

## Meat Industry Training Network 2017-2019

**Project Report Reference:2018-1002**

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### **Project Description**

The Training Networks provide a means of ensuring that R&D outcomes with implications for attracting, retaining and developing industry personnel are communicated and potentially utilised by industry. They are also a means for ensuring that relevant R&D outcomes, innovation, new regulatory requirements and industry requirements become embedded into the meat industry training system and are delivered and assessed in a manner which is consistent across the industry. The networks also provide the means of ensuring that meat industry current and emerging training requirements and priorities are communicated to industry, State and Federal Training Authorities.

### **Project Content**

Funding for this project includes fourteen state-based network meetings per year, including all States and territories except the ACT.

In between meetings, the MINTRAC Project Officer for this project is also available on a daily basis to answer queries from Registered Training Organisations, the Australian Industry Skills Committee, Meat Industry Reference Committee, Skills Impact, industry peak organizations, processing plants, State Training Authorities and the Australian Skills Quality Agency.

### **Project Outcome**

A wide range of issues were discussed relating to state funding availability and priorities. Thirty Network meetings were held during the course of this project. The period 2017-2018 saw an increase of 32 attendees over the previous year, and a further increase of 54 was experienced in 2019-2019.

During 2018 the network was expanded to include Human Resources and Work Health and Safety topics. Feedback from the Network meetings indicates that attendees have appreciated the broadened agendas.

The first two hours of each 2018 meeting were used by AMPC to conduct a consultative workshop as part of the Strategic Planning process. AMPC demonstrated how the input was collated and utilised during the 2019 round of meetings.

The AMPC presentations highlighting the current progress of 2-3 key research and development projects are always well received. MINTRAC also included a presentation on a range of new electronic and paper-based products which had recently become available as a result of completed AMPC projects. This presentation is made available on the MINTRAC website and we have noticed spikes in requests for access to various resources immediately following each meeting.

The importance of the networks as a consultative forum for changes to be made to the national training system continues to be critical. The very fact that this level of consultative process is available is often a key factor in acceptance of development projects by the Australian Industry and Skills Committee. That the networks enable such penetration across



the industry means that the meat industry is unique in its understanding, ownership and use of the national training system, and has direct control of the direction of its Training Package.

Over the course of the two years a wide range of new developments were initiated and discussed through the networks, and these are detailed in the final report.

The introduction of the combined network meetings in Tasmania and the NT continues to pay dividends. These Network meetings are very well attended, and the opportunity to address state-specific issues has been appreciated. In 2018, after the Livingstone Plant in Darwin closed, no meeting was held in the NT and a meeting at Rockhampton was trialled, with mixed success.

### **N** **Benefit for Industry**

MINTRAC commenced running Training Network meetings on behalf of the industry in 2002. The very first meeting was prompted by the disastrous Strategic Audit of meat industry training in NSW, where the meat industry very nearly lost access to state funding due to poor performance.

In the seventeen years since this first meeting, the Training Networks have served to foster a quality of training and excellence across the meat industry that is unequalled in other industries. Not only has the industry retained access to State funding as a result of these networks, it continues to gain ground in ensuring that industry priorities are recognized and addressed and has ready access to funding under special State initiatives.

With this level of access and recognition currently so readily available, there is also a risk of complacency. Such access can only be retained when even the poorest performer is monitored and issues quickly addressed by the industry.



*Adelaide Training Network meeting February 2019*

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