



# ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FOR INDOOR PIGGERIES

## NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDELINES FOR INDOOR PIGGERIES

### Project Participants

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### Problem

Pig producers in Australia need to demonstrate due diligence by taking every practical step to minimise the impact of their operations on the environment. At times there are complexities as environmental regulations vary between jurisdictions, from Commonwealth to State and Local Government. A holistic approach needs to be taken to address jurisdictional requirements.

### Project

The National Environmental Guidelines for Indoor Piggeries (NEGIP) provides guidelines to ensure pig production in Australia is environmentally sustainable.

### Value for Producers

Piggery businesses which follow the NEGIP can provide evidence they are committed to pig production in an environmentally sustainable manner, protecting their business and future production.

## Background

Anyone keeping pigs in Australia needs local council approval if they have more than just pet pigs. To operate an environmentally sustainable piggery, it needs to be sited, sized, designed, constructed, managed and operated in a way that ensures all aspects of the environment are protected. This includes protection of community amenity, soils, surface waters, ground water, biodiversity and cultural heritage.

Producers looking to start a new piggery or expand an existing one should contact their local council, local and state Department of Agriculture requirements, and the EPA for approval before undertaking any significant work.

## Recommendations

There are a number of considerations which need to be taken into account when considering a site for a piggery. These include consideration of statutory land use planning restrictions, available land area, availability of a reliable water supply, suitable road access, access to power, labour, inputs and markets, climate, the site's natural resources, community amenity, cultural heritage sensitivities, and future expansion plans.

Providing separation distances and buffers between piggeries and sensitive locations reduces the impact of odour, nutrient runoff and leaching on the environment and community amenities.

The type of piggery needs to be defined, along with the piggery capacity in Standard Pig Units (SPU). Pig housing needs to be designed to optimise cleanliness, minimise odour and protect surface and groundwater quality.

It is also important to determine the manure stream, effluent collection and treatment systems of the piggery as each requires different management.

Manure storage and composting areas should be sited, designed and constructed to provide sufficient storage space and to protect amenity, surface water and groundwater quality. Reuse areas also need to be selected to enable sustainable and beneficial reuse of nutrients, salts and water in effluent and manure, while avoiding nutrient overloading and preventing soil, land and water degradation.

Mortality management practices need to be enforced to prevent odour, vermin breeding and other amenity nuisance, along with groundwater and surface water contamination.

All piggeries should complete an environmental risk assessment to identify, minimise, mitigate and monitor the piggery's environmental risks. Monitoring systems which detect environmental impacts, evaluate the effectiveness of risk minimisation and mitigation strategies and trigger changes to further mitigate risks should be implemented. Implementing an Environmental Management Plan is recommended for all piggeries and provides evidence the operator is committed to pig production in an environmentally sustainable manner.

## More Information

- For a copy of the report, contact Rachael Bryant at [rachael.bryant@australianpork.com.au](mailto:rachael.bryant@australianpork.com.au)
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