

Australian Pork Limited

AUSTRALIAN
Pork™

Review and collation of pig welfare research to inform the development of the *Australian Animal Welfare Industry Standards and Guidelines for Pigs*.

November 2024



Request for proposals

Review and collation of pig welfare research to inform the development of the Australian Animal Welfare Industry Standards and Guidelines for Pigs

Background

The Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Pigs 2008 (Pig Code) outlines minimum standards for the welfare of farmed pigs. The Code is utilised in most states as the expected minimum standards for the care and welfare of pigs within State animal welfare legislation and regulations.

Since the development of the Pig Code, a new process towards establishing agreed Australian Standards and Guidelines for the Welfare of Animals has been used to develop nationally consistent standards and guidelines. These standards provide the basis for developing and implementing consistent regulations under the State legislation and provide a basis for enforcement of animal welfare across Australia.

In 2018, APL commissioned a review of pig welfare research. The goal of the review was to inform the review of the Pig Code and the development of the Pig Code into Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for pigs. The 2018 review report can be found [here](#).

APL is seeking an update to the 2018 review. The Scientific Review would assess the previous review and incorporate new information and scientific literature that has become available since the last Review was completed.

Terms of Reference

The Scientific Review will inform the development of the Standards and Guidelines, which in turn are pivotal in providing clear direction for the Australian Pork industry. The Scientific Review will inform stakeholders as to likely or pressing standards that should be considered for amendment from the current Pig Code, (including the evidence and validity of the research that supports where a minimum standard should be raised) and provide additional knowledge, which will underpin the development of standards and guidelines.

The Scientific Review should provide stakeholders with an accurate review of the peer reviewed scientific literature, the current Pig Code as well as the international pig welfare codes and standards.

The goal would be for the future Australian Standards and Guidelines for Pigs to be underpinned by science-based evidence.

The Scientific Review should:

- Review the scientific literature on animal welfare for pigs
- Assess the current Pig Code and identify those areas where there are gaps or where there has been research to support practice change.
- Review recent scientific reviews in terms of where there are new areas/issues that need to be addressed in a to-be developed Australian Standards and Guidelines for Pigs.
- Where there is scientific evidence to underpin a new standard or guideline, this needs to be identified for the to-be developed Australian Standards and Guidelines for Pigs. If there is no scientific evidence, this may be an area for future R&D.
- Summarise contemporary (Australian and international) research findings which will inform the development of the welfare standards and guidelines for pigs including research on handling, housing, stockperson training, husbandry and management practices.
- Identify and assess the key welfare concerns presented by NGOs and others within the pig welfare space (and where possible identify current/future pressure points or areas of conflict between peer reviewed research). This may assist identify new areas/issues that need to be addressed through research for consideration in the development of Australian Standards and Guidelines for Pigs.
- Examine provisions and comparisons across pig welfare codes and standards from Europe, the UK, New Zealand, Canada and the USA (individual state legislation), and
- Review any other relevant published information.

The focus of the Scientific Review should prioritise peer-reviewed published papers. Reports from funding organisations or other organisations can be included but the emphasis should be on independently peer-reviewed research to inform the Australian Standards and Guidelines for Pigs.

Key areas for review include, but are not limited to the following, which should be considered in the context of the Australian Pig Industry operating environment:

- The health and welfare aspects of various housing systems for all classes of pig, including aspects such as confinement, social grouping, flooring, housing design.
- The welfare effects of varying stocking densities and space allowance.
- Environmental enrichment considerations for all classes of pig (options and timing);
- Pain relief options for husbandry procedures.
- Consideration of husbandry procedures including teeth clipping, tail docking, castration, tattooing, ear tagging (available alternatives and options).
- Preventative methods for adverse behavioural and physiological conditions including tail biting, stereotypic behaviours, and lameness.
- On-farm euthanasia methods; and
- The focus of breeding programs on welfare traits, and the ability to genetically select for and against positive and negative welfare traits including those related to tail biting, aggression, and various production traits associated with farrowing.

Specific Outputs Required

- An electronic copy of a draft Final Report in a format compliant with APL guidelines and to a standard acceptable to APL, including recommendations for consideration.
- The draft copy will be submitted for review under current APL protocol for research reports.
- Once accepted by APL, a revised Final Report in electronic form is to be submitted.

Timeline

Date	Activity
29/11/2024	Applications open
20/12/2024	Applications close at 5pm
15/02/2025	Notification of proposal review outcome
20/02/2025	Issue of Provider Agreement for successful applications and commencement of project

How to make a submission

Register or log in via PigConnect - <https://pigconnect.australianpork.com.au/>

- Submit and manage Project Applications
- View and manage your in-progress Projects
- Review Project Applications referred to you

Contact

If you are interested in submitting an application or have questions, please contact:

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