



MEDIA RELEASE

29 January 2019

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

ANIMAL WELFARE SCIENCE CENTRE COMPLETES PIG WELFARE SCIENTIFIC REVIEW

Ahead of the development of new Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Pigs, a global review of scientific literature and the international pig welfare standards has been completed by the Animal Welfare Science Centre (AWSC) at the University of Melbourne.

The review - completed in December 2018 - provides recommendations and future research for numerous welfare issues relevant to the Australian pig industry including:

- Gestating sows (including gilts)
- Farrowing/lactating sow and piglets, including painful husbandry practices
- Weaner and growing-finishing pigs
- Boars
- Outdoor housing
- Specific physiological and behavioural problems in pigs
- General management practices of pigs
- Human resource management

All pigs farmed in Australia are currently governed by the Australian Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Pigs, which was last updated and approved by the Primary Industries Ministerial Council in April 2007.

The Model Code is enshrined in each state and territory's animal welfare legislation.

The Animal Welfare Task Group – consisting of representatives from all States, Territories and Commonwealth Governments – is overseeing the development of the new Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Pigs.

The review has been subject to an anonymous peer review - three international and two Australian reviewers - to confirm its validity and will help inform the creation of the new Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Pigs.

Will Zacharin, Chair of the Animal Welfare Task Group, said the independent scientific review is an important first step in developing the new standards and guidelines.

“This scientific review will ensure that the best available science on pig animal welfare is incorporated into the new standards,” Mr Zacharin said.

Andrew Spencer, CEO, Australian Pork Limited said, the completion of the AWSC's science review was an important milestone and marked the commencement of the next phase of the review of the Model Code.

“The appointment of a writing group to draft the new standards will take place shortly, and I encourage those interested in its development to read and consider the outcomes of this independent science review when the public consultation phase commences,” Mr Spencer said.

Funded by Australian Pork Limited (APL), the AWSC Scientific Review can be accessed at <http://www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au/pigs/>

ENDS

For media enquiries contact:
Kevin Daly
Porter Novelli
Ph: 0421 188 589
E: kdaly@porternovelli.com.au

Madeleine Page
Porter Novelli
Ph: 0427 869 203
E: mpage@porternovelli.com.au