



Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee

Hearing Date: 26 March 2024

Question[s] taken on notice

Directed to: Australian Veterinary Association

Received Date: 19 April 2024

1. **John BERGER, page 28**

Question Asked to Yvette POLLOCK:

John BERGER: Is there any suggestion on how long this project will last, or is there a date in mind or a time frame in mind that it might come to some conclusion?

Yvette POLLOCK: It is currently underway. I do not have an end date. Another thing that they are also looking at is electrical stunning, improving that process. And I do not have it off the top of my head, but there are other components too. We can certainly provide you with more information on that.

Response:

This the best description of the EU pig stun project which started December 2023 as far as I understand - <https://www.irta.cat/en/pigstun-kicks-off-the-project-will-promote-more-respectful-techniques-with-animal-welfare-in-european-slaughterhouses/>

At that website, there is also the opportunity to join the mailing list to receive updates which I would recommend if you are interested in staying on top of this project. This below information is from that link.

“This European project will develop four alternatives to perform non-aversive stunning methods for pigs.

The PigStun project has started this year with the aim of incentivizing European pig slaughterhouses that are using stunning in high concentrations of carbon dioxide to adapt to systems that are more respectful with animal welfare.

To do this, the scientific team will develop technical specifications for four alternatives that represent an improvement over current practices:

- *Multi-phaseBox System: a system that facilitates pre-grouped animals in small groups to be transported into a multi-phase-stunning system. As a starting point this system uses CO₂, but the unit can be equipped to facilitated other gas mixtures.*

- *Helium: an alternative stunning system that uses helium in one or two-phases, in combination with nitrogen.*
- *Inert Gas Retrofit System: an alternative that can be retrofit to existing Dip-Lift and paternoster stunning devices to allow for stable gas mixtures of alternative gases at very low oxygen levels.*
- *Improved Electrical Stunning: this alternative will look at ways to improve the process of electrical stunning with special emphasis to pre-stunning handling, design of raceways and entrance of pigs into the stunner.*
- *PigStun is a beneficiary of the financing agreement signed with the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) under the “Single Market Programme – Food strand”, which aims to improve pig welfare. It receives funding from the Regional Development Fund of the European Union and the National Institute of Agricultural and Food Research and Technology (Spain).*
- *The PigStun consortium is composed of beneficiaries and associated partners from the Netherlands, Denmark, Germany and Spain, including academic research partners, slaughterhouse equipment developers, and five pig slaughterhouse companies. IRTA participates through the team led by Antonio Velarde, head of the Animal Welfare programme.”*