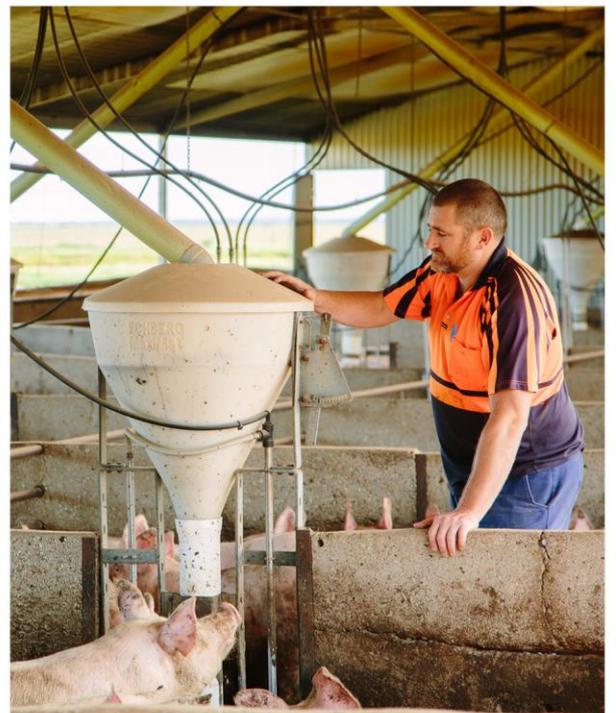
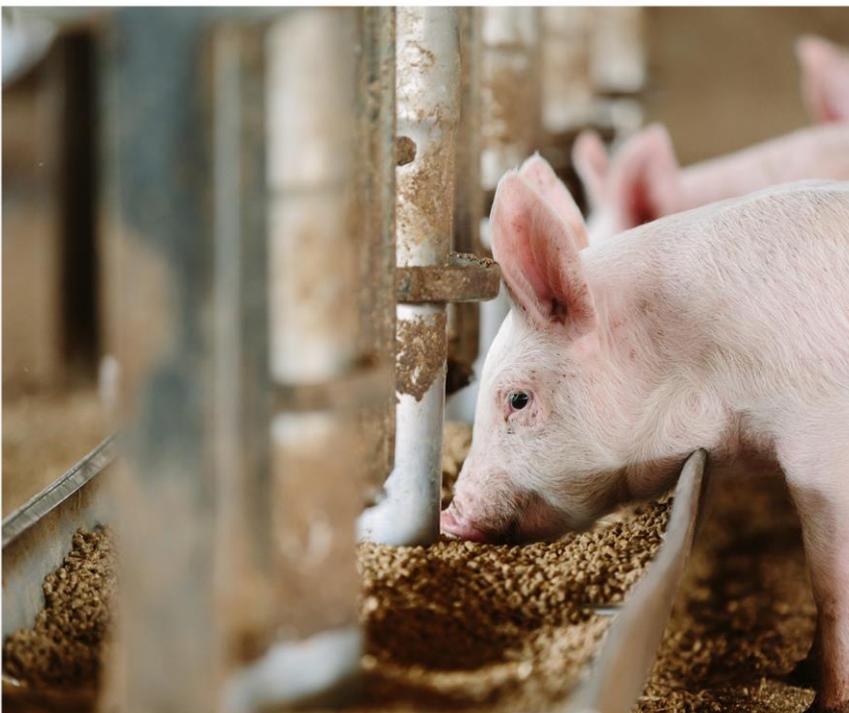


# Australian Pork Limited

AUSTRALIAN  
Pork®

Request for proposals  
May 2021



# Request for proposals

## Better animal health outcomes

The health and well-being of the animals in our care is an important aspect of pork production systems. Healthy and thriving animals result in optimal performance and help to reduce cost of production through improved efficiencies. Whilst Australian pork production systems are some of the best in the world with regard to animal care and welfare, improvement in, and adoption of technologies such as smart animal health monitoring, vaccine technology and improved hygiene are needed.

APL is calling for research proposals relevant to its Horizon Program to lead to better animal health outcomes that specifically address the 3 following priority areas:

1. Develop and commercially demonstrate smart health monitoring systems which act as early warning alerts;
2. Develop, demonstrate improved efficacy of single dose vaccines for producer confidence;
3. Develop industry resource material and commercial demonstration of the latest technology in pen cleaning, pen decontamination, and long-acting disinfectants to reduce pathogen load between cleaning cycles.

### **Research proposal requirements**

As part of APLs Innovation Plan, we wish to invite proposals into research and innovative strategies using new technology applied to the pig industry. Proposals need to be broad and collaborative and are expected to have deliverable outcomes over a 2-3 year time frame. It is expected that proposals will have a series of experiments in a milestone driven project that identifies achievable objectives and timeframes. Programs will be reviewed on a number of criteria including scientific justification and methodology; commercial application and adoption; and return on research and commercial investment necessary for implementation. Demonstrated engagement with the commercial pig industry as part of the proposal research framework is essential.

APL is committed to expanding the technical capability of the industry and opportunities exist for Honours and Post-graduate student funding (Masters, PhD, Post Doc Industry Placement). This can be as Top-Up Scholarships or Full Industry Scholarships for highly distinguished candidates. Scholarships should not be included in the research proposal budget but should be identified in the Special Budget Considerations section so that the research project can refer to a separate scholarship application.

### **Basefunding**

APL, together with the Australasian Pork Research Institute Limited (APRIL), significantly invest to provide access to research facilities through basefunding to provide Flexible Production Research Capacity within the pig industry. The base funded facilities suitable for this intended Horizon Program include Rivalea, SunPork and Roseworthy. This Flexible Production Research Capacity provides commercial facilities suitable for most commercial pig research studies and technical staff that are able to assist researchers and post-graduate students conduct their experimental plans.

If your proposed project would benefit from the use of base funded facilities, it is essential that you discuss and confirm availability with the contact person at the proposed facility before submitting your proposal. If you are not certain if your proposal should include basefunding, please contact Rebecca Athorn to discuss.

Details on the base funded facilities including, location, availability, and costs that will be incurred above what is offered by the basefunding facility, can be obtained from:

- Rivalea: Dr Rebecca Morrison (RMorrison@rivalea.com.au)
- SunPork: Dr Kate Plush (kate.plush@sunporkfarms.com.au)
- Roseworthy: Prof. Paul Verma (Paul.Verma@sa.gov.au)

When submitting a research and innovation proposal using a base funded facility, you must complete the basefunding spreadsheet within the application process.

### **Relationship to APL Strategic Themes**

These research initiatives for this RFP target APL Strategic Theme 2 'Manage volatility for viable farms' (Reducing the Cost of Production and Processing) and Strategic Theme 4 'Leading community social licence' (Being Leaders in Animal Care). More information can be found in the [APL 2020-2025 Strategic Plan](#).

### **Specific Terms of Reference**

Research providers successfully tendering for projects to meet the objectives described above will be responsible for:

1. Assembling expertise from within or between organisations to deliver one or more of the research outcomes identified earlier;
2. Designing scientific studies, in consultation with APL, to provide new information and know-how;
3. Securing access to research facilities (laboratories, equipment, on-farm demonstration sites) and the necessary approvals for the conduct of the research;
4. Developing a comprehensive project plan which includes detailed methodologies and budgets and describes the cash and in-kind contributions to the project, and subsequently delivering the research within budget;
5. Analysing and reporting all data generated in formal reports to APL; and
6. Disseminating key findings from the research to the wider scientific community in a variety of formats subject to approval by APL.

### **Specific Outputs Required**

Specific outputs required by APL will include:

1. Progress reports against milestones/decision points agreed with APL that detail project findings from individual experiments;
2. A comprehensive final report (following approval of a draft by APL) detailing all aspects of the research conducted (methodology, data, analysis and conclusions), submitted on the APL Final Report template; and
3. Scientific papers, conference presentations, producer talks and trade articles as appropriate and approved by APL.

## **Timetable**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>
27 May 2021	Application submission opens
17 June 2021	Deadline for research proposals to be received by APL
15 July 2021	Expected execution of contract/issue of Provider Agreement

## **General Conditions of Contracts**

Research contracts entered into with APL will require:

1. Confidentiality to be maintained with disclosure only with approval of APL;
2. Copyright of all documentation and intellectual property to be vested pro-rata to the agreement parties on the basis of cash contributed, or as agreed by the parties;
3. The project to be undertaken in an impartial, objective and professional manner consistent with good scientific principles and practice;
4. Applicants to provide their own insurance cover for the risks pertaining to the project;
5. Applicants to identify any areas of potential conflict of interest during the application process, or during the course of any supported project;
6. Opportunities for variation to the project objectives and work schedules subject to mutual agreement; and
7. Any material provided by APL to be used only for work specific to the project, unless expressly approved by APL.

## **Lodgement of Response**

All submissions are to be lodged as full proposals using the Research & Development Application in PigConnect (<https://pigconnect.australianpork.com.au/>). Finalised proposals for research will be developed and assessed using APL's research & development assessment processes. For proposals that require the use of base funded facilities, applicants must ensure that this detail is included in their PigConnect lodged proposal.

## **Not sure if your proposal fits the APL Strategic Themes leading to better animal health outcomes?**

Other areas of research or innovation that fall within the program of Pig Health and Antimicrobial Stewardship that do not specifically address the stated Horizon Priorities above can be discussed with the Program Manager and submitted under APL's Solutions Funding framework. These proposals can be submitted at any time and will be considered based on R&I program funding priority.

## **Contact**

If you are interested in submitting an application, please contact:

Dr Rebecca Athorn

Manager, Production Innovation

0436655015

[rebecca.athorn@australianpork.com.au](mailto:rebecca.athorn@australianpork.com.au)