

# IS IT FIT FOR THE INTENDED JOURNEY?

## FIT FOR THE INTENDED JOURNEY – A GUIDE

### Project

Transporting pigs that are sick, injured or suffering is unacceptable. To prevent this, there are nationally agreed standards outlined in Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines – Land Transport of Livestock. These standards provide a basis for consistent legislation and enforcement across Australia, and provide guidance for all people responsible for livestock during transport.

Is it fit for the intended journey? is a guide developed by Australian Pork Limited (APL) to assist producers and livestock transporters in assessing the suitability of pigs for loading and transport for any intended journey. The guide outlines the principles of loading and transport, how to assess pigs to determine whether they are fit to load and a final checklist to ensure standards are being adhered to.

### Project Participants

Australian Pork Limited

### More Information

• **Electronic:** <http://australianpork.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/FFTIJ-A-Guide-Final-Document.pdf>

• **Hardcopy** or for more information: Rachael Bryant at [rachael.bryant@australianpork.com.au](mailto:rachael.bryant@australianpork.com.au)

### Value to Producers

Ensuring animals are fit to load is not only a responsible action by producers and livestock carriers, it is also an expectation of today's society. Is it fit for the intended journey? makes it easy for producers and livestock carriers to determine whether pigs are fit to load.

Producers and livestock carriers can ensure they are adhering to best practice handling and loading of pigs by having a simple guide for loading. This will ultimately ensure there are better animal welfare outcomes for the pigs being transported. Is it fit for the intended journey? ensures more accurate and consistent assessment of the pigs' "fitness to load" by producers, transporters, veterinarians and other animal handlers and improves awareness of transport legislation with regards to transporting pigs.

### Recommendations

Producers need to ensure there is adequate preparation for transport, which includes competent selection of animals. Pigs find loading, transport, and unloading stressful, so careful handling and planning of the trip is important. Well-designed and managed loading facilities will improve ease of loading and welfare of the pigs. Weather conditions – particularly hot weather – should be taken into account and loading densities adjusted accordingly. The maximum journey time ranges from 12-24 hours, depending on the age and condition of the pigs. Animals deemed to be unfit for a journey due to injury or distress must be treated on-farm or euthanised if required. A PigPass National Vendor Declaration (NVD) form must be completed when moving pigs from a property. This applies to all pig owners and producers.

