

20 April 2023

Mr Andrew Baxter
Chair
Australian Pork Limited

Mr Gary Hardwick
Chair
Australian Meat Industry Council

Ms Margo Andrae
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Pork Limited

Mr Patrick Hutchinson
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Meat Industry Council

Time to demonstrate your commitment to transparency

Animal welfare matters to Australians.

As you would be acutely aware following the ABC's 7.30 report into the CO₂ gas stunning of pigs, the community cares very deeply about the way animals are treated during production and in death. They expect animals to be treated humanely, with respect and compassion, and they want assurances that this expectation is being met.

The Australian pig and meat processing industries frequently claim to be committed to transparency. Australian Pork Limited's on-farm Virtual Tour initiative introduced last year was said to be "part of a broader strategy to increase transparency and engagement".¹ In responding to the ABC 7.30 report Mr Hutchinson claimed that "we're always happy to be as open and transparent as we can."²

It's time to put those claims to the test. It's time to support mandatory CCTV in slaughter facilities, including inside areas where animals are being stunned, with third-party monitoring. The long-term sustainability of your industries depends on it.

CCTV is a regulatory requirement in the UK, Israel, Spain, and many other local jurisdictions throughout Europe. The Queensland Government recently passed legislation requiring CCTV in horse slaughter facilities and a basic regulatory amendment could expand this to all slaughter facilities in the state.

¹ Adam Poulsen, Virtual tour aims to boost transparency in Australian pork industry, *Countryman*, 22 September 2022 <<https://www.countryman.com.au/countryman/livestock/virtual-tour-aims-to-boost-transparency-in-australian-pork-industry-c-8246866>>

² Jane McNaughton, Pig slaughter methods defended by pork industry after animal activists release footage, ABC, 28 March 2023 <https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2023-03-28/pig-slaughter-methods-defended-by-porkindustry/102153822?utm_campaign=abc_news_web&utm_content=twitter&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_source=abc_news_web>



We invite you to join us in publicly supporting the implementation of mandatory CCTV in all slaughter facilities in Australia with third-party monitoring. As CCTV infrastructure has already been installed in most facilities, making this a regulatory requirement would not come at significant cost. It is also an opportune time to make this commitment with the review of the national Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Livestock at Slaughter Establishments currently underway.

Making such a commitment would be a real display of transparency in your industries. It's what the Australian community deserves and expects.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Erica Martin

Chief Executive Officer
Humane Society International
Australia

Ben Pearson

Country Director
World Animal Protection
Australia and New Zealand

Rebecca Linigen

National Director
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Glenys Oogjes

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