

Summary

This report includes summaries of information that UOW is required to submit to the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) as the body for the regulation of animal research. Some additional information is also included for the information of interested parties at UOW.

Key points for noting include:

- As with the previous year, the largest proportion of projects underway or concluding in 2022 were in environmental research; there were no studies directed towards production of biological products, diagnostic procedures or regulatory product testing.
- While a substantial majority of projects (93%) in 2022 were minimally invasive, the remaining 7% met the DPI criteria for ‘high impact’ in terms of animal welfare. This was a slight increase compared to the number of high impact projects in the previous year.
- As has been the case for several years, the AEC neither received nor approved applications to conduct projects involving ‘death as an endpoint’ as defined in the DPI procedure categories.
- UOW continues to demonstrate a progressive position in relation to industry trends and initiatives such as rehoming of animals, use of inanimate training materials, funding for procedures to reduce the need to use animals for research purposes, and public openness in its animal research activities. Refinements to reduce the animal welfare impact of invasive procedures and in vitro testing of hypotheses before moving to in vivo animal trials are also well-established at UOW.
- Staff involved in the welfare of animals used in research at UOW received significant recognition during 2022. These included Ms Carlee Mottley who was the recipient of an industry-wide award and was the first animal technician appointed to the NHMRC Animal Welfare Committee, and Dr Sarah Toole who represented UOW at the NSW parliamentary inquiry into animal research and at a government taskforce established in response to the black summer bushfire crisis.
- The UOW AEC continues to benefit from the participation of specialists in philosophy and statistics – a feature that is uncommon among AECs. The independence of the AEC is strengthened by the fact that on average, nearly two thirds of the members participating in each meeting during 2022 were external to the institution.

This report was approved by the full AEC following review at its meeting on 30 March 2023.

The AEC approved that this summary should 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>

