Australian Pork NEWSPAPER

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Kingaroy BaconFest 2025

THIS grassroots festival started when original chief baconeer Kathryn Stevens had a 'lightbulb' moment one night when washing up.

She discussed the idea of launching a festival with friends over coffee and before long an eager team of bacon-loving volunteers were assembled.

The first taste locals and visitors alike got of what is now a well-known festival on Queensland's event calendar was back in 2018.

Kingaroy BaconFest was established to highlight the importance of buying Australian pork products and supporting Aussie producers.

In 2019, the second Kingaroy BaconFest was held and proved to be 'pigger' than the previous.

However, as for many events across the country in 2020 and 2021, BaconFest fell victim to the COVID 'hamdemic' and was forced to cancel its annual event.

Bouncing back crispier than ever in 2022, Kingaroy BaconFest has continued to attract bacon-lovers from across the country each August.

With celebrity chef demonstrations, live entertainment and fair dinkum family fun, save the dates from August 15-16 for this year's BaconFest.

Alastair McLeod will be cooking up a storm on the BaconFest demonstration stage, 45-time Golden Guitar winner Troy Cassar-Daley will feature alongside homegrown artists and the event offers family friendly fun that won't break the bank.

So come soak up the sunshine, enjoy the food, activities and bacon-eating competitions at BaconFest – Friday August 15 and Saturday August 16.

Every day is audit day

AUSTRALIAN Pork
Point of View
by **MARGO ANDRAE**
CEO

LAST month was a challenging time for our industry.

Serious allegations of animal neglect and failure of duty of care were raised about a pig farm, which then became the subject of a formal investigation by the RSPCA South Australia.

These allegations were distressing – for the individuals involved, for the broader industry and for the community that expects the highest standards from Australian pig producers.

This issue is not representative of our industry, but it only takes one to put us under more scrutiny.

It is a reminder that we all need to remain vigilant.

Let me be clear – unlawful entry and surveillance are unacceptable.

Trespass places enormous pressure on farming families, workers and businesses.

Australian Pork Limited continues to advocate for stronger protections and penalties against these tactics.

But we cannot forget that any breaches of animal welfare have no place in Australian pig farming and are fundamentally at odds with the values and practices our farmers expect of their peers.

The Australian pork industry has enjoyed a healthy period of stable growth over the past few years.

Social licence is key to continuing our success into the future – we can't jeopardise years of progress over something entirely avoidable.

Our APIQ (Australian Pork Industry Quality) system is critically important for our industry.

It protects animal welfare, strengthens our biosecurity, builds community and consumer trust and ensures consistent farming standards are upheld across the industry.

But it's not foolproof.

We not only rely on every producer doing the right thing, we also rely on third-party independent auditing processes, producers self-reporting and external reporting channels.

We all have an obligation to report issues and not walk past in the hope someone else deals with them.

It is the role of APIQ to ensure that wherever breaches are found, they are addressed as soon as possible, with long-term plans put in place to ensure ongoing compliance with our standards.

APIQ is a highly regarded voluntary standard.

Choosing to be an APIQ accredited producer means you choose to hold yourself to a higher standard.

Maintaining these standards on-farm is critical to our industry's reputation.

Ninety percent of our producers are APIQ accredited.

I'm proud of the remarkable work much of our industry has done to lift the bar.

We demonstrated our commitment to animal welfare and evidence-based farming practices during the Victorian parliamentary inquiry into animal welfare.

We can't afford the strong standing of APIQ to be undone by the actions of a few – every day should be audit day.

Over the next few years we will deliver Australia's first industry-led national standards and guidelines for pig welfare.

We all need to live and breathe our APIQ standards.

That's why this month I'm asking all producers to review their on-farm compliance and practices.

- Read the APIQ Standards Manual and Compliance Guide
- Review your on-farm systems and records
- Reinforce training and expectations with your teams.

We all have a responsibility to our animals, our people and our industry.

I'm proud to work in an industry that is leading on animal welfare and product quality.

We do things better than anyone else… because we care more, we work harder and we hold ourselves to the highest standards.

Let's keep doing that.

Australian Pork NEWSPAPER

Pork Industry Calendar of Events

2025

AUG 5-7 – Australian Women in Agriculture (AWiA) 2025 National Conference – Adelaide, Australia. https://www.awia.org.au/conference

AUG 15-16 – Kingaroy BaconFest – Kingaroy, Australia. https://www.kingaroybaconfest.com.au/

AUG 22 – SA Pig Industry Day – Venue TBC. https://www.porksa.com.au/upcoming-events/

SEP 20-23 – Allen D. Leman Swine Conference – Minnesota, USA. https://lemanconference.umn.edu/

OCT 6-8 – 16th SafePork – Rennes, France. https://safepork.ifip.asso.fr

OCT 15-16 – Dutch Pork and Poultry Expo – Den Bosch, Netherlands. https://www.porkpoultryexpo.nl/en/

OCT 18-20 – Leman China Swine Conference and World Swine Industry – Changsha, China. https://www.lemanchina.com/

NOV 17-19 – APSA Conference – Melbourne, Australia. https://www.apsa.asn.au/

2026

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

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

porknews.com.au
0450 672 553

Pork industry calls for renewed focus on Australian-made smallgoods

AUSTRALIA'S pork industry is urging the domestic supply chain to support the production and promotion of Australian-made ham and bacon, following a recent biosecurity breach and sustained pressure from high levels of imports.

Despite strong consumer preference for local products, supermarkets report domestic production capacity cannot currently meet demand.

Imports at two-year high amid structural constraints

According to Australian Pork Limited, imports of ham and bacon have more than quadrupled since the early 2000s and now account for approximately 75 percent of the market.

In the 12 months to March, pork imports reached a two-year high, with 183,000 tonnes valued at nearly $1 billion entering Australia.

APL chief executive officer Margo Andrae said the increase in imports was being noticed at the consumer level.

"A lot of customers would note that when they go into the supermarkets and go looking for ham and bacon, that the availability of Australian ingredients is not there," Ms Andrae said.

Australia's major retailers – Coles, Woolworths and Aldi – have reaffirmed their preference for sourcing locally but said they were constrained by domestic supply volumes.

A Woolworths spokesperson said: "We source all of our fresh meat locally and, where we can, the same applies to smallgoods produced by our suppliers."

With a Coles spokesperson reporting that the chain works hard to balance value for its customers, with a mix of Australian and imported packaged pork products alongside a range of 100 percent Australian fresh pork.

Supply limitations rooted in production capacity

Australian pork production is limited by the number of pigs processed annually – approximately 5.4 million – with domestic supply largely committed to the fresh pork market.

In 2023, APL data showed that 466,000 tonnes of pork were produced in Australia, of which 59,000 tonnes were exported.

Total domestic consumption, including imported pork, reached 695,000 tonnes.

Strict biosecurity regulations require all fresh pork sold in Australia to be locally produced.

However, processed smallgoods such as ham and bacon are frequently made using imported frozen boneless pork from countries such as the US and Denmark.

SunPork CEO and Australasian Pork Research Institute Limited director Professor Robert van Barneveld said increasing national pig numbers was a long-term investment with high capital requirements.

"To provide an extra 1000 pigs a week costs about $50 million and takes two years, so we can't just turn the tap on," Prof van Barneveld said.

Adding that if only two-thirds of that was going into smallgoods, a place for the other one-third was required.

And that with domestic consumption increasing by about 3 percent over the past year, there was limited surplus available for smallgoods production.

Competitive pressure within domestic supply

Australian Meat Industry Council CEO Tim Ryan noted that strong competition existed across retail and processing for a limited domestic pork supply.

"There certainly hasn't been a concerted effort to reduce our utilisation of Australian pork," Mr Ryan said.

"There is a bit of competition there for what's available, and so when that's the case and the product isn't there really to begin with, there is this need to supplement that with imports."

He said retail dynamics can make it difficult to assess the presence of Australian-grown pork on shelves at any one time.

"It's difficult to conclude what's happening in the retail landscape," he said.

"It's always changing, and different retailers will put different products on and off throughout the year.

"But from an industry perspective and the types of products that we're producing and the various ingredients that go into those products, it hasn't fundamentally shifted."

Building demand through informed consumer choice

Ms Andrae reiterated the importance of consumer education in creating a more viable domestic pork industry.

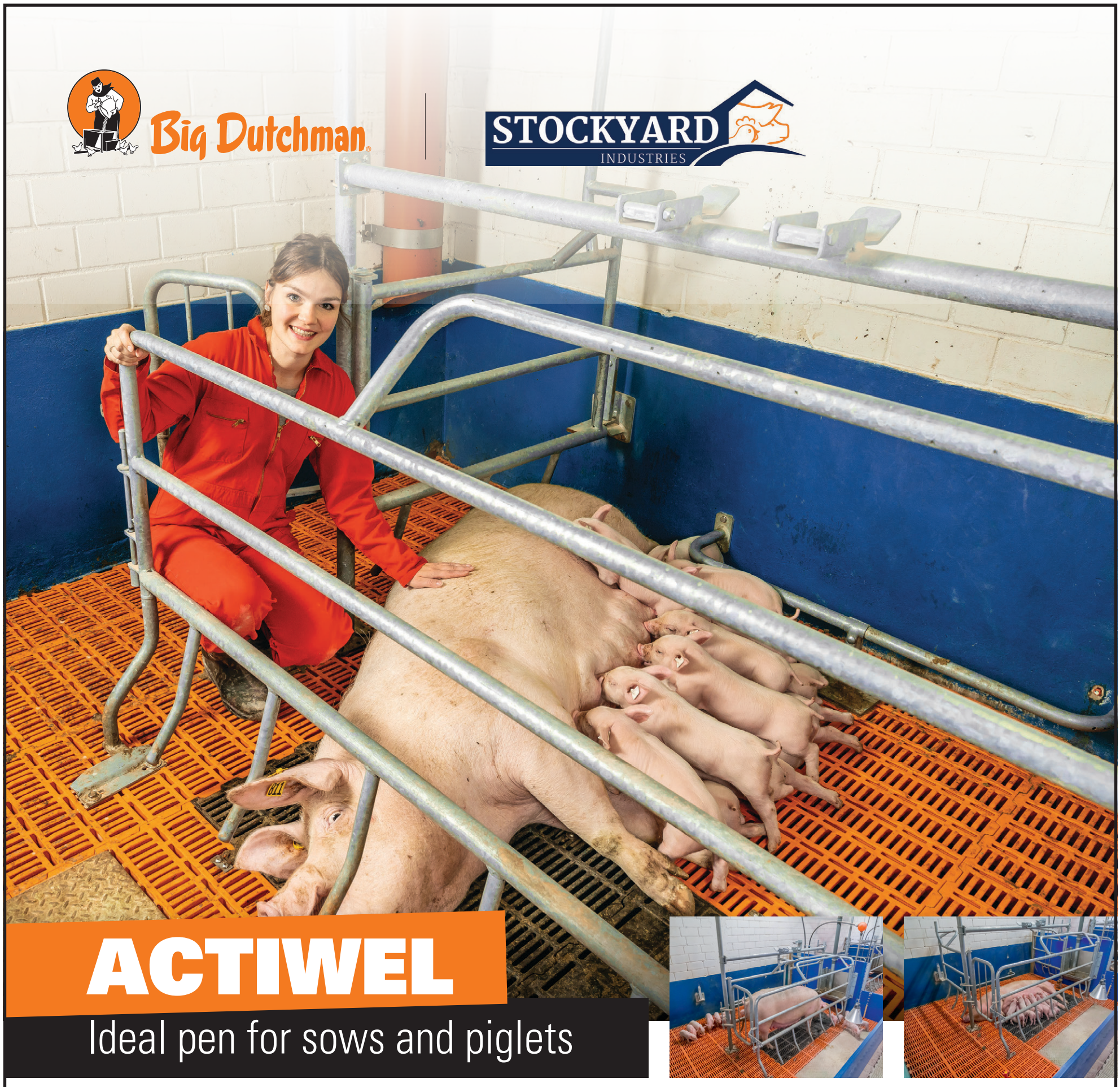
"We're not saying don't buy ham and bacon – just look for the Australian product when it's available," she said.

"That helps build demand, which gives businesses and farmers the confidence to increase supply."

Supermarkets report domestic production capacity cannot currently meet demand. Photo: Nishess Shakya

Big Dutchman

STOCKYARD INDUSTRIES



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Ideal pen for sows and piglets

The variable-restraint pen provides ideal and roomy conditions for the sow and her piglets in their first weeks of life. The pen consists of a farrowing frame, a heated piglets nest/resting area, the flooring and pen partition.

- Easy to open: the farrowing frame is very easy to open and to close in just four steps. The staff do not have to enter the sow area, which makes handling even more comfortable
- The specially designed door of the farrowing frame provides easy access to assist the sow during farrowing
- The sides of the farrowing frame help protect the piglets from overlying
- High workplace safety because all opening and fixing points are located away from the sow
- Recommended pen dimensions are 2.3m x 2.7m

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Transportation of animals

ANIMAL Welfare Incident Reports provide insight into animal experience during transport and at slaughterhouses.

Welfare concerns for farmed animals do not cease once the animal leaves the farm.

Assessing farmed animals' experience requires insight into the entire system, including transport and slaughter.

In Australia, regulations preclude transport of compromised animals and, once at an export slaughterhouse, animals receive a veterinary examination, with any welfare concerns reported to state authorities via a mandatory Animal Welfare Incident Report.

Researchers undertook a retrospective study of AWIRs submitted in 2021 to determine prevalence of conditions contributing to animal welfare compromise, timing of detection and actions taken.

Examined were 567 AWIRs from cattle, pigs, sheep and horses.

Sheep were the most numerous animals transported to slaughter and had the most individuals implicated in AWIRs, constituting 3.5 percent of all sheep.

The most common condition overall was handling problems – bruising, driver handling or dog bite injuries – followed by pregnancy and lameness.

Despite pigs suffering the highest prevalence of animal welfare incidents (11 percent of all transported pigs), less than one third required a corrective action, while 90 percent of affected sheep required priority slaughter or emergency killing.

Across all species, animals spent a median of 11 hours at the slaughterhouse before an animal welfare condition considered worthy of report was detected, this is in addition to an average of five hours in transit.

Many of the conditions reported in AWIRs were non-acute such as abscesses and cancers, which may have been present prior to transport.

In conclusion, the authors highlight the unacceptably long lag period between arrival and detection of welfare compromise and call for significant improvements in this area such as prompt inspection on arrival.

The volume of AWIRs could be reduced by enhanced enforcement of pre-transport assessments and providing education for drivers to reduce in-transit injuries, with revisions to driver accreditation in progress.

Scan the QR code below for the full study 'Animal welfare incidents during and after transport to Australian export slaughterhouses: An evaluation of government reports'.

RSPCA Science Update

Scan the QR code for the full study.

Resources to detect feral pig presence were best allocated to the 'hotspot' areas, where feral pig activity was likely to be higher. Photo: Madalene Oberin

Assessing likelihood of disease transmission risks from feral pigs using camera trap surveillance

NATIONAL FERAL PIG ACTION PLAN

by **HEATHER CHANNON**
National Feral Pig Management Coordinator

FERAL pigs pose a significant threat to the Australian pork industry due to risks of disease transmission, including African swine fever, foot-and-mouth disease and endemic and zoonotic diseases.

In collaboration with the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis at the University of Melbourne has developed epidemiological models for exotic animal diseases, including FMD, ASF and lumpy skin disease.

The models are all based on the Australian Animal Disease Spread modelling framework – aadis.org

The purpose of the models is to assist governments and industry with policy and response strategies for emergency animal disease.

Models such as these can provide useful decision support, especially when local empirical evidence-based data is not available.

Feral pig distribution and density information has been incorporated into the ASF and FMD AADIS models from regional studies and knowledge held by experts.

Feral pig populations were included into these models as discrete groups, with home range data varying both regionally and seasonally.

However, from a disease transmission risk perspective, predicting the potential for spillover of emergency disease between feral pigs and domestic pigs is difficult.

This is due to limited work being conducted in Australia to quantify the direct and indirect contact rates between feral and domestic pigs.

Without this information, the ability for pork producers and policy-makers to reliably assess the evidence-based risks posed by feral pigs and to develop effective biosecurity measures is limited.

As producers look to adopt the Voluntary Enhanced Biosecurity Standards for ASF, tools are needed by producers to accurately assess the likelihood of feral pig exposure – direct or indirect – to their piggery.

In 2021, Australian Pork Limited supported a research project with CEBRA titled 'Camera trap assessment of feral pigs: understanding feral-domestic interactions', led by Madalene Oberin, a PhD candidate at the University of Melbourne.

This project aimed to develop a methodology using field cameras to allow pork producers to assess the likelihood of feral pig encounters at commercial piggeries that could result in potential interactions.

The monitoring of feral pig presence using field cameras could highlight the need for land managers to improve their feral pig management programs.

Outcomes from this type of work could also provide guidance to pork producers about how and where to place cameras around their properties – and potentially those of their neighbours – and optimise the use of these surveillance tools to effectively manage biosecurity risks.

This study was the first of its kind in Australia to provide data-driven field-based insights into potential interactions between feral and domestic pigs.

Feral pig detections were recorded over a 12-month period during 2023-2024 using 46 camera traps located on the boundary of a commercial piggery and 10 cameras in 'hotspot' locations near the piggery that were considered likely to experience feral pig activity.

This protocol enabled feral pig activity near a commercial piggery to be systematically recorded and the collection of data to understand potential disease transmission pathways.

Feral pig detections were found to vary seasonally as the highest detection rates occurred during autumn (54 percent, = 1481/2691), followed by winter, spring and summer.

These variations were likely influenced by changes in environmental conditions and resource availability throughout the year.

Importantly, differences in detection probabilities between fence and hotspot cameras were identified.

Higher levels of feral pig activity were consistently detected by those cameras that had been strategically placed in 'hotspot' high risk areas than those cameras placed around the piggery perimeter.

In fact, feral pig encounters were detected 18.4 times more at 'hotspot' locations than fence cameras.

A coverage level of 50-60 percent strategically placed hotspot cameras achieved high detection probabilities.

Camera footage also identified that feral pigs were most active around the piggery from dusk until dawn, with comparable detection patterns across

continued P5

Assessing likelihood of disease transmission risks from feral pigs

☛ from P4

seasons and camera locations.

For this particular piggery, it was demonstrated that resources to detect feral pig presence were best allocated to the 'hotspot' areas, where feral pig activity was likely to be higher.

It is important to note that this will need to be verified for piggeries in other regions, habitats, ecosystems and geographical areas around Australia.

These insights provide producers with information to optimise the design and application of a camera trap surveillance system for their property and minimise costs with having too many cameras in place, thereby maximising detection efficiency and the use of limited resources.

This would ensure that both biosecurity and budgetary constraints are effectively managed.

There is also potential for the monitoring approach developed in this study to be replicated and applied at different sites by different producers to ensure that domestic pigs are adequately protected from feral pigs in the landscape.

A risk assessment tool was also developed in this project to quantify the probability of a feral pig encounter at a commercial piggery.

The tool considered factors including property location, perceived feral pig abundance, proximity to a water source, anticipated feral pig movements in and around the property location, habitat suitability indices, seasonal conditions and control methods that can be used.

It was suggested that producers could use the tool as an early warning system to obtain a property-specific risk profile.

This would then allow producers to better understand whether their current on-farm biosecurity policies and procedures were adequate to manage incursion risks posed by feral pigs or whether additional surveillance and/or management actions were needed.

It's important to note that these risks are likely to vary over time, such as during periods of favourable seasonal conditions that allow feral pig movement in the landscape to increase.

Adjustments to feral pig management and surveillance efforts by producers are likely to be required at different times in response to seasonal conditions to manage enhanced risks.

In conclusion, improved knowledge of the epidemiological interface between feral and domestic pigs obtained from this study is being incorporated into the AADIS model framework to improve decision support capabilities for emergency animal diseases in Australia and promote on-farm biosecurity behaviour change.

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

Strategic supply shortfall forces closure of processing site

THE Australian pork sector is facing a significant operational shift with the announcement that JBS will cease operations indefinitely at its Seven Point Pork processing facility in Port Wakefield, South Australia from early January 2026.

The closure impacts not only the plant's workforce but also the broader supply chain and regional economy, with approximately 270 jobs being lost, including 160 local roles.

JBS pork division chief operating officer Edison Alvares said the decision followed a sudden shortfall in livestock supply from one of its key partners.

"Due to the significant number of pigs involved and the unavailability of replacement pigs, the Port Wakefield facility is simply no longer viable as a pork processing facility in the short term," Mr Alvares said.

"We recognise the impact and concerns this decision has on our valued workforce, their families, and the local community.

"We will continue to work hard to explore business opportunities that may support the recommencement of operations at the Port Wakefield processing facility in the future."

JBS has committed to meeting its obligations to both employees and suppliers and is reviewing possible commercial alternatives.

Supply chain implications

The closure represents a structural adjustment in the pork supply chain.

Coles has indicated it is reallocating processing operations interstate to meet growing national demand.

"South Australia will remain our biggest state supplier of pork, and we want to reassure the community that we are committed to delivering South Australian pork for South Australians," a Coles spokesperson said.

The retailer will also expand its partnership with Big River Pork in Murray Bridge commencing next year.

"We believe this evolution in our pork supply chain will deliver long-term benefits for customers, farmers and the environment by creating a more streamlined and efficient pork supply chain, as we work to meet the growing demand across Australia," the Coles spokesperson said.

Regional and sector response

The decision has triggered concern among local leaders, with Federal MP for Grey Tom Venning describing the outcome as a blow to regional employment and mixed farming viability.

"It's rubbing salt into injury in a year which is very very dry," Mr Venning said.

"For mixed farmers, the pigs are the only profit they're making, so it's very disappointing."

While pork production will continue through Big River Pork, Mr Venning expressed concern about the long-term availability of South Australian pork in domestic retail channels as Victoria increases its processing capacity.

"Reading between the lines, it seems like production is moving from South Australia to Victoria to be closer to market," he said, citing higher operational costs in SA as a key factor.

The Port Wakefield facility has historically sourced pigs from around 20 farms nationally, according to company information, making the closure a key flashpoint in the national pork logistics network.

Confidence in market demand

Despite the disruption, Pork SA chair and Murray Bridge producer Greg Davis remains optimistic about the market's capacity to absorb pigs from impacted producers.

"I don't think it will be too much of a problem," Mr Davis said.

"We think we've got the capacity in South Australia to handle the processing of all the pigs that South Australia produces."

However, he acknowledged the burden of increased freight and logistical complexity for affected farmers.

"That's an added cost to those guys, unfortunately," he said.

"There's not much of an alternative, unfortunately."

Still, Mr Davis noted that domestic pork prices remain favourable, with returns generally covering production costs.

"We're doing OK, but it is tough going," he said.

Adding that rain was desperately needed.

With 11 stores across Perth, Farmer Jack's – owned by Fred Fairthorne – is a favourite of the author's. The stores are well laid out and have a good smallgoods offering.

A lip-licking display of smallgoods, including the author's favourite sausage, black pudding.

D'Orsogna started in 1949 by D'Orsogna brothers and remains a D'Orsogna family-owned business in 2025.

The author's favourite bacon rashers, D'Orsogna streaky bacon.

Ethos Deli in East Fremantle proudly displays its excellent range of in-house-made charcuterie.

AMIC advocates for smallgoods as big business

Cant Comment
by BRENDON CANT

ADVOCACY for Australia's smallgoods industry, which is largely bulked up by pork, sits clearly and increasingly with the Australian Meat Industry Council.

Oddly, some would say, Australian Pork Limited seems to either give Australia's smallgoods industry only token attention or indeed is quick to question or criticise the sector – often very publicly – when it comes to discussions and debate around fresh pork versus imported pork.

Hence, I thought it appropriate to take this opportunity to celebrate smallgoods and report on what AMIC does in that space.

Below, edited for the style of this publication, is AMIC's '2024-25 Year in Review – Smallgoods', as circulated in its latest *AMIC Advocate* newsletter.

The smallgoods program continued to mature in financial year 2025, with AMIC creating expanded platforms for recognition, improvement and international exposure.

The return of the Australian Charcuterie Excellence Awards was a flagship moment, offering medal-winning producers a gateway to IFFA 2025 in Frankfurt.

The results confirmed the world-class calibre of Australian smallgoods.

Leveraging these awards programs, AMIC told the stories, through articles and interviews, of generational businesses mastering new markets and products.

These narratives lifted public perception and gave smallgoods members a competitive edge in both export and domestic channels.

The extension of ACEA to IFFA also provided the platform for AMIC to engage with global peers and establish relationships with other associations, enabling discussions around the broader challenges and opportunities facing the smallgoods industry.

Navigating regulation and protecting market access

AMIC represented the sector's voice in a range of policy discussions, including:

- Packaging reform
- Food safety
- Emergency animal disease plans
- Halal policy consultation.

Key regulatory approaches acknowledged the unique operating environment of smallgoods makers and the broader supply chain.

A key achievement was leading the development of the *Guidelines for the Safe Manufacture of Smallgoods*, created through extensive consultation with regulators and industry representatives.

Due to be released in early financial year 2026, these guidelines provide a practical framework for compliance and safety, reinforcing industry standards while supporting innovation and growth.

AMIC also:

- Continued engagements with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry on imported pork management and access application reviews, including imported pig meat waste from smallgoods manufacturing
- Advocated for risk-based protocols in emergency disease planning, avoiding damaging blanked policies
- Made technical submissions supporting smallgoods members in packaging, labelling and FSANZ risk assessments.

Health and nutrition

AMIC closely monitored media and public discourse around the role of smallgoods in a healthy diet and continued to engage using its well-established policies on nitrates, nitrites and ultra-processed meat products.

Recognising the need for more scientific clarity around products and processing methods that make up smallgoods, AMIC commissioned the University of Melbourne to conduct a systematic literature review evaluating the health impacts of charcuterie consumption within the Australian dietary context.

This evidence-based approach will support informed decision making by policymakers and consumers alike.

Workforce development and celebrating skills

AMIC renewed its focus on talent development in FY25, shining a spotlight on emerging smallgoods apprentices and innovators through the Young Smallgoods Achiever Awards program.

It also:

- Participated in Jobs and Skills Australia consultations and Core Skills Occupations List reviews
- Advocated for reduced red tape, more targeted training pathways and retention of core qualifications.

Consistent engagement ensured smallgoods remained a focus in workforce policy discussions.

Meat Industry Award

One of AMIC's most significant undertakings was maintaining the current classifications structure of the Meat Industry Award through a matter before the Fair Work Commission.

This work spanned all member streams, with AMIC seeking to preserve the structure and intent of the award in the face of proposed changes that could have caused industry-wide disruption.

FWC's final decision is pending.

Author's note – the Australian smallgoods industry, including cured meats, is a significant sector within the broader meat processing industry and is estimated to be worth $5.4 billion in 2025.

By way of disclosure, one of Australia's leading smallgoods manufacturers D'Orsogna Limited has been a public relations client of mine for 25 years.

Jamon – Spanish ham – being delicately carved at The Boatshed in Perth's beachside suburb Cottesloe.

Wannon Water solves pump blockage issue

WANNON Water provides water supply and wastewater collection and treatment services to over 30 communities in southwest Victoria.

It is their responsibility to supply fresh water from source to tap and to manage sewage to protect their community's health and wellbeing.

The problem

In 2022, Wannon Water replaced some very old digester pumps at its Hamilton wastewater treatment plant, with new solids-handling pumps as part of an efficiency upgrade.

These new pumps, though equipped with rag handling technology, struggled to cope with the extra heavy loading of rags and stringy materials in the pumped media.

These new pumps were blocking two to three times per week.

The solution

During discussions with Wannon Water about the issue, Hydro Innovations regional manager Graeme Spence recommended a trial with Gorman-Rupp's new 'Eradicator Plus' extreme duty solids handling technology, the latest in Gorman-Rupp's 'Super T Series' trash and sewage pump line-up.

Unlike other Gorman-Rupp technologies that are designed to clean the impeller and pass solids to the discharge, the Eradicator Plus cuts and tears items such as rags, wet wipes and rope that would clog other pumps.

Eradicator Plus pumps are equipped with a rugged heavy-duty continuous vane impeller constructed of G-R Hard Iron.

They also come standard with an extra-thick G-R Hard Iron wear plate that has an over-sized lacerating tooth designed to cut and shred organic solids before they enter the interior of the pump.

The results

Wannon Water decided to trial the new technology.

At the time of writing, the new system had been in place for eight weeks without a single blockage, confirming the solids-handling capability of Gorman-Rupp's latest technology to handle these extreme applications.

The Eradicator Plus is available in three hydraulic sizes – 3", 4" and 6".

Because the system is an extension of Gorman-Rupp's proven Super T Series range, it will fit onto the same footprint as similarly sized 'standard' versions.

Upgrade kits are also available for those Super T Series asset owners who are experiencing increased occurrences of clogging.

For abrasive applications, Eradicator Plus pumps are available with high chrome impeller and wear plate.

Product development

Gorman-Rupp first introduced its 'T Series' pump in 1963.

It was the first self-priming pump specifically designed for handling domestic sewage.

The pump needed to be able to prime and re-prime completely unattended, handle large solids and be safe and easy for operators to maintain.

It achieved all these things and was the dominant market leader in this field for 63 years.

In the year 2000, Gorman-Rupp released an upgraded version of this technology called the 'Super T'.

It was designed to fit onto the same footprint and be hydraulically identical so that existing customers could upgrade without any changes to their base arrangement or piping.

There were some significant internal upgrades though.

The new pump introduced an internal clearance adjustment system that allowed operators to adjust clearances in minutes, without the use of shims and without having to remove pump guards or open the pump.

Gorman-Rupp also added a double lip seal and an atmospheric vent to protect the bearings in case of a seal failure.

The seal oil chamber volume was increased to safeguard the seal when priming long suction lines, and pusher-bolt capability was added to the inspection cover-plate and the rotating assembly to help operators work on pumps that may not have been opened for five, 10 or more years.

As the use of 'flushable' wet wipes increased and water savings initiatives started increasing the solids to water ratio, pump blockages at sewage pumping stations, sewage treatment plants and industrial manufacturing plants began to rise.

Gorman-Rupp met the challenge by introducing their 'Eradicator Solids Management System' in 2016.

The system is designed to continuously scrape stringy materials from impeller vanes to minimise the chances of blockages.

Not prepared to rest on its laurels, Gorman-Rupp then developed a pump that could handle materials that could cause blockages even to its Eradicator pumps.

The Eradicator Plus was the result of this research and development.

This technology is designed to cut, chop and shred materials that could block other pumps.

To ensure longevity and reliability, these pumps come standard with stainless-steel shafts, hardened impellers and wear plates.

For extremely tough and/or abrasive applications, pumps are available with optional high chrome impellers and wear plates.

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

Wannon Water trialled the new technology, which has been in place for eight weeks without a single blockage, confirming the solids-handling capability of Gorman-Rupp's latest technology to handle extreme applications.

Smarter emissions and nutrient planning for Australian piggeries

THE Australian pork industry now has access to an upgraded mass balance calculator with the release of PigBal 5, the latest version of the long-standing PigBal tool developed to support on-farm environmental planning.

PigBal 5 introduces a number of important changes.

It features an updated growth curve that reflects current Australian pig genetics, along with improved feed waste and water intake variables, drawing on research from the Department of Primary Industries and Integrity Ag, to better reflect real on-farm usage.

The calculator also includes additional standard diet formulations, along with 35 new or modified ingredients, to align with current piggery operations.

Businesses can now differentiate between housing systems with the addition of a new pig class for gestation sows, enabling users to split the dry sow herd between conventional and deep litter systems.

Finally, the upgraded output sheet provides detailed estimates of greenhouse gas emissions, nitrogen levels and volatile solids mass flows.

It also tracks nutrient and solids flow through various manure management systems, including solids separation, sludge and supernatant ponds, deep litter storage and effluent and sludge storage.

Improvements to Scope 1 emissions calculations enable farms to assess emissions from housing and manure management systems in line with the National Inventory Report.

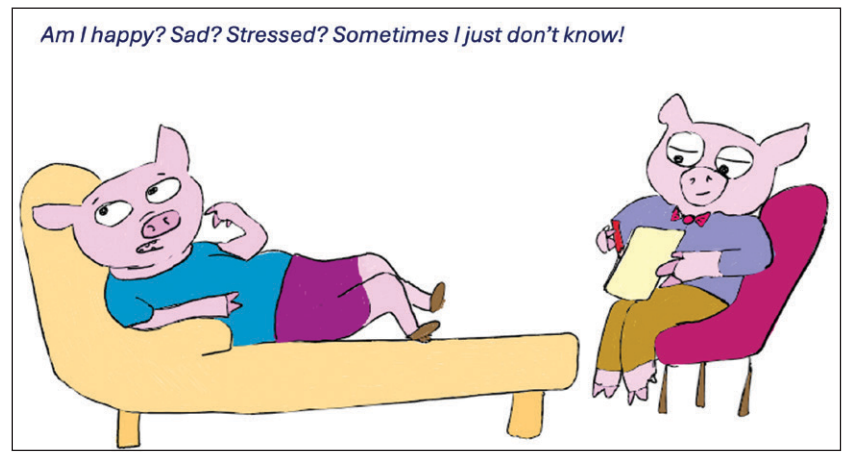
Users can now input energy consumption data, including transportation, to calculate total on-farm emissions.

These new capabilities, alongside the existing nutrient calculations, can support producers to meet the requirements related to Scope 1 and 2 emissions reporting in the planning process and help identify emission reduction strategies.

To make the transition to PigBal 5 as smooth as possible, Australian Pork Limited offers a short series of instructional videos, along with user and technical manuals.

These resources help all users easily navigate the updated features and make full use of the calculator's capabilities.

For more information, visit the APL website or contact Tim Morley-Sattler at tim.morley-sattler@australianpork.com.au



Measuring a pig's emotional state

OFTEN you can tell how a pig is feeling through general behavioural indicators, but it difficult to measure these feelings exactly.

Researchers across the University of Western Australia, the University of Queensland and SunPork Group wanted to see if the emotional states of pigs could be measured using a series of different biological markers – called biomarkers.

The first marker was cortisol, a hormone commonly released as a stress response in pigs.

The second marker to be tested was a gene called NEAT1, which may play a role in how the brain responds to a negative stress or positive stimulation.

The third potential marker was using a process called mid infrared spectroscopy – MIR – to measure chemical changes in the brain.

The aim of this research was to see if any of these biomarkers – cortisol, NEAT1 or MIR – could be used to identify whether pigs experienced positive, negative or neutral emotional states and therefore be used to assess the quality of life in pigs.

What did they do?

The pigs were split into three groups and kept in different environments over four weeks:

- Neutral group – standard conditions
- Positive group – lots of positive handling and high-quality enrichment materials, greater than standard conditions
- Negative group – regularly moved and mixed with unfamiliar pigs to trigger a mild stress response.

At the end of the four weeks, 36 pigs from each group were selected for further assessment.

Half of the selected group were briefly restrained with a snout snare to stimulate a short-term stress experience, while the other half were left undisturbed as controls.

Researchers then collected saliva, blood plasma and brain tissue of subjects to look for biological differences of both the long-term emotional conditions as well as the short-term stress event.

What did they find?

For pigs that experienced the short-term stress event – snout snare restraint – the level of NEAT1 gene in the saliva was lower and the level of cortisol was higher.

Understanding the NEAT1 gene could be detected in saliva suggests this could be a non-invasive method to detect short-term stress responses in the future.

However, presence of this NEAT1 gene did not differ much between pigs housed in either the neutral, positive or negative environments, so it was unclear as to whether it could be used to measure long-term emotional states.

In fact, none of the biomarkers – cortisol, NEAT1 or MIR – could detect long-term emotional states between treatment groups in this pilot study.

Notably pigs in the negative environment grew slower than pigs in the neutral and positive environment.

While more research is needed, the study suggests that this NEAT1 gene could become a useful non-invasive biomarker for measuring acute stress in pigs through saliva sample only.

With ongoing research in this area, it is hoped industry will gain a clearer more scientific understanding of the emotional states of pigs for future projects.

Researchers included Professor Alan Tilbrook and Dr Katelyn Tomas from the University of Queensland, Associate Professor Dominique Blache, Dr Luoyang Ding, Prof Archa Fox and Prof Shane Maloney from the University of Western Australia and Assoc Prof Darryl D'Souza, Dr Kate Plush and Mr Robert Hewitt from SunPork Group.

You can find out more about project 5A-113 'Brain measures of positive welfare in pigs' or other APRIL supported projects by scanning the QR code below.

Scan for project information.

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APSA Industry Day will be held on Monday November 17 in Melbourne.

Professor Frédéric Leroy presenting the 2023 AC Dunkin Memorial Lecture.

Producers invited to APSA Industry Day

THE Australasian Pig Science Association will introduce an 'Industry Day' to its conference program this year, aimed at pork producers wanting to hear about the latest innovations in pig science.

The APSA conference is traditionally attended by researchers, supply chain partners, students and to a lesser extent, producers.

Thus, improving the value to producers has been identified as an objective by the organising committee.

The APSA Industry Day on Monday November 17 at the RACV City Club in Melbourne will feature a program centred on applied science, where outcomes are directly applicable to day-to-day pork production.

In addition to shorter submitted papers, local and international invited speakers will present more in-depth scientific reviews on current industry topics.

Conference sponsors will also have an opportunity to present.

The day will culminate with the AC Dunkin Memorial Lecture by *Pig Progress* editor Vincent ter Beek, sponsored by SunPork Group.

Delegates will then have the chance to relax and mingle at the welcome reception, sponsored by Auspac Ingredients, and after reception drinks, sponsored by CCD Animal Health.

Registration for the day including social functions is available at a special producer-only rate of $275 including GST.

Delegates are welcome to attend the whole conference, which runs from the Monday to Wednesday November 19, noting full delegate registration applies.

For more information, including nearby accommodation options, scan the QR code below.

Scan for more information.

Correct piggery pump selection is key

ACHIEVING the target of $6.9 billion in pork production over recent years is a huge accomplishment for the industry.

Aussie Pumps knows that pork doesn't simply materialise on your plate after a trip to the supermarket.

Recognised sector authorities consistently point out the combination of hard work and dedication it takes to get to the abattoir.

Aussie Pumps also reflects on the major work Australasian Pork Research Institute Limited undertakes in an effort to produce a continuingly improved product for what is a growing pork appetite, not only in Australia but for exports as well.

Aussie Pumps has been supplying piggeries for 30 years, with a constant program to improve products to make them more suitable for this sometimes corrosive and abrasive environment.

Seeing pumps that were perhaps 30 to 40-years-old rusting away made Aussie realise that what the industry needed was products that would last for decades.

Aussie's answer was simply to keep improving the product to overcome those 'pump killers'.

Beating corrosion and cavitation

Overcoming these two twin pump cancers is all about understanding the mediums being pumped and how to handle it with a material that will be able to deal with both corrosion and cavitation.

Even high-quality pumps such as Gorman Rupp, with bodies made of cast iron, can have major issues from the very aggressive nature of piggery effluent.

Cavitation is when the pump can't get enough water into it and is sucking a mixture of water and air.

That air and water rotating around in the pump chamber creates minor explosions, which can blow 'potholes' in the material.

Cast iron is particularly susceptible, not only for the impeller and volute but the pump body too.

Aussie's solution?

It's simple, go with 316 stainless steel.

Even though it is unusual to use such an expensive material in a piggery, it is cheaper in the long run.

Taking corrosion as the next issue, it's back to the impact of consistently pumping what can be very corrosive liquid.

It will erode cast iron in any areas from the impeller and pump chamber, right through to the priming chamber.

Again, Aussie Pumps' response to this is simple.

Build pumps out of 316 stainless steel medium!

Aussie's answer

When the company started pushing 316 stainless steel pumps into the drilling industry, Aussie found pumping drilling mud could have similar impacts on the pump body and components as livestock effluent.

The solution for pumping drilling mud was to use 316 stainless steel pumps, with not only the impeller being 316 SS but also the complete body assembly.

The result was substantially longer pump life.

Replacing cast-iron Gorman Rupp products past their use-by date with Aussie's GMP stainless-steel equivalent is a natural progression.

Aussie Pumps chief engineer John Hales said, "We got the cost down by working directly with a major foundry in northern Italy."

"They are super efficient and the 316 stainless steel castings are almost 'automotive' in their styling.

"They last and last and are being used on trawlers, municipal sewage waste treatment and livestock waste pump-out.

"We have huge penetration in the aquaculture industry as well, where cast iron pumps such as the big old Gorman Rupp simply can't last."

Not knocking GR

"Not that we don't have huge respect for the Gorman Rupp company from Mansfield Ohio – quite the contrary… we've learnt what they've done over the years and what could be improved," Mr Hales said.

"We've have done it with 316 stainless steel pumps.

"We have a huge respect for founder Jim Gorman, who we know from the old days.

"Jim flew Hurricane fighters over New Guinea in the Second World War and then moved back into the pump business in the 1950s, creating the mighty Gorman Rupp.

"What we are saying is Gorman Rupp pumps are good, but 316 stainless steel Aussie GMPs are more suited to the aggressive nature of piggery effluent pump out.

"Try it, you'll be amazed at how we've pulled the price down based on the huge volumes we're picking up from markets all over Australia and the South Pacific," he said.

Further information is available from Aussie Pumps at aussiepumps.com.au or 02 8865 3500.

Select the right pump for your piggery.

Attention pork producers with an innovative spark

AUSTRALIAN Pork Limited is running an exciting producer innovation challenge ahead of the Australian Pig Science Association Industry Day.

Whether you've found a new way to improve pig health, cut costs, boost sustainability or streamline operations, we want to hear from you!

Submit your innovative idea to APL and go into the running to win:

- A Tefal 8.3-litre Dual Easy Fry air fryer or similar – valued at $200
- One ticket to the APSA Industry Day in Melbourne on Monday November 17, 2025 plus $1000 towards travel and/or accommodation
- A feature in APL's weekly industry newsletter.

Key dates

- Entries close September 30, 2025
- Winner announced October 10, 2025 and at APSA Industry Day.

Who can enter

All Australian pig producers – individuals or teams – with any practical innovation that helps on-farm productivity.

How to enter

Email extension@australianpork.com.au with:

- Your name and location
- Innovation name and photo
- Description on how it's helped your farm – maximum 100 words.

Let's celebrate smart thinking in our industry!

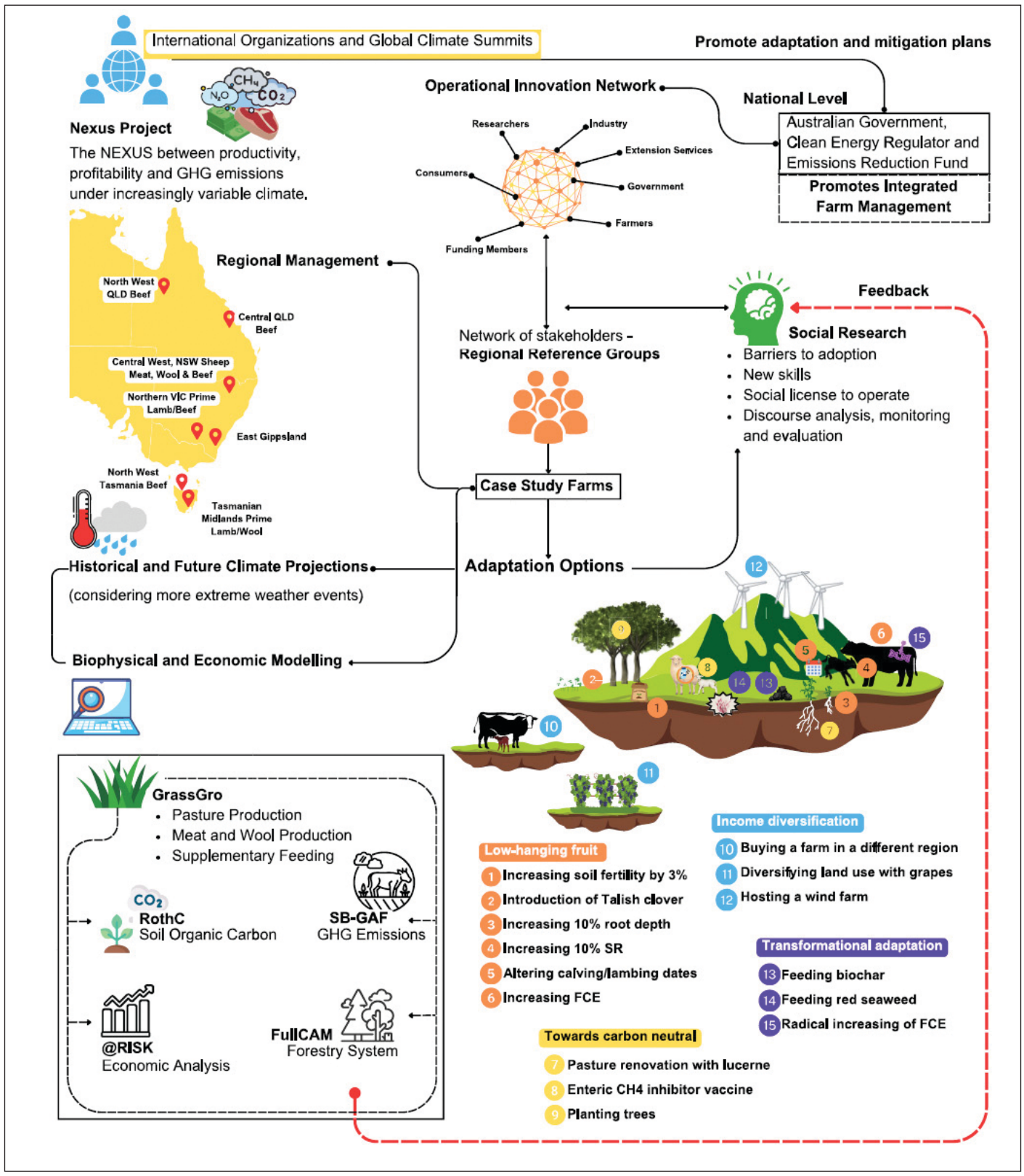

Figure 6: Co-design framework for elucidating economic, environmental and social factors enabling or inhibiting adoption of adaptation/mitigation interventions under past and future climates. Modelling and social research were iteratively refined with stakeholders to improve research rigour but also build trust through demand-driven, bottom-up research. Policy, economic, climatic, social and cultural factors were considered in the co-design of interventions for either reducing/removing GHG emissions, adapting to future climatic conditions, or both. Orange, light brown, blue and purple circles represent Low-Hanging Fruit (LHF), Towards Carbon Neutral (TCN), Income Diversification (ID) and Transformational adaptation mitigation themes, respectively.

Transitioning livestock sector to net zero under future climates

WHILE practices for reducing or removing greenhouse gas emissions abound, little information exists on the combination of practices required to reach net-zero emissions, the cost of transitioning to net-zero or how carbon removals may change under hotter and more variable conditions expected with climate change.

In a recent paper, 'Costs of transitioning the livestock sector to net-zero emissions under future climates', researchers – including co-author Professor Matthew Harrison from the Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture at the University of Tasmania – assessed pathways for transitioning livestock farms to net-zero GHG emissions.

Using a co-design approach with industry stakeholders, they modelled the impacts of several combinations of practices for reducing and removing GHG emissions:

- Improving soil carbon storage by grazing management and pasture renovation
- Improving carbon storage in vegetation by planting native tree species on farm
- Improving livestock feed conversion efficiencies (essentially allowing animals to put on more weight with the same amount of feed intake)
- Adopting anti-methanogenic feed additives such as asparagopsis or biochar to inhibit enteric methane emissions
- Revenue diversification with renewable energy (wind turbines) or irrigated grapevines to reduce dependence on rainfall for income.

This research shows that few interventions enhanced productivity and profitability while reducing GHG emissions.

Antimethanogenic feed supplements and planting trees afforded the greatest mitigation, while revenue diversification with wind turbines and adoption of livestock genotypes with enhanced feed-conversion efficiency were most conducive to improving profit.

Serendipitously, the intervention with the lowest social license – continuing the status quo and purchasing carbon credits to offset emissions – was also the most costly pathway to transition to net-zero.

In contrast, stacking several interventions to mitigate enteric methane, improve FCE and sequester carbon entirely negated enterprise emissions in a profitable way.

The researchers concluded that costs of transitioning to net-zero were lower when interventions were bundled and/or evoked productivity co-benefits.

The research was

☛ continued P13

Costs of transitioning livestock sector to net zero under future climates

☛ from P12

aimed at small and large producers, assessing small and large-scale investments, noting that all of these adaptations were suggested in the first place by farmers.

It is demand driven.

As an example, improving soil fertility and renovating pastures with legumes were done on a routine basis by most livestock producers, other than those in the rangelands.

Stacking – or combining practice changes – is highly topical within industry at the moment.

The key conclusion from this work was that there was a trade-offs between benefits derived and complexity.

Prof Harrison further noted that doing nothing – the simplest option – and purchasing carbon credits to offset all farm emissions was the most costly option.

In contrast, stacking interventions that reduce enteric methane, sequester carbon and improve livestock productivity would not only get the farm to net zero, but would also improve profit.

So the cost would be zero but the challenge with stacking is complexity.

Reducing enteric methane is difficult to enact for grazing systems – this research only looked at the potential outcome, rather than the mechanics of doing so.

It accounted for variable livestock and carbon prices, as well as costs – the supplementary information contains a sensitivity analysis.

The conclusion relates to current prices.

Reducing the cost of feed additives would make this option more attractive, but how low do you go?

And to what level should livestock and carbon prices increase?

Extrapolating the economics too far would create too many uncertainties.

At the moment, feed additives result in the greatest reduction in enteric methane, which is a livestock farm's biggest GHG, but they also cost the most of available options.

Seaweed reduces enteric methane by 80 percent, depending on how often and how much is eaten.

Biochar has very little effect and deserves further research.

The biochar examined in the field increased cattle liveweight gains by 5 percent, but there was no compelling evidence that seaweed improved productivity.

If it did, it would be more cost-effective.

Assumptions were that biochar cost $2/kg dry matter and asparagopsis similar – assuming the asparagopsis was 0.5 percent of daily intake.

We need to be cognisant that this is a modelling study.

Researchers modelled those adaptations that the regional reference group were most interested in.

But a model is a simplification of reality.

No model can account for everything.

If it did, it would not be a model but would be reality.

This is why models are created – so they can address the central question and simplify other aspects of reality.

It is worth noting that only a select few regions could be used for renewable energy – either wind or solar.

This is because they need to be close to three-phase powerlines and have ideal conditions, such as high winds near the coast or north facing aspect for solar.

"I don't see this conclusion as being misconstrued by politicians, as the practical realities of site requirements associated with renewable energy will prohibit renewables ever becoming something adopted en masse," Prof Harrison said.

Scan for the full article.

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Social support reduces signs of stress in pigs participating in research studies

DESPITE evidence that pigs are social animals, many experimental models investigating behaviour and learning test pigs individually.

With social isolation known to induce stress in pigs, this may influence test performance.

One such model, the judgement bias task, trains animals to different stimuli signalling a positive or negative outcome, then assesses whether subsequent responses to ambiguous cues are optimistic or pessimistic.

The JBT is thought to provide insight into animals' affective state – how they are feeling.

Researchers in Austria set out to investigate the influence of social support on JBT outcomes, with the hypothesis that pigs will learn faster and demonstrate more optimistic test results when they are not isolated from other pigs.

Thirty-six domestic pigs were divided into groups of six balanced for sex, each consisting of two pigs tested in isolation (ISO), two pigs tested with social contact (SOC) and two buddy pigs.

During testing of SOC pigs, buddy pigs were in an adjoining pen with a meshed window allowing visual and physical contact.

Alongside test outcomes, frequency and duration of pig behaviours during training and testing were recorded.

Results indicated no difference in training duration or performance in the test between ISO and SOC groups, however while not statistically significant, a greater number of ISO pigs were unable to learn the task.

Additionally, the frequency of behaviours indicative of stress – such as vocalisation, freezing and escape attempts – was significantly higher in the ISO group.

To the authors' knowledge, this was the first study to compare outcomes of behaviour testing in isolation versus with social contact in a social species.

Though the results did not completely support the hypothesis, other valuable conclusions could be drawn – social contact does not appear to bias test results and incorporating social contact into experiment models has scope to reduce stress-related behaviour, improving pig welfare in research.

Further research with larger sample sizes and different experimental models is recommended.

For the full 'By your side: How social support affects training duration, task performance and behaviour of pigs in a judgement bias task' study, scan the QR code on the right.

RSPCA Science Update

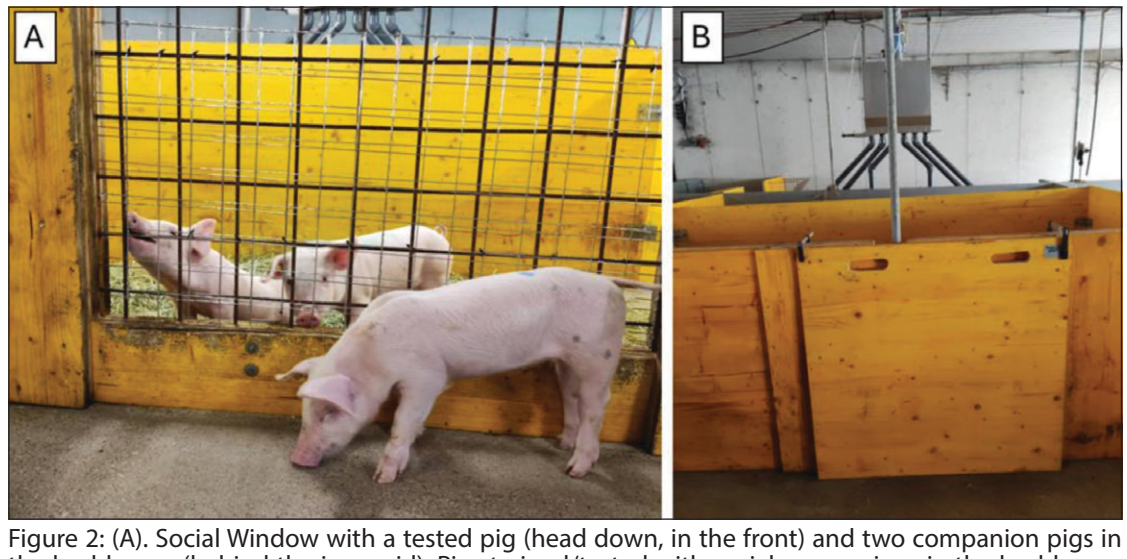

Figure 2: (A). Social Window with a tested pig (head down, in the front) and two companion pigs in the buddy pen (behind the iron grid). Pigs trained/tested with social companions in the buddy pen (n = 12), social companions (n = 12). (B) Wooden board covering the Social Window during training and testing of pigs trained/tested in social isolation (n = 12).

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