



The Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP

M E D I A R E L E A S E

Minister for Agriculture

Pork expo goes the whole hog

Representatives of Australia's cutting edge \$3.5 billion pork industry are gathering on the Gold Coast this week to share their collective experiences and ideas at the 16th annual Pan Pacific Pork Expo.

Minister for Agriculture, Barnaby Joyce, today officially opened the pre-eminent pork trade show and exhibition and heard firsthand some of the forward thinking and pioneering practices carried out at more than 2000 pig producing farms across Australia.

"With this year's theme of *Forward Thinking: Creating Opportunities*, this is a great event for a sector that has historically been quick to embrace new technologies and innovations," Minister Joyce said.

"The expo gives producers, and others involved in pork production, an opportunity to discuss and debate ideas that they may adopt in the future.

"The industry has worked continuously to promote pork to the community, reinforcing the health benefits of pork and explaining its environmental and animal husbandry credentials."

In opening the expo, Minister Joyce said Australian pork producers have a long history of innovation and of driving improvements to their industry.

"Credit should be given to Australia's pig farmers who capture and use so much of the biogas they produce that Australian pig farms are the lowest greenhouse gas emitters in the world," Minister Joyce said.

"Recognition is also due to an industry that has responded to community concern about animal husbandry practices and is addressing it with a world-first, voluntary industry phase-out of sow stalls.

"Production changes of this magnitude take time and considerable investment to implement and should not be pushed on a sector by people who don't understand farming.

"I commend the foresight and opportunities Australia's pork industry has taken to ensure high-quality Australian product is served at breakfast, lunch and dinner tables."

The Pan Pacific Pork Expo runs on 21–22 May and is supported by industry bodies [Australian Pork Limited](#) and the [Pork CRC](#).

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