



Media contact: Natasha Farrell

Mobile: 0427 953 993

Email: [natasha.farrell@audit.wa.gov.au](mailto:natasha.farrell@audit.wa.gov.au)

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## Gaps remain in government's management of plant and animal pests

The Auditor General's report [Managing the Impact of Plant and Animal Pests: Follow-up](#) has tabled in Parliament today.

The report assessed whether the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) and the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) effectively addressed findings from the [Auditor General's 2013 report on pest management](#).

Auditor General Ms Caroline Spencer said it was disappointing to find entities had not addressed all of our 2013 audit findings however, they had made progress on 5 of the 8 recommendations.

'WA contributes nearly one fifth of the nation's agricultural production by dollar value and is recognised internationally for its biodiversity including being home to around 3,000 plant species found nowhere else in the world.

'It is vital that entities work together to effectively manage pests to protect WA's natural heritage and agricultural viability,' Ms Spencer said.

The audit found entities have established a framework for collaborating on pest management and released a Statewide plan that defines stakeholders' roles and responsibilities; however, the plan has not been fully implemented or evaluated.

In addition, information on the spread, abundance and impact of high priority pests is still not comprehensive or shared among stakeholders.

Ms Spencer said DPIRD and DBCA need to enhance the completeness, accuracy and sharing of their pest data in order to achieve a more collaborative and effective approach to pest management.

Today's report also includes recommendations for improvements to emergency pest response planning, the process to declare pests and reporting from recognised biosecurity groups.

### Report resources

- [PDF version](#)
- [summary video](#)