

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 work 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

T: (08) 6557 7500 | W: audit.wa.gov.au



From: Hanyu Liu <helloworld520@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 17 September 2025 1:11 AM
To: Office of the Auditor General <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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