

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **PORK PRODUCERS FRONT UP TO BIG ISSUES**

Producers' right to farm and consolidation of the industry behind one representative voice head the agenda for the WA Pork Producers' Association (WAPPA) first General Meeting of 2002, which will be held at Pastoral House from 2pm, Friday, February 15.

Keeping WAPPA relevant will be a priority for the meeting, with all producers encouraged to join in a discussion on the subject, facilitated by Dr Kim Nairn of Portec Australia.

"Last year some producers didn't feel they had the representation they were looking for from WAPPA and although I think that feeling has subsided, it's important we follow the process through and invite everyone's input on keeping WAPPA relevant," WAPPA President, Ken Boughton explained.

"We're a producer representative body and so we need those producers to participate in formulating and guiding WAPPA's direction.

"We'll be lobbying on the industry's behalf and will represent its views on new and existing issues through the year, so we need this forum to consolidate those views."

The General Meeting will also discuss producers' right to farm, in answer to community complaints accusing piggeries of noise and odour contamination.

"Some complaints have drawn response from local government authorities and producers are anxious to know if their businesses are going to be constantly under threat of being shut down," Mr Boughton said.

"While we appreciate producers have a responsibility to an appropriate level of environmental care, we would also like to see our businesses governed responsibly.

"No business can operate under the constant cloud of review, or be hamstrung by retrospectively introduced production quotas. Producers should be able to operate in good faith that their business has the same opportunity to grow that all businesses do."

Following the General Meeting, WAPPA's annual industry dinner will be held in the evening at a new venue, Burswood on Swan.

Producers are encouraged to come along and catch up with their peers while enjoying an evening of music and magic. Invitations will be in the mail soon.

All enquiries should be directed to Lea Newing at WAPPA, Tel 9472 7315.

**ENDS**

**Authorised by WAPPA and issued on its behalf by Brendon Cant & Assoc., Tel 08 9385 7779**

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