

Meat Industry Reference Committee
Communique – Meeting held on 28 March 2017,
and follow-up teleconference held on 13 April 2017

The restructured Meat Industry Reference Committee held its second meeting in Surfers Paradise on Tuesday 28 March 2017.

The Committee welcomed Michael Bayer, from Big River Pork, to the Committee as a nominated General Representative. The Committee continues to seek a suitable nominee to fill the vacant Sheep Processing Representative position.

The Chair and Skills Impact provided an overview of the Industry Reference Committee Chairs meeting in Melbourne on 16 March 2017.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the committee and the Skill Service Organisation (SSO) was discussed. This was further discussed at the teleconference held on 13 April, and with the agreed changes incorporated, the document was approved for signing.

Twenty-five recorded issues from the AMP *Australian Meat Processing Training Package* Issues Register were reviewed and actions determined.

Progress on the development of the *IRC Skills Forecast and Proposed Schedule of Work* was reviewed and the Committee prioritised the identified developments. Following the closure of the consultation period, feedback was reviewed at the teleconference on 13 April with some minor additional changes identified. Once these changes have been made and any editing requirements actioned, the IRC has provided approval for signing by the Chair.

The Committee discussed Measures of Success for the IRC. It was agreed that the Training Package is of value to the industry and two key areas of success are portability of skills across the industry and the currency of the Training Package. If these two areas are not successfully maintained, then the Training Package is at risk of becoming devalued.

Synergies between poultry processing and red meat processing were discussed and it was agreed that poultry processing had much in common with red meat processing. The IRC has proposed that poultry processing should be included in the AMP *Australian Meat Processing Training Package*, and the industry be represented on the Meat Industry Reference Committee.

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 17 October on the Gold Coast, this being the most suitable date for most members.