Victorian Low Density Mobile Outdoor Pig Farm Planning Permit Guidelines

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State Government

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Victorian Low Density Mobile Outdoor Pig Farm Planning Permit Guidelines – An overview

These guidelines apply to pig farms that satisfy the following criteria:

- ✓ a maximum of 150 sows or 1,000 Standard Pig Units (SPU)
- ✓ a production system based on keeping pigs outdoors in paddocks
- ✓ a maximum outdoor stocking density of 12 SPU/hectare
- ✓ mobile housing and feeding infrastructure that is relocated at least every three months
- ✓ adequate separation from waterways, residential areas and sensitive uses
- ✓ a nutrient management plan that ensures soil nutrient levels are managed and at least 50% ground cover is maintained

These guidelines apply to the following planning permit applications:

- ✓ existing low density mobile outdoor pig farms that do not have a permit
- ✓ new low density mobile outdoor pig farms
- ✓ expansions of existing low density mobile outdoor pig farms

1. Purpose

The purpose of these Guidelines is to:

- deliver sound environmental performance in the planning and management of low density mobile outdoor pig farms in Victoria
- protect the surrounding environment and local amenity from adverse impacts
- protect and permit an economically viable, competitive and sustainable pig industry
- provide a fit-for-purpose planning assessment process for low risk pig farms.

To achieve these outcomes, these Guidelines:

- set standards for the size, siting, design and management of low density mobile outdoor pig farms, and
- provide guidance on the preparation, assessment and determination of permit applications through the planning permit system.

These Guidelines provide information and direction to applicants and planners for assessing planning permit applications to establish or modify a low density mobile outdoor pig farm. They outline what planners should expect in the application, and present key decision guidelines to support assessment of the application.

These Guidelines set out the eligibility requirements for a simplified planning assessment process based on the farms having low environmental risk and amenity impact.

2. Background

Pig farms in Victoria

Victoria's animal industries (including pig farms) are significant contributors to the Victorian economy. They are major employers in rural and regional Victoria and are Victoria's largest agricultural industry.

In Victoria, pig farms are mostly concentrated in the Loddon, Goulburn, Wimmera, and Mallee regions. There are many different pig production systems, from small farms to large intensive housed facilities.

Production systems can be broadly classified as indoor or outdoor.

Indoor systems are where pigs live predominantly indoors in sheds.

Outdoor systems are where pigs live outdoors in paddocks or enclosures. Outdoor production systems fall into one of two categories: rotational outdoor or fixed housing (feedlot).

Some producers describe their pig farms as 'free-range', 'pastured' and / or 'regenerative'. These terms may describe particular ethical requirements or target markets, for example, those based on specific consumer preferences, that then determine the production practices. Some of these systems also have industry accreditation programs attached to them. However, these operations are generally still forms of rotational outdoor piggeries.

3. What is a pig farm?

Pig farms fall under the **Animal Production** definition in Clause 73.03 of the *Victoria Planning Provisions* and all Victorian planning schemes.

Animal production is land used to keep or breed farm animals for the production of livestock, eggs, fibre, meat, milk or other animal products.

A pig farm is land used to keep or breed pigs.

What is a Rotational Outdoor Pig Farm?

A rotational outdoor pig farm is a system in which pigs live outdoors for their entire lives, with unfettered access to paddocks and foraging opportunities. The placement of pigs on the land (the pig phase) forms one part of a rotational land use system. Following each pig phase, a cropping/forage/pasture phase allows removal of nutrients (through plant harvest) that accumulate on paddocks from pig manure and feed waste. While the pigs can forage, it is still necessary to give them prepared feed to meet their nutritional needs. Pigs are provided with mobile shelters such as huts or open deep litter shelters to protect them from the elements. Wallowing areas and drip/spray cooling systems can provide cooling opportunities in hot conditions. Feed is usually provided using movable self-feeders or troughs. Water is provided in permanent or movable troughs.

Low density mobile outdoor pig farm refers to a category of rotational outdoor pig farm, which, if well managed, presents low environmental risks and amenity impact.

Low density mobile outdoor pig farms are where pigs live outdoors in paddocks for their entire lives with unfettered foraging opportunities. Stocking densities are kept low and range areas periodically rested to maintain ground cover and restrict the rate of manure nutrient additions to the soil. Outdoor shelters protect the pigs in paddocks from the elements. Prepared feed is provided, typically in self-feeders or troughs. The shelters and feeder are regularly and frequently moved to distribute manure nutrients more evenly.

Spray cooling systems can be mounted on a mobile pig shelter

4. Planning requirements for pig farms

In all Victorian planning schemes, a planning permit is required to use and develop land for a pig farm. A planning permit can be applied for in the following zones:

- Farming Zone
- Rural Activity Zone
- Green Wedge Zone
- Green Wedge A Zone
- Rural Living Zone
- Urban Growth Zone
- Rural Conservation Zone.

The establishment of new pig farms, including low density mobile outdoor pig farms, is prohibited in all other zones.

When is a planning permit required for a low density mobile outdoor pig farm?

The requirement for a planning permit may apply to any of the following:

- existing low density mobile outdoor pig farms that do not have a permit and that do not have existing use rights (see Clause 63 of all planning schemes)
- establishing a new low density mobile outdoor pig farm
- expanding an existing low density mobile outdoor pig farm to increase its capacity (including increasing size in terms of SPU or adding more pig production area).

In addition to zone controls, there may be planning scheme provisions (for example, overlays and particular provisions) that have additional planning permit and development requirements, such as approvals to remove native vegetation and works approval. Applicants are encouraged to check with their council to determine whether other approvals may be needed at the planning stage.

A typical low density mobile outdoor pig farm has adequate mobile housing and ground cover

5. Threshold requirements for the application

There are three threshold requirements for accessing the simplified planning permit process:

1. **Production system:** The farm must be a low density mobile outdoor production system.
2. **Farm capacity:** A maximum farm capacity of 150 sows or 1,000 Standard Pig Units (SPU). The capacity of a pig farm is described either in terms of sow numbers or the SPU as a measure of the total number of pigs that will be held on the farm.
3. **Stocking density:** A maximum stocking density of 12 SPU/hectare of range available to the pigs over each 3 month period.

Farm capacity or size

Planning permits typically specify a maximum operating capacity that has been approved under the permit. This maximum generally relates to the management of environmental impact and is often described in terms of the number of animals.

For pig farms, the environmental impact varies depending on the type of production system and the pigs being kept. Pigs include sows, boars, piglets, weaners, growers, and finishers – and their sizes (and impact) vary accordingly. To manage this variation, the capacity or size of a pig farm may be described in the following ways:

Total number of sows

Pig numbers can be described in terms of sow numbers, factoring in that farms generally maintain a constant number of sows and in turn progeny (offspring). Overall the farm will include pigs covering all different stages of production including sows, piglets, growers, finishers and boars.

Total numbers

This is the total number of pigs of any age that can be kept on the farm at any time.

Standard Pig Units (SPUs)

The capacity of a pig farm can be described in Standard Pig Units (SPUs). An SPU is a unit for defining a pig farm's capacity based on manure and waste feed output, which influences environmental impact potential. The manure and waste feed produced by a single SPU represents the amount of volatile solids typically produced by one average-sized grower pig. For other pig classes, standard SPU multipliers are applied, because pigs in different classes produce different amounts of manure and waste feed. For example, a weaner pig is equivalent to 0.5 SPU, while a dry sow is equivalent to 1.6 SPU. Defining the capacity of a pig farm in SPUs therefore allows for a more accurate estimate of the amount of manure and waste feed a pig farm operation will generate, which influences environmental risk. For this reason, considerations for managing the environmental risks and amenity impacts of a pig farm are often based on SPUs. **Table 1** (Page 8) gives the SPU multipliers for all classes of pigs.

Stocking density of the land is expressed in **SPUs per hectare** and should be calculated for each production group as follows:

Stocking density = the maximum number of SPUs/range area accessible to those pigs (hectares)

The stocking density should be calculated for each of the following production sections of the farm:

- dry sow paddocks
- sow/piglet (farrowing) paddocks
- weaner/grower pig paddocks
- boar paddocks
- or any other production component.

In most cases, range areas will have a fixed maximum stocking density of 12 SPU/hectare.

However, in some cases, farms may use a system where paddocks are divided into 'cells' to create smaller confinement areas that are stocked for short periods at > 12 SPU. This is acceptable, providing the stocking density of the entire paddock does not exceed 12 SPU/hectare and the pigs are moved between the cells of the paddock frequently and regularly, so each cell is used for a similar time to achieve even stocking across the whole paddock.

For each production section, the area (in hectares) is only the land available to the pigs and excludes all other areas of the farm.

More information is also available in the *National Environmental Guidelines for Rotational Outdoor Piggeries (2013)*.

Table 1: SPU Conversion factors

Pig Class	Mass Range (kg)	Age Range (weeks)	SPU Factor
Gilt	100 – 160	24 – 30	1.8
Boar	100 – 300	24 – 128	1.6
Gestating sow	160 – 230	–	1.6
Lactating sow	160 – 230	–	2.5
Sucker	1.4 – 8	0 – 4	0.1
Weaner	8 – 25	4 – 10	0.5
Grower	24 – 55	10 – 16	1.0
Finisher	55 – 100	16 – 24	1.6
Heavy Finisher	100 – 130	24 – 30	1.8

Adapted from the National Environmental Guidelines for Piggeries 2010

Sow with progeny in a low density mobile outdoor setting

6. Simplified planning permit assessment for a low density mobile outdoor pig farm

Applications identified in the planning scheme as being low density mobile outdoor pig farms have simplified requirements for assessment and decision.

Key features of the simplified planning process include:

- clear application requirements
- clear standards to support decisions by the responsible authority
- permit applications are not advertised where certain conditions are met – ***No Notice***
- third parties cannot appeal against the planning decision where certain conditions are met – ***No Appeal.***

All other types of pig farms will need to follow the normal planning process.

7. What information should be submitted with a permit application?

The following list provides planners with the information they should expect from a low density mobile outdoor pig farm planning permit application.

A. Property Identification Code

All pig farms, including low density mobile outdoor pig farms, **must** have a Property Identification Code (PIC) which assists with traceability and biosecurity.

B. Property and locality plan

A property plan showing

- property boundaries and dimensions of the site
- paddocks where pigs will be kept
- farm bores, dams and other water supply sources and waterways
- location of any farm infrastructure such as sheds, pig handling yards and feed storage areas
- mortality management area
- significant slope and other topographic features, remnant vegetation and areas prone to erosion
- areas prone to flooding
- internal and external roads.

A locality plan showing:

- distances to dwellings in a separate ownership and other sensitive uses (including dwellings under construction or approved by a planning or building permit to be constructed)
- distances to waterways from pig paddock boundaries
- suitable scale and dimensions.

A suitably scaled and dimensioned property and location plan, including distances, should not require the employment of a consultant or surveyor. It can be developed using readily available resources such as the Land Channel.

C. Description of the proposal

A **brief** written description should include details of:

- proposed number of pigs to be kept and herd composition (including anticipated offspring and the number of pigs to be kept across various production stages)
- the production system including
  - area and number of pig paddocks
  - pig movements.
- pig housing, fencing, feeding and water infrastructure
- the type and amount of feed that will be used and where it will be stored
- mortalities management, including a contingency plan for a mass mortalities event
- a nutrient management plan (NMP) that demonstrates how nutrients will be managed and ground cover maintained
- strategies to manage rodents and feral animals
- measures to protect native trees and other native vegetation
- planning zone and any overlays applying to the land, including flooding overlays and land subject to inundation (refer to Land Channel).

8. Assessment criteria for a low density mobile outdoor pig farm

This Guideline defines objectives and standards that will guide the assessment of the planning application.

Objectives: An objective describes the desired outcome to be achieved from a proposal. A proposal must meet all of the objectives.

Standards: A standard contains the requirements to meet the objective.

A standard is an approach, action, practice or method that permit applicants should incorporate into their development proposal to comply with the objective. Where the proposal meets all the standards, the application is deemed to comply with the objective.

Alternative measures: Circumstances of a particular proposal may however provide a need or an opportunity to propose alternative ways of meeting the objectives and standards. The responsible authority may consider an alternative design solution if the applicant can demonstrate that the relevant objectives can still be met with equivalent or superior performance. Responsible authorities should consider proposals that include new technology and innovative approaches if these can be demonstrated to satisfy the objectives of the Guidelines.

The Objectives and Standards should be considered as a whole, as many of the approved measures are inter-related.

Objective 1 – Low risk site

The risk of adverse environmental impacts on soils, waterways, soils and surrounds is minimised by appropriate site selection and through a farm layout that avoids areas of risk.

Standard 1.1 Land

- The land used for pig ranging areas are suitable for growing pastures, hay or crops and maintaining ground cover.

Standard 1.2 Protection of native trees and native remnant vegetation

- Native trees and other native vegetation are protected from the pigs through fencing or other barriers.

Standard 1.3 Surface waters

- The pig paddocks and other farm infrastructure are:
  - located above the 1 in 100-year flood level, or
  - not located in areas impacted by a flood zone, flooding overlay or land subject to inundation overlay.
- The pig farm is not located within a Special Water Supply Catchment Area.
- The boundaries of the pig paddocks are at least 30m from a waterway declared under the *Water Act 1989*.

Note: Where this measure cannot be met, additional consideration in the proposal may be needed to address potential risks to waterways and propose additional risk management strategies. Small farms or applications proposing low stocking densities may pose low risk to the waterways depending on the site-specific farm's layout, the topography and other considerations, and the application can be supported. Referral to the relevant water authority or catchment management authority will assist with this consideration. Applications for pig farms located within Special Water Supply Catchment Areas must be referred to the relevant water board or water supply authority (see section 10).

Objective 2 – Site management requirements for environmental protection

Adverse impacts on soils, waterways and surrounds are avoided through good management.

Standard 2.1 Ground cover

- A minimum 50% ground cover is maintained over the pig paddock areas at all times (see **Appendix A** for consideration of seasonal conditions).

Standard 2.2 Mobile infrastructure

- Housing and feeding infrastructure are relocated at least every three months to:
  - promote distribution of manure nutrients over the paddock areas, and
  - ensure nutrients are managed and bare ground is rehabilitated.

Standard 2.3 Nutrient Management Plan

- A nutrient management plan is developed that includes strategies and measures to ensure nutrient risks are adequately managed and monitored by:
  - effectively balancing nutrients (for applications involving > 20 sows)
  - maintaining adequate ground cover
  - moving housing and feeding infrastructure around the pig paddocks
  - paddock rotations that include pig and crop/forage/pasture phases
  - soil testing, monitoring and farm management.

Refer to **Appendix A** for additional information regarding Nutrient Management Plans.

Objective 3 – Community amenity

The site location, design and farm management of the low density mobile outdoor pig farm protects the community from odour, dust and other amenity impacts.

Standard 3.1 Separation Distances

- Pig paddock boundaries meet the following setback requirements:
  - a minimum distance of 100 metres from a building used for a sensitive use[1]
  - a minimum distance of 400 metres from land in a residential zone.

1 Sensitive use is a use that involves the presence of people, causing the use to be sensitive to amenity considerations such as odour, dust and noise. Sensitive uses (also referred in other documents as sensitive land uses) include a dwelling, a dependant persons unit, a residential building, a hospital, a school, a day care centre, a caravan park and other uses involving the presence of people for an extended period. Sensitive use does not include recreational areas such as parks and sporting facilities.

A cropping phase following the pig phase is a good strategy to balance nutrient levels in pig paddocks

Maintaining ground cover in the pig phase is important. This paddock shows greater than 50% ground cover immediately after the pig phase

Pigs in a paddock with mobile housing and more than 50% ground cover

9. Notice and review of applications

Giving of notice involves the formal notification of the application to other parties. Generally when notice is given parties have a right to apply to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal for a review of the decision.

In some instances proposals are exempt from notice and review under the *Victoria Planning Provisions*.

Clause 53.16 of the *Victoria Planning Provisions* and all planning schemes exempt low density mobile outdoor pig farms from notice and review if they satisfy the following criteria:

- the number of pigs does not exceed 150 sows or 1,000 standard pig units (SPU)
- the stocking density does not exceed 12 standard pig units (SPU) per hectare
- the pigs are kept outdoors on paddocks with:
  - mobile housing and feeding infrastructure that is relocated at least every three months
  - the pig paddock maintains a minimum of 50% ground cover.
- the setback requirements of Standard 3.1 are met.

Applications that meet the specified criteria will still require a planning permit but because they are considered to pose low environmental risks and amenity impacts the notice and review requirements will not apply.

10. Referring applications

Clause 66.02 of the *Victoria Planning Provisions* and all planning schemes requires an application to be referred to the relevant water board or water supply authority if the low density mobile outdoor pig farm is proposed within a Special Water Supply Catchment Area listed in Schedule 5 of the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* and which provides water to a domestic supply.

Referral of an application to the relevant water or catchment management authority may also be required in certain zones and overlays in accordance with Clause 66.03 of the *Victoria Planning Provisions* and all planning schemes.

11. Decision guidelines for assessing a low density mobile outdoor pig farm planning permit application

Before deciding on an application for a low density mobile outdoor pig farm, the responsible authority should consider whether the documentation submitted with the application satisfies the objectives and Standards specified in Section 8.

Appendix A provides some additional information to support a planner's consideration of an application.

12. Model permit conditions

Permit conditions will also assist the responsible authority to ensure a farm continues to meet specific standards is managed in a satisfactory manner.

Recommended model permit conditions are available in **Appendix B**.

Pig feed stored in a silo on a concrete pad protects the feed from pests and the elements

13. Additional information

Property Identification Code

All pig farms, including low density mobile outdoor farms, **must** have a Property Identification Code, which assists with traceability and biosecurity. Further information about PICs and how to apply for a PIC can be found on the Agriculture Victoria website.

http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/property-identification-codes

Biosecurity

Biosecurity is a set of measures or practices designed to protect against the entry and spread of pests and diseases. Effective biosecurity is important for the benefit of the farm operation and the industry as a whole.

Effective biosecurity is achieved through a combination of measures, including separating intensive livestock farms where this is possible. Separation between neighbouring pig farms is one way to limit the risk of aerosol disease spread, although this may be impractical for existing piggeries. Good biosecurity management is the first and best approach to mitigate against both endemic and exotic diseases. Agriculture Victoria can provide advice on biosecurity considerations for new farm applications in proximity to existing large intensive or sensitive pig facilities.

Further information on Victorian Biosecurity Guidelines for pig producers can be found on the Agriculture Victoria website:

http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/pigs/pig-health-and-welfare/biosecurity-guidelines-for-pig-producers

The Australian Pork Industry Quality Assurance program APIQ✓® provides an industry best practice biosecurity management checklist for small holders (Module 4):

http://www.apiq.com.au/images/stories/2017_updates/v4.3_7_2017_apiq_small_holder_manual.pdf.

The National Pig Biosecurity Manual for Pork Production:

http://www.farmbiosecurity.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/National-Farm-Biosecurity-Manual-for-Pork-Production.pdf

Appendices

Appendix A: Additional guidance for applicants and planners in the development and assessment of proposals

1. Site selection

Site selection is an important element of avoiding amenity and environmental impacts. The main factors to consider are:

- slope, location to waterways, potential for flooding
- any statutory land use planning restrictions
- availability of sufficient land area to accommodate the number of pigs proposed
- meeting required separation distances to sensitive uses, residential zones and waterways
- any possible future expansion plans.

Site selection will consider balancing ideal conditions for the pigs while minimising nutrient impact to the environment. Ideal soils are suitable for growing pastures/corps, and the landscape will have low erosion risk by being not too steep. Features that accelerate runoff, such as drains or gullies need to be managed in range areas.

2. Buffer distances from waterways

Buffers between the pig paddock boundaries and waterways help to prevent nutrient transfers in runoff or eroded soil. Nutrients and salts leaching through the soil profile can also impact the quality of groundwater. The pig paddocks should be separated from surface watercourses (such as rivers, creeks and dams) to prevent contamination of water with sediment, nutrients and organic matter.

3. Separation distances from sensitive uses and locations

Low density mobile outdoor pig farms pose a low risk of odour impact due to the low stocking densities and outdoor nature of the production system. This Guideline sets a recommended separation distance between the boundary of the pig paddock and sensitive uses (such as dwellings) and residential zones to ensure there are no acute odour, noise or visual impacts.

4. Pig farm design, operation and management

Nutrient Management Plan – guidance notes

A nutrient management plan (NMP) that demonstrates how nutrients will be managed and ground cover maintained. The NMP should comprise evidence of the following elements:

- nutrient balance plan (for farms greater than 20 sows)
- maintenance of adequate ground cover
- movement of mobile feeders and shelters within paddocks
- paddock rotation program
- soil testing and farm monitoring and management details.

Nutrient Management Plan

Nutrients brought into the paddocks as feed will mostly be deposited back onto the land as manure and will accumulate in the soils over time. Where soils are nutrient deficient, it is good practice to build the nutrients up to appropriate levels for optimal plant growth. However, once these levels have been achieved, to maintain a sustainable system, surplus nutrients will need to be removed by growing and harvesting pasture or crops.

The movement of housing infrastructure, paddock rotations, paddock resting program and maintenance of ground cover all contribute to the management of nutrients in the soil.

For farms larger than 20 sows, a more comprehensive plan is recommended to ensure that the nutrient load is anticipated and planned for through pasture growth and cropping. The nutrient plan should consist of:

- an estimate of the nutrients added by pigs
- an explanation of how these nutrients will be removed by harvesting pasture or crops. Average district yield estimates should be used in conjunction with published nutrient removal rates for the pastures or crops to be grown.

The APL Nutrient Balance calculator can be used. **http://australianpork.com.au/industry-focus/environment/planning-and-development/**

Maintenance of ground cover

Maintaining ground cover is key to farm sustainability and avoiding dust and odour nuisances to neighbours and off-site pollution. Maintaining pasture reduces the risk of erosion, dust and impacts to water quality. A well-managed pasture provides an opportunity for retaining and using the nutrients from the pigs on site and avoiding problems of excess nutrients running off into waterways or onto neighbouring properties. Low stocking levels and frequent rotations allow nutrient loads to be responsibly managed.

Ground cover is the amount of plant material (dead or alive) which covers the soil surface. It is usually expressed in percentage terms – 100% ground cover means that the soil cannot be seen and 0% ground cover is bare soil. Farming systems have ground cover in the form of annual or perennial pastures or crops.

From the Agriculture Victoria website http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/soil-and-water/erosion/groundcovering-measuring-tool

What is 50% ground cover?

50% ground cover is estimated as an average cover across the paddock that the pigs are housed in during and at the end of the pig phase. This is not an estimate of ground cover across the whole farm.

Seasonal and emergency conditions may impact on a farm's ability to maintain good ground cover. These situations should be treated as being short-term occurrences and the producer should actively manage pigs so pasture growth is restored as soon as possible.

Guidance materials are provided at the Agriculture Victoria website[2] to help farmers estimate and record ground cover. Management practices that would support maintaining 50% ground cover would include;

- choosing suitable sites
- careful selection of grass species
- light stocking densities
- frequent paddock rotation
- mobile infrastructure that is frequently relocated
- appropriate size paddocks based on stocking density and rotation frequency.

The NMP should describe how ground cover will be monitored and managed over time and how issues with maintaining ground cover will be managed if they arise.

Movement of pig housing and feeders

Key to the design of a low density mobile outdoor pig farm is that the feeding and shelter infrastructure must be **mobile**. Pigs kept outdoors exhibit distinct dunging patterns, with most manure being deposited in the high use area between the shelter and feeding area. As a result, the soil in this area has higher nutrient levels than other areas of the paddock. Paddocks and facilities (such as shelters, feeding/watering points) need careful management to avoid uncontrolled environment and amenity impacts.

Regularly moving the paddock infrastructure (housing\ feeding) around the paddock helps to effectively disperse manure nutrients over the paddock area, reducing the environmental risks of nutrient hot spots, bare patches and soil erosion around the paddock infrastructure.

The NMP needs to describe how the infrastructure will be relocated around paddocks.

Paddock rotation program

The NMP should describe the rotation plan for the pig paddock areas, the pasture or crops to be grown or other management strategies (such as grazing).

The NMP should describe the 'resting' time before pigs are returned to the paddock.

Soil Testing

Soil testing of representative pig management areas must be conducted every two years. Records of the soil tests need to be kept confirming that the soil nutrients are being maintained at a suitable level.

The NMP should describe the areas to be soil tested (similar soil type, pig class, stocking density, management practice) and how the results will be used to monitor and adjust farm practice.

Landscaping and vegetation

Protecting and making use of native vegetation and other landscaping may improve visual amenity, provide windbreaks and shade and provide protection to waterways. However, pigs can quickly destroy trees, shrubs and other vegetation by chewing, rooting, compacting the soil and concentrating nutrients. Tree guards can reduce physical damage to trees. The National Environmental Guidelines for Rotational Outdoor Piggeries 2013 provides additional information on the management of native vegetation.

2 http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/soil-and-water/erosion/groundcovering-measuring-tool

Farm management: prepared feed for pigs

Although pigs will forage on pasture, pigs need to be provided with additional nutrients in prepared feed to be productive. The nature and origin and type of prepared food that can be provided to pigs is strictly regulated. Pigs **must not** be fed or be allowed to eat meat or meat products, or anything that has been in contact with meat or meat products. This includes food scraps, bakery waste, waste from food serving establishments (restaurants, cafés, and schools) and untreated used cooking oils and fats.

Swill is the traditional name for food scraps or food waste that contains or has come into contact with meat or meat products. Swill feeding is illegal because it can carry exotic diseases that could devastate Victoria's livestock industries.

Always ask your feed supplier for a vendor declaration confirming that the feed you are purchasing does not contain swill, and always source quality assured feed.

http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/pigs/prohibited-feeding

Farm management: mortality management

In any livestock production system, some mortalities are inevitable. Appropriate management of mortalities will protect surface and ground water quality, amenity and public health and biosecurity by preventing the spread of infectious disease and problems with vermin. Suitable methods for disposing of mortalities include composting, burial, rendering and complete incineration. Composting or rendering are generally considered the optimum for mortality management. On-farm carcass disposal must meet the EPA Farm Waste Management Guidelines for Dead Stock.

http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/~/media/Publications/IWRG641.pdf

Further details on the management of mortalities can be found in Ausvetplan (2011)
https://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/what-we-do/emergency-animal-disease/ausvetplan/

Pig movement and PigPASS information for producers

All pigs dispatched from a property to another property, to a saleyard or to an abattoir must be accompanied by a correctly completed national vendor declaration (NVD) such as PigPASS NVD. PigPASS is a national tracking system which provides real time information on the movements of all pigs in Australia. This enables authorities to quickly determine the source of a disease outbreak and notify people with pigs in the affected area to stop the spread of disease.

A PigPass National Vendor Declaration (PigPass NVD) form must be completed when you move pigs from your property to another property, to a saleyard or to an abattoir, except for movement to another property where the ownership remain unchanged and the property of dispatch can be identified for the life of the pig.

This applies to all pig owners and producers, regardless of the numbers of the pigs moved.

To obtain a PigPASS or further information, call the Pig PASS helpline on **1800 001 458** or **https://pigpass.australianpork.com.au/FAQ.**

Appendix B: Model permit conditions

Use must not be altered

- The use [and/or development] as shown on the endorsed plans must not be altered without the written consent of the responsible authority. The endorsed plans include:
  - Property plan [dates/details]
  - Locality plan [dates/details]
  - Farm Management Plan [dates/details]
  - [Other plans - dates/details].
- No more than (specify number) pigs may be kept on the site at any one time unless with the written consent of the responsible authority. All pigs must be kept within the defined area as shown on the endorsed plan.

Amenity

- The use and development must be managed in accordance with the approved plans so that the amenity of the area is not detrimentally affected, through the:
  - processes carried out on the land
  - transportation of livestock, materials, good or commodities to or from the land
  - the emission of odour, dust, noise, artificial light, waste water or waste products
  - the presence of vermin
  - others as appropriate.
- If the responsible authority determines that the amenity of the nearby residents is adversely affected by the emission of an unreasonable level of odour, dust, or noise from the site, the operator must immediately and to the satisfaction of the responsible authority take action to prevent those emissions, which may include adjusting stocking density or any other actions reasonably required to rectify the unreasonable emissions.

Waste, manure and nutrient management

- The waste, manure and other by-products produced from the use must:
  - not discharge beyond the boundaries of the land or directly into waterways.
- Contaminated stormwater run-off must not be discharged to the (insert name of waterway) at any time.

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