

FOOD WASTE

Can I supply it to my customers to use as animal feed?

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 supplied or fed to pigs or ruminants

Food waste containing, or that has been in contact with **meat or other by-products from mammals** must not be fed to pigs or ruminants (cattle, sheep, goats or deer). This feed is defined as **prohibited feed**, known as ‘swill’ for pigs, or **Restricted Animal Material or RAM** for ruminants.

Examples of prohibited feed include table scraps, bacon-topped rolls, meat pies and sausage rolls, salads with bacon pieces, deli meats, or untreated uses cooking oils or fats.

It is illegal to feed prohibited waste to pigs or ruminants or supply for feeding to these animals, in all states of Australia.

What are the risks of supplying prohibited feed to be fed to animals?

The feeding of **prohibited feed or swill to pigs** could introduce and spread serious diseases, such as foot and mouth disease, African swine fever or classical swine fever. This may lead to the death of many thousands of animals, and severe impacts on Australia’s livestock industries.

RAM may contain agents that cause fatal brain disease in **ruminants**, such as mad cow disease. Exposed animals will be identified for life, with severe limitation on marketing of the animals.

How should I dispose of food waste?

Prohibited food waste is most safely disposed of through municipal waste or a commercial composting facility. *For other food scraps – be careful what is in the scraps fed to animals*



Photo: Tim Jewett - City of Portland

You are responsible for ensuring that prohibited waste food is not supplied to a relevant species of animal.

For further information, see “[A business guide to managing the biosecurity risks of food recycling in Australia](#)” on Australia’s [Farm Biosecurity](#) website.

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