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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: FOI Documents Reveal No Procedures or Oversight for WA Farm Inspectors

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Hanyu Liu <helloluna520@gmail.com>  
To: <cos@sbs.com.au>

Wed, 17 Sep at 2:09 am

Dear Editors,

This release provides new evidence from the *Unseen Beings* project (<https://unseenbeings.org>), an independent investigation into the transparency of animal welfare regulation in Western Australia.

### Key Findings (FOI2025-017)

In a formal decision issued on 8 September 2025, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) confirmed it holds **zero documents** for:

- Any Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) or policies governing the conduct of Designated Inspectors, the only officials empowered to inspect industrial farming facilities;
- Any internal risk assessments regarding failures in enforcement data collection;
- Any meeting minutes, advice, or correspondence from the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) concerning oversight of inspectors.

### The Bottom Line

WA's primary animal welfare enforcement program is operating in a "dual vacuum":

- **No rules for inspectors to follow;**
- **No records of what inspections found.**

This absence of procedures and outcomes represents a profound failure of transparency and accountability in an area of high public interest.

### Resources

- Full public archive of FOI documents: <https://unseenbeings.org/resources/>
- Timeline and case summaries: <https://unseenbeings.org>

For further queries, please reply to this email.

Sincerely,  
Hanyu Liu  
*Unseen Beings Project*  
<https://unseenbeings.org>



Hanyu Liu <helloluna520@gmail.com>

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## FOI Evidence for Advocacy: WA Farm Animal Enforcement Exposed as "Paper Theatre"

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Hanyu Liu <helloluna520@gmail.com>  
To: <wa@animaljusticeparty.org>

Wed, 17 Sep at 2:07 am

Dear Colleagues,

This update from the *Unseen Beings* project (<https://unseenbeings.org>) provides FOI-based evidence exposing systemic failures in Western Australia's animal welfare enforcement system.

### Key Findings (FOI2025-017)

DPIRD has confirmed it holds **no documents** for:

- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) or operational guidelines for Designated Inspectors;
- Internal risk assessments or compliance reports on the failure to collect enforcement data;
- Oversight or advice from the statutory advisory body, the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC).

### The Bottom Line

The state's primary enforcement mechanism for farmed animals has **no rules and no records**. It is effectively a "*paper theatre*"—a system designed not to see.

### Resources for Advocacy

- Complete public archive: <https://unseenbeings.org/resources/>
- Timeline and action log: <https://unseenbeings.org/action-log/>

NGOs are welcome to cite or adapt this material in their advocacy and campaigns. Please feel free to use these documents in your work or contact me directly for clarifications.

Sincerely,  
Hanyu Liu  
*Unseen Beings Project*  
<https://unseenbeings.org>



Hanyu Liu <helloluna520@gmail.com>

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## Accountability Failure in Resource Allocation for DPIRD's Animal Welfare Program

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Hanyu Liu <helloluna520@gmail.com>  
To: <lcefoc@parliament.wa.gov.au>

Wed, 17 Sep at 1:25 am

Dear Chair and Members of the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations,

I write to bring to the Committee's attention evidence raising significant concerns about the use of public funds within the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), specifically in relation to its animal welfare enforcement program.

Through Freedom of Information processes, DPIRD has formally confirmed (FOI2025-017) that it holds no:

- Operational policies (SOPs) to guide the efficient deployment of inspectors and resources;
- Risk assessments to manage the financial or legal liabilities arising from regulatory failure;
- Performance or outcome records, as separately established in FOI2025-008 (currently before the OIC).

Public funds are therefore being allocated to a program that has no documented procedures, no risk management framework, and no performance data. In these circumstances it is not possible to demonstrate that resources are being used efficiently, effectively, or in line with statutory purpose.

This absence of financial accountability undermines Parliament's ability to exercise oversight of program expenditure and assess value for money.

All relevant evidentiary documents are publicly archived at: <https://unseenbeings.org>.

I respectfully urge the Committee to give consideration to this evidence in order to safeguard the integrity of public resource allocation.

Yours sincerely,

Hanyu Liu

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## Identification of Critical Audit and Risk Management Gaps in DPIRD's Animal Welfare Enforcement

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Hanyu Liu <helloluna520@gmail.com>  
To: <auditcte@parliament.wa.gov.au>

Wed, 17 Sep at 1:23 am

Dear Chair and Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Audit,

I write to bring to the Committee's attention evidence of significant audit and risk management gaps in the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's (DPIRD) administration of animal welfare enforcement.

Through Freedom of Information processes (FOI2025-017), DPIRD has confirmed in writing that it holds no:

- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) against which inspector performance could be audited;
- Internal risk assessments, audits, or compliance reports concerning deficiencies in enforcement data;
- Documented oversight or advice from its statutory advisory body, the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC).

This absence of a basic governance framework means the Designated Inspector program—Western Australia's primary enforcement mechanism for industrial animal agriculture—lacks any auditable foundation. Its effectiveness, efficiency, and compliance with statutory duties cannot be independently verified.

This raises serious concerns not only for the Department's internal controls but also for Parliament's ability to receive reliable assurance on the program's integrity and use of public resources.

All relevant evidentiary documents are permanently archived for public review at: <https://unseenbeings.org>.

I trust this information will be of assistance to the Committee in fulfilling its role of overseeing public sector accountability and audit readiness.

Yours sincerely,

Hanyu Liu

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**Severe Lack of Transparency and Public Accountability in WA Animal Welfare Regulation**

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Hanyu Liu <helloluna520@gmail.com>  
To: <env@parliament.wa.gov.au>

Wed, 17 Sep at 1:20 am

Dear Chair and Members of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs,

I wish to draw the Committee's attention to a matter of significant public concern regarding the transparency and accountability of animal welfare regulation in Western Australia.

Through Freedom of Information processes, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) has formally confirmed (FOI2025-017) that it holds no:

- Operational policies or procedures for its Designated Inspectors;
- Internal risk management or audits concerning failures in enforcement data collection;
- Formal oversight or advice from the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) regarding this program.

This comprehensive absence of records effectively renders the state's primary animal welfare enforcement mechanism for industrial farming invisible to public and parliamentary scrutiny. It represents a profound failure of accountability in a policy area of high community importance.

All referenced documents are publicly archived for review at: <https://unseenbeings.org>.

I respectfully urge the Committee to consider this evidence in its important role of overseeing matters of public interest and community confidence. Without transparency and governance in this area, both the welfare of animals and public trust in regulation are at serious risk.

Yours sincerely,

Hanyu Liu

# Evidence of Systemic Governance and Accountability Failures at DPIRD

Good afternoon Hanyu

Thank you for your email.

The matters you have raised have been noted in our intelligence database, where they may help inform future performance audits. Performance audits assess the efficiency and effectiveness of entity activities, services and programs. These audits can identify instances of waste, legislative non-compliance, examples of good practice and make practical recommendations for improvement.

We receive a substantial number of audit suggestions, more than we are resourced for. As such not every individual suggestion will result in immediate or specific audit activity. Our works focuses on identifying and addressing systemic issues across the public sector.

However, the information is very useful to monitor trends to identify systemic areas of concern or entities that may require additional audit scrutiny.

The decision on the performance audits we undertake is at the Auditor General's discretion when balancing priorities for audit across the State and local government sector.

Regards

Natasha Farrell

Stakeholder Liaison | Corporate Services

Office of the Auditor General for Western Australia

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**From:** Hanyu Liu <[helloluna520@gmail.com](mailto:helloluna520@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, 17 September 2025 1:11 AM

**To:** Office of the Auditor General <[info@audit.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@audit.wa.gov.au)>

**Subject:** For the Attention of the Auditor General – Evidence of Systemic Governance and Accountability Failures at DPIRD

Dear Auditor General,

I am writing to place on the public record evidence obtained through multiple Freedom of Information applications which indicates severe and systemic failures in the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development's (DPIRD) administration of animal welfare regulation.

## Key Findings from FOI Applications

- **FOI2025-008 / Internal Review:** DPIRD first denied, then later admitted the existence of individual inspection outcome reports, but refused disclosure. This created a vacuum in **enforcement outcome records**.
- **FOI2025-017 (8 September 2025):** After a two-week extension, DPIRD issued a decision confirming it holds no:
  - Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) or formal guidelines for its Designated Inspectors;
  - Internal risk assessments, audits, or management briefings concerning its acknowledged failure to collect enforcement data;
  - Oversight records from the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC).

Together these decisions suggest the DI program is operating in a “dual vacuum”—without documented **procedures** and without recorded **outcomes**. This points not only to regulatory failure but also to a systemic absence of administrative and governance controls.

## Relevance to the Auditor General

This matter goes beyond transparency. It raises direct questions about:

- Whether public resources allocated to the DI program are being administered in accordance with statutory duties;
- Whether DPIRD has adequate internal controls, risk management, and performance oversight mechanisms;
- Whether Parliament has been properly informed of the absence of any governance or audit trail in this program.

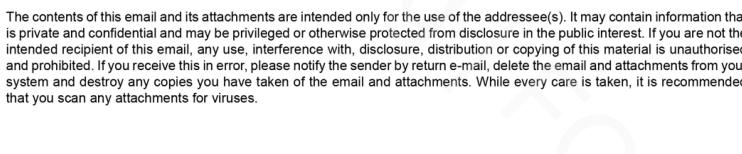
## Public Archive

All referenced documents are available for independent review at: <https://unseenbeings.org>.

I respectfully submit this evidence for the Auditor General's consideration, noting its direct relevance to the Office's statutory role in safeguarding financial accountability and public administration integrity.

Yours sincerely,

Hanyu Liu



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