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# Australian Pork

## NEWSPAPER



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Vol 28. No. 9 September 2024 Australian Pork Newspaper PO Box 162 Wynnum 4178 Phone (07) 3286 1833 Email ben@collins.media



Industry Impact Award finalist Edwina Beveridge of Blantyre Farms, pictured at EvokeAg 2025. Photo: Mr.Wigley Photography

## Industry impact award finalist

CONGRATULATIONS to Edwina Beveridge of Blantyre Farms on being a finalist for an Industry Impact Award.

The inaugural Food Waste Action Awards, a highlight of the 2024 National Food Waste Summit, celebrated outstanding achievements in the fight against food waste.

Hosted on the first evening of the summit, the event honoured innovators, collaborators and researchers making significant contributions to reducing food waste.

The prestigious Industry Impact Award recognised individuals

or organisations whose innovative practices, technologies or initiatives are making a tangible impact on food waste reduction.

Finalists of the Industry Impact Award were:

- Blantyre Farms – Edwina Beveridge
- Yume Food
- Sodexo
- FareShare
- Whole

Blantyre Farms, a pig production and mixed farming operation near Young in the central west NSW region, is an example of circularity in action.

It uses waste food products, such as bread that's not fresh

enough for the supermarket or out-of-date dairy products, to feed the pigs.

Manure is used as fertiliser for grain crops which are then used as feed, and the pigery's effluent system has been harnessed to capture methane gas to make electricity.

At EvokeAg 2024, Mrs Beveridge said, "We're diverting all this food waste out of landfill."

"Recently, our industry did some benchmarking on our lifecycle carbon footprint, and we were the lowest pig farm in the country in that program," she said.

## Change at top reflects priorities

PRIME Minister Anthony Albanese recently announced a reshuffling of key positions within the government, brought about by a few Labor members of Parliament signalling their intent to retire at the next election.

These changes provided an opportunity for various sectors, including agriculture and the pork industry.

The cabinet and ministry adjustments reflected the government's priorities and signalled a strategic direction for policy and regulatory frameworks that may influence and impact the agricultural landscape.

### Cabinet changes and their implications for pork

Julie Collins has been appointed as the new Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, alongside her role as Minister for Small Business.

Minister Collins' dual responsibilities place her at the intersection of agriculture and small business – crucial areas that both underpin the Australian economy.

The incoming Minister is based in Tasmania, which is home to a small commercial pig industry.

We look forward to working with Minister Collins as we continue to advocate on behalf of the pork industry, which contributes \$6 billion to the Aus-



Point of View

by MARGO ANDRAE  
CEO



tralian economy and supports 34,600 full-time equivalent jobs across the country.

There is an opportunity to build her understanding of the pork industry, and support development of her approach to managing biosecurity risks and other agricultural and trade policies, so they will be positive impacts in shaping pork's future.

Tony Burke is now in the roles of Minister for Home Affairs, Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, Cyber Security and the Arts, and remains a central figure in the Labor Government as Leader of the House.

In his previous portfolio, Minister Burke implemented the government's major industrial relations legislative changes and moves across to immigration at a time when reforms are still underway.

This focus on domestic security and immigration issues could possibly further impact workforce availability across sectors, particularly those sectors such as agri-

culture and the pork supply chain, where migrant workers play a vital role in filling Australia's skill shortages.

Senator Murray Watt has transitioned to the role of Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations and will now focus on employment and the labour market, which may also have direct implications for the pork industry.

Coming across from the agriculture portfolio, he brings knowledge of agricultural labour needs.

His new role provides an opportunity to influence workplace regulations and employment policies that impact farm labour availability, including the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility scheme, as well as wages and working conditions.

### Ministry and assistant ministry changes

Notably, Senator Anthony Chisholm as the Assistant Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, alongside his regional development duties and

supporting role in education.

His focus on regional development is particularly relevant for the pork industry, which is deeply rooted in rural Australia.

Assistant Minister Chisholm's involvement will provide an opportunity to showcase the many contributions of the pork industry to regional Australia.

Andrew Giles' new role as Minister for Skills and Training – along with Senator Jenny McAllister's appointment in the roles of Minister for Cities and Emergency Management – will indirectly impact our industry through skills development and emergency management, which are crucial for ensuring a resilient agricultural workforce and safeguarding the industry against natural disasters.

These leadership changes signal a strategic approach to implementing government policy, which Australian Pork Limited will continue to navigate as increased regulatory pressures challenge our industry's potential productivity and profitability.

The pork industry continues to be a significant part of Australia's wider agriculture and food sector and stands to benefit from a more collaborative approach in realising the industry's future opportunities.



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### Pork Industry Calendar of Events

#### 2024

**SEP 21-24** – Allen D. Leman Swine Conference – Minnesota, USA. <https://lemanconference.umn.edu/>

**OCT 8-9** – Animal AgTech Innovation Summit Europe – Amsterdam, Netherlands. <https://animalagtecheurope.com/>

**OCT 16-17** – Dutch Pork and Poultry Expo – Evenementenhal Hardenberg, Netherlands. [www.porkpoultryexpo.nl/](http://www.porkpoultryexpo.nl/)

**OCT 25-27** – The 13th Leman China Swine Conference & World Swine Industry Expo – Chengdu, China. <https://www.lemanchina.com/>

**NOV 12-15** – EuroTier 2024 – Hanover, Germany. <https://www.eurotier.com/en/>

**NOV 20-21** – Pig Research Summit 2024 – Copenhagen, Denmark. <https://pigresearchsummit.com>

#### 2025

**JAN 7-9** – Banff Pork Seminar – Banff, Canada. <https://www.banffpork.ca/>

**FEB 11-12** – Minnesota Pork Congress – Mankato, USA. <https://www.mnporkcongress.com/>

**MAR 12-14** – VIV Asia – Bangkok, Thailand. <https://www.vivasia.nl/>

**MAR 24-26** – 2025 National Feral Pig Conference – Gold Coast, QLD. <https://feralpigs.com.au/>

**JUN 4-5** – World Pork Expo – Des Moines, Iowa, USA. <https://www.worldpork.org/>

#### How to supply event details:

Send all details to Australian Pork Newspaper, PO Box 162, Wynnum, Qld 4178, call 07 3286 1833 or email [ads@collins.media](mailto:ads@collins.media)

**porknews.com.au**

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Working holiday makers are high-return tourists, spending significant portions of their earnings in Australia. Photo: Pat Whelen

## Government reviews regional migration

THE Australian Government is currently reviewing regional migration settings as part of their broader reform of the overall migration system.

The range of different programs and settings currently available are viewed to be complicated, in need of rationalisation and some questionable in terms of effectiveness.

As part of this, the government is considering how to reform the Working Holiday Maker program visa settings to limit exploitation, while still ensuring regional Australia can access the workers it needs.

The government also has a strong commitment to maintaining the primacy of relationships with the Pacific and the Pacific Australia Labour Mobility scheme.

The government is not considering limiting the WHM visa to one year, as was previously flagged, as this would damage local economies in regional Australia.

However, one area being looked at is the specified work requirements – that is the requirement for a WHM to complete 88 days in



Policy Manager

by ANGELA BRADBURN



a regional area and in eligible industries (including agriculture), in order to apply for a second or third visa.

With a view expressed by government agencies that this requirement increases exploitation vulnerability.

A number of stakeholder groups don't support changes to the requirement for regional work and specified work.

A new joint report – 'Regional Impacts of Working Holiday Makers Report' by the National Farmers' Federation and tourism groups – highlights the value of backpackers to regional Australia and the potential impacts of changing current incentives.

WHMs are high-return tourists, spending significant portions of their

earnings in Australia.

Of tourist dollars spent, 44 percent are spent in regional areas, with WHMs contributing \$726 million directly to these economies.

Post-Covid, WHM numbers in Australia rebounded to historically high levels and in 2022-23 there were 224,431.

In 2022-23, WHMs performed more than 4.1 million days of specified work – much of it in agriculture – equivalent to approximately 16,000 full-time workers.

The two most popular employer industries for second working holiday visas are agriculture, fishery and forestry with 49 percent and accommodation and food services with 24 percent.

Measures to weed-out exploitation in the WHM program will be considered in the review – such as additional obligations for employers, for example a registration system, increased enforcement activity and providing more information and support to WHMs on their rights.

As a next step in migration reforms, the Department of Home Affairs is also developing a new 'essential skills' migration pathway and considering how best to regulate migration for lower paid workers with essential skills.

The government is taking a tripartite approach to reviewing and reforming migration systems and deter-

mining labour and skills needs – that is, involving perspectives from businesses, unions and government.

At the time of writing, finer details remain to be seen regarding the 'essential skills' visa stream and the Labour Agreements program.

The government reiterated the ongoing place of Labour Agreements, but will evaluate and update guidelines for future labour agreements for lower paid migration to provide stronger worker protections.

Appropriate regional migration settings are very important in ensuring strong and sustainable regional economies and communities, alongside other regional investment frameworks, policies and programs.

The pork industry is a strong contributor to regional Australia via economic value, investment and employment.

In some parts of regional Australia, pork businesses are either the largest or among the largest employers in the area.

Ongoing labour and skills shortages in the pork supply chain remain a constraint on businesses and impact their capacity to pursue research, development and innovation.

The industry prioritises employing and upskilling Australians, however access to overseas capacity remains vital to supplement gaps in domestic labour and skills, at all skill levels.

Given its skill requirements and business continuity needs, the industry requires a very responsive migration system that is cost effective and provides stable fit-for-purpose visa pathways.

The Skills Australians Fund levy – paid at each skilled visa nomination application – should di-

rectly support industry training and skills needs, along with fairer cost-sharing or portability arrangements to reduce the financial impacts to businesses for when visa holders move between sponsors.

Recent measures such as designating regional visa processing as the highest priority, faster processing and increasing permanent visa places are all beneficial.

Australian Pork Limited will continue to engage with government on migration policy considerations.

Through any of these reforms, we would not want to see existing visa pathways rendered unavailable or restricted.

Any considerations regarding potential changes to program criteria need to involve targeted in-depth consultation with industries to ensure informed decision making.



Scan for regional migration information.



Scan for migration strategy information.



Scan for regional impacts of working holiday makers report.



The government is considering how to reform the Working Holiday Maker program visa settings to limit exploitation. Photo: Cristian Rojas

**Australian Pork**

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Researchers and members of the Tails CRC-P parties met for a third workshop recently to review the milestones, share results and confirm the final stages of the project.

## Third Tails CRC-P workshop

WITH over two thirds of the Tails CRC-P (Eliminating pig tail removal to improve welfare and industry sustainability) project completed, researchers and members of the project parties – SunPork Group, Rivalea Australia, Australasian Pork Research Institute Limited and the universities of Melbourne, Queensland and New England – met for a third workshop at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Melbourne on Monday July 8 to review the milestones, share results and confirm the final stages of the project.

Dr Darryl D'Souza, the principal investigator of the Tails CRC-P, welcomed all participants of the workshop and briefly summarised the progress to date.

The project was running on time and was on track to be completed by the end of March 2025.

PhD student Ms Rutu Galea from the University of Melbourne described the data collection component of the project as unique, ambitious and an enormous task.

The dataset was comprised of 76 variables collected from and associated with over 75,000 individual pigs throughout their production cycle.

The data included pigs from two genetic pyra-



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mids, seven farming operations in different geographic regions of Australia and covered two consecutive seasons – allowing for seasonal variability in the incidence of tail biting to be examined.

The collation of such a large and intricate dataset underpins the cooperative nature of such a project, with excellent communication between farm staff, technicians and data analysts required to complete this component.

Ms Galea reported that the data was in the final stages of review.

With the data collected, the analysis begins.

The University of Melbourne team of Professor Mark Stevenson and Rutu Galea were tasked with assessing the interactions between animal, environmental and management factors that contribute to a TB event.

While the specific genetic and non-genetic risk factors would be assessed by Professor Susanne Hermes and PhD students Dirk van Winden and Abedi Redu from the University of New England.

One of the outcomes of this process will be the development of a decision support tool that will assess the risk factors contributing to TB, based on predictive models derived from the objective data.

Dr Sophie Ward from APRIL updated the project parties on the progress of the DST.

To date, a 'wire frame' outlining the layout of the DST had been developed by APRIL, with input from project stakeholders.

The predictive models for each risk factor will be incorporated into a prototype DST and validated before being introduced to the pig industry prior to project end.

The DST will be a resource designed to help Australian producers assess the risk factors for TB in Australian conditions.

Dr Megan Lucas from the University of Melbourne updated the participants on the project 'Identifying pig behaviour patterns associated with tail biting'.

Dr Lucas' research has indicated that activity level and low tail postures show promise as early warning indi-

cators of tail biting.

It may be possible in the future to utilise technology that will automate the detection of these predictive behaviours.

The project is due to finish in December 2024.

PhD student Mr Abedin Abdallah from the University of Queensland presented outcomes from projects contributing to 'An inducible experimental model of tail biting', which will enable researchers in the future to test prevention and early intervention models to mitigate tail biting events.

The project partners were also updated with progress to date for the training, education, communication and adoption component of the Tails CRC project.

To date, the project has provided industry training and education to three post-doctoral fellows, four PhD students and one masters student.

Further industry extension workshops detailing strategies to eliminate tail docking, as well as the release of a 'beta' version of the DST for testing with industry partners, are planned by APRIL to occur later in 2024.

The Tails CRC-P will conclude with a two-day conference in March 2025.

## Pork features as go-to dish

PORK has taken centre stage in the *Good Food Guide* new restaurant review.

Terry Durack's recent review of Soluna celebrates its pork dish as "the must-have item on the menu."

Soluna, a fresh addition to the Etymon group's Walker St food precinct in North Sydney, has quickly gained attention.

A rising star in the industry, PorkStar

chef Rhys O'Connell collaborated with his butcher to perfect the crisp pork belly dish, using Byron Bay Berkshire pork belly rib.

The dish features a crisp but not crackling skin, is garnished with baby onions and paired with a smoky whisky sauce.

Cooked low and slow then pressed flat, grilled and glazed with Starward Solera whisky, this pork dish is anchored on the

plate by a skilfully crafted cut, showcasing O'Connell's culinary expertise.

It's wonderful to see pork celebrated in the hospitality industry.



Soluna's crisp pork belly dish – pressed, grilled and glazed to perfection.



# Biosecurity hub to safeguard Australian food

RECENTLY, Australia's defence against crippling biosecurity threats was strengthened with the launch of the Charles Sturt University Biosecurity Hub, a co-investment in research and training of almost \$30 million to enhance the nation's biosecurity defences, protecting our food, farms and communities.

The announcement was made at an event at the National Press Club in Canberra on Tuesday August 20.

The hub brings together a multidisciplinary team of expert researchers, scientists and trainers from various fields, including microbiology, ecology, veterinary and animal science, environmental science, artificial intelligence and cyber futures, extended reality and biosecurity training.

The university has long-standing partnerships in biosecurity – including collaborations with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Asia-Pacific government and industry partners, state government agencies, industry and the community – and is equipped to tackle a range of current or emerging biosecurity threats in the Indo-Pacific region.

The hub focuses on

leadership in research and development, traceability innovation, education and training, capacity-building initiatives and building and maintaining strong partnerships.

It will specifically respond to threats as outlined by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, where it is estimated that invasive species cost Australia approximately \$25 billion a year.

Estimations for specific diseases are as dire – the direct economic impact of a large multi-state outbreak of foot and mouth disease could reach \$80 billion over 10 years.

If khapra beetle were to become established, it could cost the economy \$15.5 billion over 20 years.

Charles Sturt vice-chancellor and president Professor Renée Leon expressed pride in the global impact the university was having on protecting Australia and neighbouring countries against potentially devastating biosecurity pests and diseases.

“Charles Sturt University is a national leader in biosecurity research and training initiatives, spearheading innovation and transformation efforts to safeguard

Australia's food, farms, environment and communities from the increasing threats posed by pests, weeds and diseases,” Professor Leon said.

“Our biosecurity hub focuses on strengthening Australia's capacity to detect, prevent and respond to pests and diseases that threaten our food, farms and our future.”

Biosecurity Training Centre academic director Mr David Mackay highlighted the university was at the forefront of training frontline personnel who are protecting Australia's borders and those of its Asia-Pacific partners.

“Charles Sturt University has been working with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry since 2022, utilising the university's teaching and research strengths to train more than 840 frontline biosecurity officers in capabilities, contributing to the sector's goal of growing the country's agricultural production to \$100 billion by 2030,” Mr Mackay said.

Charles Sturt Gulbali Institute for Agriculture, Water and Environment executive director Professor Lee Baumgartner said the hub's program of biosecurity activities was dedicated to iden-

tifying and mitigating biosecurity threats.

Professor Baumgartner mentioned the university's ‘training hub promoting regional industry and innovation in virology and epidemiology’ program as a key initiative.

“THRIVE is dedicated to developing skills in agricultural epidemiology and virology to identify and counter zoonotic viruses such as foot and mouth disease virus, Japanese encephalitis virus, avian influenza virus, swine flu, Australian bat lyssavirus and Hendra virus,” Professor Baumgartner said.

More than 130 people from industry, government, academia and regional communities attended the event at the National Press Club on August 20, 2024.

In addition to hearing about the hub, guests heard from some of Australia's leading biosecurity experts, including:

- DAFF Biosecurity, Operations and Compliance Group deputy secretary Justine Saunders
- DAFF Australian chief veterinary officer Dr Beth Cookson
- Local Land Services Animal Biosecurity and Welfare program lead Dr Scott Ison
- Charles Sturt Univer-

sity Biosecurity Training Centre academic director David Mackay.

Professor Leon encouraged those interested in making a global impact to consider the range of courses offered at Charles Sturt, which equips students with the skills needed to address biosecurity challenges.

“Our diverse range of courses, such as the Bachelor of Veterinary Science, offer strong foundations in sciences, preparing students for a range of careers in biosecurity,” Professor Leon said.

In the past five years, Charles Sturt University has produced more than 640 graduating students with biosecurity capabilities.



CSU PhD student Sophie Wachter, Dr Brian McSharry and Dr Gayle Petersen.



CSU director of operations eXtended Reality Centre Agripark Andrew Hagan.



Charles Sturt University lead of the Biosecurity and THRIVE Research Program Professor Jade Forwood, Biosecurity Training Centre academic director David Mackay, CSU deputy vice-chancellor Professor Mark Evans, DAFF deputy secretary Biosecurity, Operations and Compliance Group Justine Saunders, CSU vice-chancellor and president Professor Renée Leon, DAFF deputy chief veterinary officer Dr Sam Hamilton, Local Land Services Animal Biosecurity and Welfare program lead Dr Scott Ison, NSW Government Shadow Minister for Skills, TAFE and Tertiary Education Justin Clancy and Charles Sturt Gulbali Institute for Agriculture, Water and Environment executive director Professor Lee Baumgartner.



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# Indiscriminate antibiotic use must be resisted

I HAVE subscribed to and enjoyed *Modern Farmer* online for several years, which was established in 2013 as a for-profit print publication funded by Canadian financier and philanthropist Frank Giustra.

In 2022, it transitioned to a non-profit model dedicated to raising awareness and catalysing action at the intersection of food, agriculture and society.

Through its published stories, it claims mostly with a North American flavour and often with global take-home messages, to connect people to the origins of food and highlight producers and innovators working to create a sustainable future.

It also aims to connect people to the origins of food and highlight solutions where all people have access to affordable, nutritious and culturally significant foods.

Engaging people to the origins of food, encouraging them to rethink how they consume that food and uncovering the sometimes-uncomfortable truths behind mass production are also key focuses.

I personally relate

to and endorse pretty much all of the above, hence thought I'd share a recent *Modern Farmer* story on the touchy subject of antimicrobial use.

So, here goes... the *Modern Farmer* story on the subject.

Nearly four decades ago, Ron Mardesen and his wife Denise stopped using antibiotics on their hog farm A-Frame Acres in Elliot, Iowa.

He decided there was a better way to raise his animals, one that wouldn't require the need for routine antibiotics.

After prioritising clean feed, fresh air, comfortable bedding and plenty of space, he said his pigs began to thrive.

In 2002, Mardesen started selling his pork to Niman Ranch, a network of independent family farmers that raise livestock without antibiotics or added hormones.

As the owner of a multi-generational farm, Mardesen has seen industrial agriculture and factory farming take increasing control over meat production in the past few decades.

With that has come the extreme overuse of antibiotics in livestock farming.

"You know, we want to produce more pounds of pork, more pounds of beef, more pounds of chicken on smaller and smaller resources."

"The best way they have come up with to continue with this efficiency push is to pound antibiotics," Mr Mardesen said.

"I have never been comfortable taking an animal as intelligent as a pig and cramming them into a concrete box for the sake of efficiency."

A recent report released by the US Food and Drug Administration found that antibiotic sales for meat production increased by four percent from 2021 to 2022, with pigs and cattle accounting for the majority of sales.

Antibiotic sales for animal use peaked in 2015, after which the



Cant  
Comment  
by BRENDON CANT

FDA banned the use of antibiotics for animal growth, leading to a major decline in antibiotic sales the following year.

But from 2017 onwards, antibiotic sales for livestock farming have steadily risen each year, increasing 12 percent from 2017 to 2022.

About 70 percent of medically important antibiotics in the US are sold for animals, not humans.

"The more an antibiotic is used, the more both animals and humans develop resistance to them, which significantly lowers the effectiveness of the intervention," said Steve Roach, food program director at Food Animal Concerns Trust, an organisation that advocates for humane farming.

While antibiotics were originally used to treat sick animals, in the 1940s farmers discovered regular antibiotic use could make animals grow faster in less time and with fewer resources.

Though the US banned the use of antibiotics for growth, they are still used for disease prevention and disease control.

If one animal gets sick, the entire group is often treated because they live in such close proximity to one another.

Nearly a third of medically important antibiotics have no duration limit, meaning a farmer can use those antibiotics in feed for as long as they want to prevent disease.

Mr Roach said this allowed farmers to keep animals in poor living conditions that are more likely to get them sick.

Antibiotic use is particularly common on factory farms, where certain practices lead to disease in animals.

Baby pigs are weaned off their mother's milk and fed solid foods before they're ready, causing diarrhoea.

"Having animals close together in crowded conditions, it saves you money, but also disease can easily spread," Mr Roach said.

"You give them a diet that causes problems, so you basically just feed them antibiotics continuously."

A 2021 poll found that 'antibiotic-free' labels are important to two-thirds of Americans when buying meat.

Despite this priority, labelling is far from straightforward.

"From 'antibiotic-free' to 'no antibiotics routinely used' to 'antibiotics may be used', there are plenty of ambiguities within labelling and there is little room for nuance," he said.

Adding that antibiotics were designed to treat sick animals but the overuse and lack of transparency has led to an all-or-nothing mindset and negated their original intent.

FACT supports antibiotic use for animal treatment, but only if it is approached with transparency and communication between the farmer and the certifier.

The Antibiotic Resistance Action Centre at George Washington University is developing a 'certified responsible antibiotic use' label, which would allow antibiotics for treatment but not for prevention.

"When you do use antibiotics for treatment, you need to report that to the certifier and let them know."

"And so we kind of prefer that label, but it's harder to communicate that to the consumer," Mr Roach said.

On the local front, the following should be noted:

- Australia is a world leader in minimising the use of antibiotics in food animals

- Maintaining Australia's low risk of antimicrobial resistance in food animals provides many welfare, health and economic benefits

- The health, agriculture and food sectors all benefit from maintaining Australia's low risk of AMR in the food animal sector.

While I quite like APL's motto 'as little as possible, as much as necessary', when it comes to antimicrobial stewardship in Australian pork-producing businesses, I'd add that encouraging production environments that are less conducive to creating and spreading pathogens in the first place would be a smart pre-emptive strike.

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



Indiscriminate, unnecessary or excessive use of antibiotics in the pig industry is simply not healthy.

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Blantyre Farms uses digester dams to capture methane which is converted into electricity.



The government said it was taking strong action across agriculture and industry to combat methane, including spending \$8 million dollars to support the commercialisation of the methane-busting seaweed asparagopsis.

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## Methane menace must be tackled and farmers rewarded

ACCORDING to the Climate Council report, methane-busting solutions must be scaled up and farmers incentivised for using them, with production of the dangerous gas hitting record high levels.

The Climate Council report calls for immediate action on methane reduction targets and a rethink on how the greenhouse gas is tackled by the agricultural and mining sectors.

Report author Lesley Hughes said, "Methane is increasing at a rapid rate and it has now reached a level unseen in the past 800,000 years."

The report highlights a series of practical steps Australia can take to tackle methane in the agriculture, fossil fuels and waste industries.

"Australia produces an outsized share of global methane pollution, due to our large fossil fuel mining and agriculture industries," the report stated.

The report proposes large-scale livestock

trials under a range of Australian environmental conditions to test the efficacy of feed supplements and other emerging solutions in tackling methane.

Part of the solution is to incentivise farmers to adopt new technologies such as feeding animals the methane-busting supplements.

"It has to be an approved methodology, then the farmers can claim carbon credits by using that methodology," Professor Hughes said.

"Farmers will need financial incentives to deploy the technologies that we have, but we also need more research to scale those technologies up."

The Climate Council also called for more education around the environmental benefits of choosing a vegetarian or vegan diet.

"More Australians may choose to eat less meat and dairy products ... if they were more aware of the significant climate and environmental im-

pacts of food production and the available alternatives," the report stated.

But producers have hit back citing the red meat sector's 2030 carbon neutrality goal.

National Farmers' Federation president David Jochinke said, "It's short-sighted and uninformed to suggest consumers need to turn their back on meat as a protein source."

"It also ignores red meat as an excellent source of nutrition, and alternatives such as lab-grown meat are more energy intensive when produced at scale."

He stressed that producers are already leading the charge on climate action in Australia, having reduced the sector's emissions by about 59 percent on 2005 levels.

The report takes aim at inaction by the Australian Government for signing the Global Methane Pledge in 2022 to slash global methane pollution by

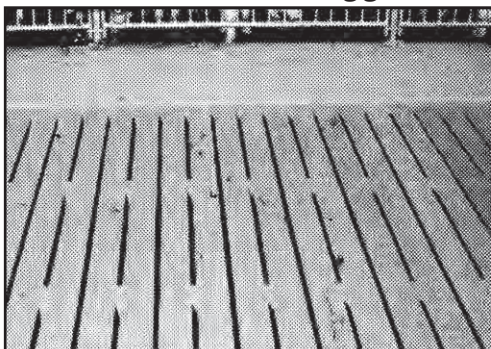
continued P9

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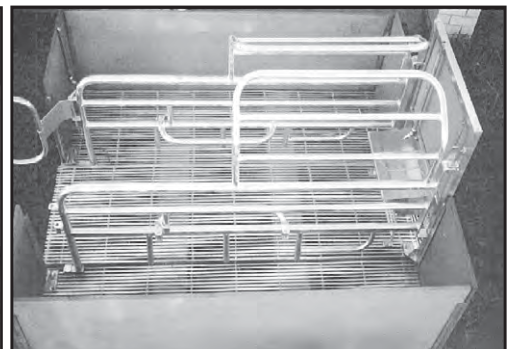
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# Piggery reduces cost with new pump

BETTAPORK Piggery has been breeding pigs for over 30 years.

A mid-sized enterprise, the piggery raises the animals and then sells them to market.

As part of the piggery's recycling philosophy, all pig waste is collected and broken down before being used as fertiliser on the grounds and turned into biogas to power the farm.

BettaPork Piggery owner and director Paul Brosnan said, "We collect the pig waste in what we call sump pits."

"The effluent is then pumped from the sump up to a holding dam."

"It then moves progressively through a series of processes before the effluent is eventually ready to be pumped into holding tanks to collect the biogas," he said.

**The problem**  
To move the pig waste from the sump to the holding tanks, the piggery was using a few types of pump, including submersibles.

Located in the effluent pit and needing a chain and lifting device to raise them to the surface, these pumps were proving increasingly inefficient and costly to maintain.

"After we bought the submersible pumps, we quickly discovered that they had a very fine tolerance," Paul said.

"The suction inlet/impeller started to block continuously, and the pumps would run dry, resulting in the internals of the pump wearing and needing to be replaced on a regular basis."

**The solution**  
Paul started to search for a more efficient solution.

Coincidentally, Paul works closely with a local business that uses a number of Gorman Rupp pumps in its processes and highly recommended the brand.

Paul contacted Hydro Innovations – the authorised Australian distributor for Gorman Rupp pumps – for a solution to the issues the pumps being used were having.

"Having purchased and used a number of different types of pumps in the past, we didn't want to spend any more money on pumps that could not do the job," he said.

"So, it was great, coming across a supplier who was happy to stand by their product and prove it was the right pump for the job."

After reviewing the piggery's requirements, Hydro Innovations suggested that Paul install a Gorman-Rupp T6A60S-B wastewater pump fitted with a 7.5kW motor – a packaged unit that would provide both the flow and pressure Paul needed.

According to Hydro Innovations general manager Garry Grant, the Gorman-Rupp T6A60S-B is a rugged and reliable self-priming centrifugal solids-handling pump.

Very easy to maintain, the pump is capable of handling a 3" solid – so it will pump a cricket ball – as well as stringy materials.

In addition, if any choking does occur, the pump can be easily and quickly unclogged via the light-weight removable cover plate.

The design of the pump also allows users

to adjust the clearance externally in minutes to ensure optimum performance, without having to remove the pump from the system or open it.

For major services, the removable rotating assembly can be replaced by simply loosening four bolts from the drive end of the pump, eliminating the need to disturb the pump casing or piping.

## The results

"Within a few months of having the pump installed at the piggery, we knew it was capable," Paul said.

"It moves more liquid than the previous pump and it's extremely easy to maintain, which for me is the major bonus."

"The open impeller

design makes it very simple to remove any blockages.

"You only have to loosen two bolts to get inside the pump and clear it, which takes 15 minutes."

"And, of course, an added bonus is that we no longer have to waste money purchasing a constant number of parts due to breakdowns," he said.

So impressed was Paul with the performance of the Gorman-Rupp T6A60S-B, he purchased a second pump and is now considering a third.

More information on these pumps may be obtained from Hydro Innovations on 02 9898 1800 or [info@HydroInnovations.com.au](mailto:info@HydroInnovations.com.au)



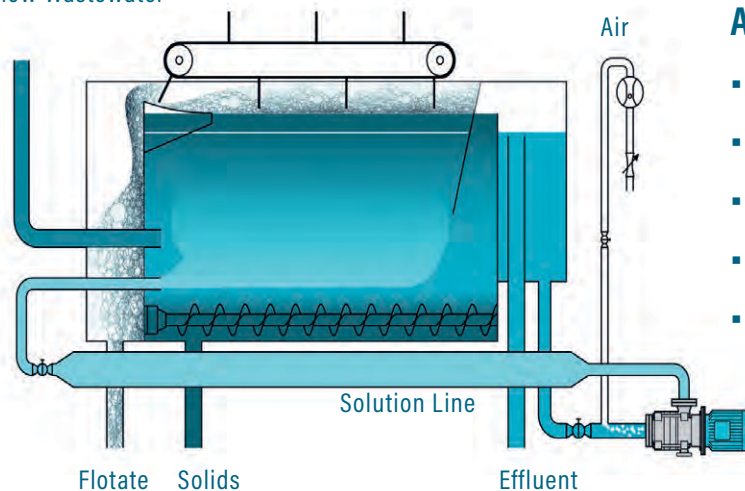
Within a few months of the pump being installed at the piggery, they knew it was capable.

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## Methane menace

from P8  
almost one-third by 2030, without following up with any targets.

"We've no target and no plan for any sector to meet the commitment," Prof Hughes said.

But the Albanese Government said it was "taking strong action" across agriculture and industry to combat methane, including spending \$8 million dollars to support the commercialisation of the methane-busting seaweed asparagopsis.

While, according to a spokesperson for Minister for Climate Change and Energy Chris Bowen, proposals for new methods for carbon credits are also being considered.

"The government's reformed Safeguard Mechanism already

covers almost three quarters of methane from industrial sources and methane emissions reduction remains a strong focus of the sectoral net-zero plans currently being developed," the spokesperson said.

The Climate Council repeated its calls for an end to the approval of new and expanded coal mines and said cutting methane pollution should be a condition of continuing approval for the highest emitters.

Australia and other countries might be significantly undercounting methane pollution, the report stated.

The International Energy Agency estimates Australia could be under-reporting methane emissions from coal and gas by as much as 60 percent.

**Australian  
Associated Press**



# Have Your Say on DAFF regulatory service delivery and stakeholder engagement

IN 2023, the Australian Public Service Commission undertook a capability review of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to facilitate discussion around the department's desired future state, highlight organisational capability gaps and identify opportunities to address them.

The capability review found that we have a strong reputation and are widely respected as a service provider and regulator in biosecurity, agricultural productivity and trade.

The review also highlighted there were opportunities to uplift capability, including adopting a more partnership-based and risk- focused approach

to service delivery and regulation.

In response to the capability review, we prepared our Transformation Action Plan.

This plan identifies the immediate and longer-term actions we will take to uplift our leadership and culture, collaboration, delivery, people and resourcing, and risk capabilities.

We are committed to developing and implementing a future-focused regulatory strategy.

This will increase the efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of our regulatory service delivery and uplift the capability of regulatory staff.

To support this, we are undertaking a Have Your Say survey to gain a deeper understanding of your views

about the regulatory services we deliver.

We are also seeking feedback to improve how best we can listen, engage and respond to your needs.

Survey feedback will inform improvements to our regulatory services and stakeholder engagement.

**Why your views matter**

Your feedback is highly valued and will play a crucial role in shaping our efforts to improve regulatory service delivery.

We want your perspectives on the regulatory services we deliver under the:

- Biosecurity Act 2015
- Export Control Act 2020
- Imported Food Control Act 1992
- Illegal Logging Prohibition Act 2012.

The closing date for this consultation is 9am September 30, 2024.

If you need assistance with completion of the survey, email us at [improvingregulatoryservicedelivery@aff.com.au](mailto:improvingregulatoryservicedelivery@aff.com.au)

We look forward to receiving your comments.

**DAFF**



Share your ideas for improving regulatory service delivery.



Pork foodservice education modules at TAFE NSW were developed in collaboration with chef personality Darren Robertson.

## Educating next gen chefs on power of pork on menus

WITH pork now sitting on approximately two out of three menus, Australian Pork Limited is determined to maintain this momentum and continue to grow the trend with the next generation of chefs and cooks.

Working with TAFE NSW, a series of pork foodservice education modules have been developed in collaboration

with chef personality Darren Robertson.

Darren's restaurants include The Farm at Byron Bay in NSW and Three Blue Ducks in Rosebery, Bellingen and Nimbo Fork Lodge near Wagga Wagga and Melbourne Victoria.

Appearing on *MasterChef Australia* and *My Kitchen Rules*, Darren has created some on-trend modern recipes

using popular cuts of pork, including ribs, pork cutlet, tomahawk and porchetta.

"I want to show the versatility of various pork cuts and how easy it is to create exciting dishes in cafes, pubs, clubs and restaurants," Darren said.

The engaging recipe video content modules aim to increase familiarity and preference for

pork among first and second-year cookery students.

These modules will initially be made available through all TAFE NSW campuses across three units – prepare dishes using basic methods of cookery, prepare meat dishes and work effectively as a cook.

"I'm excited to see what young chefs do with the recipes," Darren said.



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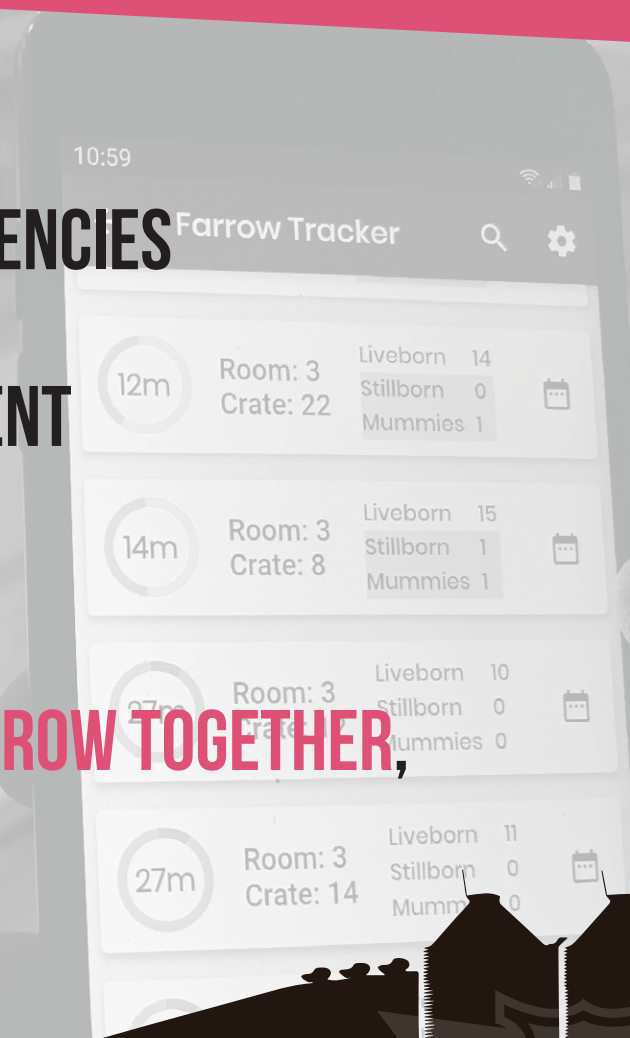
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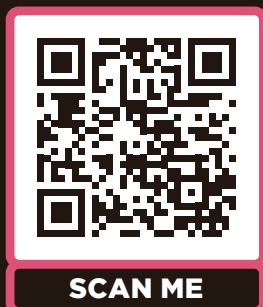


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If 20,000 WHMs no longer ventured out of the cities, it would cost regional economies about \$203 million per year and more than 1000 jobs. Photo: Anna Schvets

## New report highlights WHMs vital to regional Australia

AS the Federal Government gets to the pointy end of its Regional Migration Review, peak bodies for farmers, backpackers and tourism have released a new report highlighting the economic value of backpackers in the regions.

The report by Aither was commissioned by the National Farmers' Federation, the Backpacker and Youth Tourism Advisory Panel and the Australian Tourism Export Council.

It emphasised how Australia has the most attractive Working Holiday Maker visa program in the world, attracting more than 200,000 WHMs to work, travel and live in Australia each year.

For WHMs to extend their visa a second year, they must first complete 88 days work in the regions – and they have the option to extend their stay another year if they continue further regional work.

However, the Federal Government's migration review discussion paper flags the option to remove this incentive.

The report estimates that if 20,000 WHMs no longer ventured out of the cities, it would cost regional economies \$203 million per year and more than 1000 jobs.

Furthermore, at an industry level, the horticulture sector alone estimates the absence of this workforce would cost \$6.3 billion and that 127,000 jobs would be lost along the supply chain.

These peak bodies have raised significant concerns that removing the incentive would rip billions of dollars from regional economies and stymie productivity.

National Farmers' Federation president David Jochinke said, "The 88-day incentive means these visitors, mostly backpackers, leave the fast-paced city streets and immerse themselves into a true-blue Aussie experience in the regions, importantly filling vital workforce shortages."

"Backpackers are a critical workforce for farmers, comprising 14 percent of all farm worker jobs.

"While WHMs make up 44 percent of horticulture's workforce, they're also important to grains (31 percent), red meat (26 percent) and cotton (25 percent) during peak times.

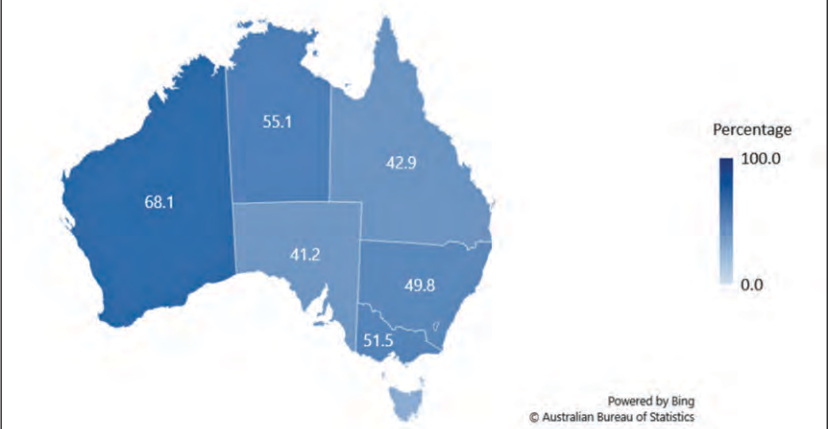
"It's become a rite-of-passage for young visitors to get out into the regions and experience the full extent of what Australia offers," Mr Jochinke said.

"Nothing hits quite like the sunsets from the back paddock where backpackers can contribute to helping Australia produce food and fibre for the rest of the world.

"These backpackers aren't just an invaluable workforce to farmers, they contribute to the cultural fabric and economies of our regions and go home to become ambassadors for Australia."

BYTAP chair Wendi Aylward said, "We

➔ continued P13



Element	Average WHM spend as a percentage of total spend	Average WHM spend in \$
Accommodation	30%	9,608
Food and drink	18%	5,525
Other expenses	14%	4,466
Entertainment	12%	3,964
Tourism	11%	3,494
Transport	10%	3,161
Bills	7%	2,301

Table 1: Average WHM trip spend breakdown.



New report highlights WHMs vital to regional Australia

from P12  
welcome the government's assurance the one-year Working Holiday Maker visa will remain unchanged."  
"WHMs contribute \$3.2 billion annually to the Australian economy – they stay longer, spend more and are a critical source of labour in regional Australia.  
"But it is imperative the 88-day requirement remains in place," she said.  
The migration review discussion paper has flagged this for removal, which would be devastating for regional Australia.  
"The pandemic showed us how important it is

that we continue to incentivise travellers to visit and work in regional Australia," Ms Aylward said.  
"Besides filling labour shortages, WHMs spend what they earn in regional communities and support local businesses.  
"Not only are overseas backpackers vital to Australia, this is reciprocated with thousands of Australians doing the same thing.  
"Every year young Australians head overseas on their own working holiday.  
"Encouraging international travellers to live, work and travel in regional Australia gives

them a unique opportunity to experience Australia in a way few can do.  
"This is soft diplomacy working at its best."  
ATEC managing director Peter Shelley said, "The WHM visa has been successful in delivering a great work and holiday experience for thousands of young people from across the world over the past 50 years."  
"The visa provides a valuable cultural exchange and creates long term 'champions' of Australia as a travel destination, with many travellers becoming repeat visitors.

"As we head into the next 50 years, we want to ensure the WHM program delivers great outcomes for our working holiday makers, our employers across the country, our industry and the Australian community."



Scan for the full Regional Impacts of Working Holiday Makers report.

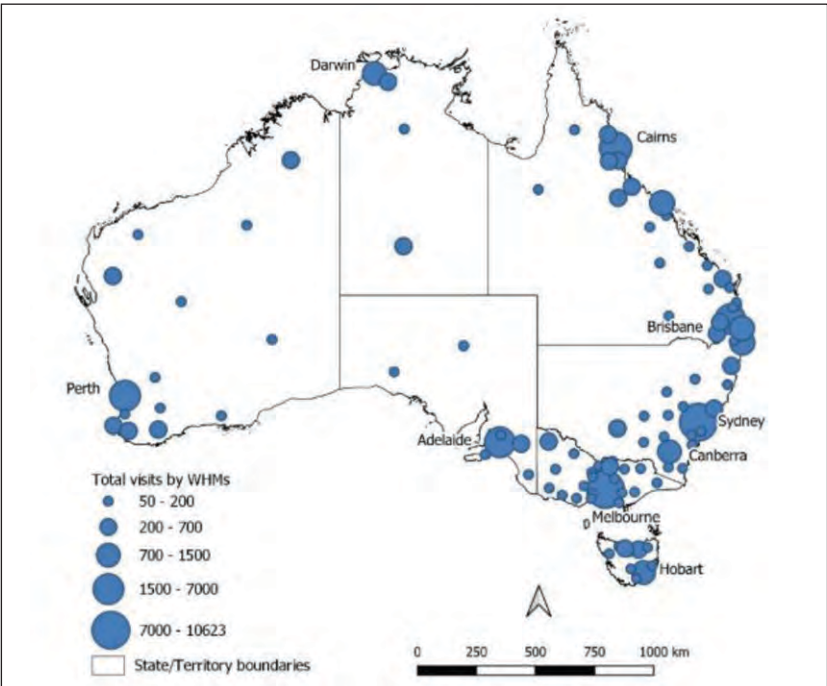


Figure 2: Areas visited by Working Holiday Maker visa holders.

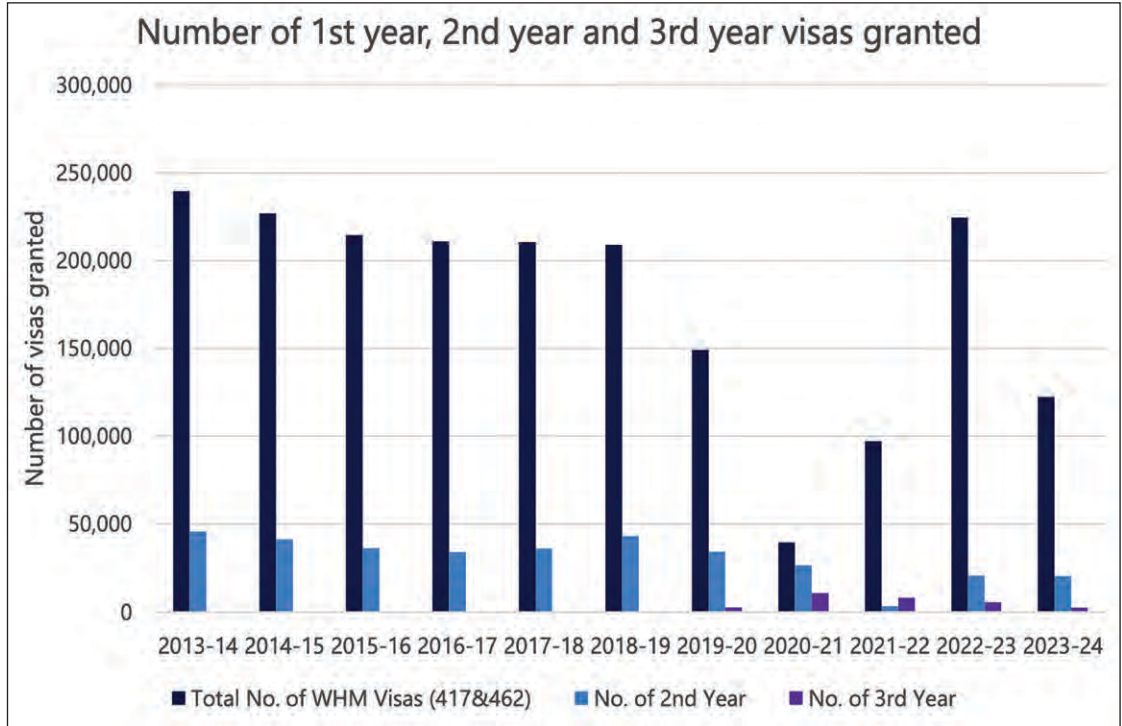


Figure 1: Number of visas granted.

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Farmsafe Australia's 'In Safe Hands' campaign turns the spotlight on the critical importance of vehicle and machinery safety. Credit: Farmsafe Australia

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Seatbelts are a fundamental safety feature that can save lives in the event of a rollover or collision. Photo: Kindel Media

## In Safe Hands campaign focuses on vehicle and machinery safety

AS part of the National Farm Safety Week 'In Safe Hands' campaign, Farmsafe Australia turns the spotlight on the critical importance of vehicle and machinery safety.

Simple effective strategies such as regular maintenance, wearing seatbelts and providing inductions can significantly reduce the risk of incidents and injuries.

Recognising that farm safety must be practical to be adopted by farmers, the campaign aims to instil a culture where every farmer and worker acknowledges the simple yet lifesaving acts of habits such as buckling up.

Farm vehicles and ma-

chinery are indispensable tools in modern agriculture but their operation comes with inherent risks.

By adopting straightforward safety measures, farmers can create a safer working environment and enhance overall productivity.

Following six farm businesses across the country, the campaign features practical solutions that are being used to create safer farms and safer farmers.

Irvine Wines and Karu Harvesting in Angaston South Australia ensure their teams are properly inducted, their machinery is regularly maintained and their workers have access to personal protective

equipment and other protective measures to address challenges around vehicle and machinery safety.

With staff working on multiple vineyards and seasonal workers being extremely important to business operations, thorough inductions and monthly staff meetings ensure the flow of communication around workplace hazards.

Consistently wearing seatbelts, performing regular machinery checks, and adhering to proper protocols may seem minor but they collectively build a foundation of safety that protects everyone.

These simple routine practices prevent injuries,

continued P15



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# In Safe Hands campaign focuses on farm safety

from P14

reduce risks and ensure a culture of vigilance and responsibility.

By ingraining these habits, farmers create a safer environment where everyone can work confidently and efficiently, knowing their safety is prioritised through every small mindful action.

Prioritising safety not only protects the lives of farm workers but also contributes to the overall efficiency and sustainability of agricultural operations.

Ensuring everyone on the farm understands and follows these safety measures is crucial for maintaining a safe and productive working environment.

Farmsafe Australia chair Felicity Richards emphasised the significance of building habits.

"In the daily busyness of life on the farm, we often overlook the simplest safety measures or become complacent towards their importance in keeping our business running smoothly and efficiently," Ms Richards said.

"Wearing seatbelts and proper PPE in vehicles such as tractors and side-by-sides is a fundamental practice that requires a daily commitment.

"We often hear ourselves making excuses – such as 'it's a flat paddock' or 'there's too many gates to get in and out for' – but the reality is, when we carve out exceptions, we compromise safety.

"And ultimately that puts lives and limbs at risk.

"As business owners, we must remain committed to fostering a culture where every journey, no matter how short or flat, is approached with the importance it deserves.

"In the end, there is nothing more important than making sure we all make it home safely," she said.

Incidents involving farm machinery are a leading cause of injuries and fatalities, with 63 percent of on-farm fatalities in 2023 being attributed to farm vehicles or mobile farm machinery.

Regular maintenance and safety protocols are not only good practice, they are essential for protecting farm workers and ensuring the sustainability of a farm business.

Ms Richards underscores the practicality of the In Safe Hands campaign.

"Farm safety is not about complex solutions – it's about cultivating habits that safeguard lives day in and day out," she said.

"Buckling up before every ride is one such simple habit that contributes to a safer farm.

"Is it hard to slip the seatbelt on every time you get up into the tractor?"

"Not really.

"But telling someone's family that their loved one isn't coming home because they were injured at work, that will be the most difficult thing you ever have to do."

The In Safe Hands campaign run by Farmsafe Australia encourages farmers, farm workers and rural communities to view workplace, health and safety as simple and practical habits.

Through educational initiatives and awareness, Farmsafe Australia aims to highlight that a small action such as fastening a seatbelt or maintaining farm vehicles can make a significant difference in ensuring everyone's safety on the farm and making sure that our industry is in safe hands.

## Top strategies for vehicle and machinery safety

### Regular maintenance and inspections

Conducting regular maintenance and thorough inspections of all vehicles and machinery ensures they are in optimal working condition.

This helps to identify and address potential issues before they become serious hazards.

Keeping a detailed maintenance log can aid in tracking the condition and service history of equipment.

### Wearing seatbelts

Seatbelts are a fundamental safety feature that can save lives in the event of a rollover or collision.

It is important to make wearing seatbelts a mandatory practice for all operators of tractors, machinery and other farm vehicles such as utilities and SSVs.

### Providing proper inductions

Comprehensive inductions for new, seasonal and returning workers are essential, covering

the safe operation of all machinery, highlighting specific safety protocols and emergency procedures.

Refresher courses provided regularly are a great way to keep all staff updated on safe practices.

### Creating a safe work environment

Ensure that work areas are free of obstructions and hazards.

Clear communication with other workers about the movement and operation of machinery can prevent incidents.

Designating specific zones for machinery operation can further reduce risks.

### Implementing safety protocols

Establish and enforce safety protocols for all farm operations involving vehicles and machinery.

This includes guidelines for safe driving, machinery operation and the use of PPE.

Regularly reviewing and updating these protocols keeps safety at the forefront.

# New grant to support ag

AUSTRALIAN Farm Institute has been awarded a \$638,000 grant to support international collaboration on sustainable agriculture.

The grant will support advocacy towards sustainable agriculture trade standards and guidelines development that recognise Australian conditions and are consistent with the Australian Government's commitment to address climate change and support sustainable production.

Focusing on evidence-based sustainable agricultural practices, systems and standards will enhance sustainable productivity, support food security and minimise environmental impacts.

AFI will partner with other members of the Global Forum on Farm Policy and In-

novation engaging in collaborative research and outreach efforts progressing evidence-based sustainability approaches internationally.

AFI will also work with southeast Asian partners to share this knowledge and understanding to support sustainable agricultural practices in the region.

Agricultural Trade and Regulation Group deputy secretary Tina Hutchison emphasised the importance of the grant in strengthening relationships with trading partners.

"Australia has a lot to offer southeast Asian partners through trade,

investment and a shared commitment to sustainable agriculture to meet the growing food needs across our region," she said.

"This initiative will boost collaboration and engagement between Australia and southeast Asia in this vital area to support long-term sustainable agricultural development.

"Australia's prosperity and security are closely linked to the prosperity and security of our neighbours, so it's important we work together to support a strong future for all."

For more information, visit [farminstitute.org.au/gffpi](http://farminstitute.org.au/gffpi)





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# Future of Food report missed opportunity

RECENTLY, the Australian Conservation Foundation released the 'Future of Food' report, a benchmark analysis highlighting transparency and sustainability issues in the food supply chain.

The report criticises major food businesses including su-



The Future of Food report criticises major food businesses, including supermarkets.

permarkets for their lack of deforestation targets.

It also evaluated 20 of Australia's largest food companies on sustainability indicators.

Australian Pork Limited believes the ACF missed the opportunity to recognise Australia's unique environment and the significant sustainability efforts of Australian farmers.

APL believes the report did not consider the pork industry's significant contribution to improving environmental sustainability.

The pork industry produces less than 2

percent of agricultural greenhouse gas emissions and has set a target of 60 percent of the industry utilising renewable energy by 2030.

Since 1980, the industry has successfully reduced greenhouse emissions by 73 percent, reduced water-use by 80 percent and fossil fuel use by 58 percent.

We are a low emissions protein, with less than 3.3kg of carbon dioxide produced per kilogram of liveweight, down from 10.6kg in 1980.

The pork industry has the potential to be a significant contributor to government plans to reduce emis-

sions as we already operate as a circular economy.

APL is actively working in the environmental policy space to assist government in understanding the industry, particularly where regulation must be amended to support the industry's leadership in the environmental space.

**Australian Pork Limited**



Scan for the full Future of Food report.



An Aussie 4" trash pump in action, easy to deploy in an emergency.

## Flood ready with Aussie

AS the weather becomes more unpredictable, smart livestock producers are planning ahead for worse-case scenarios.

Strong wind brings down powerlines, taking out electrical equipment such as essential pumps, and flooding rain can overwhelm existing infrastructure.

Aussie Pumps, Australia's leading supplier of portable self-priming trash pumps, has developed a range of engine-drive trash pumps that are quick to deploy in an emergency and are specifically designed to handle solids-contaminated water.

Aussie Pumps lineup of portable engine-drive trash pumps range from 2" through to 3", 4", all the way to huge 6" pumps that will move up to 6000LPM.

These big 'rubbish gobblers' will handle effluent, wastewater and even small solids.

Being self-priming and portable, these are good back-up pumps that are easy to set up and simple to use.

They can replace an electric pump that is out of action due to a power cut or provide extra capacity to handle rainwater runoff from the piggery.

Aussie Pumps product manager Davy Schrijvers said, "We are ready to assist with managing wastewater, with big stocks of petrol and diesel-powered trash pumps ready for immediate delivery."

"Our trash pumps will handle mud and slush, even cleaning out contaminated septic tanks and settling ponds with no problems," Mr Schrijvers said.

Designed to deliver a vertical suction lift of up to 7.6m, the pumps are nicknamed 'quik prime' because of their excellent performance characteristics.

Foot valves are not required, and all the pumps come complete with hose couplings and a strainer designed to suit the sized solids that the pump can handle.

A handy clean-out door is built into the front body of the pump, enabling it to be easily cleaned in the event of experiencing a 'choke', without the need to disconnect the pipework.

The excellent self-priming characteristics are due to the pump's unique design.

The body incorporates a large water tank.

On start up, the water tank empties, creating a vacuum in the pump that causes the check

valve on the suction port to open.

That vacuum draws water up through the suction line, into the pump and out through the delivery port.

"Our pumps prime first time, every time," Mr Schrijvers said.

Adding, "Operators need to ensure there are no air leaks in the suction line but other than that, they are simple to set up and run."

The pumps are available with either Honda petrol or Yanmar diesel engine drives.

Top quality engines are chosen because of their long life, high performance and super reliability.

As for all Aussie 'quik prime' self-priming pumps, the trash pump line is covered by a unique five-year warranty, supplied by the company at no extra charge.

"That warranty is unique for our industry," Mr Schrijvers said.

"It shows our total confidence in the product, no matter where it is installed."

Further information on the complete range of Aussie trash pumps is available at [aussiepumps.com.au](http://aussiepumps.com.au) and from Aussie Pump distributors throughout Australia.





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Formulated with a precise blend of essential vitamins, minerals and amino acids, Premi-Boost+ provides comprehensive support for the early development and growth of piglets.

- ✓ Supports growth, development and vitality
- ✓ Boosts energy in weak and underweight newborns
- ✓ Promotes immune function, digestive health and overall wellbeing
- ✓ Aids in the prevention of nutritional deficiencies and supports optimal growth trajectories
- ✓ Easy-to-administer paste formulation ensures accurate dosing and maximum effectiveness.

**DOSE RATE**

**ONE PUMP = 2ML**

2mL: Newborn, underweight and premature piglets soon after birth.  
Repeat the following day if necessary.

For any remaining product, reapply the original bottle cap and store in a cool/dry place for up to 3 months.  
**Rinse and clean trigger prior to reusing.**

**SHAKE WELL BEFORE USE**

**PACK SIZE: 250ML**

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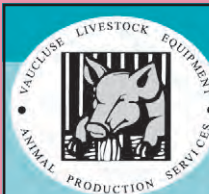
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# Grains Biosecurity Plan safeguards our future

A NEW plan has been unveiled to strengthen biosecurity protections and further safeguard the \$32 billion Australian grains industry by delivering a range of targeted activities and investments.

The Australian Grains Industry Biosecurity Plan was launched by grains industry leaders at the Australian Grains Industry Conference in Melbourne recently.

The plan will give industry, governments and stakeholders the expert framework and focus needed to help prevent, prepare for and respond to grains-specific biosecurity incursions.

Developed in collaboration with industry leaders and biosecurity experts, more than 1300 different plant pests and disease threats have been identified in the plan.

It also details the specific programs and activities needed to take proactive action and protect growers, industry and the economy from these biosecurity threats.

Plant Health Australia, the coordinator of the Australian plant biosecurity system, has led the process – supported by Grain Producers Australia in consultation with other industry leaders, grains industry stakeholders and government partners – to include their expertise in the plan's development.

Built on the principles of shared ownership and responsibility, a focus on strong collaboration and engagement will continue throughout the life of the plan to ensure success.

GPA chair and WA grain producer Barry Large said the plan's launch was a good news story for all Australian grain producers and the wider grains industry and economy, and the start of a longer journey to increase biosecurity capacity and capability.

"We know khapra beetle is public enemy number one for our industry, with a potential \$15 billion plus hit to the economy – and that's just one of many grains-related biosecurity challenges we face," Mr Large said.

"This plan however will implement the projects and initiatives we need to fight back against these pests and diseases that pose a constant threat to our livelihoods.

"Everyone will benefit from this new uplift in investments, actions and activities to help strengthen biosecurity protections specific to the grains sector – not just growers.

"This also demonstrates that we're talking the walk on biosecurity, by harnessing our resources and being proactive to further protect the profitability and sustainability of our industry."

PHA national manager for preparedness and research, development and extension Stuart Kearns said governments, industry, researchers and the public were beneficiaries of a strong and prepared biosecurity system.

"This biosecurity plan is an implementation plan at its core," Mr Kearns said.

"We've built on past

efforts to identify current and potential plant pests with a practical guide that has identified where we need to focus surveillance, education and mitigation.

"This will ensure both industry and government are able to make informed decisions about the growing biosecurity threat in Australia.

"The plan includes current initiatives and highlights areas requiring further work and will be consistently updated to assess progress."

Mr Kearns said the plan will be regularly reviewed and updated throughout its life to reflect activities, outcomes and newly identified issues.

Grains Research and Development Corporation managing director Nigel Hart said biosecurity was a critical cross industry issue that needed a united and collaborative approach from the grains sector.

"GRDC has long been an advocate of research, development and extension investments that support and inform improved biosecurity practices and effectively equips the grains industry to prepare and guard against the very real threat exotic pests and diseases pose to agriculture," Mr Hart said.

"This all-of-industry plan is another important tool in ensuring we have the systems in place to allow us to be responsive and act in a timely way – two critical factors that can be the difference between effective control and devastation of an industry."

Together with GPA, PHA and GRDC, the

Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, GrainGrowers and state and territory governments have provided their input and endorsed the plan.

This collaboration provides the Australian grains industry and government – as the decision makers when it comes to biosecurity management – with a mechanism to deliver an effective plant biosecurity system.

GrainGrowers welcomes the release of the Grains Biosecurity Plan and recognises biosecurity as a shared responsibility among government, industries and individuals.

GrainGrowers chief executive officer Shona Gawel said in the face of changing biosecurity threats, the industry can no longer rely on geographic isolation and must play an active role in protection from exotic plant pest threats.

"The Grains Biosecurity Plan identifies the actions required from stakeholders and highlights the collaborative approach required to secure the industry from biosecurity threats," Ms Gawel said.

"One of the key benefits of this approach is that the industry can clearly see the actions required, understand the current gaps and consider the work required to rectify any blind spots."

Ms Gawel said the broader collaborative approach positions the industry to use its available resources better to implement a focused strategy that can meet

the future biosecurity challenges of the Australian grains industry.

The plan developed a series of threat summary tables that identified exotic pests known to affect grain crops overseas and assessed their overall risk to the industry based on four criteria – entry, establishment, spread potential and economic impact.

It also includes details on current mitigation and surveillance activities being undertaken and identifies contingency plans, fact sheets and diagnostic protocols that have been developed for pests relevant to the grains industry.

More than 50 new and existing activities have been identified by PHA and the GRDC that will be the target of investment to strengthen biosecurity efforts.

These include:

- Ramping up surveillance efforts and their coordination

- Expanding the Grains Farm Biosecurity Program to drive plan activities
- Increasing education, training and simulations to prepare industry for an incursion.

For more information, visit the Grains Farm Biosecurity Program at [grainsbiosecurity.com.au](https://grainsbiosecurity.com.au)



Scan for the Biosecurity Plan for the Australian Grains Industry fact sheet.



Plant Health Australia CEO Sarah Corcoran launched the biosecurity plan at AGIC 2024.



The plan details current mitigation and surveillance activities being undertaken and identifies contingency plans, fact sheets and diagnostic protocols.

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**FLEXcombo®**

**Protection of your pigs to slaughter**

Ingelvac **MycoFLEX®**, *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae* protection with extra capacity  
for mixing with Ingelvac **CircoFLEX®** for PCVAD protection



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