Abattoir Virtual Tours

Development of Interactive Virtual Tours of red meat
Abattoirs processes from lairage to package

Project Code	Prepared by	Date Submitted
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Project Description

Murdoch University has partnered with AMPC to develop an interactive web-based virtual tour of red meat abattoir processes from lairage to package, to supplement student learning about animal welfare and veterinary public health. The aim was for students enrolled in the appropriate course at Murdoch University and various other Universities in Australia and New Zealand (University of Sydney, James Cook University, University of Adelaide, University of Melbourne, Charles Sturt University, University of Queensland, Massey University) to have the opportunity to navigate the abattoir tour at their own pace in preparation for abattoir visits and placements. They may also re-visit this resource for content revision and consolidation of their learning after lectures and abattoir visits.

Project Content

The innovative abattoir VR tool was designed based on a series of 360 degree and two-dimensional videos and photography recorded at an operations processing plant. The tour comprises images showing both sheep and cattle processing, short video interviews with On-Plant Veterinarian and plant manager, and written bullet point information highlighting key learning messages on public health and animal welfare. Academics from various institutions (i.e., Murdoch University, University of Sydney, James Cook University, University of Adelaide, University of Melbourne, Charles Sturt University, University of Queensland and Massey University), as well as plant managers and AMPC representatives provided feedback and suggestions during the production process, and reviewed and approved the final version.

Project Outcome

The final version of cattle and Sheep abattoir virtual tours was completed and successfully deployed on the Murdoch University Learning Management System on 21 April 2023. It has been well received by academics, experts and industry.

Benefit for Industry

The abattoir VR tool was an important achievement for the industry as it veterinary will enhance student learning experience and consequently the overall veterinary graduate knowledge about promoting public health and animal welfare in abattoirs. The VR tour will also inspire more students to pursue a career as on-plant veterinarian in the meat industry. Importantly, it constitutes a readily available replacement for abattoir physical tours and placements in the event of new pandemics and restrictions in the future.

The VR tour will also be used as an innovative, engaging educational tool for training purposes and outreach activities.