



**Biosecurity Council  
of Western Australia**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2013/2014**



## November 2014

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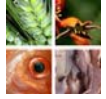


## Contents

<b>Preface: Biosecurity in WA</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Letter to the Minister</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>1. The Biosecurity Council of WA</b> .....	<b>8</b>
Terms of reference .....	9
<b>2. Biosecurity Council membership</b> .....	<b>11</b>
Summary of member terms .....	13
<b>3. Meetings</b> .....	<b>14</b>
Presentations to Council .....	15
<b>4. Council activities in 2013/14</b> .....	<b>16</b>
Overview .....	16
Biosecurity roles and responsibilities .....	17
Declaration of weeds and vertebrate pests .....	18
Recognised Biosecurity Groups .....	19
Other activities .....	20
2013/14 directions and advice .....	23
Progress on implementation of Council recommendations .....	24
<b>5. Cost of Council operations in 2013/14</b> .....	<b>25</b>
<b>6. Future directions</b> .....	<b>26</b>
<b>Appendix A: Instrument of appointment</b> .....	<b>28</b>



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



## Preface: Biosecurity in Western Australia

Biosecurity can be described as ‘the management of risks to the economy, the environment, and the community, of pests and diseases entering, emerging, establishing or spreading’ (COAG 2012). Our long history of quarantine practice, coupled with the state’s geography, has provided Western Australians with a relatively bio-secure state free from many pests, weeds and diseases found elsewhere in Australia.

The economic, environmental and social value of effective biosecurity is significant, enabling the preservation and enhancement of our unique environment, vibrant economy and lifestyle standards. However, the complexities of maintaining our biosecurity are increasing owing to factors such as a changing climate, travel and trade, population spread and changing land use.

In light of these complexities, decisive policies are necessary for an efficient and effective biosecurity system. The transparent and justifiable prioritisation of biosecurity activities is critical, as is the participation of all Western Australian citizens. With collaboration, cooperation, communication and contribution across industry, government and community, the biosecurity of Western Australia can be strengthened and maintained into the future.





Hon. Ken Baston MLC  
Minister for Agriculture and Food  
7th floor, Dumas House  
2 Havelock St  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Minister

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

As documented in the annual report, the past year has seen the Biosecurity Council undertake work in several areas central to the functioning of an effective biosecurity system for the state of Western Australia. Of particular note is our investigation into biosecurity roles, responsibilities and principles.

The principle of biosecurity as a shared responsibility is not new; however, it has certainly become more widely accepted over recent years. This body of work undertaken by the Council saw us interact with organisations and groups we determined as key 'collaborators'. The opportunity to talk to these people about our state's biosecurity was a valuable experience, and provided us with an in-depth understanding of the attitudes and perceptions across industry, government and community.

Biosecurity is a multifaceted issue influenced by social, environmental and economic factors. It is also an issue that is important to West Australian citizens. Our work highlighted the significance of collaboration, cooperation, communication and partnerships when addressing our biosecurity, and suggests that the timing is right to better engage with industry and communities for the future benefit of our biosecurity system.

The release of the Western Australian Auditor General's report 'Managing the impact of plant and animal pests: a state-wide challenge' in December 2013, highlighted issues that were well-known to agencies — the need for collaborative effort, a shared vision and plan, clear and transparent processes, targeting of



resources to the priorities and effective monitoring and evaluation. Some of these issues were previously raised by the Council, and some we are currently investigating; nevertheless, we are pleased to see that much work is being undertaken to address these strategic issues. The anticipated release of the consultation draft of the Western Australian State Biosecurity Strategy in December is the first step in articulating a shared vision for the biosecurity of the state.

The delivery of an effective biosecurity system for Western Australia is a complex task requiring a sustained and collaborative effort on the part of all stakeholders, including government, industries, the community at large, as well as each citizen. The Council is committed to providing advice that takes into account the views of all stakeholders, and look forward to continuing partnerships to help us deliver robust advice to government that we believe will improve biosecurity outcomes across the state.

Yours sincerely

E/Prof. Alan Robson  
Chairman  
Biosecurity Council of Western Australia

15 November 2014





## 1. The Biosecurity Council of Western Australia

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

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

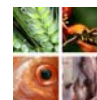
The principle role of the Council is to provide advice to the Minister for Agriculture and Food and the Director General of DAFWA on any matter related to biosecurity, whether referred to the Council by the Minister or Director General, or of its own motion.

The Council operates at a strategic level, with a long-term vision for biosecurity in WA that considers national and international treaties and obligations. The advice provided by the Council is based on sound 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, fishing, aquaculture, pearling or related commercial activities, natural resource management, environmental protection and/or regional communities. Nominations are sought from industry, academia and community organisations, with appointments (for up to three years) made by the Minister.

Executive and administrative support for the Biosecurity Council's operation is provided by DAFWA.





### Terms of reference

Biosecurity matters on which the Council provides advice include:

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

The Council also provides advice on other biosecurity-related matters as requested by the Minister or DAFWA Director General.

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



Biosecurity protects our aquatic environment from invasive pests and diseases.



## 2. Biosecurity Council membership

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

**Michelle Allen (Deputy Chair)** 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 Wild Dog Control Program of WA.

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

**Kevin Goss** is the former Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Future Farm Industries Cooperative Research Centre Ltd. Kevin has worked in agricultural, natural resource management, policy and environmental fields with the Murray-Darling Basin Commission, DAFWA and the Department of Environment and Conservation. Currently, he is an Honorary Senior Research Fellow with UWA, and chairs the Research and Development Committee of the Western Australian Marine Science Institute.

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

\*Member until 31 December 2013



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

**Simon McKirdy\*\*** has a long history in the biosecurity/quarantine area. He is currently the Biosecurity Science and Risk Manager for Chevron Australia and Adjunct Professor at Murdoch University's Centre for Biosecurity and Food Security. Prior to these positions, Simon was the Chief Executive Officer of the Plant Biosecurity CRC, and 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.

**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.

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

\*Member until 31 December 2013

\*\*Member from 20 January 2014



## Summary of member terms

Name	Position	Expiry of term
E/Prof. Alan Robson	Chairman	27 February 2015
Mrs Michelle Allen	Member	31 December 2016
Dr Simon McKirdy	Member	31 December 2016
Ms Tina Thorne	Member	31 December 2016
Mr Kevin Goss	Member	27 February 2015
Mr David Jarvie	Member	27 February 2015
Mr Barry Large	Member	27 February 2015
Mr David Anderson	Member	31 December 2013
Mr Johann van der Merwe	Member	31 December 2013



### 3. Meetings

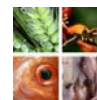
During the 2013/14 year, the Biosecurity Council formally convened four times. The focus of these meetings has been the development of advice for the Minister for Agriculture and Food and the Director General of DAFWA, and to provide the Council with information on current biosecurity activities and advances.

Council meetings are also attended by the Chair of the cross-agency Biosecurity Senior Officers Group (BSOG) and a representative from the office of the Minister for Agriculture and Food. Formal invitations will be provided to the Director General of DAFWA from July 2014.

Name	No. meetings attended	No. workshops attended
E/Prof. Alan Robson	4	1
Mrs Michelle Allen	4	2
Mr Kevin Goss	4	2
Mr David Jarvie	4	1
Mr Barry Large	4	1
Mr David Anderson*	2	1
Mr Johann van der Merwe*	1	0
Dr Simon McKirdy**	2	0
Ms Tina Thorne**	2	0

\*Member until 31 December 2013

\*\*Member from 20 January 2014



## Presentations to Council

Date	Title	Name	Organisation
16 August 2013	Plant Health Australia	Greg Fraser, Chief Executive Officer	Plant Health Australia
16 August 2013	Livestock biosecurity program	Michelle Rodan, Director	DAFWA
16 August 2013	Invasive species program	Viv Read, Director	DAFWA
16 August 2013	Agricultural Recognised Biosecurity Groups	Viv Read, Director	DAFWA
8 November 2013	Border biosecurity program	Greg Pickles, Director	DAFWA
8 November 2013	Proposed Royalties for Regions biosecurity project	Peter Morcombe, Manager	DAFWA
8 November 2013	Declared pests — declaration process	Emily Lewis, Manager Rod Randall, Research Officer	DAFWA
7 February 2014	Plant biosecurity program	John van Schagen	DAFWA
7 February 2014	Recognised Biosecurity Groups	Viv Read, Director	DAFWA
7 February 2014	State biosecurity strategy	Alison Wilson, Senior Policy Officer	DAFWA
23 May 2014	Declared pest review	Jon Dodd, Senior Research Officer	DAFWA
23 May 2014	Centre for Biosecurity and Food Security	Shashi Sharma, Chair	Murdoch University

In addition, the Council were provided updates from the cross-agency BSOG by Mr John Ruprecht (BSOG Chair) at each meeting.



## 4. Council activities in 2013/2014

### Overview

The Council has made strong progress in developing advice for government on several strategic issues throughout 2013/14. Maintaining the integrity of our biosecurity system is a complex task that requires collaboration and partnerships to identify the issues and effectively tackle them. It is for this reason that the Council has committed to engaging with the key stakeholders as part of the Council's work. Stakeholder engagement and consultation is a lengthy process; however, it has provided comprehensive insights to the perceptions, ideas and issues of West Australian industries, government and communities on a range of biosecurity topics. From the Council's perspective, this will enable the development of compelling advice to government that is underpinned by strong data, whilst also considering the requirements of a comprehensive and effective biosecurity system for Western Australia. During the year, there were three key areas of advice for government that the Council worked on:

- biosecurity roles and responsibilities
- declaration of weeds and vertebrate pests; and
- Recognised Biosecurity Groups as a mechanism for joint responsibility.



Biosecurity is important for a productive and competitive agricultural sector.





In addition, the Council kept a watching brief on biosecurity-related developments at the Commonwealth level including the implementation of the Intergovernmental Agreement on Biosecurity (IGAB) and National Environmental Biosecurity Response Agreement (NEBRA), and the status of the Commonwealth's *Biosecurity Bill 2012*.

To help provide robust and timely advice, the Council maintained a work plan outlining the activities to undertake and the timeframe for delivery. At each ordinary meeting, Council reviewed and updated the work plan to reflect the changing environment and priorities. A risk reporting matrix was also used to identify and monitor key biosecurity risk areas.

### **Biosecurity roles and responsibilities**

Biosecurity investment decision-making is an area in which the Council have spent considerable time. The Council agreed to move the focus of this work away from the topic of 'cost-sharing' to better facilitate robust and strategic discussions with industry, government and community.

A shared understanding, and agreement, on the roles and responsibilities of government, industry and community is a necessary first step that will underpin biosecurity investment decisions. The Council firmly believe that this information must be developed in collaboration with all stakeholders, and began this process during the year.

During April-May 2014, Council members participated in formal discussions with nine key stakeholder groups (34 individuals) to elicit perceptions about biosecurity roles and responsibilities, and the principles that underpin these. The data collected through these discussions were then used to develop an online questionnaire to quantify the significant themes, issues and ideas. In doing so, it was anticipated that a clearer picture of stakeholder perceptions would emerge, and the priority issues to be addressed would be highlighted.

The survey was conducted during June 2014, with a total of 290 responses received. Of these, 41% were from industry, 30% from government, 21% from community, 8% from research/ educational institutions and 4% from other sectors.

The results of the stakeholder engagement will be released by the Council before the end of 2014, and will form the basis of Council advice to the Minister, which will be formally presented during 2014/15.



## Declaration of weeds and vertebrate pests

In response to a request from the Minister, the Council explored various aspects surrounding the declaration of weeds and vertebrates under section 22 of the BAM Act. Under the legislation, landholders are responsible for managing the declared pests occurring on their land - but with more than 150 weed and vertebrate species declared under section 22, the ability of government to ensure compliance with the legislation is limited. It was this issue that prompted the request for advice.

The Council's deliberations considered the overall integrity of the state's biosecurity system, with the ensuing advice to focus on three key areas:

- the validity of the organism declaration process
- management of the list of declared weeds and vertebrates, including potential implications of changing the declaration status of organisms; and
- options to address issues around monitoring compliance with the legislation.



During 2013/14, the Council undertook an examination of the organism assessment process, and provided input to the development of DAFWAs 'Declaring the status of organisms' policy, which is currently awaiting final endorsement.

The Council were also briefed on the outcomes of DAFWAs review of the current declared weeds. The outcomes of a review of declared vertebrate pests are to be presented to the Council during 2014/15.

The Council anticipate completing this advice for government by the end of the 2014, which will build on the relevant findings and recommendations from the Western Australian Auditor General's report 'Managing the impact of plant and animal pests: a state-wide challenge' that was released in December 2013.

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



## Recognised Biosecurity Groups

The Biosecurity Council have been monitoring the implementation of Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBGs) as a mechanism for joint biosecurity responsibility. This included briefings from DAFWA on the progress of the five pastoral RBGs currently in operation, and the implementation of similar groups across the agricultural areas of the state.

In December 2013, the Council participated in a two-day forum targeted at pastoral RBGs. Additionally, the Council is represented on the Steering Committee guiding the development of a community coordinated approach to controlling established weeds and pest animals in the South West Land Division. The strength of the 'community coordinated approach' lies in enabling adjacent landholders to cooperate at a landscape scale under community leadership, with government in a supporting role. These groups may develop into RBGs and use the Declared Pest Rate to bring financial stability to their operations.

The Council will continue to keep a watching brief throughout 2014/15, including participation on the Steering Committee.



RBGs are groups that control pests that impact on public as well as private interests. They raise funds from a Declared Pest Rate, which is matched dollar-for-dollar by the state government, to carry out programs to control established animal and plant pests. The RBG framework gives communities the opportunity to come together to address locally-significant biosecurity issues.



## Other activities

### Office of the Auditor General – managing the impact of plant and animal pests

In February 2013, the Office of the Auditor General requested Council input to the feasibility study for auditing invasive species management in WA. The Council provided advice on the potential scope of the audit and the potential risks and gaps. In December 2013, the Auditor General's final report on this issue was released, and the Council provided a formal response to this report.

The Council's response acknowledged the key findings of the report, and highlighted that much is being undertaken by government agencies to address the identified issues. In particular, the Council reiterated the points made by DAFWA in their response to the report relating to roles and responsibilities — that is, it is the responsibility of the land manager to control declared pests on their land; and it is a main role of the department to regulate and educate.

Some of the Auditor General's findings reinforce previous recommendations made by the Council — for example the development of a plan for the state's continued biosecurity. Other recommendations are areas currently being investigated by the Council, such as the declaration process for pests, weeds and diseases.

### Commonwealth and state legislation

The full implementation of the BAM Act in May 2013 enabled progress to be made by DAFWA in developing the policies, procedures and systems needed to operationalise the legislation. The Council have kept up-to-date with the implementation, and continue to be briefed as the regulations are 'tested' in real situations.

At the Commonwealth level, the *Biosecurity Bill 2012* lapsed in August 2013 when Parliament was dissolved for the election. It is understood that the Bill will be reintroduced to Parliament in late 2014. It is important that the new legislation encompasses the needs of all states. For Western Australia, a key concern is the legislation around import risk assessments. As our state is free from many pests and diseases found elsewhere in Australia, it is important that the Commonwealth legislation recognises this and supports Western Australia in maintaining this status.



## Interactions with the Biosecurity Senior Officers Group

As part of its role to advise the Minister and DAFWA Director General, the Biosecurity Council liaises with the BSOG. The BSOG is comprised of senior executives from the state government agencies that have biosecurity responsibilities:

- 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).

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

Throughout 2013/14, the Council continued to keep the BSOG informed of the activities being undertaken. Similarly, the BSOG have actively participated at each ordinary Council meeting to provide the Council with updates on the key issues and biosecurity activities at both the state and national levels.

The Council will continue to engage with the BSOG during 2014/15 in order to maintain the good working relationship that has developed over the past two years.



Biosecurity helps maintain biodiversity and the health of natural ecosystems.



## Boosting Biosecurity Defences R&D Fund

In November 2013 the Council agreed to act as the panel to select project proposals for biosecurity research and development investment, as part of the \$3.5 million Biosecurity Research and Development (R&D) Fund under the Boosting Biosecurity Defences Royalties for Regions project.

The Council have worked closely with DAFWA to develop an appropriate funding process and the selection criteria to be used for the funding call. It is anticipated that the Council will consider the funding applications and make recommendations for investment from January until April 2015.

## Comment on government policies, plans, strategies

The Biosecurity Council provided feedback on various pieces of government work in 2013/14 including:

- the Boosting Biosecurity Defences Royalties for Regions business case – a proposal for funding of \$20 million for biosecurity-related activities
- the 'Western Australia State Biosecurity Strategy'
- the whole-of-government Myrtle Rust Contingency Plan
- the National Biosecurity Committee's emergency management maturity assessment process
- the draft 'Declaring the status of organisms' policy, under the BAM Act.



Participants at the Biosecurity Science - Future Directions roundtable.



## Plant Biosecurity CRC roundtable

On 6 February 2014, the Biosecurity Council hosted the 'Biosecurity Science – Future Directions' roundtable in conjunction with the Plant Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre (CRC). The Roundtable was well-attended, with representatives from across industry and government discussing innovative new developments in biosecurity science and technology, and how we can use these for a bio-secure future for WA.

## Communications

Throughout the course of the year, the Biosecurity Council have been invited to present at and/or participate in various events. The Council has used these opportunities to highlight the role of the Council, the work being undertaken and, where appropriate, the Council's recommendations on key issues. These events included:

- opening address at the RBG Forum, 9 December 2013
- participation in the Facilitating Effective Community Action event arranged through the Invasive Animals CRC and hosted by DAFWA, 4 March 2014
- invitation to attend the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture 2014 Biosecurity Roundtable, 3 April 2014
- keynote address at the DAFWA Senior Leadership Team Emergency Management Capacity workshop, 30 April 2014
- participation in a National Livestock Standstill Program (Exercise Odysseus), 1-2 May 2014.

Up-to-date information on the Biosecurity Council of Western Australia continues to be freely available on the Biosecurity Council's webpages on the DAFWA website.

### 2013/14 directions and advice

Requests for advice received from the Minister and/or Director General of DAFWA: advice on changes to the declared pest list (27 August 2013).

Formal advice provided to the Minister and/or Director General: advice on biosecurity emergency response preparedness and cross-agency collaboration on biosecurity provided to the Ministers for Environment; Fisheries; and Forestry (26 July 2013).



## Progress on implementing past Council recommendations

In June 2013, the Biosecurity Council provided advice to the Minister for Agriculture and Food and the Director General of DAFWA in two key areas:

- our preparedness for likely major biosecurity threats; and
- collaboration across portfolio areas.

This advice was subsequently presented to the Ministers for Fisheries, Environment and Forestry in July 2013.

The Council's advice culminated in three key recommendations to government:

- Recommendation 1. Establish formal mechanisms for interagency collaboration on biosecurity
- Recommendation 2. Investigate ways of building an outcomes-based approach into biosecurity planning
- Recommendation 3. Investigate ways to build the capacity and leadership of industry for biosecurity across WA.

A formal request was made to the BSOG for an update on how these three recommendations were considered, and whether any action resulted from the Council's advice. Although the Council are awaiting a response from the BSOG, the following information was provided to the Council over the year.

<p><b>Council recommendation 1:</b> Establish formal mechanisms for interagency collaboration on biosecurity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BSOG terms of reference developed</li> <li>• MOU between agencies being developed</li> </ul>
<p><b>Council recommendation 2:</b> Investigate ways of building an outcomes-based approach into biosecurity planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of the Western Australia State Biosecurity Strategy</li> <li>• Development of the Myrtle Rust Contingency Plan</li> <li>• Cross-agency working group implemented to address emergency response preparedness</li> </ul>
<p><b>Council recommendation 3:</b> Investigate ways to build the capacity and leadership of industry for biosecurity across WA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Articulation of roles and responsibilities (advice being prepared by Council)</li> </ul>





## 5. Cost of Council operation in 2013/14

The direct costs of the Councils' operation during the 2013/14 reporting year amounted to \$114 310 (Table 1). This total does not include executive, accounting, administrative and other general support that was provided throughout the year by DAFWA.

Table 1 Biosecurity Council of WA expenditure for 2013/14

Description	Total \$
Sitting Fees	102 030
Consultancies	1200
Travel expenses	5045
Meeting expenses (catering, venue hire)	1931
Biosecurity roundtable	1309
Stakeholder engagement (survey and transcriptions)	1153
Printing	718
Telecommunications	924
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>114 310</b>

Notes:

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



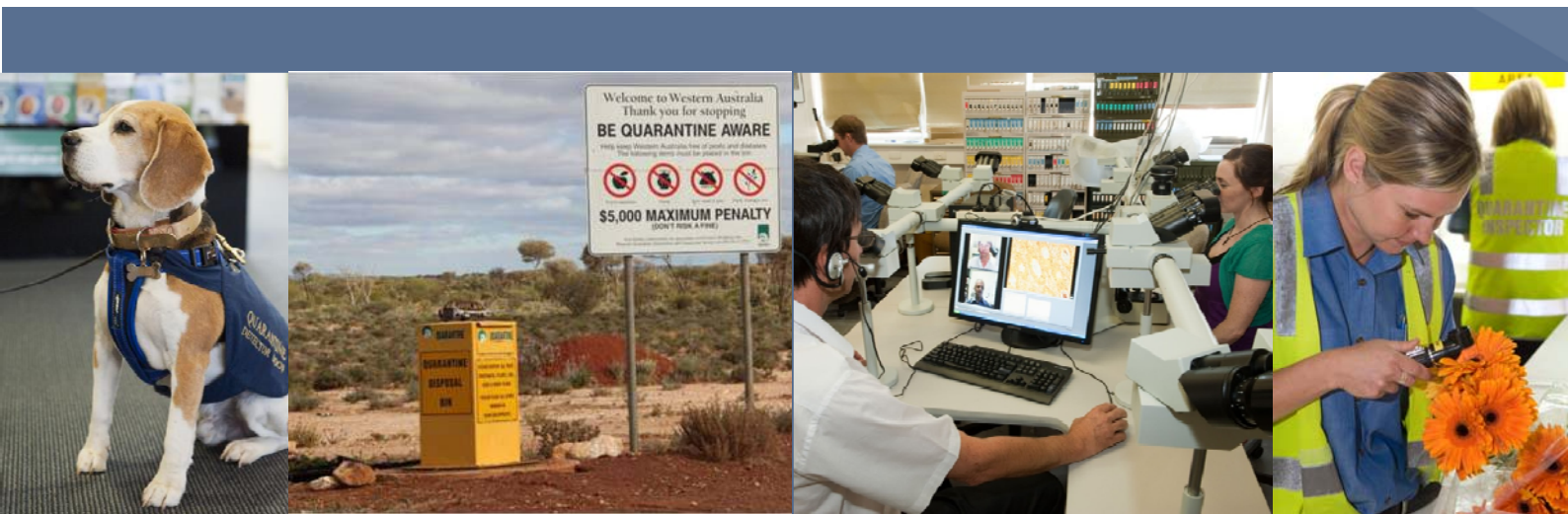
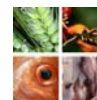
## 6. Future directions for 2014/2015

The Biosecurity Council operates at a strategic level to provide the Minister and the Director General of DAFWA with independent, robust and timely advice on priority biosecurity issues. For 2014/2015, the Council is focussed on finalising advice in the following areas:

- the roles and responsibilities of industry, government and community in delivering an effective biosecurity system for Western Australia
- principles to underpin the delivery of biosecurity outcomes for Western Australia
- strategic biosecurity-related issues, as identified via the Councils stakeholder engagement process; and
- the organism declaration process — from the first stage of organism assessment through to monitoring the declaration statuses and on-ground compliance activities.



The Carabid ground beetle (*Calosoma schayeri*) is a native primary predator of crop pests.



An effective biosecurity system requires a sustained and collaborative effort from everyone.

The Council will progress its advice on biosecurity investment decision-making, building on the stakeholder engagement undertaken during 2013/14. The next phase of this work will focus on the processes for prioritising biosecurity investment, underpinned by the Council's 'roles and responsibilities' advice.

The Council will continue to keep a watching brief on several areas, such as the application of RBGs and progress of the *Biosecurity Bill 2014*. The Council's consideration of the key areas and preparation of advice will be supported by robust process including consultation with stakeholders, independent investigations and by requesting reports from relevant agencies.

2014/15 will also see the Council working closely with DAFWA on the Royalties for Regions funded Boosting Biosecurity Defences project. The Council will work as the reference group for the \$20 million project to provide an external point of reference and advice for the planning and conduct of the project. The Council will also coordinate the assessment of applications for biosecurity research and development investment via the Boosting Biosecurity Defences Biosecurity R&D Fund.

The Council will play a key role in the 2014 State Biosecurity Forum, which is to be held on 4 December 2014 in Fremantle. The Forum will target the biosecurity of the state's industries, aquatic and terrestrial environments and communities, and provides the opportunity to hear from leading experts from across Australia.



## 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 25 January 2013.
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
E/Prof Alan <b>ROBSON</b> (Chairman)	for a term expiring on 27 February 2015
Mrs Michelle <b>ALLEN</b>	for a term expiring on 31 December 2016
Dr Simon <b>McKIRDY</b>	for a term expiring on 31 December 2016
Ms Tina <b>THORNE</b>	for a term expiring on 31 December 2016
Mr David <b>JARVIE</b>	for a term expiring on 27 February 2015
Mr Kevin <b>GOSS</b>	for a term expiring on 27 February 2015
Mr Barry <b>LARGE</b>	for a term expiring on 27 February 2015

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.

