



AUSTRALIAN MEAT PROCESSOR CORPORATION

Waste Water Management Manual

AMPC and AMIC have developed the Red Meat Processing Industry Climate Change Strategy which is designed to place the industry on a pathway towards a sustainable future and minimise the impacts of climate change and policy measures such as the Carbon Pricing Mechanism (CPM). This will be achieved first and foremost through effective research, policy, communication and extension activities in the next 3-5 years. The Strategy will provide the ability to collaborate with Government in order to benchmark change over time from implementation of emissions abatement technology, as well as evaluate improvements and communicate impacts from both a private and public good perspective.

The environmental management capabilities of personnel in the red meat processing industry will be an important factor contributing to the transition to a low carbon economy. To deliver the training and professional development requirements, AMPC has in place a service agreement with the National Meat Industry Training Advisory Council (MINTRAC).

Over the past few years, AMPC and MLA have undertaken a considerable body of research around the waste water treatment in the Australian meat industry. This research includes:

- a nitrogen management strategy for meat processing plants;
- a quantitative risk assessment of microbial emissions from abattoirs;
- a review of waste solids processing with energy capture technologies;
- anaerobic cover material vulnerability;
- anaerobic solids review;
- assessment of Contaminants in Waste Solids from Meat Processing Wastewater Streams;
- assessment of Hydro-cyclones for Fat Removal from Meat Processing Waste Streams.

In addition, MLA has produced the following kits:

- Environmental Best Practice Guidelines for the Red Meat Processing Industry;
- Eco-Efficiency Manual for Meat Processing;
- Red Meat Processing Industry Energy Efficiency Manual.

Despite the production of such a comprehensive body of research, none of it has been synthesised into a simple 'how to' manual for personnel responsible for the day-to-day management of upstream waste water, anaerobic ponds, methane gas capture systems and aerobic ponds. There is a clear need for operator training and readily accessible reference materials for operators working in the area of waste water management. Consequently, MINTRAC is developing a waste water management guide for red meat processing plant operators that will incorporate the outcomes of the R&D investment already made in this area as well as the input from current operators and technical experts. The manual will be designed to provide a resource for training programs, plus serve as an operational manual for waste water treatment operators.

MINTRAC will run five state-based two-day national workshops during October 2012 (TBC) and involve an industry panel to implement and validate the manual with current operators. A scientific panel will support the workshops in the same format as the previous NGERS workshops.

The manual should be available to members in draft form by July 2012.