

**Meat Industry Reference Committee**  
**Communique – Meeting held on 16 October 2018**

The Meat Industry Reference Committee held a full meeting at Surfers Paradise on Tuesday 16 October 2018, with available IRC members engaging with the industry at the MINTRAC Meat Inspection and Quality Assurance Conference the following day. All 12 members attended the IRC meeting.

Feedback from a discussion paper on a suggestion to minimise duplication of a number of units in the Certificate III in Meat Processing (Retail Butcher) was discussed. The decision was made to develop a Case for Change for further investigation into this issue, with a focus on combining units to achieve the same level of competence in the same timeframe. Consideration will be given to reducing administration load and not making changes to units that are used in other qualifications.

The Committee also considered feedback on the Certificate III in Meat Processing (Slaughtering) and discussed the merits of restricting assessment to a single species. Opinion was divided on this issue and it was agreed that a draft Case for Change should be prepared for further consideration by the Committee.

There was extensive discussion about the use of scissors used in offal rooms and if a change needed to be made to remove *AMPX209 Sharpen knives* as a prerequisite for offal processing units. The decision was made that no change be made to the current requirements for processing offal.

The Committee adopted an improved reporting system to monitor projects, which will aid delay identification and causes.

The Deputy Chair and a representative from Skills Impact reported on the key outcomes of the AISC Chairs Meeting held on 27 September 2018.

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

Several items were raised during General Business, including:

- Air cargo security – known consignor
- Game harvesting auditing
- Diploma/Advanced Diploma Review

These items will be further investigated and entered into the Issues and Enquiries Register

The date for the next meeting was agreed and will be held on 11 December in Sydney.