

Meat Industry Reference Committee
Communique – Meeting held on 10 April 2018

The Meat Industry Reference Committee held its first face-to-face meeting for the year in Sydney on Tuesday 10 April 2018.

Seven members were in attendance, and the Committee welcomed Stacey McKenna from the Australian Meat Industry Council who has recently been appointed to the Sheep Processing Representative position. The Committee members were advised of the resignation of the Deputy Chair, Glenn Meers who held a Beef Processing Representative position. This now leaves a vacancy for both Beef Processing Representative and Deputy Chair. The members expressed their gratitude to Glenn for his service on the Committee.

The current draft of the Skills Forecast and feedback received to date was considered. Priority Skills were ranked and reordered to reflect industry needs. The Committee approved the Skills Forecast. The Priority Skills listed in order of priority are as follows:

- Priority Skill 1 – Management skills
- Priority Skill 2 – Undertake workplace incident investigations
- Priority Skill 3 – Operation and management of biogas facilities in a processing plant
- Priority Skill 4 – Animal health data collection, evaluation and monitoring
- Priority Skill 5 – Preparation of market reports for beef and sheep
- Priority Skill 6 – Improving meat quality.

The committee considered an issue regarding cross-trade maintenance qualifications and determined further investigation into this matter is required.

The Committee considered and approved the removal of a Case for Change for hides and skins processing due to significant changes to the hides and skins market.

The Committee considered and approved changes to the unit *AMPA411 Oversee humane handling of animals*.

Sixteen matters raised on the Issues Register were addressed and actions determined.

The date for the next meeting was agreed and will be held on 19 June in Sydney.