

**BEFORE THE HEARINGS PANEL
AT THE RANGIORA TOWN HALL FUNCTION ROOM IN RANGIORA**

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991
("the Act")

AND

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management Act 1991
AND

IN THE MATTER of the hearing of submissions on The
Proposed Waimakariri District Plan
Hearing Stream 1

**STATEMENT BY PENELOPE TERI CAIRNS FOR NEW
ZEALAND PORK INDUSTRY BOARD**

27 April 2023

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

1. My name is Penelope Cairns and I have been employed as the Environmental Advisor for NZPork since March 2021.
2. I hold a Bachelor of Science from Canterbury University (1989) and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Natural Resources from the School of Forestry, University of Canterbury (1990).
3. I have 14 years of experience working in the New Zealand Agricultural Industry and I have worked in roles in local and central government in New Zealand for 9 years.

SCOPE OF EVIDENCE

4. Matters addressed in this statement are:
 - a) Background to NZPork.
 - b) Pig Farming in Waimakariri and the wider Canterbury region.
 - c) NZPork Submission.

BACKGROUND TO NZPORK

5. NZ Pork is a statutory Board funded by producer levies. It actively promotes “100% New Zealand Pork” to support a sustainable and profitable future for New Zealand grown pork. The Board’s statutory function is to act in the interests of pig farmers to help attain the best possible net on-going returns while farming sustainably into the future.
6. The New Zealand pig industry is a highly productive specialised livestock sector, well integrated within New Zealand’s primary production economic base. It draws on both downstream and upstream inputs and economic activity from New Zealand’s rural sector including feed inputs, equipment and animal health supply, transport, slaughterhouse facilities plus further processing. Currently New Zealand’s pig farmers produce around 45,350 tonnes of pig meat per year for New Zealand consumers. This represents around 38% of pig meat consumed by the domestic market, with the other 62% provided by imported pig meat from a range of countries.
7. Nationally there are less than 90 commercial pork producers, comprising a relatively small but significantly integrated sector of the New Zealand agricultural economy. In 2018 it was estimated by that the total economic activity associated with domestically farmed pigs was approximately \$750 million per annum.

8. New Zealand's pork producers are facing a number of economic, social and environmental challenges in order to remain viable. The contribution of imported pork to New Zealand's total pork consumption has increased significantly in recent years, placing further demands on producers who have responded by developing increasingly efficient systems. Currently, nearly all pork produced in New Zealand is consumed locally and makes up approximately 40% of the domestic market supply.
9. Pig farmers in New Zealand have a firm grasp of environmental issues and demonstrate a high level of innovation and environmental stewardship. The New Zealand pork industry has committed significant time and resource to Sustainable Farming Fund projects centred on environmental initiatives, including development and implementation of Environmental Guidelines (attached) and Nutrient Management Guidelines. However, profit margins for the industry remain tight and dialogue with farmers has indicated that compliance costs and uncertainty into the future are key issues.

PIG FARMING IN WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT AND THE WIDER CANTERBURY REGION

10. Waimakariri is an important district for pig farming, with almost 10% of the commercial industry based in the district, using a mixture of both indoor and outdoor farming systems. Of the 9 commercial farms in the Waimakariri District, 4 will remain in the General Rural Zone, and 5 will be in the Rural Lifestyle Zone.
11. Pigs' needs are unique compared to other farmed animals. They need constant access to shelter, a balanced diet and regular care and supervision. To meet these needs, New Zealand's commercial pig farmers have adopted a range of farming methods. Many farmers prefer indoor farming because they believe it allows them to provide the best care for the modern animal by allowing them to carefully manage their environment. Approximately 55% of New Zealand's pigs are farmed in this way.
12. The other 45% of New Zealand's commercial breeding herd is farmed outdoors. Outdoor breeding can only occur in a moderate climate with low rainfall and free-draining soil conditions. In New Zealand, these conditions are mostly found in Canterbury. In most outdoor systems, sows are farmed in groups in paddocks during gestation with huts for shelter and shade. When sows farrow, they are provided with individual, dry and draught-free huts with straw for warmth. A variety of housing systems are then used to house pigs after weaning, including indoor barns or open-air sheds.

NZPORK SUBMISSION

13. I appear today with two experts for NZPork. Ian Barugh (technical Manager with NZPork) and Vance Hodgson (Planner).
14. The evidence addresses the three NZPork submission points and one further submission point considered in the s42A reports for Hearing Stream 1.
15. The outcome sought by NZPork through these proceedings is a clear resource management strategy for pig farming activities. These activities take a variety of forms but all require a rural location to establish and operate. The evidence of Mr Barugh, describes the various systems. There are both indoor and outdoor systems and mixed arrangements. The systems rely on a range of resources including access to the rural land and soil resource.
16. As a primary production activity, indoor pig farming has a functional and operational need to locate in a rural environment. While the buildings housing pigs may not be dependent on the soil resource underneath those footprints, productive land is required to reuse effluent created by the piggery as a natural fertiliser to support crop or pasture production. Therefore, this functional and operational need often extends to requiring highly productive land to provide the maximum potential for crop or pasture growth for both economic and environmental reasons.
17. Outdoor pig farming is a soil-reliant land-based primary production activity. These activities can involve supplementary feed being brought to a site but the pigs graze the pasture and crops grown onsite and enjoy the outdoor environment these systems provide. Furthermore, the soil medium provides the ability to manage nutrient discharges.
18. Two thirds of commercial pig farms in New Zealand are situated on land classified as highly productive under the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land 2022. In addition to its ability to grow pasture and crops for outdoor farming systems, Highly productive land (LUC 1, 2, 3) provides a soil profile that is typically deeper and more readily able to manage nutrient inputs than poor quality soils. In turn, the soils recycle the nutrients into the production of pasture and crops to feed pigs within a site.
19. As stated previously, the outcome sought by NZPork through these proceedings is a clear resource management strategy for pig farming activities. We need clarity in the plans approach to the various systems, zoning arrangement and response to the National

Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land 2022.

Penelope Cairns

27 April 2023