

**BEFORE THE HEARING COMMISSIONERS
AT ROLLESTON**

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

AND

IN THE MATTER of the Proposed Selwyn District Plan

Hearing Topic 1 – Strategic Directions

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

23 July 2021

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

1. The New Zealand Pork Industry Board (NZ Pork) appreciates the opportunity to make a submission on the Proposed Selwyn District Plan. 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 12 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 Selwyn and the wider Canterbury region.
 - c) A rural based Strategic Objective.
5. As this is the first hearing at which NZPork will appear, I have provided an overview of NZPork and pig farming in New Zealand and Selwyn District. I will not repeat this in future statements.
6. In preparing this statement I have relied on the planning assessment of Mr Vance Hodgson (planning witness for NZPork) as to how the matters raised in the submission and further submission of NZPork addressed in proposed Selwyn District Plan (Topic 1 – Strategic Directions) might be addressed.

BACKGROUND TO NZPORK

7. 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.
8. 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. Nationally there are less than 100 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.

9. 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.
10. 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 SELWYN DISTRICT AND THE WIDER CANTERBURY REGION

11. Selwyn is an important district for pig farming, with almost 20% of the commercial industry based in the district, using a mixture of both indoor and outdoor farming systems.
12. 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.

13. The other 45% of New Zealand's commercial breeding herd is farmed outdoors. Outdoor breeding (also called free-farmed pork) 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 free-farmed 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.

RECOGNITION OF PRIMARY PRODUCTION IN STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

14. NZPork seeks recognition of primary production within the Strategic Objectives of the proposed Selwyn District Plan to ensure rural production activities, in particular pig farming, is enabled and supported.
15. Mr Vance Hodgson has assessed the elements set out in the NZPork suggested Strategic Objectives, considered these against the s42A report writers' opinion, the existing Strategic Objectives and discussed with other primary sector partners (Federated Farmers, Horticulture New Zealand) to which NZPork was a further submitter. I also attended that discussion where together we clarified the key elements we considered necessary in a Strategic Objective. Based on that process Mr Hodgson has suggested the following rural Strategic Objective:

Selwyn's productive land and versatile soil is retained for rural production, and rural production activities are enabled to ensure that rural communities can thrive, use resources efficiently and contribute positively to the district and national identity and economy.

16. Mr Hodgson is not attending the hearing today and I am not appearing as a planning witness. Notwithstanding this I do consider the addition of the Strategic Objective suggested by Mr Hodgson would resolve the issues of concern raised in the submission of NZPork on the Strategic Directions chapter.

Penelope Cairns

23 July 2021