6th August 2021

The Hon Roger Cook MLA

Deputy Premier

Minister for Health; Medical Research; State Development, Jobs and Trade; Science

Minister.Cook@dpc.wa.gov.au

Level 13, Dumas House

2 Havelock St

WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Deputy Premier

**Proposed Closure of the Animal Resource Centre**

I am writing to you *<as an individual/on behalf of insert facility/institute/University>* to express concern over the recent announcement that the Western Australian Government has decided to close the Animal Resource Centre (ARC) based at Murdoch University. Whilst based in WA, ARC supports a number of research institutes and Universities across the country.

The ARC is an outstanding world-class facility, staffed by highly skilled individuals with a wealth of knowledge in the management and operation of an animal breeding facility. *The <insert facility/institute/university> have been utilising the services of ARC for <XX> years including the <purchase of animals, advice on breeding strategies and facility management and XXX>.*

*Our research output is heavily dependent on these services as can be verified by the following publications/impact/successes…*

The timing of this closure seems unfathomable, in the midst of an international pandemic that has brought countries across the globe to their knees. Biomedical research and the discoveries made in the very animals that are produced by facilities such as the ARC, will be the guiding light to improved human health.

We directly challenge any suggestion by animal rights advocates that the closure is a positive outcome for animal welfare. The use of animals in research is critical and whilst we all look forward to a time where replacement of animals is a suitable alternative, this is not yet the case in a vast majority of research disciplines.

Decentralisation of services such as ARC, which could see individual research institutes and Universities pick up breeding their own lines of animals and self-manage animal production on a small scale, will result in increased wastage of animals and poor quality research outcomes. Reproducibility of research relies on genetic stability and close management of animal colonies that in turn deliver high quality research outcomes.

The closure of the ARC will have a long lasting and damaging impact on our research output both in terms of quality and timing. The ARC is so critical to our success as a nation, that international colleagues have commented on the devastating impact this will have on Australia’s standing and ability to publish high impact research.

We understand that the decision to close ARC is based on financial concerns over the viability of the business model and aging infrastructure. Whilst we don’t underestimate the costs of running a world class animal facility, we believe there is opportunity to develop a sustainable business model into the future which underpins biomedical research in Australia.

If you believe in *<insert facility/Institute/University>* and indeed any research institution in Australia, continuing to contribute high impact research outcomes for our nation, we implore you to engage in this conversation and seek an extension of the ARC closure to ensure considered decision-making into the future.

We thank you for taking time to consider this critical issue. Please contact us if you need any further information.

Yours sincerely,