

Summary

In addition to presenting a summary of details required to meet statutory reporting requirements, this report records that:

As with other research activity at UOW, much animal-based research was unable to commence due to movement restrictions imposed under COVID control measures. This included both field work and studies in the University animal facilities.

An independent external review of the Animal Ethics processes, animal facilities and Animal Ethics Committee was undertaken in accordance with Section 6 of the Code. The review was conducted by a panel from Macquarie University whose report includes 5 commendations and 5 recommendations.

UOW continues to contribute to the successful rehoming of research animals.

Negative findings from a project were included in a publication in a high impact journal to reduce the chance of unnecessary repetition of animal-based procedures.

Approximately half the projects underway or completed in 2021 were in environmental or wildlife research. There were no projects directed towards the production of biological products, diagnostic procedures or regulatory product testing.

A substantial majority (96%) of projects underway or completed in 2021 involved observation or minimally invasive procedures.

The UOW AEC enjoys the benefit of specialists in philosophy and statistics among its regular membership – a feature that is uncommon among AECs. The independence of the AEC is strengthened by the fact that on average, two thirds of the membership is external to the institution.

This report has been approved by the full AEC following review at its meeting on 24th February 2022.

The AEC approved the summary is to be made publicly available as recommended by the regulatory Code¹.

¹ Ref Code clause 2.1.10[i]. ¹ Ref Code clause 2.1.10[i].

¹ Ref Code clause 2.3.1.

¹ Ref Code clauses 2.2.37 and 2.3.28–29. <https://nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/australian-code-care-and-use-animals-scientific-purposes>

