FOOD WASTE
Can I feed it to livestock?

Food waste is a growing problem in Australia with millions of tonnes of food discarded in landfill annually. Increased community interest in local food recycling includes the suggestion that more waste could be used to feed animals. What could go wrong?

Food that must not be fed to ruminants

Restricted animal material (RAM) includes any meat or meal made from a mammal, bird or fish.

RAM includes scraps that contain meat, bakery waste such as bacon-topped rolls, dog or cat food, poultry litter and aquaculture or processing waste that contains meat spread as fertilizer.

Pig and chicken food often contains meat or fish meal, which must not be fed to ruminants.

Australia's Ruminant Feed Ban means it is illegal to feed RAM or allow ruminants to access RAM.

Animals that may not be fed RAM include cattle, sheep, goats and deer. The restrictions apply to all ruminants, even pets.

What can I feed my ruminant?

Pasture, browse, hay and silage are excellent feed for ruminants.

Commercial feed made for ruminants is suitable to feed. Look for the label: **"This product does not contain Restricted Animal Material"**.

More information on the feeding of ruminants is available on the DPIPWE website - [Biosecurity for new or small landholders](#).

What are the risks of allowing ruminants to access RAM?

RAM may contain agents that cause fatal brain diseases such as mad cow disease (not currently

Do not feed bacon-topped rolls to ruminants

present in Australia) The **Ruminant Feed Ban** prevents entry or spread of these diseases and underpins important export markets for Australia's livestock products.

A ruminant found to have consumed RAM will be identified for the rest of its life, with severe limitations on how and where the animal or products may be marketed or processed.

For more information visit our website at: **www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/biosecurity**

If you think you have an Emergency Animal Disease - call immediately (all hours and leave a message):

EMERGENCY ANIMAL DISEASE HOTLINE

📞 **1800 675 888**

Biosecurity Tasmania
Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

Tasmanian Government