

## Exercise APOLLO factsheet

### Emergency preparedness – a DAFWA priority

The Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (DAFWA) places a high priority on biosecurity emergency preparedness and response to safeguard the State's agricultural industries.

The State's biosecurity reputation is crucial to maintaining and building on access to valuable markets and to grow exports.

Australia and Western Australia have a world-class biosecurity system, which is continually challenged at, and within, our borders.

In the event of an animal or plant biosecurity emergency, time is critical. Early detection and rapid action, such as containment through quarantine and movement controls, is often the most effective way of containing pest and disease outbreaks.

It is vital to regularly assess our State and national effectiveness and our ability to respond to these challenges.

### About Exercise APOLLO

As part of DAFWA's commitment to building capacity in emergency response and recovery in Western Australia, DAFWA is organising and hosting Exercise APOLLO, between 17 and 19 May 2016 in Bunbury.

Exercise APOLLO is a national emergency response exercise based on a simulated livestock disease outbreak, and builds on the work undertaken as part of Exercise ODYSSEUS – the National Livestock Standstill exercise in 2014.

Exercise APOLLO will enhance DAFWA's capability, capacity and preparedness, together with industry, to respond to an emergency animal disease outbreak.



Industry and Federal, State and local governments will have the opportunity to participate in Exercise APOLLO.

Exercises such as this are invaluable for capacity-building, enabling participants to work through procedures and systems in a simulated 'live' situation and to practice and enhance capabilities for a real time emergency response.

The objectives of Exercise APOLLO are:

- Provide participating DAFWA staff, including recently trained staff, with the opportunity to practise emergency response roles and functions and be assessed in a simulated emergency incident response.
- Evaluate MAX (DAFWA's new emergency response business system platform) and its operability with other relevant DAFWA systems in a simulated operational emergency environment.
- Develop, assess and evaluate the practicality of a disposal plan for large scale livestock destruction in the South West region of WA, including associated resource and operational plans.
- Engage with, practise, integrate and enhance the awareness of stakeholders including the Rapid Response Team, local government, other agencies and industry in relation to their roles during a simulated WA emergency incident response.

A steering group and planning team are in place for Exercise APOLLO, including representatives from DAFWA, Animal Health Australia and the Federal Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

The exercise will simulate the development of a State Control Centre and a Local Control Centre and involve approximately 150 people from local, State and Federal governments, and industry.

The exercise is made possible by Royalties for Regions through DAFWA's Boosting Biosecurity Defences (BBD) project ([agric.wa.gov.au/invasive-species/boosting-biosecurity-defences-royalties-regions](http://agric.wa.gov.au/invasive-species/boosting-biosecurity-defences-royalties-regions)).

### Training commitment

Exercise APOLLO will support DAFWA's extensive training program to equip key staff with the necessary skills to be 'mission ready' to respond effectively to an emergency.

More than 100 DAFWA staff are undergoing accredited emergency management training towards either a Certificate III in Public Safety (Biosecurity Response Operation) or Diploma in Public Safety (Biosecurity Response Management). The training has been funded by the BBD project.

Exercise APOLLO will provide an opportunity for some of these staff to practice their new skillset in a realistic setting.

Exercise preparations will also include the identification of industry representatives to participate in Industry Liaison Officer training, which will be conducted by Animal Health Australia as a lead up activity.

Industry liaison officers play a key role in biosecurity response activities.

For more information on emergency response, visit DAFWA's Emergency Response website pages ([agric.wa.gov.au/biosecurity-quarantine/emergency-response](http://agric.wa.gov.au/biosecurity-quarantine/emergency-response)).

### Key contact

Shane Bryant, Exercise Manager  
+61 (0)8 9780 6281  
[shane.bryant@agric.wa.gov.au](mailto:shane.bryant@agric.wa.gov.au)



Matt Ryan (DAFWA Esperance), WAFarmers President Dale Park and Biosecurity and Regulation Executive Director Kevin Chennell during Exercise ODYSSEUS.



Lyn Cameron (DAFWA) taking part in the Incident Management Training.