



10 November 2014

Mr David Miles AM  
Review Leader  
Cooperative Research Centres Programme Review

Dear Mr Miles,

**WILDLIFE HEALTH AUSTRALIA SUBMISSION: STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION -  
COOPERATIVE RESEARCH CENTRES PROGRAMME REVIEW**

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Wildlife Health Australia (WHA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Cooperative Research Centres (CRC) Programme Review. We would like to express our interest in being involved in the review process.

WHA supports the continuation of the CRC Programme, however we recommend changes to overcome some of the challenges associated with the current programme.

Benefits of the CRC Programme

The programme provides one of the few mechanisms to coordinate research at a national scale, to provide tailor-made solutions to the major issues facing the nation.

Recommended changes for the CRC Programme

There are challenges with the current CRC programme that, in our opinion, are significant barriers to the programme functioning well and as intended:

1. The CRC programme is significantly underfunded.
2. The selection process is too onerous and expensive, resulting in significant outlay for bids that may not succeed.

We would like to be part of the process of this review, and would be happy to discuss this submission with you further should you feel it would assist the process.

Best Wishes,

Rupert Woods PhD  
CEO, Wildlife Health Australia

**ATTACHED:** [About Wildlife Health Australia](#)

## ABOUT WILDLIFE HEALTH AUSTRALIA

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Wildlife Health Australia (WHA) is the peak body for wildlife health in Australia and operates nationally. The head office is located in Sydney, NSW.

WHA activities focus on the increasing risk of emergency and emerging diseases that can spill over from wild animals and impact on Australia's trade, human health, biodiversity and tourism. We provide a framework that allows Australia to better identify, assess, articulate and manage these risks. We provide the framework for Australia's general wildlife health surveillance system.

Our mission is to develop strong partnerships in order to better manage the adverse effects of wildlife diseases on Australia's animal health industries, human health, biodiversity, trade and tourism.

WHA directly supports the Animal Health Committee (AHC), Animal Health Australia (AHA), the Animal Health Policy Branch and the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (OCVO) within the Australian Government Department of Agriculture (DoA) and Australian governments in their efforts to better prepare and protect Australia against the adverse effects of wildlife diseases. It provides priorities in wildlife disease work, administers Australia's general wildlife disease surveillance system as well as facilitating and coordinating targeted projects. Wildlife health intelligence collected through the National Wildlife Health Information System (eWHIS: [www.wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au](http://www.wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au)) administered by WHA is provided to members of AHC and the Australian Government DoA, and Departments of Health (DoH) and Environment (DoE), on issues of potential national interest, potential emerging issues and significant disease outbreaks in wildlife. The information is provided in line with the agreed policy for data security.

WHA is administered under corporate governance principles. A management group, chaired by an appointment from DoA provides strategic direction and advice to a small team, which oversees the running of WHA. It is important to note that WHA involves almost every agency or organisation (both government and NGO) that has a stake or interest in animal and wildlife health issues in Australia. In addition WHA also comprises more than 600 wildlife health professionals and others from around Australia and the rest of the world who have an interest in diseases with feral animals or wildlife as part of their ecology that may impact on Australia's trade, human health and biodiversity.

More information on WHA is available at: [www.wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au](http://www.wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au)