



April 2023

# Food Waste - Can I feed it to my pigs?

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. However, 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.

## Food that must not be fed to pigs

Prohibited Pig Feed (PPF), also known as swill, is any material that contains, or has been in contact with meat of mammalian origin. This includes table scraps that have been in contact with meat, bakery goods such as meat pies or bacon and cheese rolls, salad containing meat, or untreated used cooking oils or fats. It is illegal to feed PPF to pigs in all states and territories of Australia. PPF must not be fed to any pig – this includes pet pigs and pigs kept in backyards or on hobby farms.

## What are the risks of feeding PPF?

The feeding of PPF to pigs could introduce and spread serious viral 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.

## What can I feed my pig?

Feeding your pig commercially prepared pig rations is the easiest way to ensure they receive a healthy and balanced diet. Commercial diets may



contain meat meal that has been rendered according to Australian standards – this is safe and legal.

Grass, pasture or food scraps do not generally provide enough nutrition on their own to sustain a pig, especially one that is growing, pregnant or lactating.

Food products that can be fed to pigs include eggs, milk and milk by-products of Australian origin, non-meat containing bakery foods such as bread, grains and fruit or vegetable waste that is not contaminated with meat (i.e. scraps that have not been on the same plate or cutting board as meat).

For more information visit our website at: [www.nre.tas.gov.au/biosecurity](http://www.nre.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**

**1 800 675 888**