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Australian Pork Limited
ABN 83 092 783 278

PO Box 4746
Kingston ACT 2604

P 02 6285 2200
F 02 6285 2288

www.australianpork.com.au

Waste Strategy Taskforce
GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2601

Via email: nationalwastepolicy@environment.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Submission on National Waste Policy discussion paper

Australian Pork Limited (APL) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Waste Strategy Taskforce on the *Updating the 2009 National Waste Policy: Less waste, more resources* discussion paper (the discussion paper). APL agrees with the proposed national waste management policy approach as it aligns with industry innovation and the global shift towards circular economic principles. In saying this, the pork industry is well-positioned to make a greater contribution to future waste reduction targets.

APL is the peak national representative body for Australian pork producers. It is a producer-owned company combining marketing, export development, research and innovation and strategic policy development to assist in securing a profitable and sustainable future for the Australian pork industry. The Australian pork industry employs more than 36,000 people in Australia and contributes \$5.2 billion in gross domestic product to the Australian economy.

APL supports the principles of a circular economy, which is focused on resource conservation and recovery, rather than waste management. Through innovation, incentives and improved relationships along the resource use and recovery chain, there is untapped potential to minimise waste, conserve resources and maximise the value of all materials. With the right policies in place, APL believes the agriculture sector, particularly pork producers, can make a much greater contribution to national waste reduction targets.

Innovative resource use and recovery systems are commonly implemented in pig production systems. Examples include the use of food waste as pig feed and effluent used to generate heat and energy through biogas production.

1. Avoid, reduce, reuse and recycle

Pork producers can utilise bulk quantities of food waste that would have otherwise gone to landfill, providing these products are not swill in accordance with the national definition of prohibited pig feed¹. This feed production system provides numerous benefits including: significantly reducing the reliance on grain as feed; significant savings in feed costs; and, less food waste and recyclable materials entering landfill systems which results in reduced greenhouse gas emissions produced in, and released from, landfill.

Opportunities:

Government can encourage improved uptake in the market for food waste products and recyclables through a range of measures throughout the supply chain. This can be achieved through the following:

¹ <https://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/what-we-do/biosecurity-services/prohibited-pig-feed-swill-compliance-awareness-project/>

- Foster more effective relationships and communication channels between parties throughout the supply chain to obtain a better understanding of the individual resource use and recovery requirements.
- Continue to improve resource recovery facilities in rural and remote areas to facilitate and encourage recycling closer to the site of origin, thus reducing the need to freight recyclables long distances to be processed at a very high cost.

2. Recover energy – effluent to electricity and heat

Many pig producers are using innovative effluent management systems to recover, store and use energy and heat derived through biogas methane capture from pig manure. This approach has enabled pork producers to reduce or eliminate their electricity costs and reduce their energy carbon footprint to zero. Additionally, they have created a revenue stream by generating carbon credits and selling surplus electricity back to the grid.

Opportunities:

Significant opportunities exist for government to support the increased uptake of on-farm biogas systems. This would provide benefits including recovery of large amounts of energy for on-farm use, reduced demand on the electricity grid, reduced long-term energy costs for producers, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions from on-farm effluent management systems and from energy production and use.

In Summary

APL supports the proposed national waste management policy approach and contends the pork industry is well-positioned to make a greater contribution to Australia's future waste reduction targets. These potential contributions must be supported by government through appropriate measures along the supply chain.

APL would appreciate the opportunity to be involved in further consultation on this issue and would be happy to discuss any of the comments provided in this submission. If you require further information or have any questions, please contact Grantley Butterfield, Policy Manager – Planning & Environment on 02 6270 8820 or grantley.butterfield@australianpork.com.au.

Yours sincerely



Deb Kerr
General Manager, Policy