

Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) – Pork industry led animal welfare standards and guidelines

Communique – Meeting 1

Date: 22/12/2025

Background

Australian Pork Limited has initiated a project to develop Australian Animal Welfare Industry Standards and Guidelines for pigs.

The current Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Pigs 2008 (the Pig Code) outlines minimum standards for the welfare of pigs.

This project will update the Pig Code to recognise the industry and community expectation for minimum standards to evolve and reflect contemporary research and scientific advancements.

Scope

The established methodology used in the development of other S&Gs will be largely used in this project with some modifications to enhance and streamline the process.

To provide an opportunity to engage with key national stakeholders in a structured manner, a Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) has been formed.

Membership of the SAG includes four pork producers representing all sectors of the industry (free-range, outdoor, small, medium, large and corporate), AVA pig veterinarians, RSPCA, state and federal government participants and research experts.

Key outcomes from SAG 1

The inaugural meeting of the SAG - Pork Industry Led Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines was convened on 12 December 2025. Key outcomes from this meeting include:

- There is strong support for the industry's proactive efforts in reviewing the existing Model Code of Practice to further enhance pig welfare in Australia.
- The first SAG meeting established the framework for activities planned in 2026 and provided an opportunity for all members to connect, meeting dates for 2026 were scheduled.
- All members were briefed on their responsibilities and expectations as outlined in the Terms of Reference (TOR), the project's objectives and anticipated outcomes.
- Consensus was reached to utilise the established heading and sub-heading format consistent with other species' S&Gs (e.g., poultry, cattle).
- The SAG agreed the first chapter for review will be A1. Responsibilities.
- Ongoing research projects which will inform future chapter review were noted.
- The literature review and relevant materials will be utilised to support focused discussions.

The Stakeholder Advisory Group will meet again in the first quarter of 2026.

This communiqué has been developed for public use to support transparency and stakeholder awareness throughout the development and implementation of the Australian Animal Welfare Industry Standards and Guidelines process.