

Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) – Australian Animal Welfare Industry Standards & Guidelines for Pigs

Communique – Meeting 3

Date: 7 May 2026

Australian Pork Limited has initiated a project to develop Australian Animal Welfare Industry Standards and Guidelines for Pigs. This project will update the Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals - Pigs (2008) to recognise the expectation for minimum standards to evolve and reflect contemporary research and scientific advancements.

Membership of the SAG includes 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 3

Key outcomes from this meeting include:

- An overview of the whole industry led S&G process was provided by APL, highlighting the role of SAG within this process. Participants are to bring their perspectives and evaluate the S&Gs being proposed to raise gaps or issues.
- The Chair ran a short session to understand why the participants are here, what would make the time worthwhile and what does success look like for the SAG. There were similar themes in the responses with improved pig welfare being the key purpose, alongside evidence and science driving decisions, practical and workable, high-quality discussions and success being industry can implement and government adopts it into legislation.
- The focus of the meeting was on the A1 – Responsibilities section for the animal welfare industry standards and guidelines. The framework being followed is aligned with other existing Standards and Guidelines (e.g. poultry, cattle, and sheep).
- A draft position for the objective and potential standards and guidelines for this section was presented for discussion.
- Discussion focused on ensuring the intent of the objective, standards and guidelines met continuous improvement of animal welfare in pigs. Clauses were discussed and clarified, and the discussion was recorded to inform drafting of this section. A total of 2 Standards and 10 Guidelines were discussed.
- It was noted that it will be useful to review this section when some of the other modules are completed to check there is no unintentional overlap.

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.