

## Meat Inspection and Quality Assurance Network 2017-2019

**Project Report Reference: 2018-1003**

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### **Project Description**

The Meat Inspection and Quality Assurance Network is a state based network of researchers, industry QA practitioners, trainers and regulators. It is a well-established network that is a highly effective means of distributing new information and providing extension services for AMPC RD&E activities.

### **Project Content**

During the 2017-2018 financial year a total of fourteen network meetings were held, including:

- two network meetings in Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia, and four meetings in New South Wales (two in the north of the state, and two in the south)
- two domestic network meetings in NSW
- one joint training and MI&QA forum in each of Tasmania and the Northern Territory (funded through the Meat Industry HR, WHS and Training Network).

During the 2018-2019 financial year a total of sixteen network meetings were held, including:

- two network meetings in Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia, and four meetings in New South Wales (two in the north of the state, and two in the south)
- two domestic network meetings in NSW
- one joint training and MI&QA forum in each of Tasmania and Central Queensland (funded through the Meat Industry HR, WHS and Training Network).

The network meetings have included a number of presentations from AMPC; MLA on food safety and meat quality and food safety research. In the latter half of 2017 the meetings featured a workshop on HACCP aimed at providing a refresher of HACCP; discussion of any challenges issues faces by plants; and how HACCP plans might be improved. This workshop was facilitated by Dr John Sumner in all locations except for Tamworth where it was facilitated by Natasha Wing.

These forums allow research agencies to promote and disseminate industry-funded innovations and research. In addition, they enable industry to provide feedback to



researchers on their programs and their validity as well as a forum to discuss issues with regulators and identify those that require research or training initiatives to resolve them.

The Commonwealth Department of Agriculture and Water Resources and State Food Authorities continue to attend network meetings delivering presentations on changes to regulatory arrangements and the outcomes of audits such as overseas reviews.

In addition, MINTRAC Project Officers are, as part of this project, available to on-plant and regulatory personnel between meetings to answer incidental queries, investigate and respond to issues raised by processing personnel, and visit plants when requested.

### **Project Outcome**

This year a range of topics and research projects were discussed at the network meetings by researchers including work undertaken on:

- HACCP – refresher of the principles and how plans can be improved
- Meat research priorities – now and in the future
- Technological developments such as DEXA and robotics
- Supply-chain integration
- Effective antimicrobial intervention
- STEC testing methods
- Shelf life management in the supply chain
- Security of product through to the retail customer
- Overseas audits
- New Meat Notices
- On plan veterinarian development activities
- Meat Export Data Collection (MDEC)
- Post-mortem inspection review update
- AEMIS review
- A variety of AMPC Scholarship research presentation
- Current market access issues

### **Benefit for Industry**

Over a period of nearly twenty years, this network has developed and evolved into a recognised industry forum for the sharing, debate and dissemination of a wide range of issues and research related to meat science, customer requirements and expectations, and the regulation of the Australian meat processing industry.

The network continues to offer unique professional development and networking opportunities to industry personnel and regulatory officers. These meetings keep them abreast of the latest research and developments and able to deal with the complexities of ever changing customer and market requirements.

The latest innovation of conducting extended workshops in conjunction with network meetings has added a new dimension to the opportunities offered by the network.

## USEFUL RESOURCES

Selected meeting presentations are available at <https://www.mintrac.com.au>



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