



## TURNING WASTE INTO FERTILISERS AND FEED

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The Australian pork industry is excited with the recent announcement by the Minister of Agriculture, The Hon, Barnaby Joyce, of 12 new projects set to drive innovation and increased profits for rural industries under the government's Rural R&D for Profit Program.

In particular, one such novel project is the prospect of creating new sources of fertilisers and feed by using algae, bacteria and chemotrophs to recapture nutrients from waste products.

What the project is setting out to achieve is the development of safe animal feed and high nitrogen and phosphorus fertiliser for agricultural use. This is a concept and approach that is completely new to agriculture.

Alternative soil improvers including composts, teas and pellets generated from low cost cleaner composting technologies will also be investigated.

Australian Pork Limited General Manager Research & Innovation Program Dr Darryl D'Souza said, "Livestock produce large volumes of underutilised waste which contain significant amounts of macronutrients but these are typically in a diluted form and nutritionally unbalanced for agricultural crops, as well as being hard to transport off farm."

'The Waste to Revenue: novel fertilisers and feed project' will develop new technologies to recapture the nutrients in waste, evaluate nutritive, agronomic and economic benefits of the new products, as well as investigate potential barriers to adoption in order to generate the most benefit for producers and end users.

"Generating these new products will improve the sustainability, productivity and profitability of primary industries through the generation of new revenue streams and reduced input costs. The production of digestible feed will supplement existing feeds while fertilisers will improve crop productivity, carbon availability and soil resilience to erosion, frost, drought and heat stress," Dr D'Souza said.

This research will be carried out collaboratively by the University of Queensland and University of Western Australia and is supported by a range of Rural Research and Development Corporations that both produce and utilise waste products; Australian Pork Limited, Dairy Australia, Sugar Research Australia Limited, Meat and Livestock Australia and Rural Industries Development Corporation (Meat Chickens).

ENDS

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