

# R&D Snapshot

## Benchmarking microbiological and processing performance of Australian export establishments

**Investigator:** Dr. David Hamilton, SARDI.

**Purpose:**

- To develop cost-effective monitoring frameworks for process control by pork export processing establishments to monitor the effectiveness of process control and verify compliance with hygiene requirements.

**Take home messages:**

- Enterobacteriaceae were most frequently detected at all carcass sites and may be an alternate hygiene indicator to total coliforms and E. coli.
- Trim samples had generally higher microbial levels than shoulder samples and may be more useful for monitoring end product quality.
- The Pork Processor Referral Group has endorsed the evaluation of Enterobacteriaceae at current carcass monitoring sites, together with trim, as an alternative monitoring arrangement to obtain data to verify regulatory compliance and to use for continual improvement by each plant. The next phase of the project is now underway.

**Additional information:**

- For further information, please contact Heather Channon at [heather.channon@australianpork.com.au](mailto:heather.channon@australianpork.com.au) or on 0423 056 045.

APL Project 2013/2132

