Food waste containing meat or other animal by-products must not be fed to pigs as it may contain viruses that cause diseases in animals, such as foot-and-mouth disease. These viruses are not destroyed by chilling, freezing, curing or cooking.

Information for food outlets
Do not supply prohibited food waste to pigs

Currently Australia is free of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) but food waste containing this virus may be illegally imported into Australia, undetected by quarantine. Banning the feeding of prohibited food waste to pigs provides an important defence against the introduction of this disease to Australia.

In 2001, the United Kingdom had an outbreak of FMD which resulted from food waste being fed to pigs. 6,500,000 animals were slaughtered as a consequence. If such an outbreak was to occur in Australia, the cost to the economy is estimated to be up to $50 billion over a decade, and the flow-on effects are likely to have a major impact on the viability of food outlets.

There are penalties for feeding prohibited food waste or supplying it to a piggery.

The *Livestock Disease Control Act 1994* makes it illegal to feed prohibited food waste to pigs or to supply it to a piggery.

If you are caught supplying or feeding this food waste to pigs, you will be prosecuted and face a significant fine.

Food waste that must not be fed to pigs

Meat, meat by-products, and food of non-animal origin that has been on the same plate as meat or has been in contact with meat is prohibited.

Examples include:

* vegetables, rice, pasta and any other food of non-animal origin that has been in direct contact with meat
* pizza bun rolls, meat pies
* bacon and cheese rolls, salad rolls containing meat
* Caesar salad (because it contains bacon pieces)
* steak, hamburgers, sausages, butcher’s shop waste
* milk products such as butter and cheese.

Responsible disposal of food waste

Businesses that prepare and sell food (e.g. restaurants, bakeries, hotels, fast food outlets, hospitals), have a responsibility to dispose of food waste appropriately.

Prohibited food waste should be placed in an appropriate garbage bin for collection by the council or commercial waste service for disposal in landfill or composting at an appropriate recycling facility.

Illegal activities include:

* feeding prohibited food waste to pigs
* supplying prohibited food waste to feed pigs
* collecting prohibited food waste from food premises to provide to a piggery
* Storing prohibited pig feed on a premise where pigs are kept.

If you know someone who may doing any of these things you must report this activity to the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions immediately on 1300 502 656 to help ensure Australia’s disease-free status.

**Do not supply prohibited pig feed to pig owners**

Accessibility

If you would like to receive this publication in an accessible format, please telephone the Department of Jobs Precincts and Regions on 1300 502 656.