 1) clear, decisive policy is necessary; 2) biosecurity-related capacity and capability within DPIRD needs to be rebuilt and maintained at viable levels; and 3) collaboration and partnerships are key. However, to do this, adequate resourcing is needed.

Through our work, it was also clear that biosecurity is important to Western Australians, and there is genuine dedication and active participation across all sectors.

Our biosecurity system encompasses a range of activities undertaken by Government, industry, communities and individuals pre-border, at the border and post-border. Further, it is a science-based system supported by ongoing research and technology development to underpin its integrity; and is inextricably linked to the national biosecurity system. All of the parts need to be working effectively and efficiently to deliver a healthy and resilient system. It is Council's belief that, as DPIRD's biosecurity structures are put in place, DPIRD will be in a strong position to coordinate strategic biosecurity activities to ensure all the parts are working to protect Western Australia's agricultural, aquatic, environmental and social assets into the future.



Prof. Simon McKirdy  
**Chair, Biosecurity Council of Western Australia**

## List of acronyms

APB	Agriculture Protection Board
BAM Act	<i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i>
BSOG	Biosecurity Senior Officers Group
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
DAFWA	Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
NBC	National Biosecurity Committee
R&D	Research and development
WA	Western Australia



Image 1 – Wheat crop ready for harvest. Biosecurity is critical to Western Australia’s agricultural industries



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# The Biosecurity Council of Western Australia

## Overview

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

The principal role of the Council is to provide advice to the Minister and the DPIRD Director General 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.

**The principal role of the Council is to provide advice to the Minister and the DPIRD Director General on any biosecurity matter.**

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 made by the Minister.

Secretariat support for the Biosecurity Council's operation is provided by DPIRD.

## Terms of reference

Biosecurity matters on which the Council provides advice:

1. The requirements of a comprehensive and effective biosecurity system for WA
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; and
5. Matters referred to the Council by the Minister or the Director General.

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





Image 2 – School of fish. Biosecurity is critical to WA's aquatic environment and fishing/pearling/aquaculture industries

## Biosecurity Council membership

**Prof. Simon McKirdy (Chair)** has a long history in the biosecurity/quarantine area. He is currently Professor in Biosecurity at Murdoch University and Pro Vice Chancellor of the Harry Butler Institute. Prior positions held include the Biosecurity Science and Risk Manager for Chevron Australia and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) 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 United States of America.

**Ms Tina Thorne (Deputy Chair)** 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.

**Mrs 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 WA, 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 WA Wild Dog Control Program. Michelle is an inaugural member of the Biosecurity Council.

**Dr David Bowran** is a graduate of the University of Western Australia having completed his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in 1978 and his Doctor of Philosophy (Agronomy) in 1990. David joined the WA Department of Agriculture in 1985 and spent 30 years working in a diverse range of roles with the Department. While primarily a Research Officer in the Weeds section for his early career, he went on to manage the Integrated Weed Management project and then became the Manager for the Grains program. David was also Acting Executive Director for Plant Industries within the Department for 15 months, with responsibility for Plant Biosecurity during that period. David has a strong interest in plant breeding, climate change and climate forecasting and how these disciplines interact in improving crop production. David currently has a small farm at York.

**Dr Regina Flugge** has a long history with natural resource management, including as a member of the Rangelands Regional Assessment Panel for the Natural Heritage Trust in the late 1990's. Regina has over 30 years of experience in environment and sustainable development roles and has worked in the education, government, not-for-profit and corporate sectors. Regina was Chair of Rangelands NRM, the largest natural resource management region in WA, to the end

of April 2019. Regina's career includes substantial experience in the resources industry including 16 years in the Pilbara region. Regina also has a keen interest in environmental biosecurity following previous Ministerial appointments to the Conservation and Parks Commission, Conservation Commission of WA, Coastal Planning and Coordination Council, and the Air Quality Coordinating Committee. In 2014 and 2015 Regina was a WA Finalist in the Telstra Business Women's Awards.

**Prof. John Mackenzie** has had a long involvement in biosecurity and global health security, with a strong background in human and animal viruses. Over recent years, John's interests have broadened to encompass global outbreak alert and response activities, including the development of international surveillance within the International Health Regulations, chairing the Steering Committee of the World Health Organisation's Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network and promotion of the 'one health' concept that recognises that the health of people, animals and the ecosystem are inextricably woven together. John initiated the international One Health Congress and is currently the Vice-Chair of the One Health Platform foundation. He co-wrote the proposal and served as the interim CEO of the Australian Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre, was a member of the Commonwealth Biosecurity Advisory Council and has undertaken various consultancies for the Commonwealth Health Department and Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service.

**Mr Cliff Winfield** is a third generation primary producer and a grower member of several horticulture groups. Cliff held positions across the State in the Department of Agriculture and Department of Parks and Wildlife predecessors, he then moved to Manjimup to develop a vineyard and 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. Cliff is a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, Deputy President of Manjimup Shire Council, a board member of the South West Catchments Council 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
Prof. Simon McKirdy	Chair	31 December 2019
Ms Tina Thorne	Deputy Chair	31 December 2019
Mrs Michelle Allen	Member	31 December 2019
Dr David Bowran	Member	27 February 2021
Dr Regina Flugge	Member	27 February 2021
Prof. John Mackenzie	Member	27 February 2021
Mr Cliff Winfield	Member	27 February 2021

## Council activities in 2018/19

### Overview

There were four key areas in which the Council focused during the year:

- the attributes required by a biosecurity ‘combat’ agency to effectively sustain a biosecurity response
- funding for biosecurity research and development in WA
- border biosecurity; and
- WA’s preparedness for myrtle rust.

Developing constructive advice to Government requires a comprehensive understanding of the needs and challenges of industry, Government and the community. It also requires an understanding of how changes to the biosecurity system might impact these groups and affect WA’s biosecurity status. During 2018/19 the Council continued to monitor biosecurity-related developments at national and State levels; provided feedback to Government on various biosecurity matters; and participated in a number of industry and community forums.

This section of the report documents the activities undertaken by the Council during the 2018/19 financial year.

### Sustaining a biosecurity response

The Minister for Agriculture and Food requested the Council investigate the ability of the then Department of Agriculture and Food to sustain a high-level biosecurity response while retaining the integrity of its budget and other functions. With the amalgamation of the Department of Agriculture and Food into DPIRD, this work was expanded to help shape change in an agency with a larger biosecurity function and with broader skills, resources and regional presence.

Dr Ron Glanville (Biosecurity Advisory Service) was contracted to review and identify the essential characteristics of a biosecurity combat agency, the skillsets required to respond to high-level biosecurity incidents and the ways biosecurity combat agencies minimise the impact of high-level incident response on other business areas within the agency.

The information from Dr Glanville’s report formed the basis of a discussion paper that detailed a framework for an effective and contemporary biosecurity ‘combat’ agency in WA. The discussion paper was sent to 31 industry stakeholders and DPIRD for consideration and comment. The Council considered these comments before finalising its advice to the Minister.

In June 2019 the Council delivered its report on ‘sustaining a biosecurity response’ to the Minister and Director General of DPIRD, which included seven recommendations.



### **Council recommendations**

Recommendation 1: DPIRD develops a strategy that clarifies the expectations for biosecurity response in DPIRD.

Recommendation 2: Implement a multi-layered approach to stakeholder engagement as part of DPIRD's preparedness planning.

Recommendation 3: Formalise cost-sharing arrangements with stakeholders.

Recommendation 4: Establish a State Government biosecurity contingency fund.

Recommendation 5: Develop and maintain resources, including external resources, to ensure DPIRD is operationally ready for pest/disease incursions.

Recommendation 6: Develop and implement an active intelligence gathering and analysis network.

Recommendation 7: Provide staff with opportunities and incentives for innovation, research and development.

**The Council's report and recommendations were well-received by DPIRD.**



Image 3 – Myrtle rust on Geraldton wax flowers. Myrtle rust infects plants within the Myrtaceae family. Infection of floral buds can affect seed production



## Biosecurity research and development

Research and development (R&D) is crucial to managing WA's biosecurity risks and to manage existing threats. The Minister requested Council advice on opportunities to enhance biosecurity R&D funding in the State.

Kevin Goss Consulting and Guilbridge Pty Ltd were engaged by Council to report on the status of, and gaps in, biosecurity R&D in WA and funding opportunities. A two-stage process was used:

1. A review of biosecurity R&D strategies and status reports at both the national and State levels; and
2. Consultation with a wide range of stakeholders involved in biosecurity in WA and interstate.

A comprehensive report, titled 'Enhancing Research and Innovation Opportunities Relevant to Biosecurity in Western Australia', was delivered to Council in May 2019. Council considered the report and commenced preparation of its advice to the Minister, which will be finalised in the next reporting period.

## Border biosecurity

In 2018, the Council identified border biosecurity as an area in which it might provide advice to Government. This was supported by the Minister as a Council priority.

WA's long history of border controls and other biosecurity activities, coupled with the State's geography, has provided a relatively bio-secure State free from many pests and diseases

found elsewhere in Australia. However, maintaining our biosecurity is becoming increasingly complex. With ever-increasing pressures on the border system, it is important that border biosecurity can adapt to the changing environment. Further, resource constraints mean it is more important than ever to ensure that border activities are being targeted in the most effective way.

The Council, in consultation with DPIRD and other experts, spent considerable time developing a process to explore this issue. The process was finalised in late May 2019, with information to inform Council's advice to Government being gathered in the 2019/20 reporting period.

## Myrtle rust preparedness

Myrtle rust is a highly mobile plant pathogen that infects young, actively growing foliage of plants within the Myrtaceae family causing shoot dieback, reduced establishment of new plants and death in some species. It is established in eastern Australia but is not yet present in WA.

Ongoing Council discussions on the threat of myrtle rust, and its participation in a forest health workshop in February 2019, culminated in Council agreeing to prepare a briefing for the Minister detailing the risk to WA from myrtle rust and opportunities for preparedness activities.

Since that time, a Council working group has been collecting and collating information on the risks to WA and the preparedness activities being undertaken. The Council expects to finalise its report during the next reporting period.



Image 4 – The Kimberley. Biosecurity is critical to preserving WA’s natural environment

## Other activities

### Interactions with Government

#### *Biosecurity Senior Officers Group (BSOG)*

As part of its role to advise the Minister and DPIRD Director General, the Biosecurity Council liaises with the BSOG through the BSOG Chair. The BSOG is comprised of senior staff from State Government agencies that have biosecurity responsibilities. In 2018/19, this included:

- DPIRD (Chair)
- Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA)
- the Forest Products Commission
- the Department of the Premier and Cabinet; and
- the Department of Defence (Commonwealth).

Throughout 2018/19 the Council continued to keep the BSOG informed of its work. Similarly, the BSOG have actively participated at each ordinary Council meeting to provide Council with updates on the key issues and biosecurity activities at State and national levels.

### *Comment on Government legislation, policy and strategies*

The Council participated in Government-coordinated consultation during the year and provided feedback on various pieces of Government work including:

- Provided feedback on the draft National Biosecurity Statement
- Provided feedback on DPIRD's proposal for industry-government funded Horticulture Biosecurity Officers
- Participated in the National Biosecurity Committee's (NBC) Biosecurity Roundtable (July 2018); and
- Representation on the NBC National Industry and Community Reference Group.

### **Engagement with industry and community**

Over the course of the year, the Biosecurity Council were invited to present at and/or participate in various industry and community events. The Council used the opportunities to highlight the role of the Council, the work being undertaken and, where appropriate, its recommendations on key issues. During 2018/19, this included:

- Presented to the Grains Biosecurity Advisory Committee
- Presented to the Horticulture Biosecurity Advisory Committee
- Formal Council support for the establishment of a WA Feral Cat Taskforce; and
- Participation at the forest biosecurity day 'Enhancing biosecurity to protect Western Australia's forests'.

### **Website**

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.

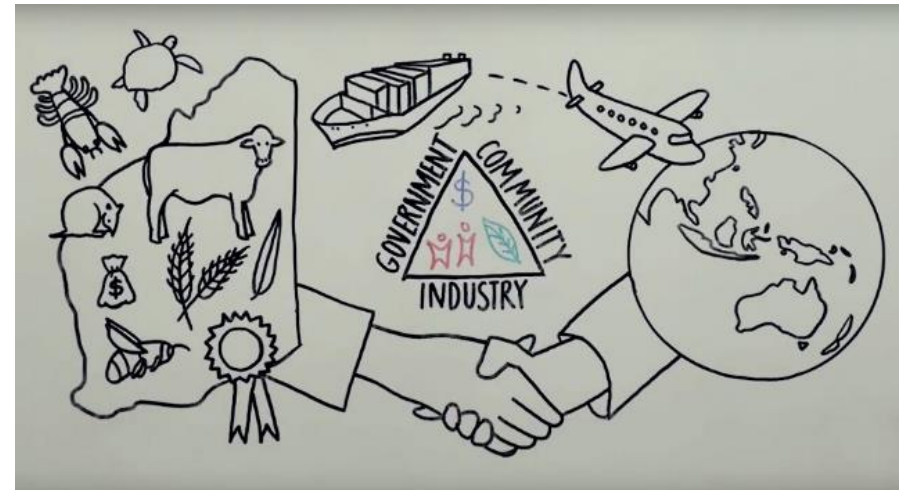


Image 5 – Image from the Biosecurity Council's invasion curve animation, available from the Council's webpages

## Meetings

During the 2018/19 year, the Biosecurity Council formally convened four times (August, November, February and May) and held four half-day Council workshops. The Deputy Director General (Sustainability and Biosecurity, DPIRD) and the DPIRD Biosecurity Executive Director, were invited to attend each meeting.

Table 2 documents Council member attendance at meetings.

It is important that the Council is aware of changing industry, community and environment needs, and of options for balancing the demands of different industries. Furthermore, the Council must give appropriate consideration to national and international treaties and obligations. To support this, Council meeting agendas include presentations that address key biosecurity activities and issues. Table 3 lists the presentations made to the Council during 2018/19.

In addition to these, the Chair of the cross-agency BSOG provided an update on current biosecurity activities, advances and issues from both national and State perspectives at each meeting; and regular updates on DPIRD's organisational design phase were provided to Council by the Sustainability and Biosecurity Deputy Director General.

Table 2 – Biosecurity Council member attendance at meetings during 2018/19

Name	Meetings attended	Workshops attended
Mrs Michelle Allen	2	2
Dr David Bowran	4	4
Dr Regina Flugge	4	4
Prof. John Mackenzie	4	4
Prof. Simon McKirdy	3	3
Ms Tina Thorne	3	4
Mr Cliff Winfield	3	3

Table 3 – Presentations to the Biosecurity Council

Date	Title	Name	Organisation
24 Aug 2018	Plant biosecurity update	Sonya Broughton	DPIRD
24 Aug 2018	Biosecurity scorecard	Simon McKirdy	Council
24 Aug 2018	Biosecurity v pest management	Simon McKirdy	Council
16 Nov 2018	Marine biosecurity downunder: Delivering outcomes in a fluid environment	Chad Hewitt	Murdoch University
16 Nov 2018	Plant biosecurity update	Darryl Hardie	DPIRD
16 Nov 2018	Animal biosecurity opportunities and risks	Michelle Rodan	DPIRD
22 Feb 2019	National forest pest surveillance: Safeguarding our forests	Paco Tovar	Plant Health Australia
22 Feb 2019	Invasive species	Victoria Aitken	DPIRD
31 May 2019	Exotic animal disease threats for WA	John Edwards	Ausvet Murdoch
31 May 2019	Biosecurity and biodiversity	Fran Stanley	DBCA

## Governance

As a Government board, the Biosecurity Council is conscious of the need for good governance systems and practices. During 2018/19, the Council abided by its Code of Conduct and acted with integrity, as set out in the Western Australian Public Sector Code of Ethics. Conflicts of Interest were recorded and reviewed at each quarterly meeting.

Furthermore, the Council operated within the bounds of the Duty Statements set out for the Chair, Members and Executive Officer, and in accordance with the BAM Act and Instrument of Appointment (Appendix A).

All Council governance procedures, processes and policies were reviewed during the year.



## Progress on past Council recommendations

This section reports on Government activities to address the unresolved recommendations made by Council in previous years. The information on implementing the recommendations was provided to Council from the agencies.

### Environmental biosecurity (2018)

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, in late 2016 the Council resolved to further this work by focusing on how environmental biosecurity is being addressed in WA.

In February 2018 the Council delivered its report on environmental biosecurity to the Directors General of DPIRD and DBCA. The report made five strategic recommendations to ensure the integration of environmental biosecurity as a core function of DPIRD, with effective cross-agency collaboration to drive it.

### Implementing the recommendations

The Council's recommendations were well-received by the agencies. DPIRD and DBCA, and the BSOG, are discussing how environmental biosecurity might be better addressed across agencies, including a cross-agency bid for an environmental biosecurity contingency fund. Within DPIRD, environmental biosecurity is being prioritised as part of the Machinery of Government changes and resultant restructure.

### Biosecurity and market access (2017)

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

In June 2017 the Council put forward 11 recommendations. These were designed to help address staff capacity and capability issues and support the preparedness of the department for future market access negotiations.

### Implementing the recommendations

Government indicated support (or in principle support) for all of the Council's recommendations, and work has commenced to implement:

- Horticulture and grains biosecurity advisory committees have been established
- Surveillance activities are being reviewed
- The Biosecurity Intelligence Platform is being expanded
- Restructure is underway to ensure capacity in key skill areas
- The Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed has been reviewed by Plant Health Australia; and
- Pending market access requests/protocols have been resolved.



Image 6 – Tomato-potato psyllid monitoring program manager, Don Telfer, in a community garden hosting a tomato-potato psyllid trap

## **Biosecurity resource allocation and prioritisation within Agriculture and Food (2016)**

Maintaining a resilient agricultural biosecurity system underpins the productivity, sustainability and competitiveness of WA's agriculture and food sector. With diminishing agency budgets and heightened industry expectation that a core role of the (then) Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA) is biosecurity to protect market access, a rigorous process for 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.

The Council investigated the issues and recommended: (i) a clear, consistent and agreed framework for prioritisation; (ii) increased resources for DAFWA's biosecurity and related functions; and (iii) that opportunities for attracting and retaining appropriately skilled staff are identified and implemented.

### **Implementing the recommendations**

The Machinery of Government changes and DPIRD's Organisational Design Phase 2 project has provided DPIRD with the opportunity to review and prioritise its biosecurity activities, capabilities and skills and ensure appropriate levels of resourcing/capability going forward. These changes and the organisational design are still being progressed.

## **Funding agricultural biosecurity (2016)**

In August 2016 the Biosecurity Council presented a statement on the current situation for WA agricultural biosecurity funding. The statement was to assist the (then) Department of Agriculture and Food to develop a clear policy position that articulates who is responsible for in-kind and cash contributions to the various parts and functions of the WA biosecurity system – in essence, a cost-sharing and cost-recovery policy.

### **Implementing the recommendations**

Staffing and structural changes within DPIRD resulted in policy development being postponed. Industry biosecurity consultative forums will play a key role in involving industry stakeholders on this matter.

DPIRD has developed internal policy around funding mechanisms for industry and community-driven biosecurity.

## **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. Collaboration across State Government portfolios is necessary in many biosecurity-related situations, including emergency response.

At the time, 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.

WA 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.

### **Implementing the recommendations**

A Western Australian Biosecurity Strategy was released in 2016. The purpose of the strategy is 'to set the overall direction for the management of emerging and ongoing biosecurity issues within WA'. Further, biosecurity is a key strategic priority of Government and is highlighted in the DPIRD Strategic Intent 2018-2021.

The BSOG is the current forum for cross-agency collaboration on biosecurity. Discussions have commenced to broaden the scope and membership of the BSOG to reflect the importance of biosecurity and its touch points with other agencies.



## Cost of Council operations in 2018/19

The direct costs of the Council's operation during the 2018/19 reporting year amounted to \$171 360 (Table 4).

Executive Officer and administrative support (salaries, overheads and operating) was approximately \$72 000. Additionally, DPIRD 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 2018/19

Description	Total \$
Board fees	118 290
Consultancies	37 800
Travel expenses	11 851
Meeting/workshop expenses	3260
Printing/consumables	135
Credit card surcharge	24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>171 360</b>

Notes:

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



Image 7 – Bananas grown under netting. Biosecurity is critical to WA's horticulture industries

## Direction for 2019/2020

The Council has three major pieces of work planned for 2019/20:

- Provide advice to Government on the status and opportunities to enhance biosecurity research and development in WA – a request for advice from the Minister. This piece of advice is expected to be completed by 31 October 2019.
- Provide advice to Government on the effectiveness of border biosecurity activities – a request for advice from the Minister. By 31 December 2019, the Council will finalise its advice to the Minister and DPIRD Director General.
- Provide advice to Government on opportunities for and improvements to biosecurity funding mechanisms. It is anticipated that this will contribute to the review of the BAM Act. The process for undertaking this work will be developed by Council once the BAM Act review terms of reference are known.

The Council also anticipates briefing the Minister on the risk to WA from myrtle rust and opportunities for preparedness activities, and will 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.

The anticipated review of the BAM Act will feature heavily on the Council's agenda in 2019/2020. The Council expects to provide feedback to the BAM Act review's scope and terms of reference, whilst also assessing the areas of the Act relating to the Council's operation and the differentiation between 'biosecurity' and 'pest management'.

Similarly, the development and implementation of biosecurity-related subsidiary legislation under the *Aquatic Resources Management Act 2016* will be closely monitored.

## The anticipated review of the BAM Act will feature heavily on the Council's agenda in 2019/2020.

The Council will continue to take steps to maintain its good relationships with the BSOG, DPIRD Director General, DPIRD Deputy Director General (Sustainability and Biosecurity) and senior biosecurity staff. This will include an open invitation for relevant DPIRD executive to attend Council meetings, and for the Council to hold its quarterly meetings at different locations to further build relationships across the sectors involved in addressing WA's biosecurity – agriculture, fisheries, environment and forestry.



Additionally, the Council intends to better engage with regional stakeholders to improve its understanding of regional biosecurity issues. As described in its Instrument of Appointment, the Council should be aware of changing industry, community and environment needs, and of options for balancing the demands of different industries. To support this, the Council has committed to hold regional meetings, possibly annually. The intent of regional meetings are to:

- Engage with local/regional stakeholders on biosecurity matters
- Build networks/relationships with key biosecurity stakeholders
- Provide a conduit to Government/DPIRD for local/regional biosecurity stakeholders.

Council will hold its first regional visit in Kununurra, in the East Kimberley. The East Kimberley has a unique set of biosecurity challenges – it is an important horticulture growing region, there is a large pastoral presence, it adjoins the Northern Territory border and is in close proximity to Indonesia, it is a hub for tourism during the dry season, it is a biodiversity hotspot, there are a growing number of major infrastructure developments and an increasing number of sea-going vessels. Furthermore, the area is free from many pests and diseases found elsewhere in WA and/or the rest of Australia and was recently involved in a major biosecurity response to the exotic disease, citrus canker.



Image 8 – Assessing for aquatic diseases in the fish health laboratory



## 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 21 March 2018.
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
Prof. Simon John <b>McKIRDY</b> (Chair)	for a term expiring on 31 December 2019
Mrs Michelle Helen <b>ALLEN</b>	for a term expiring on 31 December 2019
Dr David George <b>BOWRAN</b>	for a term expiring on 27 February 2021
Dr Regina Dale <b>FLUGGE</b>	for a term expiring on 27 February 2021
Prof. John Sheppard <b>MACKENZIE</b>	for a term expiring on 27 February 2021
Ms Tina Jane <b>THORNE</b>	for a term expiring on 31 December 2019
Mr Clifford Francis <b>WINFIELD</b>	for a term expiring on 27 February 2021

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 (WA) 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 WA 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 WA 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 Chair 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  
13 June 2018*