



Company: PIC Australia Pty Ltd	Issue date: 11 January 2024
Document: 21B PIC AEC Project Proposal V6.doc	Authorised: AEC Co ordinator
PIC Australia Ltd AEC Project Proposal to Use Animals for a Scientific Purpose	

Title of Project: Commercial-in-Confidence: Yes / No Proposal is of commercial relevance Yes/No
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This form is to be used for submission to the PIC Australia Ltd Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) for research project proposals.

Important Notices

The 'Applicant' is the entity submitting this proposal.

The PIC Australia Ltd Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) deems the applicant to be in charge of the project and to be responsible for:

- The conduct of the project in accordance with AEC approval, the *NSW Animal Research Act 1985*, *Animal Research Regulation 2021* the *Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes*, 8th Edition 2013 (the Code) and all other relevant Commonwealth and State legislation.
- The submission of all necessary reports, notices and advices as required by the AEC.

As an AEC approval is not transferable, it may not be appropriate for an employee of an external entity (eg a company or institution) to be the applicant. If an employee is the applicant and leaves the company or institution, the company or institution cannot continue to use the approval.

Investigators and trainers involved in the scientific use of animals have personal responsibility for all matters related to the wellbeing of the animals they use and must act in accordance with all requirements of the Code. This responsibility begins when an animal is allocated to a project and ends with its fate at the completion of the project. Investigators and trainers involved in the scientific use of animals have an obligation to treat animals with respect and to consider their wellbeing as an essential factor when planning and conducting projects.

All text boxes will expand automatically to accommodate entry. Do not remove/alter formatting, headers or footers. Any changes/deletions to headers, footers or formatting may result in the proposal being declined and returned to the applicant.

All pages must be submitted electronically in Word format to your AEC coordinator: steve.peucker@sunporkfarms.com.au

AEC USE ONLY			
Proposal Reference Number:		Date Assessed:	
Assessment Category: (cross one box only)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved as submitted			
<input type="checkbox"/> Approved subject to modifications / clarification			
<input type="checkbox"/> Amend prior to resubmission			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pending			
<input type="checkbox"/> Rejected			
Signature of Chair:			
Initials of Members			
Category A:	Category B:	Category C:	Category D:
Monitoring concerns:			



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1. Title of project

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1.1 Applicant details - Applicant's contact person details

Company:		
Name:		
Address:		
Relationship to Applicant (eg employee, consultant, vet etc):		
Phone:	Fax:	E Mail:

1.2 Provide particulars of any cancellation of any animal research authority previously held by the investigators and details of any conviction relating to animal welfare.

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1.3 Description of animals used in project

Put total for project here with detail in 3.3 for individual trials if required, fill out as appropriate for the species to be used (domestic mammals - pig; birds - poultry). If rows are insufficient attach a separate appendix detailing complete animal list.

Animal Type	Scientific name	Class	Sex*	Number
Pigs	<i>Sus scrofa domestica</i>			
Total number of animals to be used for this project (include control and replacement animals)				
*Use either: Prenatal, Newborn, Juvenile / Weaner, Adults, Male Finishers, Genetically Modified Organisms, others (describe)				

1.4 Categorisation of research uses in animals



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All animal use activities covered by a standing operating procedure (SOP) have been allocated to a category to indicate the activity and impact on animals. The categories are set out in the table below:

Approval Category	Type of Project	Type of Procedure
1	Research with limited impact	Designed experiments using normal husbandry practices
2	Research with moderate – severe animal impact	Repetitive techniques not normal husbandry practices eg. blood collection, fistulae or original and infrequently used techniques not covered by standard SOP
3	Activities with severe animal welfare implications	LD50 tests restricted under the Animal Research Act. Approval only by the appropriate authority. Attach evidence of approval

1.5 Project

Give the proposed start and end dates, of the project

Start Date: _____ End date: _____
(3years max duration)

1.6 Special Consideration

1.6.1 Does the project involve any recombinant DNA technology, infectious, toxic, radioactive or carcinogenic agents that may be harmful to other animals or to people? If so you must advise all personnel involved. Provide details below of such agents and their possible impact as well as appropriate licences/permits/authorities.

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1.6.2 Collaboration

Does this project involve collaboration with external agencies (eg. institutions, companies, individuals etc.)?

- ☐ Yes (If yes complete Section 1.5.2)
☐ No (If no go to Section 1.5.3)

Name of collaborator(s) / relevant institution or organisation:

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Details of the collaboration:

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Details of any applications to, and approval from, other institutional Animal Ethics Committees

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(Please attach a copy of the application submitted and notification of approval from your collaborator's AEC)

1.6.3 Funding: Identify the principle source of funding for this project:

Nature of the funding source ie company funds, External Agency, External Grant, Commercial, Private, Other:
Name of Funding body/source:
Commercial-in-Confidence: Yes/No
Exact title of funding application:
1 st Named Investigator on funding application:
Administering Organisation/Institution:
Date of submission of application:
Period of funding:
Does the animal work described in the funding application correspond exactly to that described in this animal ethics application, including experimental groups and animal numbers? Yes / No

1.6.4 Is AEC approval also being sought through another AEC? If so name the other AEC and give reasons for proposal for joint approvals.

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2. Justification for Animal Use (justification)

2.1 Big Picture Background

It is essential that this section is easily understood by those without technical and scientific knowledge. In plain, clear and concise English (use lay language, avoid jargon and acronyms and use a glossary if necessary) put the project into context (the big picture). In particular, write this section so that AEC members without a veterinary or scientific background can understand what has led to the current situation (including reference to earlier work or this project being part of a larger body of work), the need that exists and how the benefits of the use of the animal/s outweigh the potential costs to the animal/s.

Glossary: (include here an explanation of acronyms, technical terms and all abbreviations)



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The Big Picture:

2.2 Objectives and purpose of proposed animal use and alternatives (replacement)

2.2.1 Detail the objective and purpose of animal use

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2.2.2 Will any animal be used for teaching or training activities within this project?

Indicate **YES/NO**

2.2.3 Is the research to be undertaken, required to be conducted under Australian commercial farming conditions to achieve relevant outcomes and results?

Indicate **Yes / NO**

If YES, please justify why in section 5.3.1 of the proposal.

2.2.4 If all or some of this project is a *repeat* of work that has been done already, provide justification for this project.

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2.2.5 Explain why you need to use live animals to achieve all or some of your aims.

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2.2.6 List alternatives to live animals that COULD be used in this project and explain why such alternatives are unsuitable for this project or list those used in conjunction with this project.

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3. Experimental Design of Project (reduction/refinement)

3.1 Justification for number of animals

Justify why the proposed number of animals is appropriate to achieve the aims.

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3.2 Reuse of animals and/or tissues



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- 3.2.1 Have any of the animals proposed to be used, already been used in a project? If yes, give the name and approval number of this project and state how they were used. State why do you consider it beneficial to use these animals again rather than 'new' animals?

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- 3.2.2 Is there an opportunity to reduce any future use of animals by way of sharing animals/tissues/data with other investigators/teachers/trainers? This may involve consultation. What is proposed?

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3.3 Experimental design

- 3.3.1 Category of Procedure

Please indicate v

Observational studies involving minor interference	
Animal unconscious without recovery	
Conscious intervention (minor) without anaesthesia	
Operative procedures (minor) with recovery	
Surgery with recovery	
Minor physiological challenge	
Major physiological challenge	
Death as an end point (not euthanasia); for example: LD50 or lethality tests where death as an end point was a deliberate, planned part of the procedure.	

- 3.3.2 Where applicable include a table showing treatments and group sizes and outlining trial design in this space

Design type:	
Number of treatments:	Treatment type:
What is the experimental unit?	
Number of experimental units (replicates) per treatment:	
Total number of experimental units for the experiment:	
Number of animals per experimental unit (if relevant):	
Primary variable:	

- 3.3.3 If you propose that experimental design is not needed for the justification of this activity, you must provide your reasoning here



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3.4 Biometrician's comments if required by the AEC

BIOMETRICIAN USE ONLY Experimental Design Evaluation		
Biometrician Name:	Indicate evaluation outcome:	
Job Title:	Accepted Experimental Design	
Organisation:	Accepted Experimental Design with Modification	
Phone:	Unacceptable Experimental Design	
Comments		
Signature:	Date:	

4. Sequence of Procedures and their Impacts on Animals (refinement via design and monitoring)

4.1 Sequence of procedures

List the sequence of procedures in the project as an activity schedule or timeline, beginning when animals are allocated to the project and ending with their fate at the completion of the project. The schedule or timeline should identify clearly the timing and duration of every procedure, including the number and duration of any component phases and/or any repetitive activities.

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4.2 Details of procedures

In plain English give details of each procedure listed in 4.1. Use a heading for each explanation of procedures, which is the same as the procedures used in 4.1.

Details provided should include, but need not be limited to, the following as appropriate to the proposal).

- All administered substances (name, toxicity, action, route, dose, frequency)
- All procedures carried out on animals (eg sampling method, frequency, amount, special housing, handling and restraint)
- How each procedure may impact negatively on the animals
- How any negative impacts on animals will be minimised
- How the impact on animals will be monitored, assessed and managed, including method and frequency of monitoring (during and after procedures)

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4.3 Management procedures differing from the Code

Will any routine husbandry or management procedures be done which are not compliant with any of the relevant Codes? If so, detail and justify

4.4 Animal treatment/withdrawal and euthanasia decision

4.4.1 Detail the specific criteria which will result in animals being treated or withdrawn from the project or euthanased. Describe what will be done. Insert a decision tree for enacting treatment, withdrawal or euthanasia (specifying the method) in each case as applicable to this project.

4.4.2 What arrangements are in place for contacting somebody who is competent and authorised to treat/withdraw animals (including euthanasing) in an emergency?

4.4.3 Emergency contact details. In the event of an emergency involving animals in this project, please provide after hours contact numbers for the appropriate people

Name	Phone	Role	Comments

4.5 Fate of the animals at the end of the project:

If sold give details of expected fate; if euthanased, detail method of euthanasia; if to be transferred to another project, give details



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4.6 Death as an End Point

If your project requires animals to die as a deliberate measure for evaluating biological or chemical processes, responses or effects (as opposed to be euthanased), justify this here

4.7 Routine Animal Monitoring and Management

5. Animal Ownership, Location, Housing and Management (refinement via management)

5.1 Sources of animals

5.1.1 Name the source(s) of the animals and list any permits necessary to acquire, transport or use these animals.

5.1.2 Describe transport arrangements for animals acquired for this project. (It is your responsibility to ensure that animals being transported specifically for this project are transported in a manner that is cognisant of the species special needs and will minimise the chance of stress or injury at all stages of the transport operation. Where possible, this should involve following current Codes for the transport of animals.

5.2 Location of Project

Where applicable, give the name and location of sites with a contact phone and fax number. State who will own the animals whilst they are in the project.

5.3 Details and description of Housing Facilities and Equipment

5.3.1 If answered YES to section 2.2.3 Please provide justification as to why the proposal requires animals to housed under Australian Commercial conditions and therefore doesn't conform to the Animal Research Review Panel (ARRP) recommendation of using the European Convention for the



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Protection of Vertebrate Animals used for Experimental and Other Scientific Purposes standards for housing and space allowance (Appendix A – Article 5).

- 5.3.2 Name the type of facilities (eg animal house and experimental pens). Name any special features of the facilities or management, which could impact on the animals' wellbeing (such as confinement of individuals in metabolism crates; abnormal group size; stocking rate; and exposure).

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- 5.3.3 Give a description of each facility/piece of equipment listed in 5.3.2 (eg dimensions, materials, feed and water supply, environmental control, or protection shelter, bedding, environmental enrichment - please specify form of enrichment or bedding if provided). List the relevant Codes or other approved standards that are applicable (**include actual information from the Code on minimum standard**).

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- 5.3.4. Please provide justification if NO enrichment or bedding is provided.

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- 5.3.5 Give details of group size and composition and stocking rate/space allocation. (Include information from Codes or other applicable standards as a comparison where applicable.
See Appendix 1 for space requirements.

Aust Model Code of Practice for Animals – Pigs 3 rd ed requires a minimum space allowance for ____ kg pig is ____ m ² /pig. The equivalent requirements under the European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals (Appendix A) used for Experimental and other Scientific Purposes is minimum space allowance for ____ kg is ____ m ² /pig.

- 5.3.6 If the animal facilities/equipment do not comply with the relevant Codes or other agreed standards then describe and justify.

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- 5.3.7 Workplace Health and Safety

Describe any workplace health and safety issues concerning the activity.
Procedures to be implemented to ensure health and safety of project personnel and employees.

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5.3.8 Trial pig identification

Describe the system you will use to clearly identify trial pigs on farm records so that traceability is maintained for the duration of their time on farm.

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6. People and Procedures Involved in the Project

6.1 People and Procedures

Provide details for each person who will be involved in the project. Please note that any future change to the list of people involved in the project and/or their details requires AEC approval of the amendment. *Additional rows can be added by using the "Tab" key.*

Person's name location and organisation	Role in Project	List each procedure the person may perform in the project (may enter 'all in 4.1' if appropriate)	Relevant qualifications and experience	Do you assure the AEC that this person is competent to perform each listed procedure <u>or</u> will be supervised by a competent person)? (Y/N)	Legal basis for this person's use of animals * (eg enter '2' for staff acting in the course of their retainer)	Name of registered person to whom this person is responsible: (enter name shown on Scientific user Registration Certificate)	Registration Number: (enter number shown on Scientific User Registration Certificate)
							(hit "Tab" key to add more rows)

*Use the following numeric Code to describe the legal basis on which the person is authorised to use animals for scientific purposes under the Animal Research Act 1985:

1. A registered person;
2. An individual retained (ie employed or engaged whether or not for remuneration) by a registered person acting in the course of their retainer;
3. A student at a college, institute, school, university or other institution that is registered and acting in the course of their studies with the institution.



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6.2 Routine monitoring and euthanasia

These are the people who will provide routine monitoring and care during weekdays and at weekends and holidays. Please ensure those indicated as authorised to treat animals comply with the Veterinary Practice Act 2003 New South Wales. If rows are insufficient, copy table to a new page.

Person's name, location and organisation	Person's contact details	Indicate the procedure the person may perform		Do you assure the AEC that this person is competent to perform each listed procedure <u>or</u> will be supervised by a competent person (Y/N)
		Undertake routine animal monitoring		
		Recognise sick, injured, or moribund animals		
		Treat animals		
		Euthanase animals		
		Undertake routine animal monitoring		
		Recognise sick injured or moribund animals		
		Treat animals		
		Euthanase animals		
		Undertake routine animal monitoring		
		Recognise sick injured or moribund animals		
		Treat animals		
		Euthanase animals		



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		Undertake routine animal monitoring		
		Recognise sick injured or moribund animals		
		Treat animals		
		Euthanase animals		
		Undertake routine animal monitoring		
		Recognise sick injured or moribund animals		
		Treat animals		
		Euthanase animals		



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Appendix 1

Australian Model Code of Practice-Pigs		Coles specifications	European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals Used for Experimental and other Scientific Purposes		
Pig Weight	Minimum space allowance m ² / pig	Minimum space allowance m ² /pig (deep litter)	Pig Weight	Minimum floor area per animal (m ² / pig)	Minimum lying area per animal (in thermoneutral conditions) - m ² / animal.
1kg	0.03	0.03 (0.04)	Up to 5 kgs	0.20	0.10
5kg	0.09	0.09 (0.12)	5-10kgs	0.25	0.11
10kg	0.14	0.15 (0.19)	10-20kgs	0.35	0.18
20kg	0.22	0.23 (0.30)	20-30kgs	0.50	0.24
30kg	0.29	0.31 (0.40)	30-50kgs	0.70	0.33
40kg	0.36	0.37 (0.48)	50-70kgs	0.80	0.41
50kg	0.41	0.43 (0.56)	70-100kgs	1.00	0.53
60kg	0.47	0.49 (0.64)	100- 150kgs	1.35	0.70
70kg	0.52	0.54 (0.71)	Over 150kgs	2.50	0.95
80kg	0.57	0.59 (0.77)	Adult	Min enclosure size 7.5 m ²	1.30
90kg	0.61	0.64 (0.83)	Boars	Min enclosure size 7.5 m ²	1.30
100kg	0.66	0.69 (0.90)			
110kg	0.70	0.73 (0.95)			
120kg	0.74	0.78 (1.01)			
Gilts in group housing	1.00	1.5			
Sows in group housing	1.4	1.5			
New crate installations	0.5 X 2	0.5 x 2 (but 24 hr limit)			
Farro wing crate & creep area	3.2	3.2			
Boars in individual pens (living space)	6.0	6.0 (3 .6m ² minimum pen size)			
Adult pigs in stalls Sows Boars	0.6 X 2.2 0.7 X 2.4				
Farrowing pen	5.6/sow				



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7. Projects in New South Wales

Provide particulars of any cancellation of any animal research authority previously held by the investigators:

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8. New South Wales Department of Primary Industries Requirements

New South Wales Department of Primary Industries Renewal of Accreditation as an Animal Research Establishment conditions:

- That any inspection is satisfactory
- Unless otherwise approved by the AEC, animals should be housed in accordance with the ARRPP guidelines on animal housing for specific species found at <http://www.animaethics.org.au/policies-and-guidelines/animal-care>
- The only research that may be conducted in NSW is studies using pigs located at 314 River Road, Grong Grong, NSW 2652 and 389 Pinehope Rd, Grong Grong NSW 2652.
- The Pig Improvement Company Australia Animal Ethics Committee must inspect the pig facilities at 314 River Road, Grong Grong NSW 2652 and 389 Pinehope Rd, Grong Grong NSW 2652 at least twice annually. The inspections will be organised by the AEC and should be carried out while research is being conducted at the facility. It is the responsibility of the principal investigator to inform the administration officer of the PIC AEC when the project has commenced.



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9. Declarations

Title of Project - Repeat here as this page is sometimes faxed separately with all signatures.

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Applicant

I, being the applicant or their duly authorised agent, assure the AEC that:

- Adequate resources will be available to undertake the project
- I and all others involved in the project are familiar, and will comply with the requirements of the *Animal Research Act 1985 New South Wales, Animal Research Regulation 2021, the Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes, 8th Edition 2013* and all other relevant Commonwealth and State legislation
- I and all others involved in the project are familiar, and will comply with the requirements of the Animal Research Act 1985 New South Wales
- I will ensure that all personnel involved will comply with all requirements of New South Wales Department of Primary Industries
- I and all others involved in the project will adhere to all requirements of the AEC including the provision of reports, notices and advices
- Details of findings must be reported in annual and final reports as required

Name:	Position:
Signature:	Date:

Project Personnel

We the undersigned assure the AEC that:

- I am familiar with, and will comply with the requirements of the *Animal Research Act 1985 New South Wales, Animal Research Regulation 2021, the Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes, 8th Edition 2013* and all other relevant Commonwealth and State legislation
- I and all others involved in the project are familiar, and will comply with the requirements of the Animal Research Act 1985 New South Wales
- I will ensure that all personnel involved will comply with all requirements of New South Wales Department of Primary Industries
- I will adhere to all requirements of the AEC

Name:	Position:
Signature:	Date:

Name:	Position:
Signature:	Date:



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Name:	Position:
Signature:	Date:

NB: The signed authority from the host farm company for collaborative projects must be attached.
(Copy page if required)