



**Minister for Agriculture and Food; Fisheries; Forestry;
Small Business; Mid West**

Our ref: 82-06395

Ms Hanyu Liu
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

By email: hellloluna520@gmail.com

Dear Ms Liu

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPLICATION 82-06395

I refer to your application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1992 (WA)* (**FOI Act**) to my Ministerial Office on 18 November 2025, in which you seek access to Ministerial records relating to AWAC oversight and the Designated Inspector Program.

I have today made a decision to grant full access to copies of three documents and refuse access to four documents falling within the scope of your application.

The reasons for this decision are stated in the **attached** Notice of Decision.

If you are not satisfied with this decision, you have a right to apply for an external review. Details of the review process are set out in the Notice of Decision.

Yours sincerely

HON JACKIE JARVIS MLC
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Attached: Notice of Decision

27 FEB 2026

**Notice of Decision
Under Section 30
Freedom of Information Act 1992 (WA)**

Applicant: Ms Hanyu Liu

Decision Maker: Hon Jackie Jarvis MLC
Minister for Agriculture and Food; Fisheries; Forestry; Small Business; Mid West.

Decision: For the reasons set out below, I have decided to grant full access to copies of three documents and refuse access to four documents falling within the scope of your application.

I have refused access to information that, if disclosed, would reveal the deliberations or decisions of an Executive body.¹

Scope of Application

1. On 18 November 2025, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet's Freedom of Information Unit (**FOI Unit**) received your application under the *Freedom of Information Act 1992 (WA)* (**FOI Act**) in which you seek access to Ministerial records relating to AWAC oversight and the Designated Inspector Program. You specifically requested:

1. **Ministerial Briefings — DI Program Performance and Data Gaps**

Access is sought to any documents prepared for or provided to the Minister or ministerial staff by DPIRD or any government agency, including (but not limited to) briefing notes, memoranda, submissions, Estimates briefing packs, or correspondence, from 1 January 2023 to present, concerning:

- *operational performance of the Designated Inspector (DI) program under the Animal Welfare Act 2002 (WA),*
- *including inspection numbers, enforcement actions, compliance outcomes, or effectiveness assessments;*
- *any data collection gaps or record-keeping deficiencies concerning DI activities; and*
- *any requests from the Minister's Office to DPIRD for performance data, inspection statistics, or compliance reports regarding the DI program.*

2. **Ministerial Briefings — DI Governance and Compliance Framework**

Access is sought to any documents prepared for or provided to the Minister or ministerial staff by DPIRD or any government agency, including (but not limited to) briefing notes, memoranda, submissions, Estimates briefing packs, or correspondence, from 1 January 2023 to present, concerning:

¹ Clause 1(1) of Schedule 1 to the FOI Act.

- *the establishment or implementation of governance documents for the Designated Inspector program (e.g. Standard Operating Procedures, training standards, risk-assessment frameworks, or quality-assurance processes);*
- *any acknowledgement by DPIRD of deficiencies or gaps in governance frameworks; and*
- *any ministerial directions, requests, or expectations regarding the development or adoption of such frameworks.*

3. **AWAC Annual Reports and Compliance with Terms of Reference**

Access is sought to:

- **any AWAC annual reports prepared for or provided to the Minister or ministerial staff**, as required under clause 5.1 of AWAC's Terms of Reference (February 2022 – present); and
- **if no such reports exist, any correspondence, briefing notes, minutes, or internal memoranda prepared for or provided to the Minister or ministerial staff by AWAC, DPIRD, or any government agency** explaining their absence, deferral, or non-submission.

4. **AWAC Advice Concerning the Designated Inspector Program**

Access is sought to any documents **prepared for or provided to the Minister or ministerial staff by AWAC, DPIRD, or any government agency**, including (but not limited to) written advice, recommendations, minutes, memoranda, or correspondence (February 2022 – present), concerning:

- *the establishment, implementation, or operational performance of the DI program;*
- *governance, data-management, training, or accountability issues; and*
- *any requests from AWAC to DPIRD for information, data, or briefings about DI operations or outcomes.*

2. The timeframe for your request is 1 February 2024 to 18 November 2025, being the date on which the Department received your application.
3. On the Application form, you consented to all personal information of third parties and Western Australian state and local government officers being deleted from the requested documents (**Application**).

Additional Charges

4. No additional charges have been levied for processing your Application.²

Facts

5. The FOI Unit is responsible for assisting with the processing of FOI applications made to Western Australian Ministerial Offices.

² Section 16 of the FOI Act.

6. On 21 November 2025, my Ministerial Office sent you an email acknowledging the receipt of your Application and the associated application fee.
7. On 26 November 2025, the FOI Unit requested that relevant staff within my Ministerial Office undertake searches for any documents that may fall within the scope of your application.
8. Relevant staff within my Ministerial Office were instructed to search hardcopy files, computer files, Surface Pro devices, Mobile phone messages, Microsoft Teams and Outlook accounts, and any electronic records on the Ministerial Office record keeping database (OpenText Content Manager) for any documents they held that may fall within your Application, using the following search criteria keyword:
 - 6.1. "Animal Welfare Advisory Committee"
 - 6.2. "Designated Inspector"
9. As a result of the searches described above, documents potentially falling within the scope of the Application were identified and provided to FOI Unit.
10. An examination of the FOI file reveals that a thorough search has been undertaken by the Ministerial Office for any documentation falling within the scope of your Application.
11. No further documents falling within the scope of your Application could be identified within my Ministerial Office.
12. The FOI Unit requested two extensions of time to process your application, and you agreed, thereby making the revised due date 27 February 2026.

Findings on Questions of Fact

13. I have decided to grant edited access to copies of three documents falling within the scope of the Application, being Documents 2, 3 and 4.
14. Information falling outside the scope of your Application has been removed from documents.
17. I have decided to refuse access, in full, to four documents falling within the scope of your Application, being Documents 1, 1a, 1b and 1c. On the basis that their disclosure would reveal the deliberations or decisions of an Executive body.³
18. The documents are identified in the **attached** Document Schedule.

Cabinet and Executive Council

19. An Executive body is defined in Clause 1(6) to mean Cabinet, a committee of Cabinet, a subcommittee of a committee of Cabinet or the Executive Council.
20. The exemptions found in Clause 1 aim to protect the confidentiality of Cabinet discussions and of consultations between Ministers, in order to maintain Cabinet solidarity and collective responsibility.⁴

³ Clause 1(1) of Schedule 1 to the FOI Act.

⁴ Environmental Defender's Office WA (Inc) and Ministry for Planning [1999] WAICmr 35 at [9].

21. The exemption applies to all deliberations or decisions of an Executive Body irrespective of whether they also fall within one of the specific categories set out in paragraphs (a) to (f).⁵
22. The Cabinet and Executive Council exemption is not subject to a public interest test.
23. A copy of Clause 1 of Schedule 1 to the *FOI Act* is **attached** for your information.
24. I have reviewed Documents 1, 1a, 1b, and 1c, and I consider the following:
 - 24.1. Document 1 is a Briefing Note prepared by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.
 - 24.2. Documents 1a, 1b, and 1c, comprise a Summary of additional drafting instructions, a Draft Version of the Amendment Bill 2024 and Drafting Instructions - Amendments to the Animal Welfare Act 2002.
25. I am of the opinion that these documents contain information which was prepared to brief a Minister in relation to matters prepared for possible submission to an Executive Body (Cabinet).⁶

Limits on Exemption

26. I have considered whether the limit on exemption at clause 1(2) applies to the document.
27. Clause 1(2) states: "*Matter that is merely factual, statistical, or technical is not exempt matter under subclause (1) unless –*
 - (a) *Its disclosure would reveal any deliberation or decision of an Executive body; and*
 - (b) *The fact of that deliberation or decision has not been officially published.*"
28. I am satisfied that the information contained in the documents are not merely factual, statistical, scientific or technical. Therefore, the limit on exemption in clause 1(2) has no application.
29. I have considered the limitations at clause 1(3) and (4) and am satisfied that the matter in question did come into existence after the commencement of section 10. However, a time period of 10 years or 15 years has not lapsed since its existence. Therefore, these limits on exemption are not applicable.
30. I have considered the limitation at clause 1(5), which states: "*Matter is not exempt by reason of the fact that it was submitted to an Executive Body for its consideration or is proposed to be submitted if it was not brought into existence for the purpose of submission for consideration by the Executive body.*" I am satisfied that the matters submitted, or proposed to be submitted, to an Executive body for consideration were brought into existence for the purpose of submission to an Executive body. Hence, this limitation does not apply.

⁵ P.7017 of Hansard vol.302 (1992), the former Minister for Justice in charge of the FOI Bill 1992

⁶ Clause 1(1)(d)(i) of Schedule 1 to the FOI Act

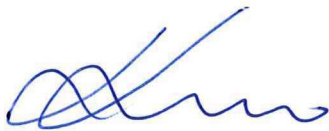
31. I have therefore decided to refuse access, in full, to Documents 1, 1a, 1b, and 1c, in accordance with the Cabinet and Executive Council exemption.⁷

Right of Review

32. If you would like to appeal this decision, please note that you have the right to lodge a complaint with the Western Australian Information Commissioner seeking external review. You are required to lodge your complaint with the Office of the Information Commissioner within 60 days of being given written notice of this decision.
33. A complaint to the Information Commissioner must:
- 33.1. Be in writing.
 - 33.2. Have attached to it a copy of this decision.
 - 33.3. Give an address in Australia.
34. There is no charge for lodging a complaint with the Information Commissioner.
35. The address is:
Office of the Information Commissioner
469 Wellington Street
PERTH WA 6000
36. Should you have any further queries or require any further information about your review rights at this stage, you may contact the Office of the Information Commissioner on (08) 6551 7888.

Feedback on Service

37. If you wish to provide any comments or feedback on the service provided by my Ministerial Office in relation to your Freedom of Information Application, please visit; [Hon Jackie Jarvis MLC | Western Australian Government](#) or contact the office, by telephone on (08) 6552 6200 or via email to Minister.Jarvis@dpc.wa.gov.au



HON JACKIE JARVIS MLC
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD; FISHERIES; FORESTRY; SMALL
BUSINESS; MID WEST

27 FEB 2026

Attachments:

- Clause 1 of Schedule 1 to the FOI Act;
- Document Schedule; and
- Documents for release under the FOI Act.

⁷ Clause 1(1) of Schedule 1 to the FOI Act.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 1992 (WA)

Schedule 1 – Exempt Matter

1. Cabinet and Executive Council, deliberations etc. of

- (1) Matter is exempt matter if its disclosure would reveal the deliberations or decisions of an Executive body, and, without limiting that general description, matter is exempt matter if it —
 - (a) is an agenda, minute or other record of the deliberations or decisions of an Executive body; or
 - (b) contains policy options or recommendations prepared for possible submission to an Executive body; or
 - (c) is a communication between Ministers on matters relating to the making of a Government decision or the formulation of a Government policy where the decision is of a kind generally made by an Executive body or the policy is of a kind generally endorsed by an Executive body; or
 - (d) was prepared to brief a Minister in relation to matters —
 - (i) prepared for possible submission to an Executive body; or
 - (ii) the subject of consultation among Ministers relating to the making of a Government decision of a kind generally made by an Executive body or the formulation of a Government policy of a kind generally endorsed by an Executive body;

or

 - (e) is a draft of a proposed enactment; or
 - (f) is an extract from or a copy of, or of part of, matter referred to in any of paragraphs (a) to (e).
- (2) Matter that is merely factual, statistical, scientific or technical is not exempt matter under subclause (1) unless —
 - (a) its disclosure would reveal any deliberation or decision of an Executive body; and
 - (b) the fact of that deliberation or decision has not been officially published.
- (3) Matter is not exempt matter under subclause (1) if it, or, in the case of matter referred to in subclause (1)(f), the original matter, came into existence before the commencement of section 10 and at least 15 years have elapsed since it or the original matter (as the case may be) came into existence.
- (4) Matter is not exempt matter under subclause (1) if it, or, in the case of matter referred to in subclause (1)(f), the original matter, came into existence after the commencement of section 10 and at least 10 years have elapsed since it or the original matter (as the case may be) came into existence.
- (5) Matter is not exempt by reason of the fact that it was submitted to an Executive body for its consideration or is proposed to be submitted if it was not brought into existence for the purpose of submission for consideration by the Executive body.

- (6) In this clause **Executive body** means —
- (a) Cabinet; or
 - (b) a committee of Cabinet; or
 - (c) a subcommittee of a committee of Cabinet; or
 - (d) Executive Council.

[Clause 1 amended: No. 57 of 1997 s. 62(3); No. 19 of 2010 s. 59.]



Applicant:

Ms Hanyu Liu

Decision Maker:

Hon Jackie Jarvis MLC
Minister for Agriculture and Food; Fisheries; Forestry; Small Business; and Mid West

Decision:

For the reasons set out below, I have decided to grant full access to copies of three documents and refuse access to four documents, as outlined in the below schedule.

DOC NO	DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DECISION	EXEMPTIONS APPLIED	REASONS FOR DECISION
1	23 September 2024	Briefing Note from Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to the Minister for Agriculture and Food	Access Denied	Clause 1(1)	Access is refused on the basis that the document would reveal deliberations or decisions of an Executive body.
1a	Attachment	Animal Welfare Amendment Bill: Summary of additional drafting instructions	Access Denied	Clause 1(1)	Access is refused on the basis that the document would reveal deliberations or decisions of an Executive body.
1b	Attachment	Draft Version: Animal Welfare Amendment Bill 2024	Access Denied	Clause 1(1)	Access is refused on the basis that the document would reveal deliberations or decisions of an Executive body.
1c	Attachment	Drafting Instructions - Amendments to the Animal Welfare Act 2002	Access Denied	Clause 1(1)	Access is refused on the basis that the document would reveal deliberations or decisions of an Executive body.
2	Not dated	Training requirements for general inspectors appointed under the Animal Welfare Act 2002	Full Access	No Exemption	Access is provided on the basis the document falls within the scope of the application. The document has been edited to remove information outside of the scope of the Application.

DOC NO	DATE	DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION	DECISION	EXEMPTIONS APPLIED	REASONS FOR DECISION
3	23 October 2023	Animal Welfare Advisory Committee 2023 Annual Report	Full Access	No Exemption	Access is provided on the basis the document falls within the scope of the application. The document has been edited to remove information outside of the scope of the Application.
4	21 October 2022	Animal Welfare Advisory Committee of Western Australia 2022 Annual Report	Full Access	No Exemption	Access is provided on the basis the document falls within the scope of the application. The document has been edited to remove information outside of the scope of the Application.

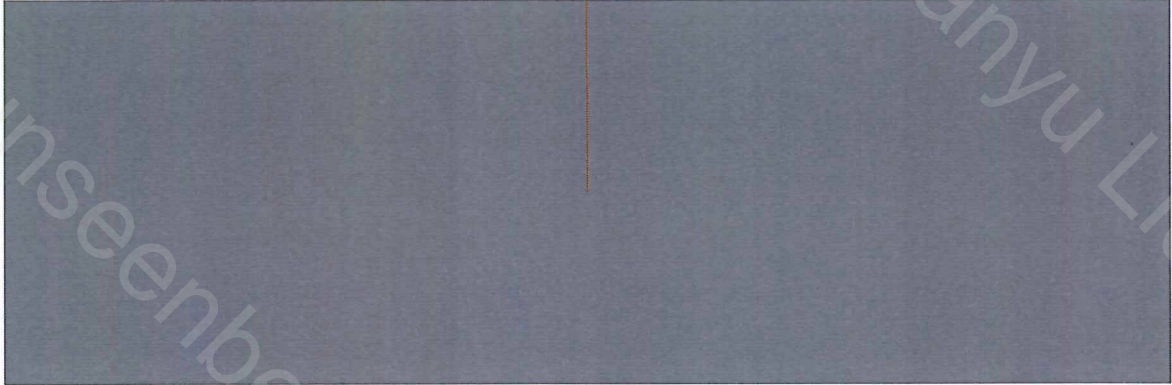
Training requirements for general inspectors appointed under the *Animal Welfare Act 2002*

Report by the
Animal Welfare Advisory Committee of Western Australia



Contents

Contents **Outside of Ambit** 1



2.2.3 Designated inspectors under the Animal Welfare and Trespass Legislation
Amendment Act 2023 11



Outside of Ambit

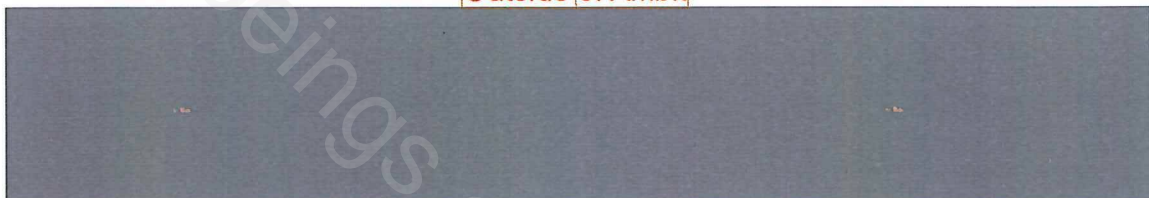
Outside of Ambit



2.2.3 Designated inspectors under the Animal Welfare and Trespass Legislation Amendment Act 2023

The *Animal Welfare and Trespass Legislation Amendment Act 2023* came into operation in April 2023. This Act amends the AW Act, the *Criminal Code Compilation Act 1913* and the *Restraining Orders Act 1997*. This legislation creates a new category of inspectors, being designated inspectors who will have the power to enter abattoirs, knackereries and places that an inspector believes, on reasonable grounds, to be an intensive food production place for

Outside of Ambit



the purpose of monitoring compliance with animal welfare requirements³¹. It allows the CEO of DPIRD to appoint general inspectors employed by DPIRD as 'designated inspectors'.

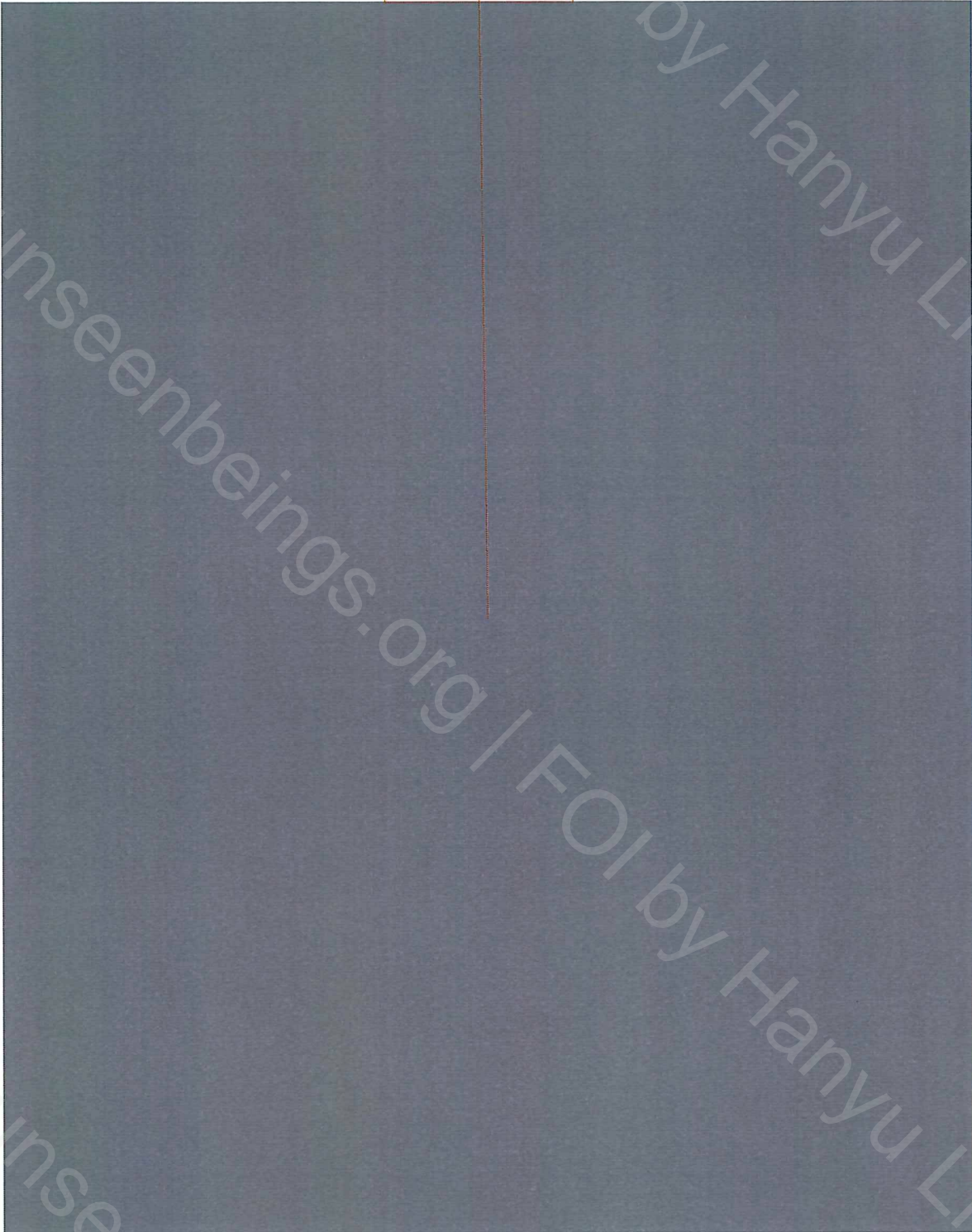
The Committee is aware that DPIRD is implementing specific training for designated inspectors. Although this category of inspectors is not in the scope of the Committee's report, the Committee notes that the skills and training requirements referred to in this report should equally apply to this new category of inspectors, and expects that the recommendations it makes throughout this report will also apply.

Outside of Ambit



³¹ *Animal Welfare and Trespass Legislation Amendment Act 2023 (WA)*.

Outside of Ambit



Animal Welfare and Trespass Legislation Amendment Act 2023 (WA)

AWAC 2023 Annual report



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2023 Annual Report

Date presented to the Minister: 23 October 2023

Contact details

Animal Welfare Advisory Committee
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
1 Nash Street, Perth WA 6000
<https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/AWAC>
Contact email: animal.welfare@dpird.wa.gov.au

AWAC 2023 Annual report

To: The Hon Jackie Jarvis MLC
Minister for Agriculture and Food

This annual report is presented to the Minister in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee of Western Australia.

Submitted on behalf of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee by

Outside of Ambit

Outside of Ambit

Outside of Ambit

Date: 12 October 2023

Signature:

AWAC 2023 Annual report

Outside of Ambit

Contents

foreword..... 4

Overview..... 5

 Organisational structure 5

 Membership..... 6

 Executive support..... 6

 Conflicts of interest..... 6

Committee activities in 2022/23 7

 Use of guardian animals to protect livestock..... 7

 Use of contraceptives for the control of large feral herbivore populations 7

 Training of animal welfare inspectors 8

 Upcoming workplan 8

 Member-initiated matters..... 8

 Meetings..... 9

 Attendance..... 9

 Engagement 9

 Upcoming meetings 9

Financial performance..... 10

 Costs of committee operations 10

AWAC 2023 Annual report

Outside of Ambit

foreword

On behalf of the Western Australian Animal Advisory Committee, I am pleased to present its second annual report to the Western Australia Minister for Agriculture and Food. This report covers the work undertaken by the committee between November 2022 and October 2023. It has been a busy year for the committee.

The committee's work program during this year consisted of investigating three matters relating to animal welfare. One of these matters is still under consideration by the committee.

In November 2022, AWAC submitted its advice on use of guardian animals to protect sheep flocks. Information was obtained from leading WA farmers and the scientific literature to enable the committee members to reach a view on the value of this technique for WA farmers.

In late 2022, we continued discussions with stakeholders to better understand training requirements for general inspectors appointed under the *Animal Welfare Act 2002*. Understanding the broad functions of general inspectors, and the different roles that each organisation that hosts general inspectors plays, was an important step in determining how to standardise training and address specialised training needs for industry and welfare associated with companion animals. It was also critical for AWAC to appreciate the operational environment of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and RSPCA WA, both delivering services in this difficult and challenging area of animal welfare. The committee has made several recommendations to help improve the effectiveness of general inspectors undertaking education and enforcement duties.

In 2023, AWAC finalised its advice on use of contraceptives for the control of large feral herbivores. During 2023, AWAC heard from a number of academics at the forefront of research on immunocontraceptive vaccines and their feasibility in applying those in field-based situation. While there have been major advancements over recent years, there remains significant challenges in addressing species specificity and improving efficacy of delivery techniques.

AWAC has worked with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) in considering these matters. The collaboration between the AWAC and DPIRD is beneficial to the advancement of animal welfare in Western Australia. I would like to thank the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development for its support during the year, in particular the Animal Welfare Policy group.

Outside of Ambit

AWAC 2023 Annual report

Outside of Ambit

Overview

The current Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) membership was established in February 2022 as an expert-based group to advise the Minister for Agriculture and Food. The Minister is responsible for the administration of the *Animal Welfare Act 2002*.

At the Committee's inception in 2022,

Outside of Ambit

From 14 December 2022, the Hon Jackie Jarvis MLC was appointed as the Minister for Agriculture and Food.

The function of AWAC is defined by section 2 of its Terms of Reference:

2. Function

2.1 *The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) will advise the Minister, when requested to do so or on its own initiative, in relation to:*

- *animal welfare policy, legislation or legislative proposals that affect animals welfare;*
- *animal welfare codes of practice, standards and guidelines, including arrangements for implementation;*
- *community education and other programs to improve public awareness about animal welfare;*
- *the development and implementation of standards relevant to training and competency assessment of appointed inspectors under the Act; and*
- *animal welfare research.*

2.2 *The AWAC will report to the Minister on any animal welfare related matter in relation to which the Minister seeks advice.*

2.3 *AWAC has an advisory function only. It does not have a decision-making role in relation to the administration of animal welfare regulation or related programs.*

Organisational structure

AWAC consists of six members, including the Chair.

Together, the members' expertise aims to cover the following animal welfare-related areas:

- Animal science, animal welfare science or veterinary medicine
- Legislation and public policy relevant to animal welfare
- Bioethics
- The management of livestock, display or companion animals
- The management of wild animals, including native species
- The use of animals for scientific purposes
- Community education and awareness relevant to animal welfare.

Remuneration for the members of AWAC is provided in accordance with *Premier's Circular 2021/18: State Government Boards and Committees*. In addition, reimbursement for travel expenses is provided in accordance with *Public Sector Commissioner's Circular 2009-20, Reimbursement of Travel Expenses for Members of Government Boards and Committees*.

AWAC 2023 Annual report

Outside of Ambit

Membership

AWAC consists of [redacted] and five members:

- [redacted]
 - [redacted]
 - [redacted]
 - [redacted]
 - [redacted]
 - [redacted]
- Outside of Ambit
and

The five members were appointed for a two-year term in February 2022 until 2024. In February 2023, [redacted] Outside of Ambit

Executive support

An [redacted] is provided by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) to assist with the administration of AWAC.

Outside of Ambit

Conflicts of interest

Each member has completed declarations of conflicts of interest. [redacted] Outside of Ambit maintains a conflict-of-interest register which is updated, when necessary, at each meeting.

To October 2023, no declared conflicts of interest have impeded any discussions held by the committee.

AWAC 2023 Annual report

Committee activities in 2022/23

AWAC held six meetings between November 2022 and October 2023.

During these meetings, AWAC considered the following matters:

- use of guardian animals to protect livestock;
- use of contraceptives for the control of large feral herbivore populations (horses, donkeys and camels); and
- training of animal welfare inspectors

In order to investigate the matters listed above, AWAC received briefings from DPIRD and undertook further research.

Below is a summary of the work undertaken by AWAC in relation to each of the matters it has worked on this year.

Outside of Ambit

Use of guardian animals to protect livestock

█ of AWAC undertook research on this matter through discussions with livestock representative bodies and literature search. █ reported back to the Committee on 4 October 2022 with a draft report.

The draft report was considered by AWAC on 4 October 2022, and subsequent amendments were made following committee discussions.

The report was further considered by AWAC and ratified at the meeting on 22 November 2022. The report was submitted to the Minister on 6 December 2022.

Use of contraceptives for the control of large feral herbivore populations

The committee's consideration of the use of contraceptives for the control of large feral herbivores began at its meeting on 10 May 2022.

Since then, AWAC has further considered the matter at each of its meetings. Members reviewed welfare issues associated with the use of contraception for the control of large feral herbivores, the latest scientific evidence on available immunocontraceptive vaccines, the feasibility of using the method in Western Australia, and information received from DPIRD on large feral herbivore control.

Outside of Ambit

AWAC invited academics engaged in research on immunocontraceptive vaccines to address the committee in the first half of 2023. █ addressed the committee at its meeting on 28 February 2023. Two further eminent researchers addressed the committee at its meeting on 23 May 2023.

The report was considered by the AWAC and ratified at the meeting on 5 October. The report was submitted to the Minister on 12 October 2023.

AWAC 2023 Annual report

Training of animal welfare inspectors

The Committee's consideration of the training of inspectors began at its meeting on 10 May 2022.

Since then, AWAC has further considered the matter at each of its meetings. The matter has dominated the committee's agenda for the majority of 2023.

Since November 2022, the committee has considered the information provided by DPIRD and RSPCA WA and sought further information where necessary. The committee also sought information from relevant stakeholders, including some industry organisations and the local government authorities with appointed general inspectors.

The committee anticipates its investigation of this matter to be finalised by the end of 2023.

Upcoming workplan

The current Minister for Agriculture and Food, the Hon Jackie Jarvis MLC, addressed the AWAC at its meeting on 28 February 2023. At this meeting, the Minister outlined her expectations for the Committee for the year, and specifically, tasked the AWAC with:

- providing comments on the draft Animal Welfare (Cattle) Regulations and the draft Animal Welfare (Sheep) Regulations, including DPIRD's proposed consultation process; and
- providing comments on the draft Bill to amend the *Animal Welfare Act 2002*.

The Minister noted that the drafts are to be provided to the committee at the discretion of DPIRD. The Minister also noted that due to competing priorities, a Bill may not be introduced into Parliament until 2024, after a public consultation period.

To date, the committee has received briefings from DPIRD providing background to these matters.

The committee looks forward to further considering the draft legislation once it is available. It is expected to dominate the committee's agenda in the coming months.

Member-initiated matters

Under AWAC's Terms of Reference, committee members had the possibility of initiating matters to bring to the attention of the Minister. In February 2023, this was changed so that the committee is to only to work on issues directed by the Minister.

AWAC 2023 Annual report

Financial performance

The AWAC has no funds of its own. Remuneration of AWAC members is reported in DPIRD's Annual Report.

The costs associated with the administration of the AWAC are met from within existing DPIRD resources.

Remuneration for the members of the AWAC is provided in accordance with *Premier's Circular 2021/18: State Government Boards and Committees*. In addition, reimbursement for travel expenses is provided in accordance with *Public Sector Commissioner's Circular 2009-20, Reimbursement of Travel Expenses for Members of Government Boards and Committees*.

Costs of committee operations

The direct costs of the committee's operation between October 2022 and October 2023 amounted to \$32,382.56. The table below provides a breakdown of the associated costs. Costs of executive, accounting, administrative and other general support are not included.

Description	Cost (\$)
Board member fees	\$21,882.00
Travel expenses (flights and accommodation)	\$7,590.15
Meeting/workshop expenses*	\$2,910.41
Total	\$32,382.56

*Meeting/workshop expenses includes costs associated with local transportation to and from the meeting (e.g. taxi fares, mileage, parking fees)



GOVERNMENT OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ANIMAL WELFARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

2022 Annual Report

Date presented to the Minister: 21 October 2022

Outside of Ambit
Contact details

[REDACTED]
Animal Welfare Advisory Committee
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
1 Nash Street, Perth WA 6000
<https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/AWAC>

[REDACTED]
Outside of Ambit

To: Outside of Ambit
Minister for Agriculture and Food

This annual report is presented to the Minister in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee of Western Australia.

Submitted on behalf of the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee of Western Australia by Outside of Ambit

Date: 21 October 2022

Signature: Outside of Ambit

Outside of Ambit

Contents

foreword	4
Overview	5
Function	5
Organisational structure	5
Minister	5
Executive Support	6
Conflicts of Interest	6
Performance	7
At a glance	7
Performance summary	7
Standards and Guidelines for the Health and Welfare of Horses in Western Australia	7
Use of guardian animals to protect livestock	7
Use of contraceptives for the control of large feral herbivore populations	8
Compliance and training of inspectors	8
Members initiated matters	8
Meetings	9
Attendance	9
External meetings	9
Planning for the upcoming year	10
Financial performance	11

Outside of Ambit

foreword

Animal welfare is important in Western Australia. Whether they are companion, farmed or wild animals, the community increasingly expects high welfare standards to be followed and abided by.

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee of Western Australia (AWAC) is proud to be able to provide independent advice to the Minister in order to advance animal welfare in Western Australia.

The AWAC was established in February 2022 and held its first meeting on 30 March 2022. The AWAC's membership is diverse, and in our work, it has become apparent that each member brings a different suite of valuable skills and experience to each meeting.

From an administrative point of view, members completed the Public Sector Commission's Accountable and Ethical Decision-Making training during their first meeting, and a Code of Conduct specific to the AWAC was developed and ratified by all members.

Strong protocols have been established to ensure efficient work by the AWAC, with valued assistance from the Committee's Executive Officer.

The AWAC's work program for 2022 was set at our initial meeting, with four main matters relating to animal welfare. Significant progress has been made with all of these, and two have been finalised. Two of these matters are still being considered by the AWAC. Updates on the AWAC's work program are presented on pages 7 and 8 of this report.

I have been pleased with the strong support for the AWAC by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) in considering these matters. The collaboration between the AWAC and DPIRD is likely to be beneficial to the advancement of animal welfare in Western Australia.

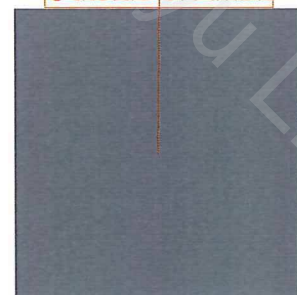
The AWAC is pleased to present its first annual report to the Western Australian Minister for Agriculture and Food. I would be happy to answer any queries and provide further details if necessary.

Outside of Ambit



Animal Welfare Advisory Committee of Western Australia

Outside of Ambit



Overview

Function

The function of the AWAC is defined by section 2 of its Terms of Reference.

2. Function

2.1 The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) will advise the Minister, when requested to do so or on its own initiative, in relation to:

- animal welfare policy, legislation or legislative proposals that affect animal welfare;
- animal welfare codes of practice, standards and guidelines, including arrangements for implementation;
- community education and other programs to improve public awareness about animal welfare;
- the development and implementation of standards relevant to training and competency assessment of appointed inspectors under the Act; and
- animal welfare research.

2.2 The AWAC will report to the Minister on any animal welfare related matter in relation to which the Minister seeks advice.

2.3 AWAC has an advisory function only. It does not have a decision-making role in relation to the administration of animal welfare regulation or related programs.

Organisational structure

The AWAC's structure is defined by section 3 of its Terms of Reference.

The AWAC consists of 6 members, including [redacted] Outside of Ambit

Together, the members' expertise cover all of the following animal welfare-related areas:

- Animal science, animal welfare science or veterinary medicine
- Legislation and public policy relevant to animal welfare
- Bioethics
- The management of livestock, display or companion animals
- The management of wild animals, including native species
- The use of animals for scientific purposes
- Community education and awareness relevant to animal welfare.

[redacted] the AWAC was appointed in February 2022 [redacted] The five members of the AWAC were appointed in February 2022 for a term of two years.

Minister

Outside of Ambit

Outside of Ambit

The AWAC operates under the portfolio of the [redacted]

Outside of Ambit

Outside of Ambit

Outside of Ambit

Executive Support

[REDACTED] is provided by the Animal Welfare Policy unit of DPIRD to assist with the administration of the AWAC.

Conflicts of Interest

Each member has completed declarations of conflicts of interest. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] maintains a conflict-of-interest register which is updated when necessary.

To October 2022, no declared conflicts of interest have impeded any discussions held by the Committee.

Outside of Ambit

Performance

At a glance

The AWAC held four meetings between March and October 2022.

During these meetings, the AWAC considered the following matters:

- Standards and Guidelines for the Health and Welfare of Horses in Western Australia;
- Training of animal welfare inspectors;
- Use of contraceptives for the control of large feral herbivore populations (horses, donkeys and camels);
- Use of guardian animals to protect livestock.

These matters were referred to the AWAC for its consideration by the Minister on 29 March 2022.

Performance summary

In order to investigate the matters listed above, the AWAC has received briefings from DPIRD and undertaken further research.

Below is a summary of the work undertaken by the AWAC in relation to each of the matters it has worked on this year.

Standards and Guidelines for the Health and Welfare of Horses in Western Australia

AWAC received a copy of the draft Standards and Guidelines for the Health and Welfare of Horses in Western Australia, along with additional information including a briefing note. A briefing from DPIRD was also provided on 10 May.

AWAC considered the document and requested further information from DPIRD on a number of matters. That information was received and considered at the following meeting, on 13 July. Additional information researched by members was also considered.

During its meeting on 4 October, AWAC finalised its comments on the draft document. The final comments were ratified out of session and submitted to the Minister on 21 October 2022, with a copy also sent to DPIRD.

Use of guardian animals to protect livestock

█ of the AWAC undertook research on this matter by discussing with livestock representative bodies and literature search. █ reported back to the Committee on 4 October with a draft report. Outside of Ambit

The report was considered by the AWAC as a whole on 4 October. Following discussions during the meeting, it was agreed the report would be updated and ratified out of session to be submitted to the Minister before the AWAC's November 2022 meeting.

Outside of Ambit

Use of contraceptives for the control of large feral herbivore populations

AWAC received a briefing note and a briefing from DPIRD on this matter on 10 May.

AWAC considered the matter further at its meeting on 13 July and resolved that more research was required.

Enquiries for further information were sent to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), as well as to the Federal Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).

Two Committee members were also tasked with researching this matter into more detail.

The AWAC considered the response it received from APVMA at its October meeting but did not find it useful. No response from DAFF was received.

Reports by the members were also inconclusive.

The AWAC decided it would invite a reproduction scientist to address the Committee at its November meeting to further discuss the use of contraceptive vaccines to control large feral animals.

The Committee anticipates its investigation of this matter to be finalised in the first half of 2023.

Training of animal welfare inspectors

AWAC received high level information on compliance and training of inspectors at its 30 March and 10 May meetings.

AWAC received a copy of the draft tiered training package developed by DPIRD on 19 July.

AWAC considered the draft package at its meeting on 4 October and agreed it would consult further with DPIRD and with RSPCA as to their current training methods and requirements. AWAC also started developing a list of industry stakeholders to consult on this matter.

AWAC estimates this matter to dominate its agenda in the first half of 2023 at least.

Members initiated matters

Over its four meetings, members of the AWAC have also had the possibility of bringing matters to the attention of the Committee for its consideration.

The AWAC has developed a clear process for addressing these matters:

1. A Member brings a matter to the Committee's attention during a meeting.
2. At a following meeting, the Member submits a formal proposal to the Committee which includes a summary of why the matter is worth considering, how it complies with the Committee's terms of reference and a suggested framework for investigation.

Outside of Ambit

3. The proposal is considered by the Committee and a decision is made as to whether the matter will be further investigated.
4. If the Committee decides to take on a member-initiated matter, [REDACTED] writes to the Minister to seek approval before undertaking any further research.

It is the AWAC's policy that matters referred to it by the Minister always take priority over member-initiated matters.

To October 2022, three main matters were brought to the attention of the Committee. A summary of their status is below:

- Review of the *Animal Welfare (Transport, Saleyards and Depots) (Cattle and Sheep) Regulations 2020*: The matter was brought to the attention of the Committee at its first meeting. No formal proposal has since been received. The matter is therefore currently inactive.
- Oversight of knackeries: The matter was brought to the attention of the Committee at its first meeting. The Committee considered the new category of inspector the *Animal Welfare and Trespass Legislation Amendment Bill 2021* would create and how this would relate to knackeries. The Committee decided to keep itself updated on the progress of the *Animal Welfare and Trespass Legislation Amendment Bill 2021*.
- Welfare issues relating to the killing of animals at home: The matter was brought to the attention of the Committee at its first meeting. A formal proposal was considered at the Committee's third meeting in July. An aspect of the proposal concerned the development of a website to provide education material to the public on animal welfare. The Committee decided to wait and see what the roll out of the amended Act would deliver.

Meetings

Attendance

The table below presents each member's attendance to AWAC meetings.

Member	Number of meetings eligible to attend	Number of meetings attended
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

* The member attended the first and fourth meeting for half a day only, due to other commitments.

Outside of Ambit

External meetings

Outside of Ambit

- In April, the AWAC received an invitation to meet with the [REDACTED] of animal welfare at Harvest Road Group to discuss the Group's current work

Outside of Ambit

Outside of Ambit

Outside of Ambit

program. The AWAC advised Harvest Road that it would meet with stakeholders as part of its own work program. The invitation is still standing.

Outside of Ambit

Outside of Ambit

- [redacted] of the AWAC attended the WA Farmers Livestock Council Meeting on Friday 3 June 2022. At the meeting, [redacted] heard the views of the Council members and provided a brief overview of the work the AWAC is currently focusing on. Outside of Ambit

Outside of Ambit

Outside of Ambit

- [redacted] and [redacted] met with [redacted] of the Western Australian Farmers Federation, [redacted] on 3 October 2022 at his farm in Pingelly. Amongst other relevant matters, [redacted] and [redacted] discussed the use of guardian animals in this region of WA. [redacted] and [redacted] also enquired about [redacted] view on the control of large feral animals.

Outside of Ambit

Outside of Ambit

- The Australian Alliance for Animals invited the AWAC to attend its animal welfare stakeholder forum on 24 October. The AWAC considered this invitation and is planning on sending a member to attend, in an observer capacity only; subject to Ministerial approval. Outside of Ambit

Planning for the upcoming year

The AWAC has one further meeting planned for 2022.

In addition, at its meeting on 4 October, the AWAC planned 3 meetings for the first half of 2023. The AWAC will plan meetings for the second half of 2023 at its meeting on 22 November 2022.

Financial performance

The AWAC has no funds of its own. Remuneration of AWAC members is reported in DPIRD's Annual Report.

The costs associated with the administration of the AWAC are met from within existing DPIRD resources.

Remuneration for the members of the AWAC is provided in accordance with *Premier's Circular 2021/18: State Government Boards and Committees*. In addition, reimbursement for travel expenses is provided in accordance with the Public Sector's guidelines for the payment of Government Board and Committee members.