



# R&D Snapshot

## Environmental enrichment can benefit young pigs

**Investigators:** Dr Cameron Ralph, SARDI and Dr Greg Cronin, University of Sydney

**Purpose:**

- To evaluate the short and long term welfare benefits of sucker and weaner pigs provided with enrichment blocks.

**Take home messages:**

- Environmental enrichment of sucker and weaner pigs using specially formulated enrichment blocks altered their behaviour, learning ability, immune function and response to weaning
- Increased willingness to explore and learn complex tasks of enriched young pigs was suggested
- Providing simple enrichment may allow pigs to better cope with challenge and adapt faster to new environments
- There is merit in developing more enrichment devices that are suitable for use in the Australian pig industry.

**Additional information:**

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**APL Project 2015/038** – Does enriching the lactation and weaner environment of piglets alter their longer-term utilisation of enrichment substrates and devices, and are there life-time benefits for welfare and production?

