



# BIOSECURITY COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



## Annual report 2017/18



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**November 2018****Important disclaimer**

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## Chair's report

I am pleased to present the 2017/18 Annual Report on the proceedings of the Biosecurity Council of Western Australia.

This year was one of significant change for the strategic delivery of biosecurity activity in Western Australia with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) put into operation from 1 July 2017.

The creation of DPIRD brought together two agencies with biosecurity responsibilities – the former Department of Agriculture and Food and Department of Fisheries – and the former Department of Regional Development. From the Biosecurity Council's perspective, the amalgamation presents an important opportunity to reimagine biosecurity delivery in Western Australia for an agency with a larger biosecurity function, broader skills and increased regional presence.

With this in mind, the Council, under direction from the Minister for Agriculture and Food, started an exploration of what makes for an effective biosecurity 'combat' agency. Responding quickly, efficiently and effectively to a pest or disease outbreak without compromising the integrity of budgets or 'normal business' is something all biosecurity agencies struggle with.

The Council have drafted a framework for an effective and contemporary biosecurity agency and discussed this with a range of stakeholders across agricultural, horticultural, fisheries and forestry industries. From these consultations, it is apparent that biosecurity is a priority; however, work needs to be done to

resolve debate around cost-sharing and to rebuild industry's trust in Government.

The other major piece of work undertaken by the Council during the year was an investigation into how the biosecurity of Western Australia's environmental assets is being maintained. Our investigation highlighted six key issues and made five strategic recommendations. Foremost, a clear, coordinated approach to environmental biosecurity is critical. To facilitate this, the Council have recommended that environmental biosecurity be integrated as a core function of DPIRD and resourced accordingly. This does not mean that other agencies have no responsibility in this area; rather, a cross-agency (and cross-legislative), collaborative approach is required.

Activities to support a bio-secure Western Australia remain essential, as biosecurity risks continue to increase. State Government agencies require the resourcing necessary for them to carry out their duties and to support industry and the community in their biosecurity endeavours. Biosecurity is everyone's business, and the Council is committed to providing frank and fearless advice to ensure a robust biosecurity system to protect Western Australia's agricultural, aquatic, environmental and social assets.



Prof. Simon McKirdy  
Chair, Biosecurity Council of Western Australia

## List of acronyms

BAM Act	<i>Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007</i>
BBD	Boosting our Biosecurity Defences
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
WA	Western Australia

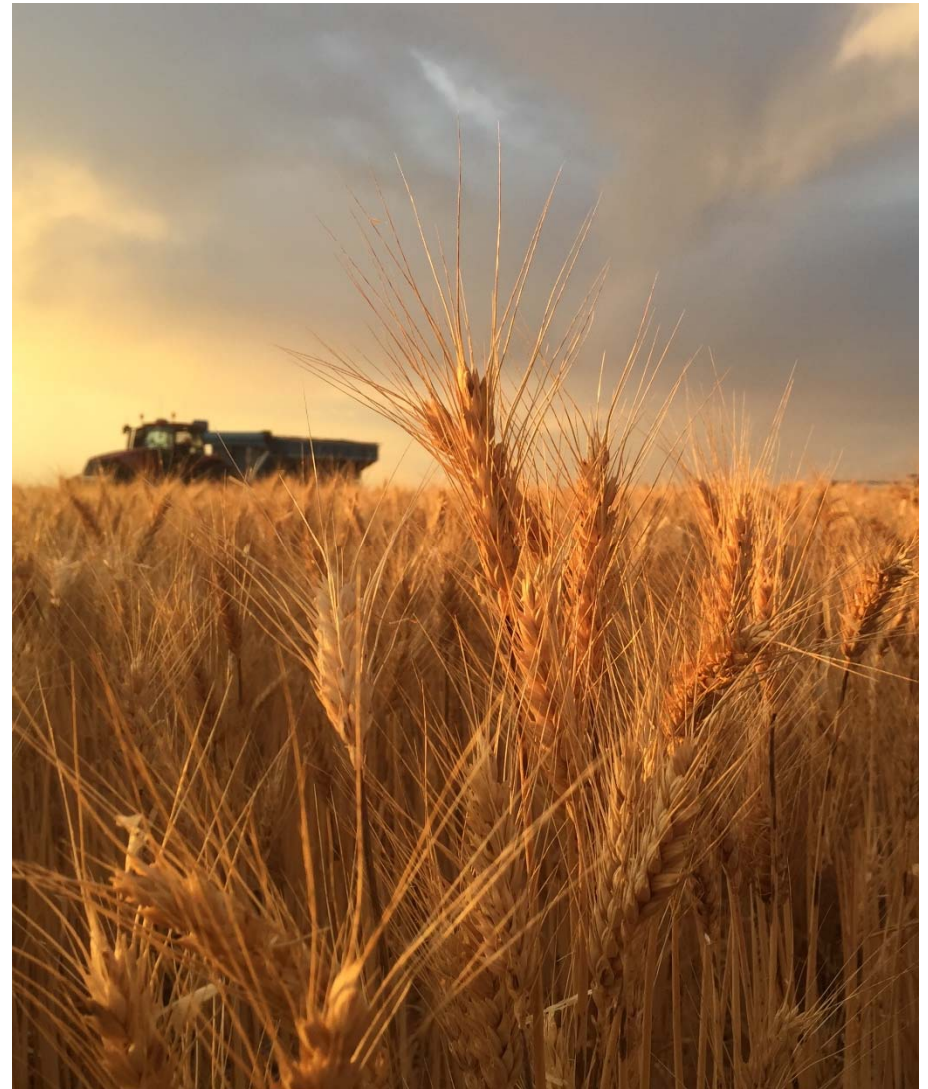


Image 1 – Wheat crop ready for harvest. Biosecurity is critical to WA’s agricultural industries

## The Biosecurity Council of Western Australia

### Overview

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

Current membership consists of the Chair and six ordinary members. Membership is drawn from people who are experienced or actively involved in agriculture, silviculture,

fishing, aquaculture, pearling or related commercial activities; natural resource management; environmental protection; and/or regional communities. Nominations are sought from industry, research organisations and community organisations, with appointments (for up to three years) made by the Minister.

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

### Terms of reference

Biosecurity matters on which the Council provides advice include:

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; and
4. Opportunities to improve Government, community and industry cooperation and collaboration on biosecurity matters.

The Council also provides advice on other biosecurity-related matters as requested by the Minister or DPIRD Director General, or of its own motion.

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

## Biosecurity Council membership

The terms of four Council members, including the Chair, expired on 27 February 2018. The Minister appointed three new members for three-year terms, and reappointed Mr Cliff Winfield to represent the interests of Local Government. Professor Simon McKirdy, the Council's former Deputy Chair, was appointed by the Minister as the new Chair.

The membership of the Biosecurity Council is summarised in Table 1. Short biographies of the current Council members are provided at Appendix B.

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

Name	Position	Expiry of term
Mr Kevin Goss	Chair	27 February 2018
Prof. Simon McKirdy	Deputy Chair/ Chair	31 December 2019
Ms Tina Thorne	Member / Deputy Chair	31 December 2019
Mr David Jarvie	Member	27 February 2018
Mr Barry Large	Member	27 February 2018
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



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

## Council activities in 2017/18

### Overview

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

- environmental biosecurity; and
- the attributes required by a biosecurity ‘combat’ agency to effectively sustain a biosecurity response.

In addition, planning began for two new areas of advice to Government – biosecurity research and development; and border biosecurity.

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 the State’s biosecurity status. During 2017/18 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 2017/18 financial year.



## Environmental biosecurity

In 2013, during investigations of cross-agency collaboration, the Council identified a fundamental breakdown in situations where biosecurity actions span multiple State Government agencies – such as for environmental biosecurity. The reasons for this breakdown are complex. In broad terms, the issues can be categorised into i) definitions; ii) roles and responsibilities; and iii) resourcing; with unclear government policy an important contributing factor.

In late 2016 the Council resolved to further this work by focusing on how environmental biosecurity is being addressed in WA. A workshop was held with members of the Biosecurity Senior Officers Group (BSOG) in April 2017. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss and clarify the State Government activities being undertaken to maintain the biosecurity of WA's environmental assets. Initial scoping identified two key areas requiring attention: harmonising a whole-of-government approach; and resourcing. The workshop enabled these areas to be explored and the issues to come to the fore. The work was then put on hold whilst the Council developed urgent advice to the Minister on biosecurity and market access.

In February 2018 the Council delivered its report on environmental biosecurity to the Directors General of DPIRD and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA).

## Council recommendations

Recommendation 1: Environmental biosecurity is integrated as a core function of DPIRD and resourced accordingly.

Recommendation 2: A dedicated cross-agency entity/group is established to drive environmental biosecurity across all terrestrial and aquatic land tenures and provide strategic coordination.

Recommendation 3: DPIRD, in collaboration with DBCA, (or the cross-agency entity/group — see recommendation 2) prepare a business case to justify a sufficient contingency fund from Treasury for environmental biosecurity response.

Recommendation 4: The agency responsible for environmental biosecurity (or the cross-agency entity/group — see recommendation 2) develop and implement a robust process to clearly define the 'who, what, why and how' in terms of community/industry engagement in environmental biosecurity.

Recommendation 5: That appropriate data-sharing arrangements and systems are developed and implemented within the State and with the Commonwealth.

**The Council's five strategic recommendations on environmental biosecurity were well-received by the agencies.**

## **Implementing the recommendations**

DPIRD and DBCA will determine how environmental biosecurity policy and delivery will be best addressed for WA. Environmental biosecurity is being considered through DPIRD's capability review and restructure, and the outcomes of these will inform decisions on the potential creation of a dedicated cross-agency entity to drive environmental biosecurity.

At present, the BSOG is the forum for considering cross-agency biosecurity issues. Through BSOG, collaboration across agencies occurs to support national frameworks and processes aimed at incorporating environmental biosecurity across all terrestrial and aquatic land tenures.

With regard to data-sharing systems and arrangements, national data-sharing protocols and arrangements for biosecurity have been agreed to by the National Biosecurity Committee and the Agricultural Senior Officials Committee. There is some data-sharing already occurring between intrastate entities.

The capability review and structural and staffing changes within Government have delayed the preparation of a business case for a contingency fund for environmental biosecurity. It is anticipated that this will be progressed in 2019.

## **Sustaining a biosecurity response**

The Minister for Agriculture and Food requested the Biosecurity 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.

As the first step in its work, the Council contracted Dr Ron Glanville (Biosecurity Advisory Service) to review and identify the essential characteristics of a biosecurity combat agency; the skillsets required to respond to high-level biosecurity incidents; and 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. It was proposed that the attributes identified in the framework are necessary for an agency to sustain an effective high-level response to pest and/or disease incursions. The discussion paper was sent to key industry stakeholders for consideration and comment. The Council is currently in the process of collecting feedback from the stakeholders. This will be completed by the end of October 2018.

Following industry feedback, the Council will revise the framework and discuss this with Government stakeholders before finalising its advice to Government in December 2018.

## **New areas of advice**

The Minister for Agriculture and Food requested the Biosecurity Council investigate two other areas – the effectiveness of border biosecurity activities and how these may be improved to better prevent the introduction of pests and diseases into WA; and the status and opportunities to enhance WA-based biosecurity research and development.

The Council held an initial planning session for these topics at a workshop on 31 May 2018. At that time, the full complement of Council members had not been finalised. Consequently, the planning for these areas of work will be finalised during the 2018/19 financial year.

## **Other activities**

### **Boosting our Biosecurity Defences**

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

The Biosecurity Council is the external Reference Group for the project, providing an external point of reference and advice for the planning and conduct of the project. The Reference Group held two meetings during 2017/18, chaired by the project manager (Rosalie McCauley, DPIRD).



Image 3 – Biosecurity is critical to WA’s terrestrial environments and forestry industries

## Interactions with Government

### *Biosecurity Senior Officers Group*

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:

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

Throughout 2017/18 the Council continued to keep the BSOG informed of their work, including the Council Chair attending the BSOG's September 2017 meeting. 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 State and national levels.

### *Meetings*

The Council resolved to meet regularly with the Minister and the DPIRD Director General and/or Deputy Director General (Sustainability and Biosecurity). This was to ensure they are kept updated on the progress of the Council's work. During 2017/18, the Council Chair met once with the Minister, once with the Director General, and the Deputy Director General attended the Council meetings held during 2018.

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

In January 2018, the Biosecurity Council were invited by DPIRD to provide input to the process for reviewing the BAM Act. The Council made several suggestions and anticipate providing further input once the scope and terms of reference for the review are drafted. To add value to the BAM Act review, the Council identified three areas in which they would work on:

- Biosecurity funding mechanisms
- Part 2, Division 6 of the Act, which refers to the Biosecurity Council and its operations; and
- The differentiation between 'biosecurity' and 'pest management'.

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

- Plant Health Australia's national debrief for the tomato-potato psyllid response in WA
- The 2017 Environmental Biosecurity Roundtable, hosted by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources and the Department of the Environment and Energy (Commonwealth)
- The National Biosecurity Committee's Western Australian Biosecurity Roundtable
- Feedback to the Minister on a proposal to secure a national partnership for biosecurity research and innovation ('SmartBiosecurity')

- Feedback to the Minister on the proposed extension of the Risk-Return Resource Allocation model to all jurisdictions
- The Minister for Agriculture and Food's Wild Dog Forum
- Comment on DPIRD's draft Strategic Intent 2018-21.

### 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 or community events. The Council used the opportunities to highlight the role of the Council, the work being undertaken and, where appropriate, their recommendations on key issues. During 2017/18, these events included:

- Met with Greg Fraser, CEO Plant Health Australia, 30 August 2017
- Attended the Plant Biosecurity CRC Biosecurity Exchange, 6 February 2018
- Presented at the Cattle, Sheep and Goat Industry Biosecurity Consultative Group meeting, 31 May 2018
- Invited to attend a stakeholder forum to determine the category listing of Amazon frogbit, hosted by South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare, 1 June 2018.

### Invasion curve animation

In 2015/16 the Council released a short video explaining the generalised invasion curve and how it can be used to assist in decision-making, with reference to the WA situation. It was anticipated that the video would be a useful tool to engage

industry and community in targeted biosecurity action. The video is available on the [DAFWA YouTube channel](#).

The video continues to be a valued resource, and has been viewed more than 5000 times since its release. It has received international attention resulting in its translation to Spanish and French, and been promoted by various organisations across Australia and the world<sup>1</sup>. The video is being used for training/teaching purposes by DBCA, New Zealand's Department of Environment and Murdoch University.

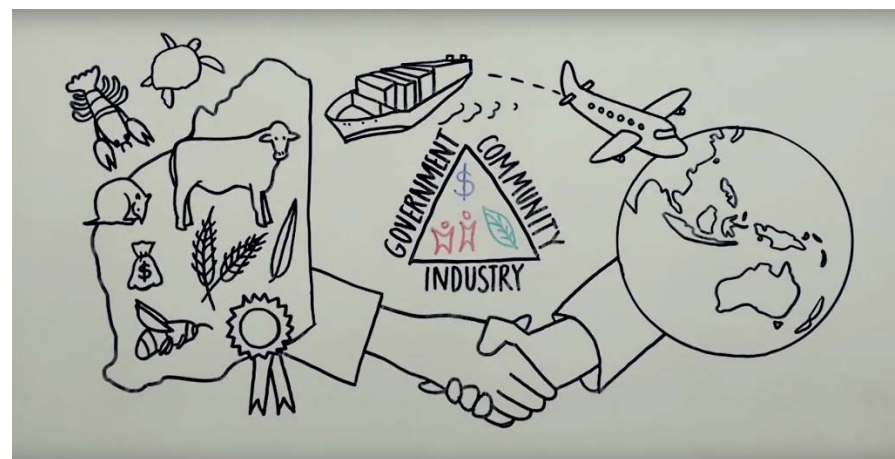


Image 4 – Image from the Council's invasion curve animation

<sup>1</sup> International Plant Protection Convention (Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations), Nature Fiji (Fiji), Oregon Sea Grant (Oregon State University), Inland Fisheries Ireland, University of Florida, Greater Sydney Local Land Services, Biosecurity Tasmania, Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International's Invasive Species Compendium.

## 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.

## Meetings

During the 2017/18 year, the Biosecurity Council formally convened four times (July, September, November and February), held three half-day Council workshops (July, February and May), and had one informal meeting (June). Table 2 documents Council member attendance at meetings.

## The Council is kept aware of changing industry, community and environment needs, and of options for balancing the demands of different industries.

Furthermore, the Council adopts a long-term perspective for biosecurity in WA and gives appropriate consideration to national and international treaties and obligations. To support this, Council meeting agendas include presentations that address key biosecurity activities and issues. Some of these presentations are open to agency staff members to support an environment of knowledge-sharing. Table 3 lists the presentations made to the Council during 2017/18. 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.

Table 2 – Biosecurity Council member attendance at meetings during 2017/18

Name	Formal meetings attended	Workshops attended	Informal meetings attended
Mrs Michelle Allen	3	3	1
Dr David Bowran <sup>1</sup>	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dr Regina Flugge <sup>2</sup>	N/A	1	1
Mr Kevin Goss <sup>3</sup>	4	2	N/A
Mr David Jarvie <sup>3</sup>	4	2	N/A
Mr Barry Large <sup>3</sup>	3	1	N/A
Prof. John Mackenzie <sup>2</sup>	N/A	0	0
Prof. Simon McKirdy	3	3	1
Ms Tina Thorne	4	3	1
Mr Cliff Winfield <sup>4</sup>	4	2	N/A

<sup>1</sup> Cabinet approved appointment on 2 July 2018.

<sup>2</sup> Cabinet approved appointment on 6 March 2018.

<sup>3</sup> Membership term expired 27 February 2018.

<sup>4</sup> Membership term expired 27 February 2018; Cabinet approved reappointment on 2 July 2018.

Table 3 – Presentations to the Biosecurity Council during 2017/18

Date	Title	Name	Organisation
7 July 2017	Commonwealth and State relations – observations from the Queensland white spot disease incident	Len Stephens	Seafood CRC Animal Health Australia
7 July 2017	Update on the Guards and BioMAP	Shashi Sharma	DPIRD
8 September 2017	Biosecurity on Barrow Island	Johann van der Merwe Simon McKirdy	Chevron Australia Murdoch University
8 September 2018	Biosecurity in DPIRD	Ralph Addis	DPIRD
8 September 2018	Forestry biosecurity	Andrew Lyon	Forest Products Commission
10 November 2018	White spot on prawns – WA response	Victoria Aitken	DPIRD
16 February 2018	DPIRD amalgamation update	Heather Brayford	DPIRD
16 February 2018	Biosecurity scorecard	Simon McKirdy	Murdoch University

## Governance

As a Government board, the Biosecurity Council is conscious of the imperative for good governance systems and practices. During 2017/18, 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).

Policies have been developed by the Council to guide members when participating on external bodies and attending non-Council events.

Prior to the changeover in membership, the Council held a workshop to reflect on its operation. This identified areas that worked well and areas for improvement. The information was used to facilitate a smooth transition to the new Council and build/maintain strong member engagement into the future.

## Progress on past Council recommendations to Government

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

### 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 market access negotiations in any future plant biosecurity incursion.

### Implementing the recommendations

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

- An Office of the Chief Plant Biosecurity Officer is being created as part of the department's organisational design process

- Networks with horticultural industries are being built through various mechanisms
- A Plant Pest Surveillance Plan for WA is in development
- Work is being undertaken to provide an integrated system for capturing, storing and analysing surveillance data
- Work to build capacity in core plant biosecurity skills including pathology, epidemiology, policy, and in technical and strategic leadership is being undertaken; and
- An audit of outstanding pest risk assessments and market access matters requested by other jurisdictions has been undertaken, and priority protocols are being progressed.

### 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**

A biosecurity threat assessment tool has been developed by Riskwest in conjunction with representatives of the BSOG and nominated biosecurity personnel. The tool enables consistency in semi-qualitative analysis of biosecurity threats to WA. Use of the tool is a standing agenda item for the BSOG.

Resourcing DPIRD's biosecurity and related functions will be addressed through the capability review. Concurrently, the organisational design of DPIRD is still being developed. These two processes, once completed, will support improved opportunities to attract and retain specialised staff.

### **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**

The structural and staffing changes within DPIRD have resulted in policy development being postponed. An internal discussion paper has been prepared and it is anticipated that the cost-sharing and cost-recovery policy will be progressed in 2018. Biosecurity consultative forums, being delivered by DPIRD, will facilitate industry consultation on this topic.

### **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.



Image 4 – Inspecting cherries for pests and diseases

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

Biosecurity is a key strategic priority for the Government and is highlighted as such in the DPIRD Strategic Intent 2018-21. As previously reported, the Western Australian Biosecurity Strategy 2016-2025 was released in November 2016. The purpose of the strategy is to 'set the overall direction for the management of emerging and ongoing biosecurity issues within WA'.

The area of emergency response capability continues to improve, with training for staff, improved data systems, procedures and tools, and the continued development of internal response plans.

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

DPIRD plans to trial an industry-employed Horticulture Biosecurity Industry Liaison officer, with funding from DPIRD and industry (50:50). This pilot program aims to improve the preparedness of industry for biosecurity response, as well as helping businesses to embed the principles identified in the WA Biosecurity Strategy into their day-to-day business. This work is dependent on agreement from industry to co-fund.

## Cost of Council operations in 2017/18

The direct costs of the Council's operation during the 2017/18 reporting year amounted to \$125 841 (Table 4).

Executive Officer and administrative support (salaries, overheads and operating) was \$74 360. Additionally, DPIRD provided other services to the Council throughout the year, such as accounting and other general support.

**The direct costs of the Council's operation during the 2017/18 reporting year was \$125 841.**

Table 4 – Biosecurity Council of Western Australia expenditure for 2017/18

Description	Total \$
Board fees	100 168
Consultancies	14 509
Travel expenses	7 984
Meeting/workshop expenses	2 849
Teleconferencing	135
Printing/consumables	184
Credit card surcharge	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>125 841</b>

Notes:

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

## Direction for 2018/2019

The Council has four major pieces of work planned for 2018/19:

- Provide advice to Government on how the combined skills and resources of DPIRD can better sustain a high-level biosecurity response whilst retaining the integrity of its other functions – a request for advice from the Minister. The Council will use feedback from industry to inform any amendment to the proposed framework. The amended framework will then be discussed with Government stakeholders before the Council finalises its advice (by 31 December 2018).
- Provide advice to Government on the status and opportunities to enhance biosecurity research and development in WA – a request for advice from the Minister. By 30 September 2018, the Council will develop a work plan that will be implemented during the 2018/19 financial year.
- Provide advice to Government on the effectiveness of border biosecurity activities – a request for advice from the Minister. By 30 September 2018, the Council will develop a work plan that will be implemented during the 2018/19 financial year.
- Provide advice to Government on opportunities for and improvements to biosecurity funding mechanisms. A discussion paper will be prepared by November 2018 to inform Council deliberations and direction.

The Council will also continue to monitor the implementation of the BAM Act and its subsidiary legislation, as the legislated foundation for much of the State's biosecurity system. The anticipated review of the Act will feature heavily on the Council's agenda. The Council expects to provide feedback to the 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* and the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* will be closely monitored.

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 various sectors involved in addressing WA's biosecurity – agriculture, fisheries, environment and forestry.

During 2018/19, the Biosecurity Council will also review its governance procedures, processes and policies, including the Code of Conduct.



## Appendix 1

### 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.

<b>Members</b>	<b>Term</b>
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*

## Appendix 2

### Biographies of current Council members

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

**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.

**Michelle Allen** has a farming background and experience as a grain and livestock producer in the Northern Agricultural Region of Western Australia. She has been involved at local, state and national levels mainly in the fields of biosecurity, natural

resource management and grains research and development. Michelle has 15 years' experience with biosecurity policy and regulation in Western Australia, and served on the Agriculture Protection Board of WA (APB) for 11 years. The APB had statutory responsibility for the control and management of declared plant and animal pests in the State. During that time she chaired a Parliamentary Review of the Wild Dog Control Program of WA. Michelle is an inaugural member of the Biosecurity Council of Western Australia.

**David 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.



**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 is currently Chair of Rangelands NRM - the largest natural resource management region in WA. Regina's career includes substantial experience in the resources industry including 16 years in the Pilbara region. Regina is an experienced Non-Executive director on statutory and not-for-profit Boards and Committees including previous Ministerial appointments to the Conservation and Parks Commission, Conservation Commission of WA, Coastal Planning and Coordination Council, and the Air Quality Coordinating Committee. Regina is a Member and Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management. Regina has a Bachelor of Applied Science; Master of Science; Master of Business Administration; Master of Management; and a Doctorate in Business Administration. In 2014 and 2015 Regina was a WA Finalist in the Telstra Business Women's Awards.

**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.

**Cliff Winfield** is a third generation primary producer and a grower member of several horticulture groups. He held positions across the State in the Department of Agriculture and Department of Parks and Wildlife predecessors, 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. He is Deputy President of Manjimup Shire Council, a board member of the South West Catchments Council, and a member of Warren Donnelly Water Advisory Committee.