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Pork[®]



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**APL and APRIL Joint Call for
Expressions of Interest (EOI) in
Priority Research Areas**



Australian Pork Limited (APL) and the Australasian Pork Research Institute Limited (APRIL) have partnered to deliver research outcomes and solutions for the Australian pork industry based on the 2024 Green Paper and each organisation's strategic priorities.

The APL and APRIL Boards have reviewed the research and development priorities for 2025/26 identified from the Green Paper (see below for links to access the 2024 Green Paper Summary and R&D Priorities) and are now seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) for a number of industry priority projects.

Listed below are the Research Priorities and the area in which APL or APRIL seek to support EOI applications to achieve the following industry deliverables:

#1. Pig Genetics

Expected outcome: Working to enhance the rate of genetic improvement in the Australian pork industry while maintaining current or better health status.

APL Priority

- Understanding the genetic diversity in the Australian herd that could be used to accelerate Australian genetic gain.
- A comprehensive benefit: cost production analysis of the impacts of increasing litter size.
- Methods, programs and alternatives to escalate rates of genetic gain in key selected traits, e.g. productivity, disease resilience, heat tolerance.

#2. Pig Care and Wellbeing

Expected outcomes: Providing novel tools or approaches to support continuous improvement and assessment of pig care and wellbeing and demonstrate the welfare credentials of the Australian pork industry.

APL Priorities

- Greater understanding of different farrowing systems with robust assessments of sow and piglet welfare and performance data.
- Strategies to reduce or avoid pain.

APRIL Priorities

- Objective assessment of pig care and wellbeing.
- Generation of a suite of suitable biomarkers indicating positive welfare attributes at end of life.
- Enrichment and management strategies to prevent tail biting.
- Feed additives/nutritional strategies for positive welfare attributes.



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#3. Pig Health, Biosecurity and Antimicrobial Stewardship

Expected outcomes: Delivering novel technologies and approaches to mitigate risks and production impacts of infectious diseases, enhance emergency animal disease preparedness, and reduce antimicrobial use.

APL Priorities

- Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) preparedness: Strengthened biosecurity, disease control, antimicrobial usage/resistance, diagnostics, vaccination, on-farm preparedness for an EAD outbreak and response.
- Explore regional eradication of economically significant pig diseases.
- Low cost and/or rapid methods (e.g. pen-side, point-of-care) for pathogen detection, antimicrobial resistance genes, antimicrobial sensitivity testing.

APRIL Priority

- Limiting the use of in feed antibiotics and enhancing the effectiveness and efficacy of water medication (in accordance with the Australian Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (ASTAG)).

APL/APRIL Priorities

- New vaccines/new vaccine technologies/delivery technologies to tackle key diseases.
- Alternative vaccine delivery technologies to reduce needle use.

#4. Environment, Human Capacity and Society

Expected outcome: Delivering practical solutions to reduce environmental impact, identify practices to improve sustainability, and build a resilient and skilled rural and regional workforce.

APL Priorities

- By-product opportunities (e.g. manure, biogas, composting, recycling, feed ingredients).
- Monitoring/benchmarking and further reduction of GHG emissions.
- Emerging, or utilising current technologies and strategies to address labour challenges.



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#5. Pig Processing

Expected outcome: Ensuring a sustainable processing sector for the future.

APL Priorities

- Monitoring the effectiveness of stunning, including CO₂ stunning of pigs.
- Reducing costs of processing e.g., robotics, artificial intelligence to improve operational efficiency, reducing energy and water costs etc.

APRIL Priorities

- Maintaining CO₂ as the primary stunning gas in Australia.
- Avoiding foreign object contamination in carcasses.

#6. Feeding and Nutrition

Expected outcome: Making positive contributions to lowering the overall cost of production.

APL Priorities

- Lowering feed costs and feed conversion.
- Improving carcass and growth efficiency.
- Economically viable alternative raw materials.

APRIL Priorities

- Rapid identification of poor-quality manufactured feed.
- Improved management of feed bin/silo allocation of feeds and management.
- Greater understanding of heat increment with respect to nutrient requirements.

#7. Retail

Not listed in this call.

#8. Data and Information

Expected outcome: Exploiting the benefits of technologies with existing and future information for more efficient and profitable pig production and processing.

APL/APRIL Priorities

- Automatic capture and use of information (e.g., smart sensors, digital technologies, artificial intelligence for more efficient and cost-effective pig management).
- Use of artificial intelligence technologies for welfare assessment at critical production points including farrowing and lactation with different farrowing systems.
- Use of artificial intelligence technologies for welfare assessment at critical production points including processing.



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#9. Enhancing pork and product quality

Expected outcome: Increasing share of fresh meat through improving product quality.

APL Priority

- Strategies to improve the eating quality of pork (e.g. improve tenderness and juiciness in pork steak cuts, ensure consistent & high-quality crackling in roast pork, optimise meat smell before/after cooking).

Further information:

Applicants that have previously provided an EOI to APL are welcome to resubmit a previous EOI in this round, if relevant.

For any further information, or to discuss current funded research or any questions, please contact:

APL EOI:

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APRIL EOI:

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How to apply:

Apply through [PigConnect](#)

Note, where there are joint APL/APRIL priority research areas (eg. #3 Pig Health, Biosecurity and Antimicrobial Stewardship and #8 Data and Information) the applicant can choose to apply to APL, APRIL or APL/APRIL. In the latter case, the Chief Scientist, APL GM Research, Innovation and Extension and APRIL Executive Officer will determine the most suitable funding body for that particular EOI.

An individual is ineligible to be considered for a new research project (as Principal Investigator/Project Leader) if, and without an approved and fully executed Project Variation, there are two or more consecutive quarterly reports (APRIL) or a milestone report from a current project/s (APL) that are overdue. Furthermore, an individual is ineligible to be considered for a new research project (as Principal Investigator/Project Leader) if, and without an approved and fully signed Project Variation, a Final Report from a current project (or projects) is more than 3 months overdue.

APRIL general information:

For assistance with preparation of an APRIL EOI application, please refer to the [Funding Opportunities](#) (APRIL Industry Priority Projects) as it provides the "Guidelines for APRIL Industry Priority Projects for 2025", which have altered under APRIL's new participant model. For example, APRIL-funded projects may require a cash contribution to cover project costs and facility funding, dependent on the level of participation the organisation(s) has/have within APRIL's new participant model.



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Important Dates:

2025 EOI Process and Timeline

	Date
EOI Open	1 September 2025
EOI Close	26 September 2025
APL/APRIL EOI review process complete	17 October 2025
Send out invite for Full Research Proposal (FRP)	24 October 2025
Full Research Proposal Submission closing date	26 November 2025
APL/APRIL final review complete	March 2026
Applicants notified of outcome	April 2026 It is anticipated that funding for successful projects would commence from 1 July 2026 (some earlier if appropriate), subject to contract execution.

Important Links for further information:

[Green Paper Summary](#)

[Green Paper research priorities](#)

[APL Strategic Plan 2025-2030](#)

[About APRIL](#)