



Introducing the Australian Meat Industry Council

By PATRICK HUTCHINSON, Chief Executive Officer – Australian Meat Industry Council (AMIC)

The Australian Meat Industry Council (AMIC) is the peak body representing retailers, processors and smallgoods manufacturers across the country. We are the only industry association representing the post-farmgate Australian meat industry.

Our sector is worth about \$21 billion per year to the Australian economy and between direct and indirect roles we are responsible for about 100,000 jobs. One of our biggest and most enduring challenges is helping government and the wider community recognise the role our 2000+ members play in the agribusiness supply chain. It's our strong belief that every part of the chain must be well supported in the interest of success for all.

We work with members, governments and industry groups to influence policy and provide technical and other services to the industry. Part of that includes working with other organisations, including Freight & Trade Alliance (FTA), to amplify our voice and get the best return on investment from our advocacy efforts.

One of the things we've done fairly recently and which I am really excited about is about the launch of the Australian Agricultural Manufacturers Alliance. The alliance was created to represent the shared interests of agri manufacturers and contribute to recognition, growth and sustainability of the sector. The first meeting included representatives of the Australian

Renderers' Association Inc, the Australian Sugar Milling Council, the Australian Chicken Meat Federation, the Australian Dairy Products Federation, the Stock Feed Manufacturers' Council of Australia, the Australian Cotton Ginners Group and the Australian Oilseeds Federation.

We've also taken up membership of Australian Peak Shippers Association (APSA), which will provide policy and operational support for meat industry participants, including on topics like the concentration of ownership of foreign shipping lines that serve exporters, rising

landside transport costs and growing concerns about diminishing competition in Australia's rail and port supply chains.

We have also recently joined the Energy Users Association, which will assist us in setting policy in this highly contentious area, and we're working towards associate membership of Animal Health Australia, which again will be a very valuable connection as we see ever more activity around welfare and wellbeing.

At the same time, we are looking at opportunities for alignment with the Australian Food and Grocery Council and the Business Council of Australia.



Irina Nikishova (FTA / APSA – second from left) with AMIC members on a port tour hosted by the Port of Melbourne

The point here is that we get better results when we work together.

We currently have five key priority areas – and several of them overlap with those of the FTA and APSA. They are:

Energy efficiency

Energy cost and supply is the most significant and pressing concern for members of the Australian Red Meat Industry, which is dealing with increasing costs, limited energy competition and limitations to the ability to implement cheaper and more sustainable options.

Access to labour

Our industry directly supports 100,000 jobs in Australia with labour accounting for 54.8% of the total cost to operate for processing establishments. But members are held back by labour deficits and a visa system not fit for purpose. Together with inadequate funding for training, this has meant that nearly two thirds (63%) of Australia's red meat processors are prevented from running at full capacity. These labour market challenges also reverberate

down the entire supply chain, including independent butchers, who are finding it increasingly difficult to fill job vacancies.

Food regulation

The red meat industry's food safety reputation is built on a strong framework of legislation, industry and government programs. The red meat industry and Australian Meat Industry Council have implemented measures along the supply chain to ensure the safety, quality and integrity of Australian produce.

Market access

Free trade agreements are essential to gaining market access and there have been some good wins on this front in recent years – but FTAs are not enough to help our members maximise their market potential. With more than 70 per cent of the beef and sheep meat produced in Australia is exported, finding its way to more than 100 international markets.

Animal welfare

AMIC and our membership are committed to proper, stringent and

accountable animal welfare practices across the supply chain. We have a welfare committee within AMIC that is solely focused on understanding and implementing best practice around welfare and we also have an independently assessed welfare certification system.

AMIC's number one goal, always, is the profitability of our members. We know the best path to profitability for our members is a thriving sector from one end of the supply chain to the other, so we're always keen to support our industry partners in achieving their goals too.



BMSB FUMIGATION

Price and Speed has fumigation capabilities to process FCL fumigation within **24 hours!***



FRESH PRODUCE



FUMIGATION FCL & LCL



DoAWR INSPECTIONS



PACK UNPACK



FREIGHT STATION

Fumigation service available **24 hours Sunday to Friday**. Saturday is open from 6:00 to 15:00. Times may vary depending on demand. Please call customer service to provide you with an exact timeframe and create a booking.

