Snapshot Report

AMPC
AUSTRALIAN MEAT PROCESSOR CORPORATION

Delivering livestock processing transparency back to producers

Project code
2020-1083

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Date submitted
29/06/2025

Project description

This project aimed to develop and enhance systems for a red meat processor to provide timely and relevant feedback to livestock producers. The core goals were to:

1. Build trust in the supply chain
2. Provide valuable animal health data to support livestock management decisions
3. Enhance transparency and integrity within producer operations

Project content

The project followed a collaborative and iterative methodology, adapting over time due to evolving systems, stakeholder needs, and vendor changes.

1. **Stakeholder Consultation and Scoping**
   The initial phase involved detailed scoping of requirements through engagement with both internal and external stakeholders:
   - *Internal stakeholders* included company owners, the plant manager, kill floor supervisors, stockyards, quality assurance (QA), and livestock administration teams.
   - *External stakeholders* comprised livestock producers, stock agents, Integrity Systems Company (ISC), and the various technology providers including Emydex, Triton Systems, and web portal developers (Kurl Web and MEQ).

2. **Requirements Gathering and Documentation**
   Functional requirements were captured and formalised into detailed design documents. These specifications covered hardware (e.g. photo capture stations), software workflows (e.g. kill data capture, grading, NLIS integration), and portal architecture for producer access.

3. **Staged Supplier Engagement and Implementation**
   External vendors were engaged to implement the requirements across multiple phases. The shift from Emydex to Triton Systems necessitated significant rework and re-scoping of previously developed APIs and integrations. Meeting milestone dates proved challenging due to technical dependencies and the need to align new systems with ongoing plant operations.

4. **Feedback and Refinement**
   As components of the system were implemented—such as image capture, feedback report generation, and partial portal functions—stakeholders provided ongoing feedback. This iterative review loop allowed for refinement of workflows, better alignment with producer expectations, and prioritisation of future enhancements.

Project outcomes

Improved Feedback to Producers

- Feedback reports are now emailed within 24 hours of kill
- Reports include:
  - Carcase-level data for large stock, and weight-range summaries for small stock
  - Animal health findings, including pathology notes from AQIS vets
  - Photo images of condemned and partially condemned carcasses
- Producers and agents have improved access via https://www.ascotmeats.com.au

Portal Functionality (Partial Implementation)

- Portal currently provides:
  - Grid pricing sheets
  - General process and contact information
  - Secure logins for some suppliers
- Planned features (e.g. eNVD creation, interactive booking, feedback downloads) remain under development due to system transitions and competing operational priorities.

Booking Requests and eNVDs

- Booking requests can be made via the portal message centre or email
- eNVD functionality has not yet been developed but is part of the intended second-phase rollout

Fault and Disease Reporting

- Fault data and pathology findings are now provided in reports
- Images are manually captured and included; full automation and portal-based access is a future goal

Benefit for industry

1. Strengthened Trust Between Producers and Processors

Timely, detailed feedback — including objective health data and images — gives producers increased confidence in processing outcomes and fosters better relationships across the supply chain.

2. Actionable Information to Improve Livestock Management

By receiving detailed animal health insights, producers can adjust husbandry practices, improve livestock quality, and reduce condemnations. This benefits both the producer and processor, improving supply chain efficiency and product quality.