



Department of
**Primary Industries and
Regional Development**

Enquiries: Noel Wilson

Vernon Lawrence
Chief Executive Officer
Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley
20 Coolibah Drive,
PO BOX 614
Kununurra WA 6743

Date: 20 November 2023

Dear Vernon,

Re: Funding request to allocate funds from SWEK Biosecurity Reserve to review and update the Ord Biosecurity Plan.

There are varied and unique biosecurity threats for the Ord River Irrigation Area (ORIA) area due to the proximity to southeast Asia, the Northern Territory, and a mixture of broadacre grains, cotton, hay/fodder crops, horticultural crops, sandalwood, and livestock grazing.

There has been recognition of the needs for biosecurity planning in the past with the creation of OrdGuard, a biosecurity plan for the ORIA, by DAFWA in the early 2000's.

With the increasing and ongoing threats and growth and expansion of agriculture in the area there is renewed interest in generating an overarching biosecurity plan for the ORIA focusing on plant pests and diseases that threaten plant production industries.

An Ord Biosecurity Committee was formed in late 2022 with support provided by DPIRD, Kununurra.

The Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley councillors established a biosecurity reserve to assist the region to maintain a competitive advantage in relation to area freedom status of certain pests and diseases.

The purpose of the reserve is to hold funds for use in emergency situations that threaten the biosecurity of the East Kimberley.

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Maintaining a comprehensive and up to date Biosecurity Plan will identify potential risks and possible mitigation actions that will support any action to be taken.

The previous biosecurity plan for the Ord, OrdGuard, was released in 2005. This plan requires review and updating to reflect the 2024 expectations and protocols which provide impact and capability.

The Ord Biosecurity Committee would like to request the allocation of \$15,000 from the SWEK Biosecurity Reserve for the purpose of reviewing and updating the Ord Biosecurity Plan.

This will allow for the development of an updated Ord Biosecurity plan, development of an action plan, clearly defined tasks and responsibilities for the group and others involved in the development of the plan and an outline a plan for an annual review of the plan to ensure it is relevant to industry.

Please let me know if you require any further information in relation to this request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Noel Wilson', is displayed on a light yellow rectangular background.

Noel Wilson
Manager
Industry and Economic Development
Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development