

Meat Industry Reference Committee

Communique – Meeting held on 17 October 2017

The Meat Industry Reference Committee (IRC) held its third meeting in Surfers Paradise on Tuesday 17 October 2017.

All members were in attendance, although the IRC continues to seek a suitable nominee to fill the vacant Sheep Processing Representative position.

The Chair's representative and Skills Impact provided an overview of the IRC Chairs meeting held in Melbourne on 21 September 2017.

The Case for Endorsement for version 3 of the *AMP Australian Meat Industry Training Package*, including the *Animal Welfare Officer Assistant Skill Set* and other minor changes arising from the Issues Register, was approved by the IRC for submission to the Australian Industry and Skills Committee (AISC).

The IRC noted that the AISC had identified four potential projects relating to the *AMP Australian Meat Industry Training Package* which now required a Case for Change. The Committee agreed that at least two Cases for Change could be prepared by the end of 2017. These are to be prepared by MINTRAC, working on behalf of the IRC for Skills Impact, and circulated to IRC members for comment and approval.

Ten poultry processing units have been identified for transfer to *the AMP Australian Meat Industry Training Package*. The IRC Chair attended a teleconference with the Food, Beverage and Pharmaceutical IRC Chair, and had also spoken to a meeting of the Food, Beverage and Pharmaceutical IRC. The IRC was supportive of the move but had questioned two matters which will be followed up by members of the Meat IRC. The IRC agreed that there was time for the units to be prepared to be included in the current *Case for Endorsement*. It was also agreed that IRC members would start looking for an appropriate poultry processing member to join the IRC.

Kevin Cottrill had been attending four of the cross-sector committees as a representative of the Meat IRC. He provided a written report which had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. The IRC noted that several projects were now reaching a point where recommendations were to be provided to IRCs for comment. There followed extensive discussion around the impact of automation on the Australian meat processing industry, and the IRC agreed that an MLA representative should be asked to speak at the next IRC meeting.

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

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 12 December at Sydney Airport, this being the most suitable date and venue for most members.