



MEDIA RELEASE

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PORK INDUSTRY SIGNS OFF ON THIRD PARTY AUDITING SCHEME

The Australian Pork Industry Quality Assurance Program (APIQ[✓]®) will be moving to Third Party Auditing services from 1 January 2018, with the Australian Pork Limited (APL) Board signing off on the change last week.

The change to Third Party Auditing is aligned with industry requirements of a robust and credible quality assurance program with on-farm compliance verified through an independent audit system.

The regular auditing of quality assured producers will now be conducted by AUS-MEAT, with a smooth transition expected to reduce the impact on producers currently APIQ[✓]® certified. Producers are no longer required to organise their own audits, instead AUS-MEAT will contact producers to schedule their audit.

The APIQ Panel will continue to review standards and policies, participate in incident investigations and issues and oversee Critical Corrective Actions. Producers will continue to participate in working groups and reviews of standards, policies and practices as owners of the program.

Prior to the approval of Third Party Auditing there was an extensive review of compliance audit services and an assessment of the impact of moving to Third Party Auditing by APIQ Management. This was completed in consultation with producers, delegates, the APIQ Panel, the APL Quality Assurance and Animal Welfare Committee, APL Board and associated stakeholders.

“This is a significant change to the audit processes for our industry but the Board believes that this change is necessary to ensure APIQ[✓]® audit services are robust, credible and sustainable into the future.” Said Mr Andrew Spencer, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Pork Limited of the change.

“The Australian Pork Industry Quality Assurance Program is about enhancing the reputation of the Australian pork industry as a reliable supplier of safe, healthy and wholesome pork. We heard concerns from our producers and the general public, and we have acted. We are committed to a responsible, sustainable pork industry.” Mr Spencer said.

“This means improving efficiency for our producers and continuing to look for better ways to do things. It also means being accountable to consumers of our product. Today’s consumers are more aware and concerned about animal welfare and food safety. They require greater assurance from industry on these issues. That’s what APIQ[✓]® provides.” He added.

Managing a piggery according to the APIQ[✓]® Program provides assurance that the product has met the highest standards for food safety, animal welfare, biosecurity and traceability, as well as good agricultural practice in managing pigs.

APIQ✓® remains industry owned and continues to be managed and administered by APIQM on the industry's behalf. Australian Pork Limited, as the national representative body of pork producers, is the owner and managing agent of the APIQ✓® program.

ENDS

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