



Landcare Checks In - Monday 31 August 2020 at 2.00 – 3.00 pm

Discussion Topic: Let's Talk Biosecurity

- What is the role of the WA Biosecurity Council?
- What consultation processes are proposed on biosecurity.
- What conversations would biosecurity groups and other landcare groups like on the topic

View the recording here <http://www.landcarewa.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Landcare-Checks-In-Recording-31-August-2020.mp4>



Discussion Notes

Biosecurity Council of Western Australia - Rebecca Heath, Executive Officer

- Ministerial appointed Council.
- Sole purpose is to provide advice to the Minister for Agriculture and Food and the Director General of DPIRD although they can provide advice to other relevant Ministers.
- Broad agenda – Agricultural, Environmental, Fisheries
- Provides strategic advice and doesn't focus at an operational level unless the Minister asks them to.
- Current focus on the effectiveness of the WA biosecurity system, how it can be improved and how better collaboration can be achieved.

- 8 members Council with a range of backgrounds agricultural, farmers, livestock research and NRM.
- Current challenges for biosecurity in WA – biosecurity funding through the RGBs and the declared pest rates, border biosecurity, - quarantine check points, goods and products testing for pest and disease and the effectiveness and efficiency of these processes.
- Looking to start some work on biosecurity perceptions – how does the everyday West Australian perceive biosecurity, what do people see as their role in pest and disease management in WA.
- Also looking at the quadruple bottom line of biosecurity – Metrics around the value of biosecurity in WA – economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits.
- 6 months ago the Council completed a piece of research and development work focusing on how WA could get a better share of funding and how WA research and development could get a platform nationally.
- Current work on biosecurity funding mechanisms - Early in 2020 a discussion paper was prepared with nine issues identified including what is the strategic intent of a declared rate approach, issues around implementation of the pest rate, operational issues of RGBs and their sustainability. Recommended to the Minister an independent review of the RGB and declared pest rate approach and also a review of the return on investment to the State. Timeframe – draft by end of year to feed into the BAM Act Review

View the video to hear from various landcare groups about what they are doing in the biosecurity space.

Environmental Biosecurity in Western Australia by the Biosecurity Council of Western Australia

<https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/sites/gateway/files/Environmental%20biosecurity%20-%20Biosecurity%20Council%20report.pdf>