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Parliament of Victoria  
Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee  
Parliament House  
Spring Street  
East Melbourne VIC 3002

11 January 2024

### **Inquiry into Pig Welfare in Victoria**

To whom it may concern

In response to the considerations of the Legislative Council Economy and Infrastructure Committee (the Committee):

1. SunPork considers that the scope, application, compliance with and enforcement of regulatory frameworks for pig producers, and their ability to promote pig welfare outcomes, is adequate.

SunPork looks forward to working with industry and government stakeholders in the development of new Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Pigs and supports their timely progress.

SunPork **does not** consider that the management of farm trespass, the invasion of personal property and the compromise to farm biosecurity, animal health and welfare by individuals purporting to be animal friendly, is adequate.

2. When administered using a back-loader and automated raceways, SunPork supports the evidence-base that demonstrates carbon dioxide is the safest, most effective method of stunning pigs to minimize pain, suffering and distress, and to prevent injury.
3. SunPork commends the outcomes of the 2017 voluntary, industry-led, industry-funded phase out on the use of gestation stalls as exceptional. More than 80% of producers have taken voluntary steps to phase out gestation stalls.

SunPork notes that the wording 'sow stall' is generic, meaningless and being inappropriately applied for dramatic purpose and deceptive claims. SunPork advocates the correct use of terminology including mating stall, gestation stall, boar stall and farrowing crate.

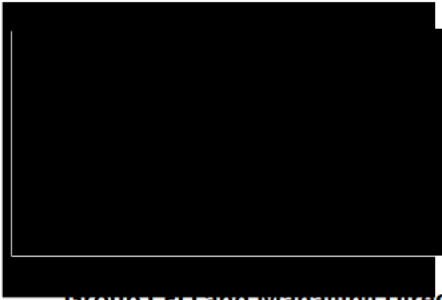
SunPork has been gestation-stall free since 2012 under APIQ standards. SunPork is actively phasing out mating and boar stalls from all farms. SunPork has invested millions of dollars into research into alternative farrowing systems since 2015.

4. The good health, welfare, wellbeing, and production parameters achieved by our pigs demonstrate the adequacy of their space allowances.



5. International comparisons are often poorly vested in evidence, have little relevance to Australian farming conditions and are demonstrably prejudiced by anthropomorphic and political biases, hence should not be considered a guide to best practice standards.
6. SunPork endorses the submission to the Committee made by Australian Pork Limited.

SunPork welcomes the opportunity to further engage with the Committee should the Committee wish to do so.



Group CEO and Managing Director – SunPork Group

