



AUSTRALIAN PORK LIMITED

SPECIAL CALL FOR TENDER

2016/17 Research, Development & Extension (RD&E) Program

March 2017

Research Purpose

To investigate the practicalities and regulatory requirements of utilising food waste as a feed source for pigs.

Background

Historically, pigs were used by many households to convert food waste into a protein and fat source for human consumption. The risk of feeding pigs untreated food waste or food scraps that contains, or has come into contact with, meat or meat products poses significant risks of exotic disease introduction to livestock industries. International outbreaks of diseases such as Foot and Mouth which devastate agricultural industries have reinforced the risks of feeding animals untreated food waste.

Approximately, one third of all food produced for human consumption is wasted globally, with Australians discarding 361 kg of edible food annually per person, costing more than AUS\$8 billion per year (www.environment.gov.au/protection/national-waste-policy/food-waste). Whilst food waste may be viewed as significant source of energy and protein, a number of significant issues must be further addressed before any potential opportunities for the Australian pork industry can be realised. It is recognised that State, Territory and local governments are addressing food loss and waste through the public food waste education and awareness initiatives and organic waste diversion activities and by investing in organic waste and recycling infrastructure.

High quality ingredients are fed to pigs and equate to approximately 50-60% of the total cost of production. Food waste will have inconsistencies in the nutritional and dry matter content and the level of contamination will vary, thereby making the use of food waste challenging. Further, costs of obtaining food waste, treatment and distribution need to be determined to quantify the cost-effectiveness of its use as a source of feed. Before the pork industry is in any position to utilise food waste as a source of feed, appropriate treatment processes will be required and regulatory approvals obtained.

Research Objectives

A feasibility study is to be conducted into food waste recycling (both commercial and domestic waste) with a particular emphasis on procurement of sufficient volumes, effectiveness and costs of treatment, contaminant removal, distribution networks and regulatory approvals required to be able to utilise food waste in Australia for pig feed.

Anticipated Timings

Full proposal submissions due	22 March 2017
Project start date	10 April 2017
Final report	1 August 2017

Budget

Budget for this work is to be no more than \$25,000 and is required to be adequately justified.

Application lodgement

The application should be submitted through APL's project management system, PigNet (<https://www.pignet.com.au>). Should you have any issues please contact Donna Schmid on 02 6270 8819 or donna.schmid@australianpork.com.au.

Further Information

To discuss this proposal please contact either Dr Robyn Terry on 0427 423 869 or robyn.terry@australianpork.com.au or Heather Channon on 0423 056 045 or heather.channon@australianpork.com.au. Prior to submission of your proposal you must contact either Dr Robyn Terry or Heather Channon.