

**EXECUTIVE Officer's Report to  
The West Australian Pork Producers' Association  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2003  
The Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, WA**



It is with pleasure that I present this, my first report to pork producers and industry members for a WAPPA Annual General Meeting. I look forward to the challenge and the opportunity to work with all members of the industry and associates and hope this will be the first of many.

Since WAPPA's last AGM there have been a number of changes, the least of which has been the change of Executive Officer. Let me first thank Ms Lea Newing for all the assistance she has provided me in ensuring that there has been a smooth transition into the role. I think you will all agree that Lea has left WAPPA in a good position and the challenge is there for all of us to ensure a vibrant future for both the industry and the association.

Thanks must also go to the WAPPA Executive committee, who have been very patient with and supportive of me whilst I come to grips with the role, Stuart Coole and Ken Boughton in particular.

#### *Strategic Plan*

The major continuous project that has been dealt with by the WAPPA Executive in 2002/03 has been the formation of the WAPPA strategic plan. The initial project proposal timeline was for the release of the plan at today's meeting, however in consultation with the project manager, Mr Trevor Poustie we have decided that for the plan to be owned by producers and industry and not just the WAPPA Executive it was felt that we were required to gain stakeholder comment on the plan prior to its publication and release.

It is Executives intention to follow the Strategic Plan with an Operational Plan. The Operational Plan objectives can and will be changed from year to year, but I believe it is necessary to have in place the Strategic 5-year plan, followed by how WAPPA intend to carry out those functions. Funding for the Association via the Agricultural Produce Commission compels us to be able to measure what WAPPA does against some form of performance indicator. This is the intention of moving operational plan within a strategic plan structure.

#### *Feed Grain Security*

Other significant initiatives undertaken by your Executive during the year included initiating a feed grain security workshop involving the intensive livestock industries. The workshop resulted in the intensive livestock industries making a presentation at the Grains West Expo, which provided us with direct access to GRDC and the Department of Agriculture's breeding program coordinators. WAPPA was able to push its case for a genuine feed grains industry in WA and for a specific varietal feed wheat. WAPPA was also able to influence the direction of the Premium Grains for Livestock program coordinated by CSIRO.

#### *Intensive Industries Forum*

WAPPA successfully coordinated the Intensive Industries Forum in 2003, this Forum highlighted several areas for improvement, notably the inconsistencies of the interpretation of Acts between Local Government shires within the State and the issues concerning planning and water. WAPPA has to this point be disappointed by the lack of commitment shown by the Local Governments Association in

responding to our requests to organise meetings between Local Government planning representatives and members of the intensive industries.

#### *RSPCA training*

In response to actions taken in other states and media reports in WA, WAPPA contacted the RSPCA to discuss the RSPCA National Guidelines and Standards for Pig Housing. WAPPA, Rob Wilson and Portec's Chris Brennan and Kim Nairn met with RSPCA representatives which resulted in a project funded by the APC PPC which will see Portec train RSPCA representatives in standard practices for pig production in WA. I am please to report WAPPA has maintained regular contact with the RSPCA and that this training project will begin shortly.

#### *StockGuard*

Industry signed off on the StockGuard Biosecurity Plan for the WA pork industry. WAPPA worked in closely with the Department of Agriculture and the StockGuard Committee and the plan was launched at a WAPPA meeting in March. WAPPA has commitments and obligations to maintain under the StockGuard Biosecurity plan and these will be challenges for the incoming Executive.

#### *Environment*

WAPPA has worked with and industry members on the draft Model National Environmental Guidelines for Piggeries. We are comparing and contrasting this with WA's publication of May 2000, Environmental Guidelines for New and Existing Piggeries. The consultation process is nearing completion and I anticipate the launch of the national code later in the year. The challenge for WA will be if we deem it necessary to produce WA specific guidelines based on the national ones but incorporating WA regulations.

#### *Communication*

Finally try our Website on [www.wappa.com.au](http://www.wappa.com.au) WAPPA have tried to make this site relevant and interactive so growers can have their say. Modifications will continue to ensure that the site provides regularly updated industry information, Executive Officer reports will be posted on the Web along with all WAPPA press releases. In relation to this can I ask anyone who has not received an email from me to leave me a copy of their email address as WAPPA would like to improve its communication with members and we would like to do this electronically.

I look forward with anticipation to the coming year. The Annual General Meeting is a time of reflection, renewal and planning. Our ties continue to improve with our national body Australian Pork Limited and we will continue to work with them on their many projects as well as working to encourage, protect and promote the interest of persons and companies who carry on the trade, business or occupation of a pork production in the State of Western Australia.

David McFerran  
**Executive Officer**