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MEDIA RELEASE

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AUSTRALIAN PIG INDUSTRY TO BENEFIT FROM NEW SPECIALIST DIRECTOR APPOINTMENTS

Australian Pork Limited (APL) is delighted to announce the appointment of Ms Gail Owen OAM and Dr Gerard Davis to the APL Board as Specialist Directors.

The appointment of Ms Owen and Dr Davis follows vacancies created by Mr Andrew Baxter's appointment to APL Chair (previously APL Specialist Director), and the retirement of long-term Director, Ms Kathy Grigg, at the APL Annual General Meeting in November 2019.

APL Chair, Andrew Baxter, said the industry is set to benefit from the vast range of experience and technical skills Ms Owen and Dr Davis will bring to the table.

"Ms Owen has demonstrated experience guiding companies through commercial contract, resource and energy law as well as already being active in Australian agriculture through her role as Chair of the Victorian Fisheries Authority," Mr Baxter said.

"Dr Davis brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience across agriculture and business management, having worked extensively across agriculture and research organisations."

Dr Davis welcomes the chance to help Australian pig farmers to achieve its goals in technology development and continued success.

"I am excited for the opportunity and look forward to working closely with industry to continue to grow and succeed," Dr Davis said.

Ms Owen looks forward to being able to ensure a positive outcome in many different areas for producers.

"It's an interesting time to join the industry and I look forward to being able to assist producers in navigating the challenges ahead," Ms Owen said.

Ms Owen is a partner with HWL Ebsworth Lawyers, where her principal areas of practice are corporate advice, commercial contracts and resources and energy law. Ms Owen is also Chair of the Victorian Fisheries Authority and Independent Chair of the Victorian Institute of Teaching's Audit, Risk Management and Finance Committee.

Dr Davis is a director at BioInfo Consulting and Investment and has consulted to a range of organisations including agtech start-ups, such as Mastaplex, and research consortiums, such as the CRC for Food Agility, and major agribusinesses and organisations such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The appointments are effective as of Tuesday 17 December 2019. A brief biography on Ms Owen and Dr Davis is attached.

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BIOGRAPHIES

Ms Gail Owen

OAM, FAICD

Specialist Director

Ms Owen is an experienced chairperson and board member, a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and an Order of Australia medal recipient.

Ms Owen is a partner with HWL Ebsworth Lawyers, where her principal areas of practice are corporate advice, commercial contracts and resources and energy law. She specialises in energy and resources law. She assists clients across a broad spectrum of industries, including the automotive, electricity and mining industries. Prior to joining HWL Ebsworth in 2008, Ms Owen had been a partner at Blake Dawson Waldron (now Ashurst) and Gadens and worked as a legal adviser at CRA Limited and Electrolytic Zinc Company of Australasia Limited.

Ms Owen is also Chair of the Victorian Fisheries Authority and Independent Chair of the Victorian Institute of Teaching's Audit, Risk Management and Finance Committee.

Dr Gerard Davis

BSc, Ph.D, MBA, GAICD

Specialist Director

Dr Gerard Davis is an executive with extensive experience in agribusiness, biotech and agtech and a demonstrated ability to derive value from commercialising technology in companies ranging from start-ups to multi-national global leaders. Dr Davis has experience consulting to a range of organisations from agtech start-ups such as Mastaplex, Research consortiums such as the CRC for Food Agility as well as major agribusinesses and organisations such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. These appointments have included developing strategic, organisational and technology commercialisation plans. The work has involved projects across Australia, New Zealand, Africa and South Asia.

Dr Davis has previously held senior roles with a series of major Australian and global companies, with more than 15 years' experience in commercialisation of technology. Most recently he was General Manager of Innovation and Strategic Development at Australian Agricultural Company. Prior to that he held senior roles with ThermoFisher Scientific and Pfizer's Animal Health Division, now Zoetis. In these roles he has been instrumental in enabling commercial success from the development and implementation of technology in the livestock and agri-food industries.

Dr Davis spent 11 years as a researcher with Australia's leading research agency, CSIRO.

He has a Bachelor of Science, a Ph.D and an MBA and is a graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

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