



Department of  
**Primary Industries and  
Regional Development**

File Ref. A5665904

Dear Stakeholder

## **WILDLIFE ANIMAL ETHICS COMMITTEE – APPLICATION PROCESS**

As you are aware, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) has established the Wildlife Animal Ethics Committee (WAEC) and we are now seeking applications from environmental researchers who will be working with animals.

Prior to applying for WAEC approval you will need to obtain a [Scientific Use Licence \(SUL\)](#) from the [Scientific Licencing Unit](#) at DPIRD.

As part of this process, you will be asked to nominate an AEC. To nominate the WAEC as the AEC, you are required to sign an agreement with the WAEC, which outlines the agreed requirements of the parties.

Once a SUL has been obtained, AEC applications will need to be made on the [WAEC New Project Approval form](#) available on the [DPIRD website](#). Also available on the website is a [Personnel Competency form](#) which will need to be completed by the Chief Investigator and all the animal handlers mentioned in the application. Other WAEC forms, such as adverse event reports, amendments to approved applications and annual reports, will be added to the website in due course. **Only applications on DPIRD Wildlife AEC forms will be accepted, and a copy of your institutions or individuals Scientific Use Licence must be attached.**

For the first meeting of the WAEC on Thursday 19 May 2022, AEC approval application forms need to be submitted to the Executive Officer at [wildlifeaec@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:wildlifeaec@dpird.wa.gov.au) by **5pm Wednesday 4 May 2022** to allow the AEC members adequate time for review of your project(s) before the meeting.

**Late applications will not be accepted.** A second WAEC meeting is planned for Thursday 7 July 2022 and the closing date for these applications will be 5pm 22 June 2022. Depending on demand, another meeting may be scheduled between these meetings.

The WAEC's assessment of new applications (and any future amendments) will be based on the 3 R's – Reduction, Replacement, and Refinement as required under the *Australian Code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes*.

Following this, the WAEC will make one of three decisions:

- 1) approved with or without minor conditions or amendments,
- 2) conditional approval whereby conditions or amendments must be made to the application, returned to the EO, and if satisfied the Chair can approve the application,
- 3) rejected, whereby the application can be amended taking into account the AEC's concerns and resubmitted as a new application.

You will be notified of the WAEC's decision in writing as soon as possible after the decision has been made, usually within 24 hours.

As this will be a new experience for many of you, please be aware that the Executive Officer and I are willing to assist in the preparation of your AEC applications if required. If you require this assistance, please contact Ms Joanne Smith at [wildlifeaec@dpird.wa.gov.au](mailto:wildlifeaec@dpird.wa.gov.au)

I look forward to working with you all for better animal welfare outcomes in WA.

Yours sincerely



Keith Morris  
**Chair**  
**Wildlife Animal Ethics Committee**  
6 April 2022