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MEDIA RELEASE

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DON'T BRING PORK INTO AUSTRALIA

“Please don’t try to bring pork or any meat into Australia, for the health of Australia’s citizens, animals, farmers, and economy.”

That’s the message for any people traveling from China to Australia, following a recent outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF), which has spread from Russia and Europe into piggeries across China.

The disease, does not directly affect public health or food safety, but it is a terminal and highly infectious viral disease that has a serious impact for pigs. There is no cure for ASF.

As Australia is free of the top global pig diseases, ASF could be particularly devastating for our naïve pig herd and catastrophic for Australia’s pork industry, leading to substantial production, financial, people and industry impacts, along with likely export bans.

Australian Pork Limited (APL), the industry body representing Australian pig farmers, is calling on all travellers returning from China to do the right thing, and respect Australia’s biosecurity protocols.

Do not bring meat of any kind including fresh, dried, frozen, cooked, smoked, salted or preserved, from all animal species, into Australia. Any passengers carrying and not declaring these goods when entering the country face fines of up to A\$420 000 and imprisonment for up to 10 years¹.

It is also illegal to feed any pork or pork products to pigs, as this is thought to be the way ASF originally spread to Europe. This is called swill feeding and is prohibited in Australia.

APL CEO, Andrew Spencer said Australia is one of the few countries to remain free from highly damaging pig diseases that could devastate Australia’s pork production systems and cause significant pain to animals.

“Australian pork is of the highest quality, produced under stringent, world-leading animal welfare standards and biosecurity systems,” he said.

“On behalf of Australia’s 2,500 pig farmers and 36,000 pork supply chain workers, I call on all travellers returning from China to do the right thing, respect our biosecurity laws and not to bring pork or any meat into the country.

“Not only will you be protecting our livestock from painful and devastating diseases, you will be supporting Australia’s farmers, and helping ensure Australia’s status as a premium supplier of delicious pork.”

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¹ Australian Government, Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, Arriving in Australia Biosecurity Fact Sheet, <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/SiteCollectionDocuments/arriving-english-factsheet.pdf>