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# Australian Pork

## NEWSPAPER

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Vol 30. No. 4 April 2026 Australian Pork Newspaper PO Box 162 Wynnum 4178 Phone 0450 672 553 Email ben@collins.media



Fuel costs are rising sharply, with increases of 25 to 66 percent.

## Fuel supply pressures

FUEL access is already tightening, with many experiencing effective rationing through capped volumes, reduced access via retailers or outright regional shortages.

Costs are also rising sharply, with increases of 25 to 66 percent in fuel and transport expenses flowing through the supply chain.

For many of our industries there is little if any ability to pass these increased costs on.

The impacts are being felt more acutely in highly time-sensitive production systems, where disruptions to fuel supply will directly impact animal welfare, harvest windows, processing continuity and food availability.

We are also starting to see risks emerge around other essential inputs such as urea and closely monitoring stock levels of other related inputs, ranging from pallets to packaging.

Producers are having to make difficult decisions now, reducing activity, reconsidering inputs and adjusting operational plans based on the expectation of further disruption.

These decisions will have compounding effects in the months and years ahead.

Following the recent National Cabinet Meeting, the Prime Minister announced the appointment of Anthea Harris as the National Fuel Coordinator, and the establishment of a national fuel supply taskforce to drive coordination between the Commonwealth, state and territory governments on matters of fuel supply.

### What AgriFutures is doing

As a research and development corporation, AgriFutures Australia is not an advocacy body.

Our role is to convene industries, build evidence base and support informed decision-making.

We are already working to quantify impacts, model scenarios and feed your insights directly into the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the National Coordination Mechanism, which is an Australian Government forum to facilitate crisis management and coordination among Federal, State and Territory governments and the private sector.

We want to acknowledge the incredible effort of our industries in the face of these challenges.

Continue reaching out to your peak industry bodies and farmers' organisations who are actively engaged in advocacy around fuel shortages and related issues.

We are here to support you.

If you have significant updates, insights or suggestions to share, email info@agrifutures.com.au

**AgriFutures Australia**

## Australian agriculture needs fair trade not free trade

I RECENTLY attended the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences Outlook 2026 conference, including the launch of the Council of Rural Research and Development Corporations Collective Research and Innovation Outcomes report for 2025.

It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the achievements of Australian agriculture across all our sectors, and to recognise the strengths of the RDC model, which continues to drive productivity, sustainability and innovation across our industries.

While at ABARES Outlook I also participated in a panel 'Debate: Guarding our patch or growing without borders? The future of Australian agriculture', which was an opportunity to reflect further on the outstanding contribution Australian farmers make to our country, including food security, innovation and the broader economy.

Our farmers are among the most productive, sustainable and bio-secure in the world.

They are also among



by MARGO ANDRAE  
CEO



the least subsidised.

Australian agriculture operates with some of the lowest levels of government support in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The combined economic contribution of the Australian agricultural sectors is tipped to reach \$101.4 billion this financial year.

This is something to celebrate.

But imagine how much they could achieve if they were granted a genuine level playing field.

The Australian pork industry contributes \$6.9 billion to the national economy and supports more than 36,000 jobs.

These statistics show our sector is thriving, but we are capable of achieving more if given the chance.

There is clear growth potential for our industry if we back local production.

Replacing imports

with domestic supply could lift employment to over 43,000 jobs and increase gross domestic product to \$8.4 billion.

Our farmers already operate under some of the world's highest standards and are continuing to lift them through research and innovation.

The industry is progressing the first national standards and guidelines for pig welfare, ensuring the industry can continue to deliver science-backed methods to ensure the health and wellbeing of our animals.

Australian pork producers are also delivering real measurable on-farm improvements for environmental sustainability.

Over four decades the pork industry has cut fossil fuel use by 58 percent and water use by 80 percent.

Australian agriculture produces food with up to 42 percent

lower emissions intensity than peer nations, but local producers still carry the cost of higher standards while competing against imports produced under different settings.

In March, SunPork Group announced a partnership with LMS Energy to develop Australia's first renewable gas facility that will convert piggyery effluent into renewable energy for South Australia.

Despite these achievements, producers find themselves competing against imports produced under vastly different regulatory, environmental and labour conditions.

That isn't a level playing field.

At the same time, complex approvals, reporting and compliance processes often delay or deter local investment, even as demand for high quality Australian food continues to grow.

These systems should support producers, not stand in the way of their ability to grow, innovate and feed the nation.

Importantly, Australian agriculture is not turning away from trade.

Our sector has always been outward

continued P2



**Big Dutchman**

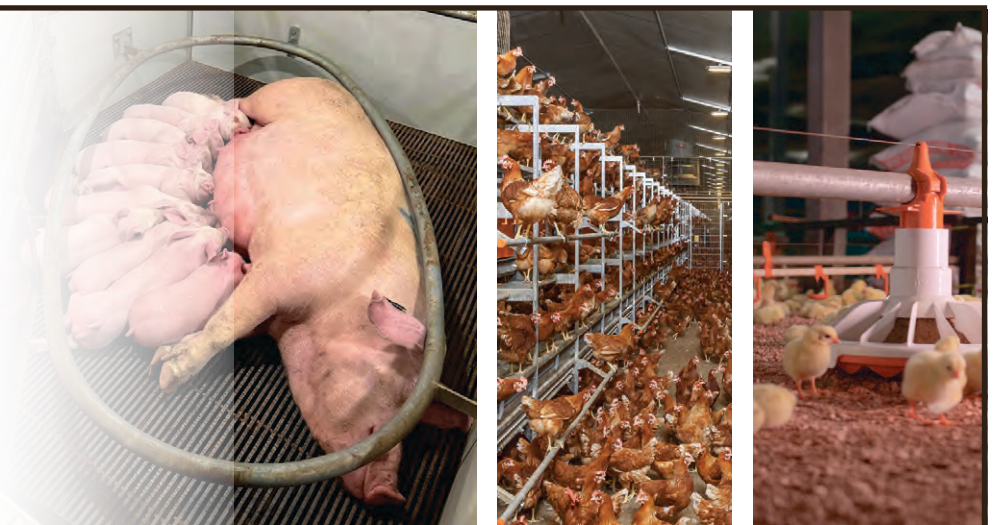


## MODERN FARMING EQUIPMENT & SOLUTIONS

We are participating in the **PIX/AMC/APL 2026 - Food with Purpose** from 12-14 May 2026.

Come visit us at **BOOTH 196**

Scan for more information  
www.bigdutchman.asia



## ATTENTION

### Clarification

The Australian Pork Newspaper is a wholly independent publication owned by Collins Media.

APN does not receive any funding or financial support from Australian Pork Limited.

APN works with APL in providing a medium between producers and industry representatives.

As an independent publication, APN also aims to provide a wholistic view on all issues impacting the pork industry.

APN encourages feedback on published articles in either written form or via phone.

Contact Ben Collins on [ben@collins.media](mailto:ben@collins.media) or call 0450 672 553.

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## Pork Industry Calendar of Events

2026

**APR 15-17** – Pork+593 – Cuenca, Ecuador. <https://pork593.aspe.org.ec>

**MAY 12-14** – Food with Purpose – Gold Coast, Queensland. <https://www.pix.au/conf26>

**MAY 13-14** – British Pig and Poultry Fair – Birmingham, UK. <https://pigandpoultry.org.uk>

**MAY 13-15** – 17th European Symposium of Porcine Health Management – Florence, Italy. <https://www.esphm2026.org>

**JUN 2-4** – VIV Europe 2026 – Utrecht, The Netherlands. <https://www.viveurope.nl>

**JUN 3-4** – World Pork Expo 2026 – Des Moines, USA. <https://www.worldpork.org>

**JUN 16-19** – IPVS 2026 – Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam. <https://ipvs2026.vn/>

**AUG 19-21** – VIV Select China 2026, Shanghai, China. <https://china.viv.net>

**AUG 25 and 26** – Minitube Porcine TechDays, Golden Point, Victoria. <https://form.jotform.com/260257675984068>

**SEP 19-22** – Allen D. Leman Swine Conference 2026 – St Paul Minnesota, USA. <https://lemanconference.umn.edu>

**SEP 22-24** – Expomeat 2026 – Sao Paulo, Brazil. <https://www.expomeat.com.br/>

**OCT 6-8** – International PRRS Symposium 2026 – Barcelona, Spain. <https://iprrs2026.org>

**OCT 21-23** – Pork Expo Mexico – Aguascalientes, Mexico. <http://pork-expo.org/>

### How to supply event details:

Send all details to Australian Pork Newspaper, PO Box 162, Wynnum, Qld 4178, call 0450 672 553 or email [design@collins.media](mailto:design@collins.media)

**porknews.com.au**  
**0450 672 553**

## Australian ag needs fair trade not free trade

from P1  
looking, building strong export markets across the region, including Singapore.

Australian farmers are not asking for subsidies.

They are asking for something much simpler – the ability to compete on fair and equivalent terms.

What would a level playing field look like?

Clear honest food labelling so consumers know what they are buying.

Fair and equivalent standards so imported products cannot bypass requirements that locals must meet.

Workforce settings that reflect the realities of labour shortages.

Planning and regulatory frameworks that don't make it easier to import food than to produce it here.

In short, the ability

for our farmers – who meet strong standards on biosecurity, sustainability and labour – to not compete at a disadvantage against imports produced under very different settings.

Expanding and modernising agricultural operations is in the public interest.

It would provide more local jobs, more secure domestic food supply and greater investment in regional communities, ensuring Australian families can continue to access safe affordable high quality local protein.

Our farmers have shown they can compete.

They have shown they can innovate.

They have shown they can grow.

All they need is the ability to own their own future, and the opportunity to operate on a level playing field. 🐷

## Carbon dioxide stunning most viable commercial method for Australian pork processing

A COMPREHENSIVE review conducted by Australian Pork Limited, the University of Melbourne and SunPork Group has critically evaluated the European Union PigStun project to determine its scientific robustness, practical outcomes and relevance for Australian pork processors.

The assessment found that while alternative gases may reduce some aversive responses during induction, none currently deliver the stunning effectiveness, throughput or commercial feasibility of high concentration carbon dioxide systems.

Argon was identified as the most promising alternative however significant limitations were also highlighted.

The experimental work showed that effective argon stunning requires oxygen levels at least below two percent and exposure durations of up to seven minutes to ensure pigs do not

regain consciousness. This is far longer than current commercial carbon dioxide dwell times.

These extended cycles substantially reduce throughput and would require major plant redesigns, multiple stunner installations or significant increases in labour to offset slower processing speeds.

In addition, argon treatments delivered inconsistent meat quality, including higher drip loss, increased incidence of bloodspots and elevated risk of pale soft exudative development, increasing waste and raising concerns for Australia's predominantly fresh pork market.

Helium performed similarly to argon in terms of reduced aversion but is not commercially viable.

Its extremely high cost, limited global supply and the need for large scale gas recovery systems make helium unsuitable for industrial use.

The review also ex-

amined an "improved electrical stunning" system.

While enhancements to raceway design and reduced use of high voltage prodders improved some welfare indicators, electrical stunning still requires stressful single file handling, carries risk of incorrect electrode placement, has a reduced stun-to-stick window and produced poorer meat quality outcomes compared to carbon dioxide stunning.

Current scientific, welfare, operational and economic evidence continues to support that carbon dioxide stunning remains the only method that consistently delivers reliable unconsciousness, efficient throughput, acceptable meat quality and practical commercial implementation.

The full final report will be made available shortly. 🐷

**Australian Pork Ltd, SunPork Group and University of Melbourne AWSC**

## Education and training awardees announced

THE Australian Pork Industry Education and Training Committee is pleased to announce the 2026 scholarship recipients.

Following industry consultation, Australasian Pork Research Institute Limited and Australian Pork Limited have united to form a joint committee that provides oversight, direction and approvals on scholarships and awards across tertiary and post-tertiary education, streamlining applications and providing clear guidance for applicants.

This round received 22 applications across honours, postgraduate, doctor of veterinary medicine and postdoctoral fellowship awards.

The committee approved six APL-funded honours/masters by coursework awards.

Congratulations to Hongyan Liu from the University of Melbourne, Shakira Parsons from Mur-



**Australasian  
Pork Research  
Institute Ltd**  
**APRIL**

doch University, Nadia Alexcius from Murdoch University, Abigail Sopniewski from the University of Sydney, Sophie Battishall from the University of Sydney and Ruby Price from the University of Melbourne.

APRIL-funded post graduate awardees include the following.

Chandra Shaker Chouhan from Murdoch University, who is investigating oral fluid rope sampling as a welfare-friendly alternative to blood sampling for circovirus surveillance across pig herds to build a herd-level prediction model and characterise PCV2 genotypes.

Elahe Soltani from Adelaide University, who is working to strengthen enzootic

pneumonia control by producing better-matched m hyopneumoniae vaccine candidates via a pig serum-free eukaryotic cell culture platform.

Thien Van from Adelaide University focuses on sow and piglet welfare.

The project tests whether feeding ammonium chloride in late gestation can mobilise calcium from body stores, increase blood calcium and strengthen uterine contractions, to shorten farrowing and lower stillbirth rates.

Jianuo Xu from the University of Melbourne will conduct the first statewide molecular survey of cryptosporidium and giardia across 69 Victorian farms.

This study will de-

fine prevalence, species/assemblages, risk factors and zoonotic potential to inform herd-health decisions, including targeted hygiene, management and antimicrobial stewardship.

Two APRIL-funded doctor of veterinary medicine awards were approved for Adelaide University applicants, Cheuk Yin Tsang and Celestine Ong, who are working towards developing a commercial mycoplasma hyopneumoniae vaccine using a novel cell culture technique to reduce antimicrobial use and resistance.

A total of three APRIL postdoctoral fellowship scheme awards were funded.

Ghazanfar Abbas from the University of Melbourne aims to establish the first physiologically relevant lab porcine intestinal organoid model to track cystoisopora suis entry, replication and epithelial damage, and create a platform to test drugs, resistance

and develop sustainable control strategies for the pork industry. Shewli Mukerji from Murdoch University is working to develop a simple high-throughput robotics-driven 'sample-to-decision' platform that will streamline historically manual low yield lab methods when testing for swine dysentery and oedema diseases.

and develop sustainable control strategies for the pork industry.

Shewli Mukerji from Murdoch University is working to develop a simple high-throughput robotics-driven 'sample-to-decision' platform that will streamline historically manual low yield lab methods when testing for swine dysentery and oedema diseases.

Maria Grassio from the University of Queensland will run lab microcosms that mimic pond zones to measure methane production and oxidation, and to map the microbial and chemical drivers to give a practical low-cost guide in cutting pig-gery emissions.

The committee extends its congratulations to all award recipients and its appreciation to all applicants.

Further information is available on APRIL's website – [apri.com.au/research/funding-opportunities](http://apri.com.au/research/funding-opportunities) 🐷

**Australian  
Pork**

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**12 - 14 May 2026**  
**Gold Coast Convention and  
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# Retraction notice

## Controversial Midland Bacon piggery plans for expansion

TO our readers, pork producers, advertisers and industry stakeholders, we wish to formally retract the article titled *Controversial Midland Bacon piggery plans for expansion*, which referenced content from a third-party social media post.

Upon review, we acknowledge that the article relied heavily on advocacy-based claims that were not independently verified prior to publication.

The piece presented allegations and characterisations regarding animal welfare history, environmental risk and operational practices in a manner that may have implied established fact without sufficient evidentiary support or appropriate balance.

We recognise that this may have caused

concern among pork producers, our advertising partners and broader industry stakeholders, particularly given the importance of accuracy, fairness and context in reporting on production operations.

We also acknowledge that:

- The article did not include comment or response from the business referenced or relevant regulatory authorities

- Certain statements may have overstated or generalised industry practices without distinguishing between regulated standards, compliance frameworks and individual operations

- The presentation of the planning application and objection process may have lacked appropriate neutrality.

- We regret these

shortcomings and any impact they may have had on our readers and stakeholders.

We are committed to maintaining editorial standards that ensure balanced, fact-checked and responsibly contextualised reporting.

As part of this commitment, we have removed the article from our website and are reviewing our editorial processes to strengthen verification protocols, ensure inclusion of multiple perspectives and clearly distinguish between opinion, advocacy and reported fact.

We appreciate the ongoing trust of our readers and industry partners and reaffirm our commitment to accurate and responsible journalism.

**Australian Pork Newspaper**



# Food with Purpose 2026 – where insight, innovation and industry converge

AS Australia's pork industry faces accelerating change, Food with Purpose 2026 arrives at a critical moment for connection, collaboration and forward thinking.

Taking place at the Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre from May 12-14, 2026, Food with Purpose 2026 will see the Poultry Information Exchange, Australian Milling Conference and Australian Pork Limited unite to bring together industry leaders, innovators and decision-makers to explore what's next for the poultry, pig and milling industries.

Beyond the keynote program, Food with Purpose 2026 will feature pork-specific and joint speaking sessions covering on-farm biosecurity and

water hygiene, the role of protein in the diet, future-fit talent, food trends, social licence and many more.

Some exciting speakers to highlight include Olympic gold medallist Michael Klim, championing life with chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy, who – speaking from an athlete's perspective – will join speakers in a session on the importance of protein in a diet.

Bite Communication's Anna Bertram will speak to 'Value-packed protein: strategic health marketing for Australian pork', with Dr Karen Murphy from the University of South Australia rounding out the session.

Iowa's Brenneman Pork will present at

Food with Purpose, represented by piglet maternity ward guru and *SowMomma* podcaster Erin Brenneman and head of live production Jeremy Robertson.

Both will feature across the speaking program, including a panel led by Humans of Agriculture Oli Le Lievre discussing future-fit talent for the industry, which will include local producers and others.

A vibrant exhibition will showcase the latest technologies, products and services supporting primary industries.

From agtech and data solutions to inputs, infrastructure and professional services, the exhibition floor remains a central hub for innovation, networking and com-

mercial opportunity. Early bird registrations are now open, providing attendees with the opportunity to secure their place at a reduced rate and be part of one of Australia's leading primary industry events.

Food with Purpose 2026 is more than a conference and trade show – it is a meeting point for ideas, partnerships and progress.

With a strong keynote lineup, a dynamic exhibition and a future-focused program, it promises to deliver insight and impact well beyond the event itself.

To register, exhibit or learn more, visit [www.pix.au](http://www.pix.au) and be part of the conversation shaping the future of Australian poultry, pork and milling industries.

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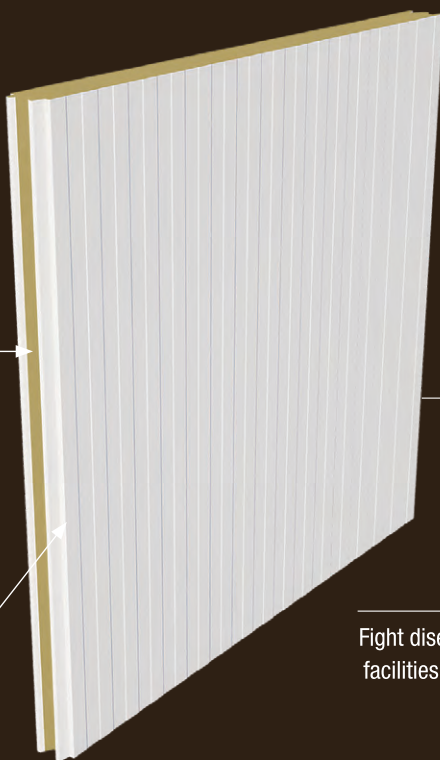
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Build Better



# Welfare failures must be called out loud and clear

BACK in January 2007, I wrote and issued a media release quoting then Western Australian Pork Producers Association president and Cuballing pork producer Graeme Dent on the sometimes vexing subject of animal welfare.

'Denty' refreshingly was happy to come out on the front trotter (foot), and his forthright public comments were well covered and well received back then.

An honest straight to the point character, Denty would prefer to call a spade a shovel than a spade.

By way of contrast, many of those in pork producer power seats these days too often resort to taking soft public steps when it comes to critical welfare matters, some of which can result in immediate downward pressure on pork demand if allowed to fester.

This is especially the case when fellow pork producers have badly let the industry down.

The great majority who do the right thing are rightly aggrieved and need and deserve their industry bodies to act quickly, decisively and publicly to condemn the

wrongdoers.

Also, too often the messengers get 'shot' rather than the perpetrators of the cruelty.

So let's now share what Denty had to say back then, with admittedly some professional advice and guidance at the time from yours truly.

**The headline, 'WA pork producers' leader condemns animal neglect'**

Cuballing producer and resident of the WA Pork Producers' Association Graeme Dent said today that any producer not properly caring for their pigs should immediately improve their animal health and welfare practices or get out of the industry.

"WAPPA represents 250 or so producers at the front end of an industry which has a farm-gate value of \$100 million a year and directly and indirectly employs 3000 people in more than 60



**Cant Comment**  
by BRENDON CANT

uncomfortable pigs do not breed effectively or produce quality meat, so the well-being, safety and health of our pigs is always of utmost concern to pig-gery owners, operators and staff," Mr Dent said.

"More than 80 percent of WA's pork is produced under APIQ, the national pig industry quality assurance scheme, which is based on world's best practice in animal husbandry and includes annual random independent on-farm audits.

"APIQ covers animal welfare, food safety and biosecurity aspects of production and is supported by a traceability system known as PigPass National Vendor Declaration.

"Despite these industry-initiated checks and balances, it's an unfortunate fact of life that there will be some mismanagement of production units, which we deeply regret, but as all farmers know, managing and caring for animals is an art and a science.

"WA producers are getting much of the science right, with good genetics, quality housing and feeding grain-based diets

continued P7



Graeme Dent (second from left) at WAPPA's 2007 annual general meeting dinner with fellow WAPPA stalwarts Errol Howard, Steve Martin and Richard Evison.



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# Don't wait for first cold front to find weak spots

## ■ Ensure your shelters are ready to go before winter

IT usually starts small. A slight ripple across the shelter cover.

A bit of movement on a windy day.

Maybe a section that doesn't sit quite as tight as it used to.

This is quite easy to ignore when everything on site is running as it should.

But as winter approaches, piggeries are put under increasing pressure.

Cooler temperatures, stronger winds and seasonal rain can quickly expose weaknesses in shelter systems.

What begin as small issues eventually lead to inconsistent shelter temperatures and heating systems working harder, driving up energy costs and overall shed efficiency.

When conditions inside the shed fluctuate, this doesn't only affect infrastructure, but animal comfort, feed conversion and production outcomes.

**Tension is everything** Shelter covers are built to withstand harsh Australian conditions.

However, one of the most common causes of premature failure isn't the material, it's the loss of tension.

When a cover becomes loose, it begins to flap in the wind, deteriorating rapidly, regardless of its quality.

The constant movement creates flex crack damage, accelerates wear and leads to tearing over time.

Maintaining correct tension is what allows a cover to perform as intended and can add years to a cover's service life.

Several Polytex-installed Eco Shelter covers from over 25 years ago are still performing today.

This is proof of what

proper tensioning combined with correct fitting and quality materials can achieve.

The secret to longevity is maintaining tension, preventing wind flap and fabric deterioration.

**What to check before winter sets in**

The lead-up to winter is the ideal time to inspect your shelters and address issues before they escalate:

- Visible damage such as tears or punctures

- Sagging or loose panels, an early sign indicating loss of tension

- Worn stitching or seam stress

- Signs of UV bleaching or brittle fabric.

Polytex recommends producers check their covers now to ensure they are properly tensioned and secure.

If in doubt, re-tension first.

It can restore performance and extend the life of a cover.

But where damage is more severe, timely replacement is often more cost-effective when compared to running a compromised shelter through winter.

**Choosing the right cover**

Modern replacement covers are designed with the above challenges in mind.

High-tensile polyethylene and polypropylene fabrics, advanced welding techniques and minimal stitching all contribute to greater durability and longer service life.

Equally important is fit.

A custom-made cover allows for correct tensioning from the outset, reducing stress on the material and improving long-term performance.

With decades of experience working alongside Australian

piggery operators, Polytex understands how local conditions impact shelter infrastructure and how to design covers that perform reliably.

**Act before it becomes urgent**

Shelter covers are a working asset.

When they're performing properly, they support the entire operation without drawing attention to themselves.

But when they're not, the costs follow quickly, leading to urgent repairs, increased downtime and added pressure on operations.

Take the time now to inspect, repair or replace your covers because when winter

hits, the last thing you want is to find out your shelter wasn't ready.

Polytex covers are made to measure for your specific shelter layout, ensuring optimal fit and tensioning performance from day one.

With fast turnaround manufacturing and straightforward installation, getting a replacement sorted before winter is well within reach.

For replacement covers, tensioning accessories or expert advice on your piggery shelter infrastructure, contact Polytex on 1300 059 003 or email [sales@polytex.net.au](mailto:sales@polytex.net.au)

**Polytex**



Piggery shelter covers.

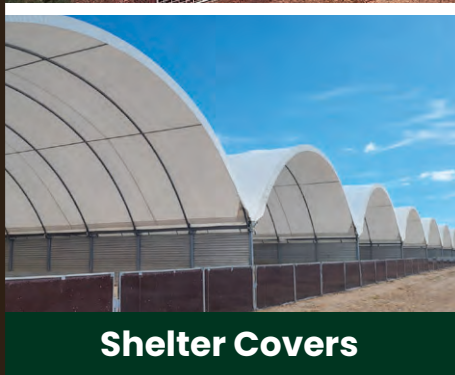
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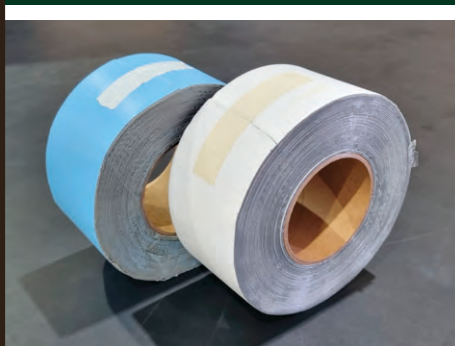
Shelter Covers



Side Blinds



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## Welfare failures must be called out loud and clear

from P6 developed by world-leading WA animal nutritionists and using clean quality-assured WA grain.

"The real art is training all piggery owners, managers and staff in the highest possible animal handling and husbandry systems.

"We've invested a lot of time and money in such training and have a full-time training officer based out of WAPPA's office.

"A critical part of training stock persons is giving them the skills to prevent,

rapidly diagnose and treat to ensure pigs in their care are free from pain, injury or disease.

"WA producers are determined to be part of the solution, not part of the problem," Mr Dent concluded.

It should be noted that Denty was last year awarded life membership of WAPPA.

Well deserved I say and due recognition for his tireless efforts and public forthrightness on behalf of pigs and pork producers when and where it counts. 🐷

# Developing and piloting feral pig exposure assessment tool and proximity alert



Pigs going under a fence. Photo: Madalene Oberin

FERAL pigs pose a direct biosecurity risk to the Australian pork industry, including through the introduction and transmission of emergency animal diseases – such as African swine fever and foot-and-mouth disease – to and from domestic pigs. The establishment of an EAD in feral pigs in Australia would indirectly impact commercial piggeries by reducing the likelihood of a successful eradication response in Australia.

In Europe, it has been shown that once diseases such as ASF are established in wild pig



NATIONAL  
FERAL PIG  
ACTION PLAN

by HEATHER CHANNON  
National Feral Pig  
Management Coordinator



an integrated hybrid map on a 4x4km grid that combines the strengths from both the AADIS and ABARES datasets.

A literature review identified that a practical feral pig exposure likelihood layer should also integrate the following data:

- Land use suitability for feral pigs
- Crop attractiveness as potential food sources for feral pigs
- Proximity to water – access to water sources including rivers, creeks, wetlands and reservoirs by feral pigs
- Proximity to vegetated cover – access to vegetation that provides shelter, concealment and movement pathways
- Riparian and corridor environments – areas close to both water and vegetated cover that may act as movement corridors.

This information will be used to calculate a combined landscape suitability score that combines each of these factors using adjustable weightings.

This landscape suitability score will then be combined with a pig exposure score to develop a feral pig exposure likelihood layer and enable a feral pig exposure likelihood score to be estimated.

An expert elicitation process is being held in late March, involving feral pig specialists from across Australia, to refine weightings and provide inputs to uncertain model parameters to ensure that the framework reflects current ecological understanding.

These specialists will also be asked to identify any other parameters that should be incorporated into the base

continued P9

populations, eradication is extremely difficult.

This poses serious risks to pig health and welfare, business continuity and trade.

In May 2022, Australia's Animal Health Committee endorsed the 'Voluntary enhanced biosecurity standards for African swine fever' for Australian piggeries.

These standards recognise the biosecurity risks posed by feral pigs through the following performance indicators:

- An exposure assessment has been undertaken for feral pigs
- Where the farm is in a moderate or high-risk area, action has been taken to exclude access of feral pigs
- Monitoring records for feral pigs are available for review
- Feral pigs that die in unusual or unexplained circumstances must be reported.

However, many pig producers do not have the skills, knowledge and tools to accurately assess the likelihood of feral pig exposure – direct or indirect to their piggery.

This presents a barrier to adoption of the VEBS-ASF by producers.

To address this significant gap, Australian Pork Limited is funding a project (2025/0132) to develop reliable, repeatable, evidence-based and easy-to-follow methods for use by pro-

ducers to routinely conduct feral pig exposure assessments in the immediate vicinity of piggeries and at a regional scale.

This project is being delivered by a collaboration between co-investigators from the Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis at the University of Melbourne, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, the National Feral Pig Action Plan and Sun-Pork Group.

A national 'base layer' feral pig exposure map is being built to establish where feral pigs are most likely to be present and where the landscape supports their movement – for example, access to water, land uses, food availability, shelter and disturbance.

To do this, two national datasets have been integrated.

The first is the Australian Animal Disease Spread AFS and FMD feral pig epidemiological model and the second is the estimates of relative abundance of feral pigs, published by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation.

This map can be seen in Figure 1.

This information has been aligned to create

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## Developing and piloting a feral pig exposure assessment tool and proximity alert

from P8  
layer for which there is suitable data.

Once this is done, the next step will be the development of an easy-to-follow guided property feral pig assessment methodology that pork producers can easily use on their own property.

This will enable a producer to periodically assess and record what's happening on their property and in the local area that may be influencing feral pig activity, and how likelihood of exposure to feral pigs may change seasonally.

These site-specific observations will be used to improve the precision of the national base-layer map so that the producer obtains a sensitive property-level feral pig exposure likelihood score.

The questions that will be included in the guided property assessment and the platform that will be used by producers to complete the assessment are still under consideration.

Tailored guidance to support producers with their feral pig monitoring and surveillance activities and recommended control options and timing will also be delivered as part of exposure likelihood reports generated by this project.

It is anticipated that the exposure likelihood assessment and report may be translatable to other landholders and environmental stakeholders into the future.

A feral pig proximity alert tool, delivered via FeralScan, is also being built as part of this project.

This alert will provide notifications of reported feral pig activity near locations nominated by producers and act as timely prompts for checking, monitoring and risk reduction actions.

FeralScan is a free online mapping and

reporting tool designed for use by land managers.

Sightings, evidence of pests (for example, rub marks, wallows, tracks and scats), agricultural and environmental damage and control actions used to remove feral pigs from the landscape can be securely and privately recorded on this system.

The tool was developed by the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions and is managed by NSW DPIRD.

For more information on FeralScan, visit [www.feralscan.org.au](http://www.feralscan.org.au). Together, the feral pig

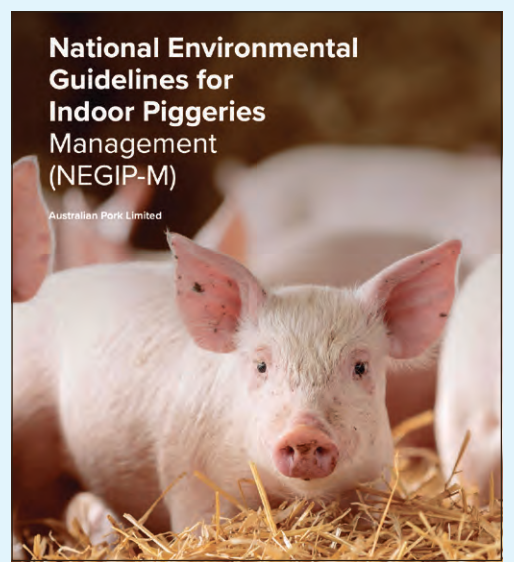
exposure likelihood tool and the FeralScan proximity alert are expected to make it easier for producers to assess, record and respond to risks associated with feral pigs in their locality.

By supporting routine monitoring and management, helping coordinate control efforts with neighbours and simplifying record keeping, these tools will also help producers meet APIQ VEBS-ASF expectations for feral pig exposure awareness and management, and in doing so, reduce the risk of disease intro-

duction and spread to their herds from feral pigs.

Further updates will be provided as the expert elicitation outputs are incorporated and the pilot phase commences with producers who have volunteered to pilot these tools through the concurrent APL-funded VEBS-ASF facilitation project.

If you'd like to discuss the content of this article or have any questions related to effective feral pig management, contact me on Heather.Channon@feralpigs.com.au or 0423 056 045.



## Webinar on National Environmental Guidelines for Indoor Piggeries Management

THE 'National Environmental Guidelines for Indoor Piggeries - Management' is a guide for indoor piggeries, covering all the latest research and regulatory changes to help producers meet their general environmental duty while maintaining efficient and environmentally sustainable production.

The NEGIP-M includes guidelines on maintaining covering feed, sheds

and effluent/manure management.

Australian Pork Limited will host a webinar to provide a walk-through of the resource for producers on May 1, 2026 at 1-2pm AEST.

Further details will be provided via the weekly APL Update closer to the webinar date.

Queries can be emailed to [extension@australianpork.com.au](mailto:extension@australianpork.com.au)

**Australian Pork Limited**

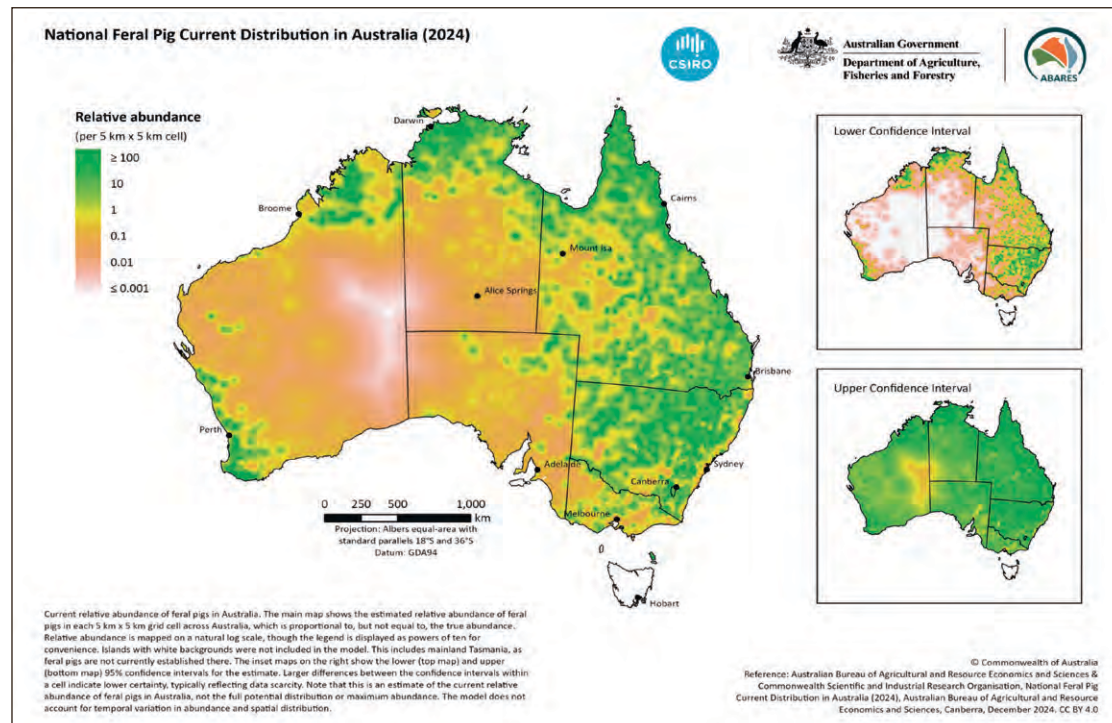


Figure 1. The feral pig relative abundance map.

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Boehringer Ingelheim

# Piggery cleaning made easy

IT is well known that modern piggeries have already moved to Aussie Pumps range of 316 stainless-steel pumps.

These heavy-duty self-primers will handle up to 2200LPM and are literally built like tanks.

They are all part of the Aussie Pumps package designed specifically for livestock operators, from piggeries to dairies and milk processors to abattoirs.

Aussie Pumps chief engineer John Hales said, "The inspiration for the development of the 316 stainless-steel pumps was all to do with feedback from users."

"We found that smart piggeries like Westpork and JBS know that the great challenge is to keep animals healthy by moving effluent promptly."

The new stainless-steel pumps come standard with two-pole

heavy-duty electric motors, matched perfectly in terms of power to pump capacity.

The company also makes portable petrol and diesel engine drive trash pumps that can be used anywhere around the farm or processing plant.

### Free safety training

Aussie Pumps is the only company we know of that offers a free safety training program for operators of high-pressure water blasters.

Every pork producer knows of the need for consistent cleaning, that means pressure cleaners and steamers.

Aussie's free safety training program is designed to help operators stay safe, bearing in mind the potential for injuries in terms of slips that can be easily made, especially when fatigue or boredom is setting in.

Scan the QR code on the photo to log on to the course.

On successful completion, a certificate will be sent in the mail to the attendee.

### Drain-cleaning jettors

Aussie Pumps also has a free safety training program for operators of drain-cleaning jettors.

That is just about every piggery, chicken shed, abattoir and processing plant in the country.

"Keeping drains clean is a piece of cake," Mr Hales said.

"With our safety training program, the operators take pride in their work and are gratified that their employers put them through a safety training program."

After all, as Aussie Pumps says, occupational health and safety is everybody's responsibility.

For further information, contact Aussie Pumps dealers throughout Australia or visit aussiepumps.com.au

**Aussie Pumps**



Successful attendees at Aussie Pumps safety training events for pressure-cleaning operators. Scan the QR code for Aussie's free high-pressure safety training program.



TABLE 1. AusScan Early Harvest Report

February

2026

Protein Moisture and Energy Values for Cereal Grains

Barley																											
Region*	Protein %				Moisture %				Pig Faecal DE MJ/Kg				Pig Ileal DE MJ/Kg				IDE/FDE Ratio			Broiler AME MJ/Kg				Broiler AME Index			
	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max
NSW1	10.6	1.03	8.8	13.4	10.2	0.50	9.4	11.5	13.4	0.14	13.1	13.9	10.6	0.27	9.9	11.4	0.79	0.75	0.82	12.0	0.23	11.6	12.6	69.7	2.3	64.1	75.1
QLD	9.6	1.18	7.2	12.5	11.0	0.71	9.4	12.4	12.5	0.15	12.3	13.9	9.9	0.27	9.2	11.6	0.79	0.75	0.83	11.7	0.36	11.0	12.7				
QLD1	9.7	1.18	8.0	12.9	10.7	0.72	9.0	13.8	12.6	0.14	12.2	12.8	9.9	0.46	8.8	10.7	0.79	0.72	0.83	11.6	0.35	10.9	12.7				
VIC	9.4	1.10	7.8	12.7	10.4	0.63	9.3	11.2	12.4	0.15	12.1	12.8	10.0	0.27	9.5	10.5	0.80	0.78	0.82	11.4	0.25	10.9	11.9				
VIC 1	11.1	1.59	8.2	13.1	10.5	1.08	8.8	12.4	12.5	0.16	12.3	12.8	10.4	1.11	9.5	15.9	0.83	0.77	1.24	11.5	0.40	10.6	12.1				
VIC 2	11.4	1.46	8.7	13.5	10.4	0.85	9.2	11.9	12.4	0.14	12.2	12.7	10.1	0.13	9.9	10.4	0.82	0.81	0.82	11.7	0.26	11.3	12.1				
VIC 3	10.2	1.15	7.6	11.4	10.2	0.96	8.1	11.3	12.5	0.16	12.3	12.8	10.1	0.10	9.8	10.1	0.80	0.80	0.80	11.4	0.34	10.7	11.8				
Triticale																											
Region*	Protein %				Moisture %				Pig Faecal DE MJ/Kg				Pig Ileal DE MJ/Kg				IDE/FDE Ratio			Broiler AME MJ/Kg				Broiler AME Index			
	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max
SA1	11.8	0.76	10.4	12.7	9.7	1.54	7.7	12.3	13.4	0.11	13.2	13.5	11.7	0.17	11.4	12.0	0.88	0.87	0.89	12.4	0.22	12.2	12.8	80.0	2.8	76.3	84.9
Wheat																											
Region*	Protein %				Moisture %				Pig Faecal DE MJ/Kg				Pig Ileal DE MJ/Kg				IDE/FDE Ratio			Broiler AME MJ/Kg				Broiler AME Index			
	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Mean	SD	Min	Max
NSW1	13.2	0.63	10.9	14.9	10.0	0.36	9.2	11.1	14.2	0.15	13.5	14.4	12.3	0.28	10.7	13.0	0.87	0.79	0.90	12.9	0.36	11.0	14.3	77.0	1.9	70.2	80.5
QLD	11.9	1.22	7.3	15.8	10.8	0.97	8.2	13.9	13.8	0.19	12.4	14.7	11.7	0.28	9.6	12.8	0.84	0.78	0.87	12.8	0.41	11.2	14.8	77.4	2.3	62.6	83.3
QLD1	12.6	1.50	10.9	16.8	10.7	0.97	8.4	12.7	13.8	0.06	13.7	13.9	11.8	0.20	11.3	12.1	0.85	0.83	0.87	12.7	0.36	12.0	13.4	77.2	1.1	74.8	78.7
SA1	12.0	1.36	9.0	15.2	9.1	1.48	6.3	14.1	14.1	0.09	13.8	14.3	11.7	0.30	10.8	12.5	0.83	0.79	0.87	12.3	0.28	11.7	13.3	80.5	3.0	73.5	89.2
SA2	13.4	2.70	8.9	17.0	8.7	1.21	6.8	10.3	14.1	0.07	14.0	14.2	11.7	0.24	11.4	12.1	0.83	0.81	0.85	12.1	0.47	11.6	13.0	81.1	3.0	77.2	86.2
VIC	11.7	1.33	9.6	17.9	10.0	1.00	8.3	13.0	13.8	0.05	13.5	13.9	11.6	0.14	11.2	12.1	0.84	0.83	0.87	12.6	0.27	12.1	13.4	77.5	1.3	74.0	82.4
VIC 1	11.9	1.30	9.1	17.6	9.7	0.83	8.0	12.4	13.7	0.06	13.6	13.9	11.8	0.21	11.2	12.6	0.86	0.83	0.91	12.7	0.34	11.7	14.1	77.5	1.0	74.6	80.6
VIC 2	11.2	0.78	9.0	13.6	9.8	0.96	7.5	12.1	13.7	0.11	12.5	13.9	11.8	0.16	10.7	12.1	0.86	0.86	0.87	12.5	0.26	11.8	13.1	77.5	1.3	66.4	81.2
VIC 3	11.2	0.77	9.6	14.4	9.7	0.67	8.1	12.1	13.7	0.10	13.1	13.8	11.7	0.16	11.1	12.1	0.86	0.85	0.88	12.4	0.30	11.4	13.2	77.0	1.6	68.0	80.5

\* Each row represents a Feed Mill in the Region, for example QLD and QLD1 represent different feed mill companies within the state.

# Australia's first injectable ileitis vaccine now available

MSD Animal Health Australia has launched the nation's first injectable ileitis vaccine – Porcilis Lawsonia.

This vaccine addresses all three forms of ileitis, with the disease estimated to cost Australian pig producers between \$4.06 and \$39 per marketed pig.

Pig farmers can now administer the vaccine, without relying on dosing through drinking water or the cumbersome drenching of piglets, to aid in the prevention of infections from lawsonia intracellularis, the bacterium responsible for proliferative enteropathy, commonly known as ileitis.

This disease is characterised by poor growth, diarrhoea and, in severe cases, sudden death and dysentery in grower and finisher pigs.

Porcilis Lawsonia offers farmers flexibility in disease control strategies, potentially leading to production cost savings in labour and feed.

The vaccine can be

given as an intramuscular injection mixed with Porcilis PCV M Hyo or as an intradermal needle-free vaccine in combination with Porcilis PCV IDAL.

Both methods can also be used as standalone vaccines.

Currently, the only alternative ileitis vaccine in Australia is administered orally through individual drenching or in water, requiring a seven-day antibiotic-free window during administration.

In contrast, Porcilis Lawsonia provides a convenient single-dose option (intramuscular or intradermal) that streamlines the vaccination process, particularly when combined with existing vaccines such as Porcilis PCV M Hyo or Porcilis PCV IDAL.

Farmers can start vaccinating piglets from 21 days of age with Porcilis Lawsonia, reducing clinical symptoms such as diarrhoea and weight loss caused by intracellularis.

Porcilis Lawsonia is an inactivated vaccine effective against all three recognised forms of ileitis – sub-clinical, chronic and haemorrhagic. Consequently, farmers can achieve labour and feed cost savings per pig marketed, even after accounting for the vaccine's initial purchase cost.

Pig producers may wonder if ileitis is a concern even with antibiotic use – the answer is yes. Antibiotics often do not effectively control ileitis and increasing antimicrobial resistance has been documented.

For instance, tylosin shows only intermediate effectiveness, while chlortetracycline exhibits variable results with low to intermediate activity.

Poor control of ileitis can lead to decreased feed conversion ratios and average daily gains.

MSD Animal Health technical lead for swine in Asia Pacific Dr Leo Ellerma said: "Porcilis Lawsonia has been

a trusted vaccine for ileitis since its global launch in Europe in 2018, and MSD Animal Health has a long history of innovation in the swine industry."

For more information, and research references, contact MSD Animal Health at [msd-animal-health.com](http://msd-animal-health.com) or 1800 033 461.

Note, Porcilis is a registered trademark.

**MSD Animal Health**



Launched by MSD Animal Health, Australia's first injectable ileitis vaccine Porcilis Lawsonia addresses all three forms of ileitis.

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1 - Meta-analysis 2021.02-TON-META-PWM (\*P < 0.0001; 70 studies; N = 148,170 pigs; various genetics). 2 - Study 18-014 (\*P < 0.01; N = 2,193 pigs). 3 - Studies 16-009, 16-003, 18-126 (\*P < 0.05)



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For further information about Tonistry Px, please contact CCD Animal Health.

Rebecca Jamieson, CCD Animal Health. National Key Account Manager – Swine

M: 0400 392 111 E: [rebecca@ccdanimalhealth.com.au](mailto:rebecca@ccdanimalhealth.com.au)

# LMS Energy and SunPork to build RNG facility at SA piggery

AUSTRALIAN bioenergy company LMS Energy and pork producer SunPork Group have unveiled a partnership to establish Australia's first commercial-scale agricultural renewable natural gas facility at the Wasleys piggery, north of Adelaide.

The Wasleys facility will use anaerobic digestion to break down piggery effluent, capturing the biogas produced from the breakdown of organic matter and preventing greenhouse gas emissions from being released into the atmosphere.

The facility will upgrade the biogas to pipeline-quality RNG, a like-for-like replacement for nat-

ural gas that can be supplied to natural gas users across South Australia.

Households and businesses alike in South Australia will be able use RNG like conventional natural gas – for industrial heating applications as well as powering cooktops, water heaters and gas fireplaces.

The RNG will displace conventional fossil fuels and provide residents and businesses in South Australia with a sustainable energy source.

Increasing supply of RNG will help Australia reach its national emissions targets.

RNG can be stored, used to firm supply and reduces reliance

on renewable electricity.

The landmark project will pioneer the supply of RNG, which will start replacing conventional natural gas in industry and electricity generation.

It will demonstrate the viability of RNG projects, signalling to the market to start tapping into the currently un-tapped supply of agricultural residues.

The Wasleys renewable gas project is set to begin construction mid-2026, with completion in September 2029.

The project is supported by the Australian Renewable Energy Agency, which is funding \$10 million of the Wasleys project's total cost of \$24.1 million. 🐷



Paxoma brings together infrastructure, devices, environmental control, feeding systems and ongoing service under one roof.

## FeedWorks expands its vision with Paxoma

FOR almost three decades, FeedWorks has been a steady force in Australian and New Zealand agriculture – known for bringing science-led nutrition, evidence-based insights and practical on-farm solutions to livestock producers.

But in recent years, something shifted.

Conversations with farmers in a rapidly evolving industry began to circle around the same frustrations – outdated infrastructure pathways, complex processes and a widening gap between what producers need and what the market was offering.

Out of those conversations came Paxoma. FeedWorks managing partner Malcolm Mottram recognised the need emerging across the industry.

“The biggest challenge in animal infrastructure is having complete project management,” Mr Mottram said.

“Getting approvals, navigating compliance, managing timelines – all before the first post goes in the ground.

“Producers want

someone who understands government, understands compliance and can stay with them from scoping to after-sales support.”

Paxoma exists to answer that need.

Backed by FeedWorks' long-standing reputation, its global supplier network and its science-led philosophy, Paxoma brings together infrastructure, devices, environmental control, feeding systems and ongoing service under one roof.

It's not just a build – it's a system.

“We already have the contacts, supply lines and technical knowledge,” Mr Mottram said.

“Our clients trust us. Paxoma follows the same philosophy – the clients come first.

“And with strong international partners behind us, we can deliver the complete solution, not just a component.”

That complete solution matters more than ever.

Producers across pigs, poultry, dairy and beef are increasingly seeking to improve animal welfare, strengthen biosecurity,

manage environmental impact and extract more efficiency from every square metre of housing.

“The misconception is that it's ‘just a shed,’” he said.

“Livestock housing is exactly that – a house.

“It's an incredibly sophisticated system – environmental control, feeding, water, ventilation, data.

“Trying to do it cheap ends up costing more in the long run.”

Across species, the needs vary but the principle remains the same – better systems mean better animals and better production.

For pigs, it's about environmental control, welfare outcomes and keeping pace with rapidly shifting market expectations.

“Producers need the most innovative housing to stay profitable,” he said.

Underlying all of this is a commitment to progress – not for progress' sake, but for producers.

“Agriculture can only stay profitable if it keeps innovating,” he said.

“Science-led systems are the only way forward.”

When asked to sum up Paxoma in a few words, he keeps it simple.

“We're here for producers,” he said.

“We deliver project management and building for livestock infrastructure.

“It's built right, backed by the most innovative systems and people, and supported long after the build is finished.”

And the guiding principle?

“We're here to do it right,” Mr Mottram said.

“We're not in it for the sake of being in it. “There are no cutting corners.

“We'll do the project right or we don't do it at all.

“It's who we are.” 🐷

**FeedWorks**



FeedWorks managing partner Malcolm Mottram.

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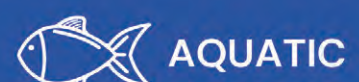


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# Calmer pigs are good for your bottom line

THE welfare of pigs before slaughter has a direct and measurable impact on meat quality, waste and farm profitability and is prompting producers to take a closer look at what's happening on-farm before the truck arrives.

Beanstalk AgTech has been tracking the relationship between pig welfare, meat quality and business performance as a collaborative effort with Food Agility CRC, Curtin University, Pork Innovation WA, Xsights Digital and Craig Mostyn Group.

The findings point out that stressed pigs before slaughter lead to more bruising, higher rates of pale soft exudative meat, poorer bleeding quality and lower carcass grades.

Drawing on the analysis of 19 international frameworks, the collaboration identified 80 high-value indicators across three pillars – pigs, planet and people.

These metrics give producers visibility over what's driving quality variation and where targeted improvements will have the greatest impact.

The collaboration's findings showed that calmer pigs supported by better housing, enrichment and behavioural monitoring produce more consistent higher-grade meat with less waste and a lower carbon footprint per kilogram.

This is what underpinned the case for tracking these metrics consistently across the production system.

Beanstalk AgTech director Grant Gilmour said, "Working closely with pork producers on this collaboration has put numbers to what farmers already know instinctively, that animal welfare and farm performance are deeply connected."

"Producers can now

make informed decisions about where to focus and what changes will have the greatest impact on their returns."

Food Agility CRC chief scientist and deputy chief executive officer Professor David Lamb said, "This collaborative research project with Beanstalk was highly practical, turning complex data into insights that producers can readily apply to improve animal wel-

fare, meat quality and overall farm performance."

The findings from this collaboration give the pork industry the evidence that welfare improvements lead to better product, less waste and more return per animal.

Beanstalk AgTech is an innovation advisory firm with broad experience working across all production systems in Australia and Asia.

**Beanstalk AgTech**



Food Agility CRC chief scientist and deputy CEO Prof David Lamb.

## Together, Let's Prove the Power of Partnership.

Something powerful happens when shared expertise, care and nutritional performance come together. Suddenly, obstacles feel more like growth opportunities. That is the transformational power of partnership.

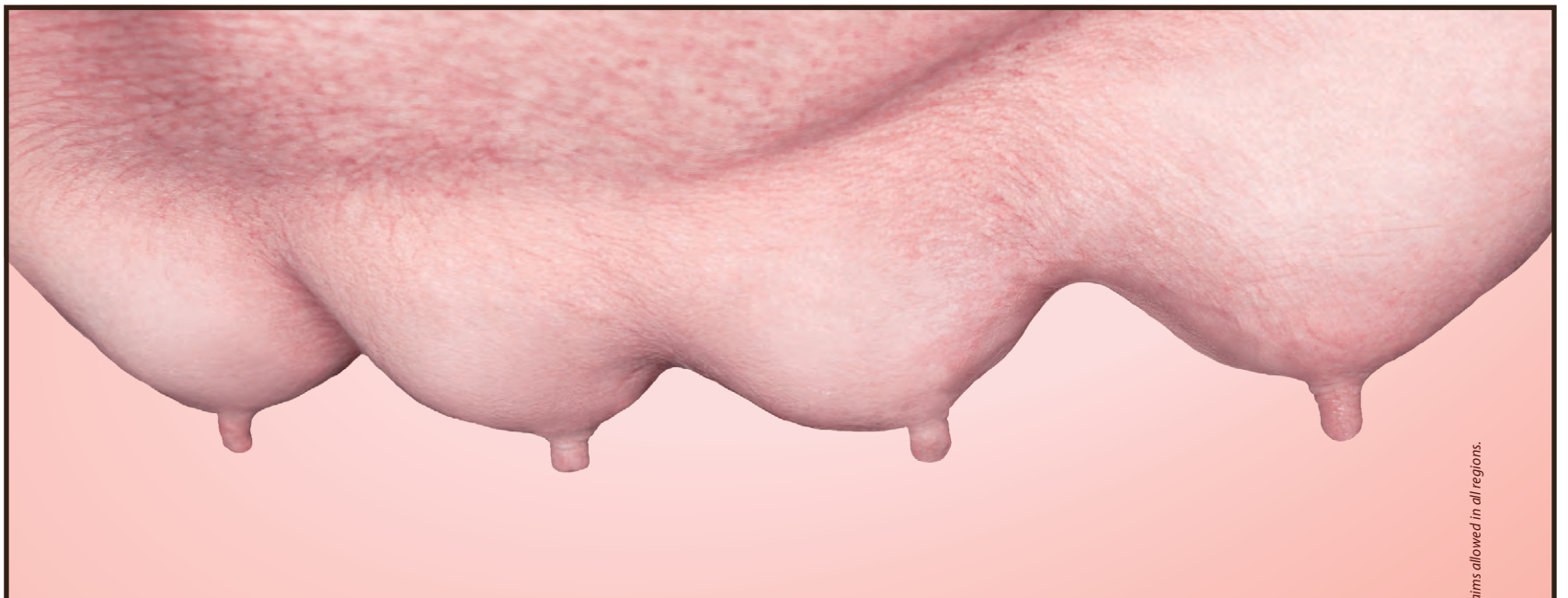
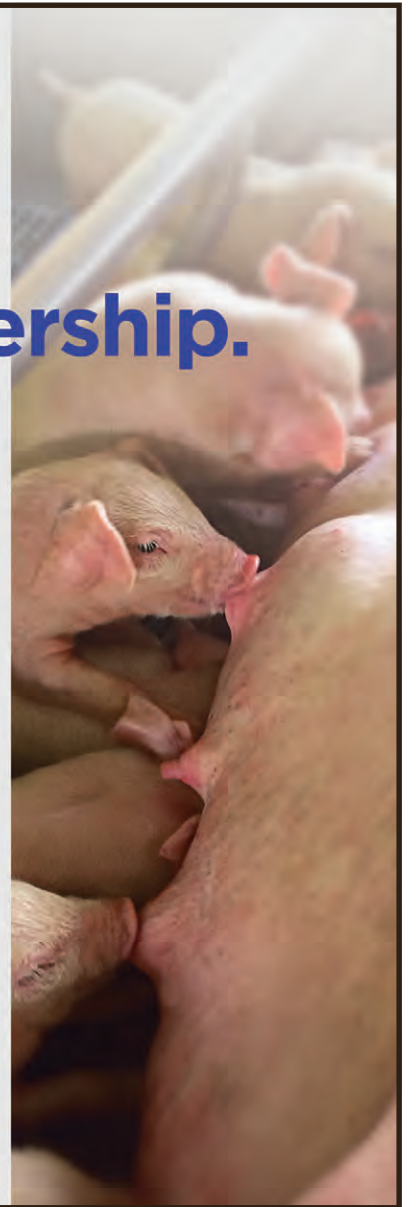
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