

Meat Industry Reference Committee

Communique

Date: 20 October 2020

The Meat Industry Reference Committee held its October meeting via Zoom videoconference. This meeting had been converted from the originally scheduled teleconference in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Eight members and nine guests attended the IRC meeting, and six members tendered their apologies.

No conflicts were identified for the meeting to progress. The Minutes from the June IRC meeting were moved for acceptance and carried. The IRC continued discussion in relation to the ongoing challenges to identify and attract a poultry industry expert for an IRC position. The IRC Chair indicated that he would approach an IRC recognised industry stakeholder to establish his interest to join the committee.

Discussion around the collection of industry feedback on training needs and the methods that AMIC, AMPC and MINTRAC was leveraging were shared, reiterating that face-to-face industry networking events being transitioned to online due to COVID-19 restrictions had created constraints.

A key item discussed on the agenda was the ongoing composition of the IRC with key committee member replacements and resignations. Current vacancies include industry experts in sheep processing, beef processing and poultry processing. Five new industry nominations for these positions are being considered for potential appointment to the committee. The Australian Industry and Skills Committee (AISC) has confirmed that all Meat IRC positions have been given another extension beyond December 2020, to June 2021 for those current members wishing to stay on the committee.

The extended work to decouple the diploma and advanced diplomas was discussed and project documentation was provided in the papers for the IRC meeting. The IRC supported the revised draft of the qualifications and the additional project documentation. A motion was put forward for provisional approval for the submission of the Diploma and Advanced Diploma in Meat Processing Project to the AISC for endorsement at their December meeting once it has successfully completed the finalisation stage of the project.

Industry feedback received pertaining to training needs was tabled at the meeting for consideration and comment by the committee. A draft of proposed training package changes will be developed in November with an update to the Annual Skills Update and Skills Forecast. Once additional industry consultation takes place to support the changes, these will be endorsed by the IRC and submitted to the AISC in April 2021. Among several potential change proposals being considered is a full end to end review of the entire AMP Training Package which would represent a multi-year piece of work.

The IRC endorsed the revised BSB units from the Business Services Training Package that have been imported into the AMP Training Package.

MINTRAC advised that it is seeking industry subject matter experts for consultation on the three AISC-approved training package projects for completion in 2020/21. These projects are in the early stage of development.

An update from the AISC IRC Chairman's meeting held in July indicated that the key outcomes were to provide greater leadership and strategic direction to IRCs, improve communication, and build IRC capability.

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A small number of new issues and enquiries were received by MINTRAC since the last IRC meeting in June which were all resolved. These were noted with no further action necessary by the IRC.

The next IRC meeting is 15 December 2020 in Sydney via Zoom. A proposal for 2021 meetings was tabled as follows:

- 16 March 2021, venue / teleconference / zoom TBC
- 15 June 2021
- 19 October 2021
- 14 or 21 December 2021