



WEST AUSTRALIAN PORK
PRODUCERS' ASSOCIATION

www.wappa.com.au

ABN: 94 909 094 751

June 11, 2007

Letter to the Editor – from Graeme Dent, President WA Pork Producers' Association

On behalf of the WA Pork Producers' Association (WAPPA), I simply must comment on recent articles in your paper which have questioned the need for quality assurance (QA) and the benefits producers receive from having QA.

For starters, the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service require that all pigmeat and pig products for export must be supported by an on-farm QA program.

Further, the Australian Standard for the Hygienic Production and Transport of Meat and Meat Products for Human Consumption covers pigs and includes the need to comply with the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code with respect to chemical residues.

The standard, Part 3 Clause 6, seeks to achieve, among other things, the outcome that animals admitted for meat and meat products for human consumption “are sourced from holdings where the management of animals ensures that the wholesomeness of meat and meat products derived from the animals is not jeopardised.”

With export not only underpinning our pork production, but actually driving it here in WA, it is ludicrous to suggest WA pig producers don't have an appropriate incentive to have QA.

Almost 10,000 tonnes of WA pork went to Singapore in 05/06, up from 67 tonnes 10 years ago.

With eating quality and food safety the key drivers of pork consumption in WA, our industry is best served by supporting best practice management in biosecurity, animal health and welfare and food safety through Australian Pork Limited's certified QA program known as APIQ.

Three quarters of WA's pork production is currently produced under APIQ and WAPPA is confident 95 per cent will be by December this year.

Animal welfare practices in this program are based on World's Best Practice in animal husbandry.

WA pigs are among the healthiest in the world, largely due to strict biosecurity controls.

The majority of pigs in WA are fed grain-based diets, using clean, quality assured WA grain, with diets developed by WA's world leading animal nutritionists such as Dr Bruce Mullan of the Department of Agriculture and Food.

Our industry has a farm-gate value of more than \$100 million and employs over 3000 people.

Graeme Dent, Cuballing, WA