



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

MEDIA RELEASE

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APL CEO NOTIFIES INTENTION TO STEP DOWN AFTER 13 YEAR TENURE

Mr Andrew Spencer, CEO of Australian Pork Limited (APL) has advised his Board that he will not be seeking renewal when his present contract expires, effective 21 July 2019.

In his 13 years as CEO, Mr Spencer has guided the pork industry through the full gamut of good and bad times, some resulting in significant industry adjustment, and helped ensure more Australians are eating more pork than ever before, with pork now the second most consumed meat in the country.

Mr Spencer advised the APL Board that he believed that it was time for renewal in the organisation, and APL now having a new Chair for the first time in 13 years made the middle of next year about the right time to move on.

“My only regret could be to leave the industry before it emerges from the present over-supply and grain price difficulties, so I’ll continue to work flat out for the next ten months to improve conditions for our pig farmers.”

Mr Spencer advised that he had no specific professional plans at present for life after APL, but that he would be keen to further pursue, amongst others, his recently announced chairmanship of the Australian Farm Institute.

Mr Spencer will remain at the helm of APL while a suitable successor is found and to ensure an effective transition of leadership.

APL Board chair, David Lock, acknowledged Mr Spencer’s important contribution to the Australian pork industry.

“Andrew has helped navigate the industry through an array of challenges throughout his time at APL including; the large increases in imported pork volumes, the “Swine Flu” pandemic of 2009 and the price slumps of 2007/8 and 2017/18,” Mr Lock said.

“Despite all this, Andrew has overseen a long period of consumption growth, which has resulted in pork becoming the second most consumed meat in Australia.

“Andrew has also overseen the introduction of world leading animal welfare standards such as the introduction of the voluntary phase out of gestation stalls across the industry, and delivered APL’s transparency strategy, which throws open the doors of Australian pig farms to tell a broader story of what the industry has achieved.

“Above all, Andrew - together with the recently departed former board chair Mr Enzo Allara AM - has helped APL punch above its weight through effective cross sectoral engagement and collaboration with Government, other RDCs, farmer groups, retailers and other stakeholders across the supply chain.

“On behalf of the everyone in the sector, I thank Andrew for his leadership and dedication to supporting the productivity and profitability of Australian pork producers,” Mr Lock concluded.

The APL Board will now embark on a comprehensive recruitment process to secure a qualified, experienced CEO to take APL forward and it looks forward to working with Mr Spencer to ensure an effective transition of leadership in 2019.

ENDS

For media enquiries contact:

Madeleine Page

Porter Novelli

Ph: 0427 869 203

E: mpage@porternovelli.com.au