

Media Release



Victorian
Farmers
Federation

11 December 2019

VFF welcomes biosecurity funding

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) has welcomed the additional \$66.6 million to further assist in the protection of the Australian pork industry from threat of African Swine Fever.

“This time of year is important for the Australian pork industry, consumers need to have confidence they are purchasing safe Australian products for their meals this festive season.” said Mr Kingma, VFF Pig Group President.

In the event African Swine Fever enters Australia, it would decimate the \$5.2 billion dollar pork industry.

“All efforts must be made to keep African Swine Fever out of Australia as there is no vaccine or cure for the disease. In the event there is an outbreak, the Australian pork industry would be wiped out,” said Mr Kingma.

Biosecurity is critical to the success of all industries within Australian agriculture. The increase in funding and resources will assist in the protection of our fresh cut flower industry, meat industries and horticulture industry.

“Strong biosecurity measures are critical to protecting agricultural family businesses, ensure we have food security and maintains our strong market position with our trading partners,” said VFF President David Jochinke.

The advancement of the biosecurity levy as announced in May 2018 is another step in ensuring Australia has adequate protections for agricultural industry.

“As Australia moves towards being a \$100 billion industry, the job of maintaining strong biosecurity across the country is going to be an ever-growing responsibility. It is essential that biosecurity is adequately funded to keep pace with the industry, market demands and consumer expectation,” said Mr Jochinke.

ENDS

Media Contacts:

David Jochinke, VFF President, 0427 834 524

Tim Kingman, VFF Pig Group President, 0439 877 262

Grady Powell, VFF Stakeholder Policy and Advocacy Manager, 0459 960 243