

## Pig Swill - prohibited food waste

### Information for food outlets.

Food waste containing meat or other animal by-products must not be fed to pigs.

This food is prohibited pig feed known as swill.

Swill feeding is illegal in all states and territories of Australia. Swill may contain serious diseases that could be passed onto pigs - including foot and mouth disease (FMD).

The FMD virus cannot be destroyed by chilling, freezing, curing or cooking.

Currently Australia is free of FMD but food waste containing this virus may be illegally imported into Australia and undetected by quarantine.

#### Responsible disposal of food waste

Businesses that prepare and sell food such as restaurants, bakeries, butchers, hotels, fast food outlets and hospitals, have a responsibility to dispose of food waste appropriately.

Prohibited food waste should be placed in a garbage bin for collection by your local council, or commercial waste service, for disposal in landfill or composting at a recycling facility.

#### Why is swill illegal and its links to disease?

Feeding prohibited feed to pigs such as food waste has been linked to outbreaks of FMD and other livestock diseases overseas including African swine fever and Aujeszky's disease. Currently none of these diseases are in Australia.

The devastating outbreak of FMD in the United Kingdom in 2001 is thought to have resulted from pigs being fed waste containing illegally imported meat products carrying the FMD virus. FMD is a serious and highly contagious viral disease affecting cloven-hoofed animals including pigs, sheep, cattle, goats, deer, alpacas, llamas and camels.

#### FOOD WASTE THAT MUST NOT BE FED TO PIGS

Meat, meat products or food that has been in contact with meat or meat products is prohibited.

Examples include:

- Household, commercial or industrial waste including restaurant food, butcher's shop waste and discarded cooking oils.
- Pies, sausage rolls, bacon and cheese rolls, pizza, deli meats and table scraps.
- Vegetables, rice, pasta and any other food of non-animal origin that has been in direct contact with meat.
- Anything that has been in contact with prohibited pig feed via collection, storage or transport in contaminated containers (such as meat trays and take-away food containers).

**These restrictions apply to ALL pigs, including pet pigs.**

If a FMD outbreak was to occur in Australia it is estimated that it could cost the Australian economy more than \$52 billion in lost revenue over a decade<sup>1</sup>. Flow-on effects could also have a major impact on the viability of food outlets.

Australia is free of many diseases that could affect its livestock industries and trade. These diseases are most likely to be introduced to Australia through illegal importation of meat or dairy products.

Banning the feeding of prohibited food waste to pigs provides an important defence against the introduction of FMD and other serious livestock diseases to Australia.

### Penalties for swill feeding

Under the *Livestock Regulations 2013* penalties of up to \$10 000 may apply for:

- Feeding prohibited pig feed to pigs
- Allowing pigs to access prohibited pig feed
- Storing prohibited pig feed at a place where one or more pigs are kept
- Collecting and/or supplying prohibited pig feed to be fed to pigs.

### Help protect South Australia's disease free status.

If you are aware of a person or business undertaking any activity relating to swill feeding contact Biosecurity SA on **8207 7900**.

For more information visit [www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/animal\\_health/pigs](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/animal_health/pigs).



### FOODS APPROPRIATE FOR FEEDING TO PIGS

- Fruit
- Vegetables
- Bread
- Products without meat
- Dairy products made in Australia from Australian ingredients.
- Eggs

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<sup>1</sup> *Potential socio-economic impacts of an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Australia*, ABARES, 2013.