

Communique

Meeting No: 2021.04

14 December 2021

The Meat Industry Reference Committee held its 14 December meeting via Microsoft Teams Meeting videoconference. Eleven members and ten guests attended the IRC meeting. New IRC members Tony Morgan and Wayne Herrod were introduced to the committee.

The Industry Roundup identified that labour shortage was a consistent issue across sectors and regions. In addition, Federal action was taking place in relation to African Swine Fever and biosecurity preparedness for the pork industry.

An update on requirements from the Australian Industry and Skills Committee (AISC) for reporting on industry in 2022 was provided. There is a requirement to submit a specific Industry Summary on behalf of the IRC in September 2022, which will replace the Skills Forecast. An additional report will also be developed to present common workforce planning and skills development matters across agribusiness, food, forestry and fibre supply chains.

The IRC will continue to monitor discussions between Australian Meat Processing Corporation (AMPC) and MINTRAC, concerning funding on a case by case basis for developing and maintaining Training Package support materials to complement the delivery and assessment of VET. The IRC supports the development of relevant nationally consistent materials. A development proposal for halal training materials will be prepared and submitted for consideration.

The progress report on Meat Processing, General, Quality and Safety Skills Project was discussed, noting consultation with stakeholders and Subject Matter Experts has taken place throughout September and November 2021. Broad industry input is currently being sought regarding current job roles and the required skills and knowledge. The current proposal is for qualifications to be merged from seven to two qualifications, resulting in one qualification at Certificate III level and one at Certificate IV. Sixteen units are currently proposed for deletion, 19 units are proposed to be merged to be three units and five new units are being developed.

A series of consultation webinars have commenced focussing on discussing the skills and knowledge required for work activities undertaken by meat inspectors/safety and quality assurance officers, as well as leadership and general skills in the meat processing industry.

The IRC noted developments in VET Reform in particular an update related to the processes and structures which comprise Industry Clusters and that both the IRCs and SSOs will cease operations 31 December 2022.

It was noted that meat industry representatives have participated in a workshop for input into the Victorian Skills Authority (VSA) stakeholder engagement model and Skills Plan, as part of key recommendation from the Skills for Victoria's Growing Economy Review. The Victorian Skills Plan will set out current and emerging training needs for local communities and industries and provide decision-makers with unique insights on workforce trends, challenges, and opportunities.

The meeting was closed at 2:34 pm.

Next meeting

The next IRC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 15 March 2022, 1:00 – 3:00 pm.