



# ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FOR OUTDOOR PIGGERIES

## NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDELINES FOR ROTATIONAL OUTDOOR PIGGERIES (NEGROP)

### 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 Rotational Outdoor Piggeries (NEGROP) provides guidelines to ensure outdoor pig production in Australia is environmentally sustainable.

### Value for Producers

Outdoor piggeries and producers which follow the NEGROP can provide evidence they are committed to outdoor pig production in an environmentally sustainable manner, protecting their business and future production.

## Background

Free range and outdoor bred piggeries need to have the relevant consent and/or approval of their local council, local and state Department of Agriculture requirements, and the EPA. Producers looking to start a new piggery or expand an existing one should contact these agencies before undertaking any significant work.

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.

## Recommendations

When considering a site for a piggery, producers need to consider statutory land use planning restrictions, available land area, availability of a reliable water supply, suitable road access, 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 and capacity in Standard Pig Units (SPU) of the outdoor piggery needs to be defined. Piggery accommodation and paddock facilities need to be designed to prevent adverse impacts to the environment through uncontrolled nutrient movements and adverse amenity impacts.

Nutrient budgeting needs to be completed to avoid excess nutrient levels or imbalances in the soils of outdoor piggery paddocks. Outdoor piggeries need to be managed to promote distribution of manure nutrients over the whole paddock area.

Producers must adopt good land and water production measures to prevent nutrient loss and minimise soil erosion from paddocks used by pig production. This involves rehabilitating the site after the pig phase and properly constructing and managing wallows.

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

Outdoor 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 a Nutrient Management Plan is recommended for all outdoor piggeries to manage the nutrients it produces 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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