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CRC launches competitive future for pork

The Australian pork industry is set to benefit from an \$81.5 million dollar injection following the launch of the Pork Cooperative Research Centre by the federal Minister for Agriculture Peter McGauran at the University of Adelaide's Roseworthy campus in South Australia.

Pork CRC Chairman John Keniry said the pork industry's integration meant it was ideally suited to capitalising on the opportunities the CRC's research efforts would provide.

"The CRC will benefit the industry through: greater efficiencies in the use of feed grain; gains from genetic improvements; and nutritional developments flowing from improved feed conversion.

"The Pork CRC provides the industry with a wonderful opportunity to improve the competitiveness of its operations, particularly in relation to costs of production. The fact that the CRC will be bringing together and harnessing the knowledge and expertise of almost all of Australia's pig research and development institutions means we are well placed to take the pork industry ahead."

Newly appointed CEO for Pork CRC Ltd, Dr Roger Campbell said the gaps in the efficiency and competitiveness of the Australian industry need to be more clearly identified which will allow the Pork CRC to develop innovative research and development programs to overcome them.

"I am excited to be part of what will be a revitalisation of the Australian pork industry and see potential for marked improvements in efficiencies and cost reductions. We are seriously disadvantaged in Australia by the cost and supply of grain, so we are going to look at ways of reducing grain usage, developing grains better suited to pigs, enhancing the availability of nutrients from grains and developing animals and systems that do not require high levels of feed. We have to change the grain and/or the pig and we will do both.

"The programs we are developing in reproduction, animal health and new consumer pork products are also truly innovative and will certainly help in making Australia more competitive in the global market place and having Australia recognized as a world leader in pig research and development."

Mr Keniry said the CRC Board was also very pleased to successfully recruit Dr Roger Campbell as the Pork CRC's Chief Executive Officer.

"Roger is well known throughout the world for his expertise in leading and conducted pig research. We are fortunate to have someone of his calibre leading our efforts."

The Pork CRC will contribute \$81.5 million to the industry over seven years made up of cash, labour, in-kind and research and development contributions worth \$55.5 million, as well as a \$26 million contribution from the Australian Government.