

**EXECUTIVE Officer's Report to  
The West Australian Pork Producers' Association  
FIRST GENERAL MEETING 2003/04  
Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> September, 2003  
The Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle, WA**

**APL DELEGATES**

I was particularly pleased to see that this year there are four delegates to the Australian Pork Limited from Western Australia. The role of an APL Delegate includes attendance at the APL Annual General Meeting where APL Directors are voted on, and attendance at an APL Delegates Forum. The delegates from WA are WAPPA President Stuart Coole, Neil Ferguson Peter McKenzie and Graeme Dent. WAPPA will endeavour to ensure that in the future WA will maximise its representation to APL through delegates as it is imperative that if we have 11% of Australian pork production in WA that we have 11% of the delegates to APL.

WAPPA acknowledges that to obtain 4 delegates this year WA was provided with great assistance from other states and I acknowledge that without this support we may have only had two delegates. To prevent this repeating next year WAPPA will encourage all WA producers to become members of APL. Membership of APL lasts for three years and is free. **Delegates** have to be nominated **every year**. To receive delegate status a delegate must represent the equivalent levies from the production of 7,000 sows.

If there are any producers here today that are not currently APL members, and would like to join, I have the required Membership form to complete.

**IMPORT RISK ASSESSMENT (IRA) FOR PIG MEAT**

The release by Biosecurity Australia of the draft IRA for pig meat presents some uncertainty for the pork industry about competition from imported pork for the future. WAPPA is supporting APL in seeking to secure the following outcomes in response to the IRA:

1. Safeguard the national herd and industry from exotic disease and ensure that appropriate quarantine measures are put in place to minimise risk.
2. Protect the industry from unfair competition from imports.

To do this APL will undertake a technical, legal, Economic and commercial analysis of the IRA. APL will also monitor the pork import pricing to ensure there is no dumping of product in Australia. I hope you will agree that it is WAPPA's role to support this as we do not have the resources to undertake this ourselves.

APL has also requested Biosecurity Australia (BA) hold regional meetings in QLD, NSW, Victoria and South Australia, to enable producers to bring issues to the attention of the IRA panel. It will be WAPPA's responsibility to ensure that WA producers concerns are brought to the attention of Biosecurity Australia and APL. Please let me know of your concerns.

APL also requested that WAPPA directs media enquiries to Peter Chapman, APL's Media Manager, to ensure an integrated and targeted approach in the first stage of their communications. This will be broadened as the IRA progresses to engage the support of WAPPA and producers directly. I am not 100% happy with forwarding all media to APL.

## **THE US FTA**

Expected to be concluded in December. WAPPA has been regularly informed by Kathleen Plowman of APL as to the pork industry's submissions and representations on Rules of Origin; Trade Measures and Quarantine. The submission on Rules of Origin section was to ensure no pork product can access via a third country, they believe they will be successful.

As a note, I was concerned to see a comment by a US farm lobby group that referred to the US FTA as providing an opportunity for US pork producers to access the lucrative Australian domestic market.

## **OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY**

As reported in correspondence WAPPA has received a letter from WorkSafe WA informing us that they are developing a Pig Industry Project Plan for the inspection of piggeries which will be conducted to assess compliance with the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984 and the Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996. WAPPA has been unable to meet with WorkSafe's Ron Jenkins as yet but we encourage all producers to take advantage of the training workshops that WAPPA, Pork Industry Training, APL and Farmsafe have organised for WA producers.

As a producer if you can demonstrate that you are taking control of OH&S issues and as an industry we are seen to be promoting training measures we may be able to convince WorkSafe to delay the timing of inspections until all our members have had fair warning.

## **IMPORT LEVY STRATEGY**

APL is undertaking analysis to determine the feasibility of implementing a voluntary import levy (net benefit to producers) on imported pork. They have to assess how to administer the levy, how they will generically market processed pork and develop a communications strategy.

This is now in progress and has the strong support of Minister Truss. A compulsory levy can only occur with Government support and it is unlikely (as with all things involving government) that it would get through parliament within two years. Thus WAPPA's and APL's support for the Voluntary Levy arrangement.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PRINCIPLES FOR PIGGERIES**

Environmental Principles for Piggeries is a two-day workshop that ran in the theatre at the Department of Agriculture during August and I thoroughly recommend it to producers. As industry continues to work on issues such as right to farm and water it is important that as an industry we are seen as good environmental citizens. This course and the one that it leads to – the production of an environmental management plan will assist producers in getting local governments, planning and environmental protection departments on side.

## **ANIMAL WELFARE**

Graeme Moore has been appointed to the APL advisory committee on animal welfare activities in the lead up to the National Review of the Model Code. APL is currently engaging a lead consultant to assist in the development of an agreed industry national animal welfare strategy and report. WAPPA was forwarded the terms of reference for this committee and APL also requested that WAPPA provide timely advice on any pending issues.

## **WATER SERVICES INQUIRY**

WAPPA will make a submission to the Water services inquiry based on the results of the survey of members. Firstly, I would like to thank producers for their responses, far more than I suspected. It was clear from the survey results that the pork industry has not received adequate consultation in regard to water rights, proposed licensing arrangements and proclaimed regions. I am hopeful that WAPPA will ensure that this is not the case in the future.

## **SALEYARDS**

In response to repeated requests from the Ministers Office, WAPPA has developed a position paper, which is available today. The basic summary is that;

WAPPA accept the fact that upon the closure of the current livestock selling complex for pigs at the Midland Saleyards that a replacement selling venue will be found whether it is new or an upgrade to a current facility. In recognition of an earlier General Meeting motion WAPPA does not have a preference for the site location except to say that WAPPA recognises that the majority of buyers that frequent Midland are small goods manufacturers located in the city.

To ensure that the replacement saleyards gain and maintain key stakeholders support WAPPA identifies that the saleyards would have to provide an affordable marketing alternative whilst at the same time protecting the interests of industry through meeting best practice for animal welfare, livestock identification and traceability, biosecurity, animal health, food safety through adherence with pork industry quality assurance program APIQ and occupational health and safety.

## **ANNUAL INDUSTRY DINNER:**

Organising Dinners is a new challenge for me, if I may it has turned out to be a bit like a wedding – it is ok to do once but the hassle means you are reluctant to do it again!! That said I hope this Dinner will be a success like our Dinner has been in the past. We sincerely thank our sponsors, Alpharma Animal Health Pty Ltd., Australian Primary Superannuation, Bio John Animal Health, CSL Animal Health, D’Orsogna Limited, Eastern Districts Abattoirs, Intervet Pty Ltd., PIC Australia, Portec, Watsonia and Wesfeeds for their generosity and I hope you will enjoy the drinks that their sponsorship allows along with opportunity to catch up with others and enjoy a good meal.

David McFerran  
Executive Officer