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# Australian Pork

## NEWSPAPER

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Charles Rikard-Bell and Maria Jorquera from APL proudly celebrated 10 years of AusScan at the APRIL stall at Food with Purpose 2026.

## APRIL at Food with Purpose 2026

CHARLES Rikard-Bell and Ashlee Adams represented the Australasian Pork Research Institute Limited at this year's Food with Purpose conference, held on the Gold Coast from May 12-14.

The event brought together producers, processors, researchers and service providers across the poultry, pork and milling sectors to share knowledge, practical insights and ideas shaping the future of food production.

A major highlight for APRIL was the opportunity for seven APRIL-funded students alongside seven Australian Pork Limited-funded students to attend the full conference.

For many it was their first chance to immerse themselves in a large-scale industry event that offered valuable exposure to industry leaders, innovators, service providers and on-farm decision makers.

Throughout the conference, students heard from a strong lineup of guest speakers covering topics such as social

licence, biosecurity, value-packed protein (pork, of course), industry workforce challenges and the future of technology in agriculture.

A standout for the students was the tailored extension and adoption workshop sessions led by Maria and Cal Thompson of AgStar Projects.

These sessions helped plant thought-provoking seeds for the next generation of researchers – challenging students to think about how their work can be made more practical, targeted and valuable for industry.

During the workshops, students applied program logic theory to their own research projects. This included identifying their end uses and then exploring which groups within those audiences should be the focus of their outcomes.

The sessions also encouraged students to consider how different stakeholders may respond depending on where they sit within the industry and this

impacting KASA (knowledge, attitudes, skills and aspirations) changes outcomes, which form the foundation of effective extension.

These lessons helped reinforce the importance of designing research that is not only scientifically sound but also adoptable and meaningful for industry.

Katelyn Tomas, the 2026 APRIL Industry Placement Program awardee, reflected on the value of the experience.

“The APL student workshop was highly valuable, introducing practical tools and ideas I now apply to my research project development.”

“In my role as an on-farm research scientist with JBS Pork Australia, I take research ideas from concept through to implementation on farm, and the workshop strengthened my ability to design projects that deliver meaningful outcomes to the right people,” Ms Tomas said. 🐷

**APRIL**

## Every exception a precedent for biosecurity

AUSTRALIA has a world-leading biosecurity status that we should all be proud of.

It has been built through science, discipline and evidence-informed decision-making and it protects not only our pork industry but also the confidence consumers place in all Australian-grown food.

That is why we should be deeply cautious about any proposal that asks us to trade away that advantage.

Our industry's own import risk assessment makes clear the risks are too high and the science tells us we do not yet have the vaccines, manufacturing capacity or disease-management tools in place to safely absorb a disease incursion.

If biosecurity is the line that keeps devastating diseases out, what price are we willing to pay to give it away?

During my time as chief executive officer of Australian Pork Limited, nothing has made me prouder than what this industry has achieved on biosecurity.

Australian producers, veterinarians, researchers and governments have built one of the strongest animal health systems in the world.

I would hate to see that work put at risk. Australia must hold



Point of View

by MARGO ANDRAE  
CEO



the line on fresh pork and pig genetic imports.

From time to time, our industry hears calls to open the door to imported live pig genetic material, usually framed around faster genetic gain and commercial opportunity.

I understand the appeal but the answer must continue to be no.

Australia is one of the few pork-producing nations on earth free of the diseases reshaping overseas markets, including African swine fever, senecavirus, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome, swine influenza and foot-and-mouth disease.

That status has not been achieved through luck.

It is the result of generations of producers, veterinarians, scientists and governments holding a hard line at our borders.

Imported genetic material is a known disease pathway.

And once these diseases arrive, they never really leave.

An incursion of any of these diseases would have a devastating economic impact on our industry and broader economy.

ASF could cost the economy up to \$2.4 billion, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome could cost producers \$150 million annually.

A disease incursion is an animal welfare disaster before it is anything else.

Healthy herds are the foundation of everything we say about how we care for our pigs and of every pork business in the country.

Our disease-free status is why our welfare outcomes stand up to scrutiny anywhere in the world.

There is a second reason to hold the line.

Biosecurity settings work because they are consistent.

Every exception becomes a precedent, and every precedent becomes the argument for the next exception.

The same science and standards that keep pig genetics out of Australia keep fresh pork imports

out of Australia.

If we weaken the case for one, we weaken the case for the other.

We cannot ask governments to defend a line our own industry is not prepared to hold.

Today, every piece of fresh pork eaten in Australia is grown in Australia.

That is no accident.

It is the result of holding the line and it underpins consumer trust, a \$6.9 billion industry and more than 36,000 jobs, most of them in regional Australia.

None of this means standing still on genetics.

Australian producers have achieved remarkable genetic gain within our own herd, and the next leap forward will come the same way – investing in the science here at home, inside the systems that keep our pigs safe.

After nearly seven years in this role, I have learned that trust is our most valuable asset.

It is built over generations and can be lost in a single outbreak.

This is bigger than any one business, any individual.

On biosecurity there can be no daylight between producers, processors, researchers or APL.

What we protect today is what the next generation of pork producers will inherit.

That is simply too important to risk. 🐷



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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

**JUL 12-15** – National Pork Industry Conference 2026 – Wisconsin USA. <https://www.porkconference.com>

**JUL 27-29** – 2026 Australian Women in Agriculture National Conference. Orange, NSW. <https://agrifutures.com.au/events/2026-australia-women-in-agriculture-national-conference/>

**AUG 12** – 2026 National Renewables in Ag Conference – Orange, NSW. <https://renewablesinagconference.com.au>

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

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

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

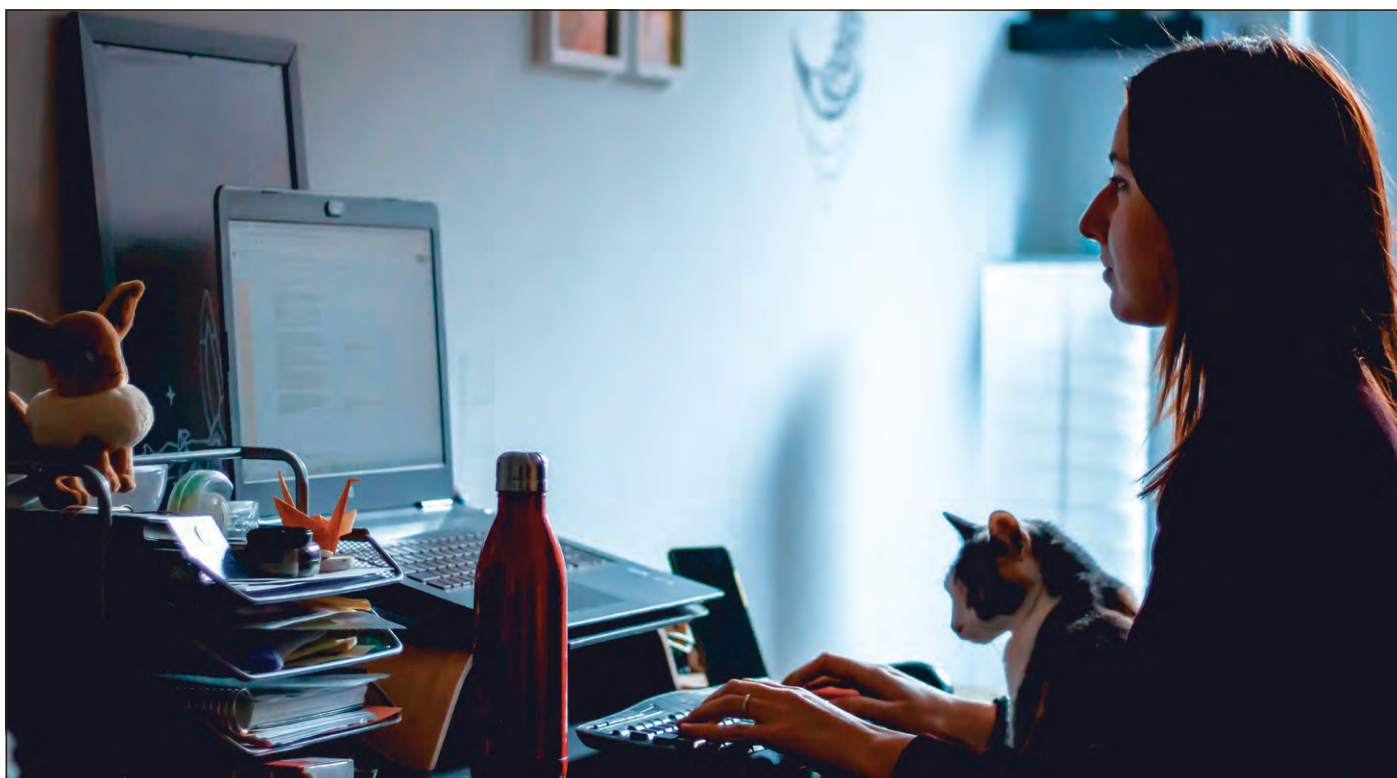
**SEP 22-24** – Expomeat 2026 – Sao Paulo, Brazil. <https://www.expomeat.com.br/>

**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**



Many women are bringing professional skills developed in other careers to help run multimillion-dollar businesses.

## Women redefining what it means to be a farmer

A NEW Adelaide University study is challenging long-held assumptions about women in agriculture, revealing that many women involved in farming businesses do not identify with the traditional 'farmer' label, despite playing critical roles in the success of modern farms.

Published in the *Journal of Rural Studies*, the research found that while some women strongly embrace the title, others are rejecting it, wanting to be recognised for their business and professional skills.

From the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine, author Dr Emily Buddle said the findings highlight the growing complexity of contemporary farming businesses and the need to rethink how women's work in agriculture is recognised.

"When we talk about women's role in farming businesses, the default assumption is often that they simply want to be recognised as farmers in their own right," Dr Buddle said.

"My research sug-

gests the reality is much more nuanced.

"Many women are not seeking the title of farmer.

"Instead, they want recognition for the important and often highly specialised work they contribute to farming businesses."

The study involved focus groups with 27 women from South Australian farming enterprises and identified a spectrum of identities, ranging from women who saw themselves as 'big-F Farmers' to those who described themselves as 'little-f farmers' or rejected the label altogether.

Women who identified as 'big-F Farmers' typically undertook day-to-day paddock work and saw farming as central to their sense of self.

Others felt their primary contribution lay elsewhere – managing administration, finance, compliance, human resources and business operations.

Several participants described these responsibilities as running the farm's 'control room' – work that is increasingly essential as farming businesses become larger,

more complex and more heavily regulated.

"The nature of farming has changed dramatically over recent decades," Dr Buddle said.

"As farms have grown in size and become more reliant on global markets, the demands of administration, risk management, compliance and employment have also increased.

"Many women are bringing professional skills developed in other careers to help run multimillion-dollar businesses."

Historically, women often balanced domestic responsibilities alongside farm work.

Today, many are managing sophisticated business functions that underpin farm productivity and profitability.

"While women have long been responsible for the control room of the farm, the control room itself has changed," Dr Buddle said.

"No longer are women simply milking cows, preserving produce, raising children and completing the tax return.

"They are helping

to manage complex businesses, yet much of that work remains unseen, unremunerated and under-appreciated."

The research also found that women overwhelmingly rejected the term 'farmer's wife', with participants expressing frustration at being defined by their husband's occupation rather than their own contributions.

Dr Buddle said the persistence of the label reflects broader social expectations that continue to shape life in regional Australia.

"Many women have their own professional identities, skills and expertise, yet the 'farmer's wife' trope remains surprisingly strong," she said.

"The women in our study wanted to be recognised as individuals contributing to the success of their farming businesses, not simply as supporters standing beside a farmer."

According to Dr Buddle, the findings have important implications for creating a more inclusive agricultural sector.

She argues that recognising women

solely through the farmer lens risks overlooking the diversity of roles they perform and the different ways they experience life within farming businesses.

"The image of a farmer remains strongly associated with traditional symbols such as tractors, Akubras and paddock work," Dr Buddle said.

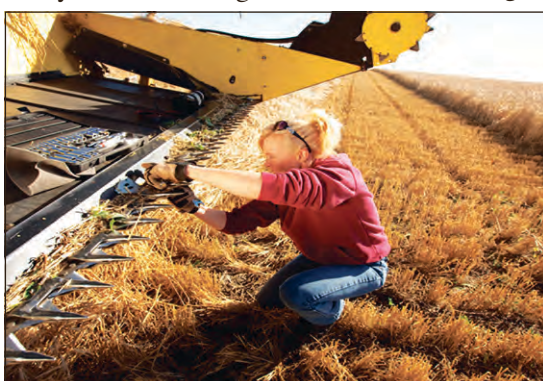
"Many women don't see themselves reflected in that image, even though they are essential to the operation of the business.

"If we want a more inclusive agricultural sector, we need to move beyond a one-size-fits-all understanding of what it means to contribute to farming.

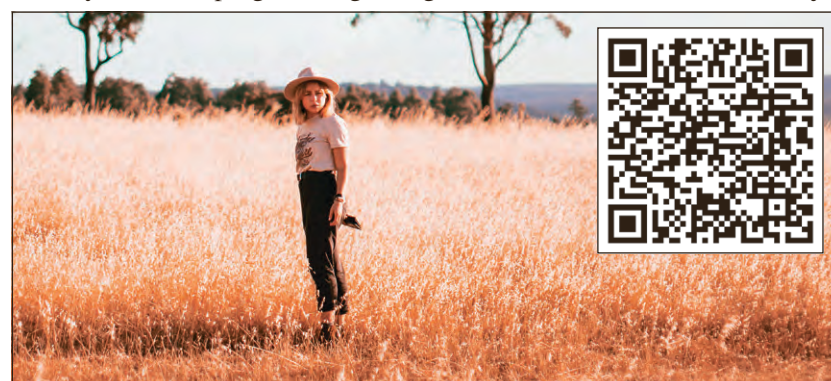
"Recognition should reflect the diverse skills, expertise and identities that women bring to Australian farming businesses."

The study 'Little-f farmer, big-F Farmer, or not at all? Questions of identity amongst Australian farming women' is published in the *Journal of Rural Studies* and can be viewed in full by scanning the QR code below.

Adelaide University



Women who identified as 'big-F Farmers' typically undertook day-to-day paddock work and saw farming as central to their sense of self.



The image of a farmer remains strongly associated with traditional symbols such as tractors, Akubras and paddock work. Many women don't see themselves reflected in that image.



**Australian  
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Needle-free intradermal vaccination offers a practical alternative, providing protection with fewer side effects, less pain and stress and reduced risk.

## Needle-free vaccination a practical step forward for pig producers

NEEDLESTICK injuries remain a real risk on pig farms, particularly during routine vaccination when pigs move unexpectedly and staff are working under pressure.

For producers, this is more than a safety issue.

It is a management issue.

Vaccination remains central to herd health and, while traditional intramuscular injection is effective, it also comes with drawbacks, including tissue damage, the risk of broken needles, sharps

disposal, operator injury and the potential transfer of pathogens between pigs through reused needles.

Needle-free intradermal vaccination offers a practical alternative.

It delivers vaccine just into the layers of the skin using controlled pressure.

The layers of the skin are designed to detect and respond to disease threats quickly, helping the vaccine do its job effectively, even with a small dose.

Research and commercial on-farm use have shown that in-

tradermal needle-free vaccination provides protection at least as good as intramuscular vaccination, with fewer whole-body side effects, less pain and stress, reduced risk of self-injection and no risk of needle fragments remaining in the meat.

For pig handlers, the benefits are just as important – needle-free vaccination removes the risk of needlestick injuries, reduces sharps handling and can simplify the vaccination routine.

For pigs, it means less pain, less stress and less

tissue trauma at the injection site.

As pig production continues to focus on welfare, safety and efficiency, needle-free intradermal vaccination is increasingly difficult to ignore.

For many producers, it is not a future concept.

It is a practical tool already available to support modern pig health management.

References are available on request – contact MSD Animal Health on customer service vice.ahau@msd.com or 1800 033 461.

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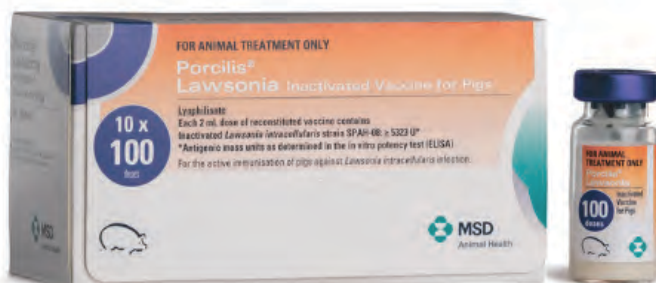
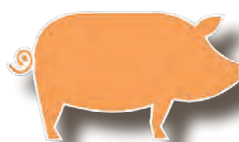
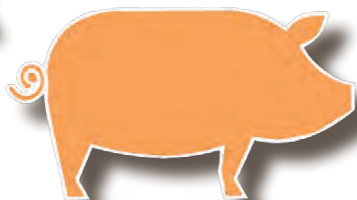
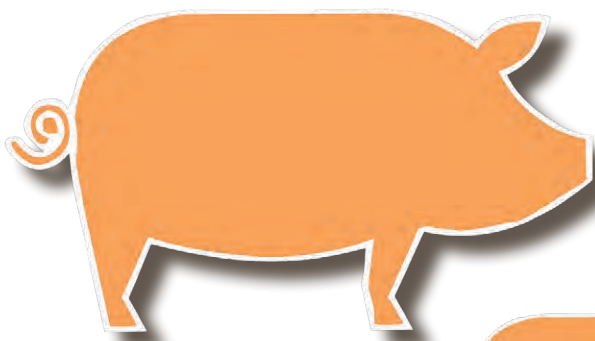


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# Sugar refinery upgrades with Gorman-Rupp

BUNDABERG Sugar is one of Australia's oldest and most respected agricultural companies, with a history of sugar production lasting more than a century.

At the Millaquin Sugar Mill in Bundaberg East, efficient fluid-handling systems are critical to keeping production moving.

Recently, the engineering team began a targeted upgrade of their pumping infrastructure to improve reliability and efficiency.

The refinery faces the tough task of managing aggressive wastewater and grit-heavy process fluids.

To handle this, the team turned to

Hydro Innovations for Gorman-Rupp self-priming centrifugal pumps.

Brendan Garrett from Bundaberg Sugar supported the review of this project, which highlighted a strategic shift towards rugged above-ground infrastructure.

The first stage involved installing a new Gorman-Rupp wastewater pump.

The unit immediately proved its worth.

"Gorman-Rupp are a reliable pump," Mr Garrett said.

"It runs so quietly we can barely hear it, while the other pump is loud and sounds like it is about to fail."

The team already has a second Gorman-Rupp

wastewater pump on-site.

They are simply waiting for that noisy existing pump to finalise its run before dropping the new unit straight into position.

Beyond standard wastewater, the refinery requires heavy-duty equipment for its recovery pit, a harsh environment filled with abrasive materials.

For this gritty application, they selected a Gorman-Rupp T3A71S-B pump with hardened internals to withstand severe wear.

The mechanical team is currently sorting the motor match and configuration ahead of installation.

By choosing Gorman-Rupp's above-ground

design, Bundaberg Sugar eliminates the need for cranes or wet-well entry.

Maintenance operators and technicians can now monitor, inspect internals or conduct routine maintenance safely and easily from the workshop floor, ensuring long-term uptime for the mill.

For further information regarding the extensive range of Gorman-Rupp self-priming pumps and the services that Hydro Innovations are able to offer to remedy your wastewater, sewerage, aeration and any pump issues, visit [www.hydroinnovations.com.au](http://www.hydroinnovations.com.au) or phone 02 9898 1800.

Hydro Innovations



A Gorman-Rupp T3A71S-B pump with hardened internals was selected for the harsh environment of the refinery's recovery pit.

# Applications open for John Riley Memorial Travel Award

THE Queensland Pig Consultancy Group is inviting applications for the biennial John Riley Memorial Travel Award.

Valued at up to \$10,000, the award supports a member of an Australian family pork business to undertake national or international travel to investigate innovative ideas, technologies or practices that will benefit their business and the wider pork industry.

The award honours the late John Riley, a highly respected pork industry consultant, mentor and advocate who strongly believed in the value of travel to broaden knowledge, perspectives and professional development.

### Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be an individual from an Australian family pork business

- Have at least two years' on-farm experience

- Propose a study tour relevant to the pork industry (for example production, technology, environmental management, waste management, biosecurity, animal welfare, staff management or leadership)

- Demonstrate benefits for both their business and the broader industry

- Commit to sharing their findings with industry and QPCG audiences.

Eligible expenses include travel, accommodation, transport, registration fees and meals.

### Applications close

For an application form or further information, contact Sara Willis at [sara.willis@dpi.qld.gov.au](mailto:sara.willis@dpi.qld.gov.au)



Applications close Tuesday June 30, 2026.

QPCG



The late John Riley, a highly respected pork industry consultant, mentor and advocate.


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Speaker Chris Freney, a Gippsland poultry farmer whose business is developing an anaerobic digestion project that demonstrates how agricultural waste can be transformed into multiple revenue streams.

# Renewables delivering real returns on farm

MOST pork producers are already managing enough complexity without having to become energy experts.

Volatile commodity prices, rising feed and energy costs, labour shortages, biosecurity requirements and increasingly variable weather conditions are all putting pressure on farm businesses.

At the same time, agriculture is being asked to reduce emissions, electrify operations and play a larger role in Australia's energy transition.

For many producers, the challenge is knowing where to start and what actually stacks up commercially.

That is the focus of

the National Renewables in Agriculture Conference and Expo being held in Orange, NSW on August 12.

The event showcases practical examples from farmers who are already using renewable energy technologies to cut costs, improve efficiency and create new income streams.

The conference has sold out in each of the past two years.

This year's program includes more than 10 farmers sharing their experiences with technologies ranging from battery storage and solar-powered irrigation to electric farm vehicles, biofuels, on-farm fertiliser production and opportunities

to earn income from electricity networks.

Among the speakers is Gippsland poultry farmer Chris Freney, whose business C-Loop is developing an ambitious anaerobic digestion project that demonstrates how agricultural waste can be transformed into multiple revenue streams.

While the project is based on poultry litter, many of the lessons around waste management, energy production and nutrient recovery are highly relevant to intensive livestock industries, including pork production.

Mr Freney's system will convert poultry litter into renewable electricity, industrial

gases and valuable agricultural inputs, turning what was once a disposal challenge into a diversified business opportunity.

The project uses German-designed anaerobic digestion technology, drawing on decades of European experience in biogas production.

"They are just so good at it," Mr Freney said.

"The German engineering company has provided a performance guarantee for the digestion process.

"I'd rather rely on their knowledge and expertise because they've been doing this successfully for a long time."

Mr Freney is optimistic that construction and commissioning will begin before the end of the calendar year.

A key feature of the project is that it has been designed around three separate revenue streams rather than relying solely on electricity generation.

The first revenue stream comes from renewable electricity.

Methane produced through the digestion process will fuel an internal-combustion engine capable of generating around 8.5MW of dispatchable power.

Approximately half of the electricity will be used on-farm, helping reduce operating costs, while the remainder will be sold into the electricity market.

Importantly, the system is designed to supply power during evening peak demand periods when electricity prices are typically highest.

"Our focus is a reliable 5pm to 11pm supply during peak demand," Mr Freney said.

"We can provide this 365 days a year."

The second revenue stream comes from

capturing and selling carbon dioxide produced during the digestion process.

The gas will be separated and sold into industrial markets, with offtake agreements already secured.

The third revenue stream comes from recovering nutrients from the digestion process to support algae and spirulina production, creating natural food colourings.

Together these multiple income streams have been critical in demonstrating the commercial viability of the project to lenders and investors.

The conference will also feature practical discussions around battery storage economics, solar integration, electric vehicles, green nitrogen production and ways farmers can benefit from Australia's evolving energy system.

In addition to the main conference on August 12, a farmer-only networking session will be held on the afternoon of August 11, providing an opportunity for producers to meet speakers, ask questions and discuss projects in an informal setting.

For those wanting to see renewable energy systems operating in the real world, optional farm tours on August 13 will visit either a solar-powered winery or the Flyers Creek Wind Farm.

For pork producers facing rising energy costs and looking for practical ways to improve profitability, the event offers a rare opportunity to hear directly from farmers who are already implementing these technologies and making them work commercially.

For more information and to register, visit [renewablesinagconference.com.au](http://renewablesinagconference.com.au)

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The roundtable explored both immediate plastic packaging supply chain challenges and longer-term solutions. Photo: DCCEEW

# Packaging supply risks draw federal attention

AUSTRALIA'S pork and poultry industries are among the food sectors being closely watched as the Federal Government examines growing pressures on plastic packaging supply chains and the potential role of recycling and packaging reform in strengthening food security.

Federal Environment Minister Murray Watt, Agriculture Minister Julie Collins and Industry Minister Tim Ayres recently con-

vened an industry roundtable involving representatives from the red meat, poultry, dairy, food and grocery, plastics and packaging sectors to discuss the impact of global supply chain disruptions on Australia's access to plastic packaging materials.

For pork and poultry producers, processors and retailers, reliable access to plastic packaging remains critical for product protection, shelf life, food safety and distribution

throughout domestic and export markets.

The discussions were prompted by concerns that ongoing conflict in the Middle East is affecting global fuel, polymer and plastic resin supply chains, creating potential risks for industries that depend on packaging materials.

The ministers said the roundtable explored both immediate supply chain challenges and longer-term solutions, including the role that packaging reform and increased domestic re-

cycling capacity could play in improving supply resilience.

The growing focus on packaging highlights its importance not only as a food safety and product integrity tool but also as a key component of Australia's food security and manufacturing capability.

Industry Minister Tim Ayres said the government was actively monitoring risks across several critical supply chains, including polymers and plastic resins

continued P8



The growing focus on packaging highlights its importance not only as a food safety and product integrity tool but also as a key component of Australia's food security and manufacturing capability.

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## Packaging supply risks draw federal attention

from P7  
used in food packaging.

“My department is very focused on monitoring supply chains – from urea stocks and risks in Australia’s polymer and plastic resin supply – to make sure government has the information it needs to make good decisions in Australia’s national interest,” he said.

“Plastic packaging is critical for Australia’s food security and we are keeping a close eye on supplies to make sure Australian industry, producers and consumers aren’t caught short.”

For the pork and poultry sectors, packaging is a vital link between processing plants and consumers. Any disruption to packaging availability can have significant implications for production scheduling, inventory management, distribution and retail supply.

Agriculture Minister Julie Collins said collaboration between government and industry would be essential in addressing emerging challenges.

“We know plastic

packaging is an important part of getting food to Australians and supporting our food security more broadly, which is why this kind of collaboration is critical,” she said.

The discussion also reflected growing recognition that food production systems are increasingly dependent on secure access to manufacturing inputs beyond the farm gate, including packaging materials, transport fuels and processing infrastructure.

Environment Minister Murray Watt said the roundtable provided an opportunity for industry participants to share their experiences of current supply chain pressures.

“This roundtable facilitated an important conversation with industry to understand their first-hand experience of impacts being felt within Australia’s plastic packaging supply chain,” he said.

“Reducing and responsibly managing plastic waste through recycling is a priority for the Albanese Government and, where this can help

increase food security for Australians, there is a double benefit.”

The government highlighted a range of existing initiatives designed to strengthen supply chain resilience, including the \$7.5 billion Fuel and Fertiliser Security Facility, expanded fuel reserves, fertiliser import arrangements and more than \$200 million invested through the Recycling Modernisation Fund.

For Australia’s pork and poultry industries, the roundtable signals increasing government recognition that packaging supply, recycling infrastructure and domestic manufacturing capability are becoming important components of national food security planning.

As supply chains remain vulnerable to global disruptions, industry stakeholders are likely to see greater attention placed on securing access to packaging materials and expanding Australia’s capacity to recycle and manufacture packaging products domestically. 🐷



Pork CRC CEO Dr Roger Campbell (centre) with his executive team at his June 2018 farewell dinner in Adelaide. Pork CRC concluded June 30, 2019.

## Flagging input influences on research outcomes

HAVING managed communications for Pork CRC for 10 years from 2007 to 2018, I am acutely aware of how important it is to acknowledge the financial and in-kind support given to research when communicating outcomes of said research.

Though publicity of research findings, outcomes and recommendations were largely sourced from peer-reviewed published papers, there remained always a need to publicly acknowledge funding sources.

To his perpetual credit, Pork CRC chief executive officer Roger Campbell, along with chairs



Cant  
Comment  
by BRENDON CANT

John Keniry and Dennis Mutton, was very much aligned with this communications discipline.

Hence, I was interested to read the ‘thinkpiece’ below published in *The Conversation* on May 28.

Authored by University of Queensland School of Public Health PhD candidate Navid Teimourri

and UQ global health and health policy senior lecturer Katherine Cullerton, their contribution was titled ‘How ‘big meat’ shapes science to give steak a healthy glow up’.

In typical *The Conversation* disclosure, it declared that neither author receives funding from any meat-related bodies.

So, let’s see what

they had to say, in particular in relation to research extension’s impact on nutrition and people’s dietary decisions.

Headlines might describe meat as “a significant health risk” or “essential for a healthy and balanced diet”.

So what’s behind these seemingly contradictory statements?

Our new research suggests one reason is who pays for the science behind the studies we see discussed online or via social media.

We examined whether meat industry involvement is linked to how scientific papers portray

continued P9

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# Flagging input influences on research outcomes

from P8

the health effects of eating meat.

We found studies with ties to the meat industry were 16 times more likely to conclude meat is harmless or beneficial, compared with studies without such ties.

Conflicts of interest in nutrition research are not new.

Analyses of sugar, ultra-processed foods and drinks have found the same pattern – industry-funded studies are more likely to produce outcomes that favour the sponsor's commercial interests.

This can muddy the evidence base used to guide dietary guidelines and policy, which can influence consumers' choices.

The meat industry's role in shaping nutrition science has received little systematic scrutiny.

Our aim was to address this through a simple question – when the meat industry is involved in a study, does that change the study's conclusion about meat's health effects?

We searched for nutrition studies published between 2014 and 2023 that examined how eating meat relates to health.

For each study, we recorded declared funding sources, author affiliations and declared conflicts of interest.

For example, a study that declared funding by Meat & Livestock Australia was identified as a study with industry ties.

We then classified the paper's conclusion about meat as favourable, neutral or unfavourable.

For example, if a study concluded eating meat may cause cancer, this was classified as unfavourable.

We then analysed whether those conclusions were associated with meat industry ties.

We were testing whether there was a statistical link between industry involvement and a more positive 'spin' on meat.

## What we found

Of the 500 studies included, 78 (15.6 percent) reported some form of industry involvement.

Studies that disclosed ties to meat-related organisations were 16 times more likely to conclude meat was beneficial.

Studies that did not

provide a funding statement or conflict of interest declaration also tended to report more positive findings, raising further questions about transparency in nutrition research.

Perhaps there was meat industry involvement in this research but it was not declared.

We have no way of knowing.

Importantly, we were not judging whether individual studies were 'right' or 'wrong' about meat's contribution to health.

Instead, we showed that the pattern of conclusions in the literature is strongly linked to who is paying the bills.

This finding is consistent with broader work on food industry sponsorship and outcomes in nutrition science.

## Why it matters

Most people will never read an academic paper, but many will encounter its findings via news stories, social media, industry communications or even dietary guidelines.

Journalists and policymakers often rely on 'the weight of the evidence' when deciding what messages to send about meat and health.

If industry involvement systematically tilts that evidence base, the public may be misinformed about foods in ways that do not fully reflect all the independent science.

For people trying to make sense of conflicting nutrition headlines, this means apparent scientific disagreement may reflect differences in who supported the research, not differences in the data.

Our findings do not mean every study with meat industry ties study is invalid, nor that independent studies are by default of higher quality.

But they do suggest industry involvement should be treated as a key piece of information when weighing up nutrition claims.

For readers, a useful rule of thumb is to look beyond the headline and ask, who funded this study and do the authors have financial ties to the products being discussed?

Journalists can help by routinely reporting funding sources and conflicts of interest when covering nutrition stories and by

seeking independent experts to contextualise new findings.

## What needs to happen next

Our study adds to growing calls for stronger safeguards around conflicts of interest in nutrition research.

At a minimum, clear disclosure of funding sources and conflicts of interest should be non-negotiable, and journals should enforce these policies consistently.

However, disclosure only tells us a conflict exists.

It does not remove the conflict.

Managing and ideally eliminating conflicts of interest should be a higher

priority than solely declaring them.

One way to do this is through greater public and independent funding to enable researchers to conduct studies without relying on support from commercial industries.

The public rightly expects nutrition advice to be grounded in the best available evidence.

Our findings suggest that when it comes to meat, industry involvement can tilt that evidence in a certain direction.

Recognising and correcting for that tilt is an essential step towards more trustworthy dietary guidance.



Roger Campbell (right) worked under two chairs at Pork CRC. Final chair Dennis Mutton (left) and inaugural chair Dr John Keniry both praised his accomplishments and professional service at his farewell dinner.



The author, then Pork CRC communications manager, at the 2014 Pan Pacific Pork Expo with Queensland pork producer Tabitha Alexa and then Pork CRC research manager Graeme Crook.

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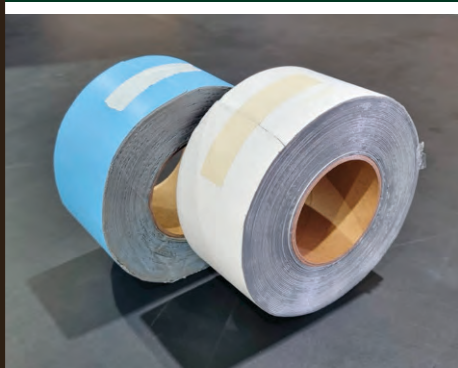
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## Insights into alternative farrowing systems

AUSTRALIAN Pork Limited, in partnership with Ashley Norval from Norval Agriconsulting, has launched the farrowing house series, showcasing farms that have transitioned from conventional farrowing crates to non

and reduced-confinement farrowing systems.

Over the past weeks, the APL Update has featured case studies from Denmark and Australia, highlighting pen design, sow and piglet management, staff training and practical on-farm insights.

The series aims to support producers in exploring alternative approaches to traditional farrowing systems, while sharing real-world experiences and lessons learned.

The series began with Tvilumgaard Farm, a 580-sow farrow-to-finish operation using reduced-confinement pens.

Despite the relatively recent transition, owners Thomas and Susanne Kuhr have achieved a 7 percent piglet mortality rate.

Their experience demonstrates how adapting management practices and system design can deliver strong outcomes.

The second case study featured was Norregaard, a 750-sow farm operating a fully non-confinement system.

Owned by Ole and Sanne Mathiasen, the farm supplies the Antonius brand of Danish Crown and meets strict production standards, including 30-day weaning, intact tails and zero sow confinement from farrowing through lactation.

Next, Frenderupgaard – a 1400-sow operation owned by Niels Aagaard Jorgensen and his wife Mia – showcased their journey in trialling three reduced-confinement pen designs before selecting their preferred option.

A key focus of their success has been building staff confidence across a diverse workforce working with loose-housed sows.

At Krannestrup, father and son team Niels Aage Arve and Kristian manage 1350 sows in reduced-confinement pens.

Farm manager Rene Dejgaard Thomsen shared the practical challenges of transitioning systems.

The case study highlighted how the team adapted to day-to-day changes and what measures proved most effective in supporting staff and sow management during the transition.

The Australian perspective was provided through the SunPork maternity ring system, which is set to be rolled out across SunPork sites nationally.

SunPork science, technology and adoption manager Dr Kate Plush emphasised the importance of firsthand experience with the system, encouraging producers to spend time working within the system with an open mind.

The case study demonstrated how staff confidence develops through exposure, training and gradual adaptation.

The final instalment of the series brought together key take-home messages across all five farms.

A consistent theme was that transitioning to non or reduced-confinement systems takes time.

While piglet mortality may increase initially, performance improves as staff gain experience and refine management practices.

Over time, farms reported positive outcomes, including improved piglet health and improved sow milk production.

Resources, including detailed case studies and the final report, are available on the APL website.

Note, APL continues to support traditional farrowing systems while recognising and supporting research into alternative systems, balancing the health and welfare of sow, piglets and the people caring for them.

Research is part of our commitment to demonstrating science-led animal welfare, which underpins our commitment to continual improvement in the care of our pigs and our people.

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## Piggery drains come clean with Aussie

THE bigger the piggery, the greater the potential for 'chokes' in drains and pipe-work.

Drain cleaning jetties can clear these chokes in minutes and also double as very effective pressure washers.

Aussie Pumps, Australia's leading supplier of drain-cleaning jetties, has experience supplying machines for piggeries not only in Australia but throughout the Pacific.

The jetties, Aussie's Cobra series, start at 4000psi 20LPM and go to 5000psi 25LPM machines.

For larger piggeries with bigger pipes, an Aussie Python is recommended, having a larger flow capability.

The Python offers 31LPM and a pressure of 4300psi.

The units are available with stainless-steel trolleys for mobility or in what Aussie calls its 'cube' mount.

The cubes are designed for permanent mounting on a ute, truck or even trailer.

All Aussie jetties feature Big Bert

Bertolini high-pressure triplex pumps.

Big Bert is the only high-pressure pump on the market that carries a four-year warranty.

The units are gearbox drive and are built for continuous operation.

The standard drives are Honda twin-cylinder electric-start engines.

The new deluxe range of jetties feature the MK 3 stainless-steel frame and stainless-steel reels.

The machines are designed for efficiency, with the average choke cleared in less than 20 minutes.

Piggery operators also get a huge benefit from the machine as it doubles as a very effective high-pressure cleaner.

The jetter high-pressure reel carries 60m of hose.

That's an operating range of 120m.

It can be used to wash-down infrastructure, prepare steel work for repainting, as well as keep the premises clean and hygienic.

These high-pressure machines can also be fitted with accesso-

ries that can improve efficiency.

These include a 'turbulence' for the gun that will double the effectiveness of the impact, cutting work times dramatically.

Flat-surface cleaners that will take up to 80 percent out of the time needed to clean large paved areas are also an initiative of Aussie Pumps.

The Aussie Spinner covers a 20" surface.

The Spinner floats on the water pressure of the spinning nozzles, lifting it like a hovercraft.

The operator swings it from side to side for fast and efficient cleaning.

The Spinner cleans streak free.

Aussie Pumps Chief Engineer John Hales said, "We consider

a jetter as being an essential part of any pork production operation."

"It can be a multi-purpose tool – it can save many hours of back-breaking work and keep the operation clean and in hygienic condition."

Jetties are on special at the moment through major plumbing supply stores or by contacting Aussie Pumps distributors throughout the country.

"Our distributor network is the most professional and ethical pump distribution team in Australia," Mr Hales said.

"They understand great products at fair prices is Aussie's unbeatable combination."

**Aussie Pumps**



Aussie's high pressure deluxe jetter in stainless-steel doubles as a 5000psi blaster.

## EPA approves JBS pork rendering plant

JBS PORK Australia has received approval from the Victorian Environment Protection Authority to construct a new pork rendering facility at Laverton North, marking a significant development for the company's processing operations in Victoria.

The EPA granted a development licence for the project on June 11, allowing construction of the rendering plant at 52-58 Pipe Rd, Laverton North.

The approval comes with a range of conditions that JBS Pork Australia must meet before the facility can begin operating.

In approving the application, the EPA determined that the project included measures to "eliminate or reduce risk of harm to human health and the environment, so far as reasonably practicable" and "does not pose an unacceptable risk of harm to human health or

the environment."

The rendering plant will process porcine waste sourced from JBS Pork Australia's existing adjacent abattoir.

According to the EPA, using material from the neighbouring facility will help minimise transport-related odour impacts.

The development includes the rendering plant itself, a dedicated building to house the operation and a range of technologies designed to reduce impacts on nearby residents and businesses.

The EPA said its assessment was conducted under the Environment Protection Act 2017 and considered cumulative environmental risks, relevant policies, scientific evidence, community and stakeholder feedback and advice from external agencies.

Community submissions raised concerns about potential odour and noise impacts.

However, the EPA said licence conditions require JBS Pork Australia to implement best-available control measures and technologies to manage these issues.

"This includes keeping the plant under negative air pressure so the odour is captured and treated bio-filters that are appropriately sized for odour treatment equipment to control the noise from the site," the EPA said.

Before commencing operations, JBS Pork Australia must demonstrate compliance with all development licence conditions and then obtain a separate EPA operating licence.

As per EPA's website, those seeking to challenge the decision have 15 business days from June 11 to apply for a review through the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

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## Philippines reopens market to most Spanish pork despite ASF detection

THE Philippines has agreed to resume imports of pork from African swine fever-free regions of Spain, ending a nationwide ban that was imposed after Spain reported its first ASF cases in more than 30 years late last year.

The decision reflects growing acceptance of a regionalisation approach to disease management, where trade restrictions apply only to affected areas rather than an entire country.

Spanish Agriculture Minister Luis Planas described the Philippines as a strategic export market for Spain's pork sector.

Spain has been actively negotiating with non-European Union trading partners to recognise regionalisation arrangements following the detection of ASF in wild boar in November 2025.

China was among the first countries to accept the approach.

As the EU's largest pork producer, Spain faced a significant export challenge following the disease detection.

However, the outbreaks have remained confined to wild boar populations in the north-eastern region of Catalonia, with no commercial pig farms affected.

Spanish authorities have recorded 51 ASF outbreaks involving 322 positive cases in wild boar.

The affected zone covers 13 municipalities near Barcelona.

The Philippines' decision is expected to provide a boost to Spanish pork exports while highlighting the importance of regionalisation agreements in maintaining market access when animal disease outbreaks occur. 🐷

# Rodenticide rotation and weather effect

RODENT control is a critical component of animal production systems such as poultry farms, piggeries, dairies and feedlots.

These environments offer rodents a reliable supply of feed, water and shelter, enabling rapid population growth if not properly managed.

Rodents cause substantial economic and biosecurity risks.

They consume and contaminate feed with droppings, urine and hair, increasing costs and reducing feed efficiency.

They are also known carriers of diseases such as salmonella, leptospirosis and fowl cholera, posing risks to both livestock and humans.

Additionally, their gnawing damages buildings, wiring and

equipment, sometimes resulting in costly repairs or fire hazards.

Their presence can also stress animals, negatively affecting productivity performance and wellbeing.

### Importance of rotation

Rodenticides remain a key tool in controlling rodents in livestock environments.

These include anti-coagulants that disrupt blood clotting and non-anticoagulants that act more quickly through other physiological mechanisms.

However, continuous use of the same rodenticide, especially in environments with abundant alternative feed can lead to sub-lethal dosing and the development of resistance.

Resistance occurs when rodents survive

exposure to a specific active ingredient and pass that tolerance to future generations.

Over time, this reduces the effectiveness of standard treatments, allowing infestations to persist even with regular baiting.

This is a common challenge in intensive animal production systems where rodent populations are stable and continuously exposed to control measures.

Rotating rodenticides is essential to maintaining effective control.

This involves switching between products with different active ingredients (modes of action) over time.

Rotation reduces the likelihood of resistance developing, improves overall effectiveness and helps manage bait aversion,

where rodents avoid certain baits after negative experiences.

### The weather effect

Weather conditions play a major role in rodent activity and population dynamics.

During colder months, rodents often move indoors into animal housing facilities seeking warmth and food, leading to sudden increases in activity inside sheds and storage areas.

In contrast, warmer conditions – especially following rainfall – can boost breeding rates and food availability, allowing populations to expand rapidly.

Dry conditions may also drive rodents toward farms in search of water.

These seasonal and environmental shifts mean that rodent pressure is not constant and must be managed proactively throughout the year.

### An effective control program

An effective rotation program should align with seasonal changes and production cycles.

For example, increasing baiting efforts and switching products ahead of winter can help manage rodents moving indoors,

while rotations during warmer months can address increased breeding activity.

Monitoring rodent activity such as bait consumption, droppings and sightings is essential for evaluating success and adjusting strategies.

### Rodenticides seasons BASF

Maintaining good sanitation, cleaning up feed spills, securing storage and sealing entry points all reduce rodent attraction and improve control outcomes.

Baits should always be placed in secure stations to protect livestock and non-target species.

In conclusion, an effective rodent control program in animal production areas requires a strategic and adaptive approach.

Weather patterns significantly influence rodent behaviour and population growth, making year-round management essential.

Rotating rodenticides, combined with strong hygiene and monitoring practices, ensures effective sustainable control while protecting productivity and farm biosecurity. 🐭

CCD Animal Health



Rodenticides remain a key tool in controlling rodents in livestock environments.

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## CMG acquires Patmore Feeds

WESTERN Australian-based agribusiness Craig Mostyn Group has recently announced its purchase of stockfeed manufacturer Patmore Feeds.

Patmore Feeds is located at Cuballing in WA's southern wheatbelt and has a production capacity of 180,000 tonnes per annum in total of pellets for beef cattle, sheep, lambs and pigs.

The company primarily supplies livestock producers in Western Australia.

CMG chief executive officer Wayne Crofts said this acquisition provided the company with the opportunity to further support WA agriculture.

"We have consistently said that we see a bright future for Western Australia's livestock sector," Mr Crofts said.

"This investment backs that up and is a tangible demonstration of our confidence in our vital agricultural sector while aligning with our strategic plan to maintain security of supply."

Mr Crofts said as the livestock sector continues to shift to backgrounding and feed lotting, CMG will be looking for ways it can expand at Patmore Feeds to support industry growth.

"Our focus is on lowering production costs, improving flexibility in recipe formulation to deliver a nutritionally superior pellet and increasing pellet durability, resulting in higher feed conversion rates, among other things."

"The benefits generated from each of these will flow to the farmers who use Patmore Feeds pellets in their livestock operations."

CMG owns and operates pig farms across WA, and acquires pigs from third parties to produce pork at its abattoir and processing facility at Wooroloo in Perth's outer east.

Its meat products are sold under the Amelia Park, Linley Valley Pork and V&V Walsh brands.

[www.porknews.com.au](http://www.porknews.com.au)

The acquisition means CMG can now supply a significant proportion of its pig feed requirements.

The company's other businesses include Talloman, Craig Mostyn Protein Trading and Jade Tiger Abalone brands. **ACCC approvals**

The acquisition has already received support from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission which signed off on the sale in March.

The ACCC considered whether the acquisition would substantially lessen

competition by giving CMG the "ability and incentive to foreclose rival" pig feed and sheep feed producers in southern WA.

It found that it was unlikely to be the case in both sheep and pig feed markets.

The ACCC said CMG's current demand for sheep feed was not large enough to substantially affect rival operators, adding the company could also source pig feed from outside the Patmore operation to "ensure security of feed supply and mitigate production and welfare risks".

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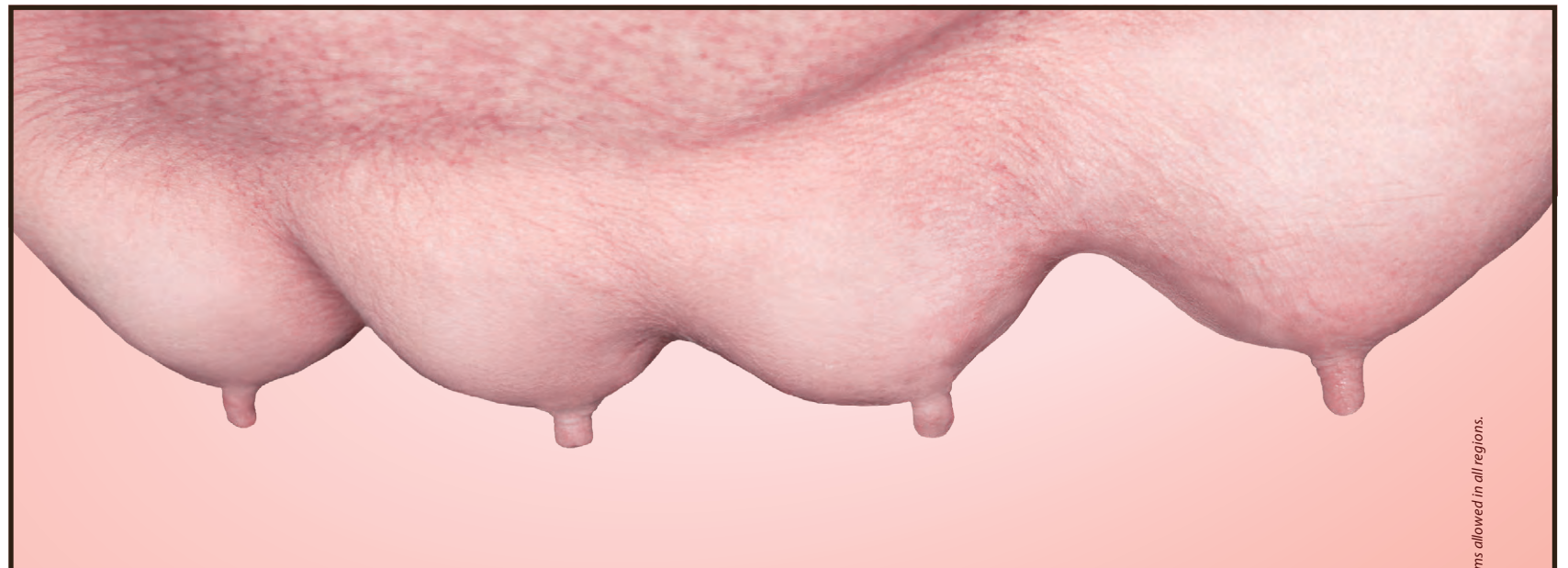


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