

MEDIA RELEASE

Adrian Pederick MP JP

Member for Hammond

Opposition Whip

Shadow Minister for

Agriculture, Food & Fisheries and Forests

Tuesday November 9, 2010

Coles change of heart on pork ban applauded

A major supermarket's decision to extend a ban to include pork meat imports has been welcomed by the state opposition.

Shadow Agriculture Minister Adrian Pederick said Coles' ban on pork meat from Australian producers using gestation or sow stalls had the potential to destroy the country's pork industry.

"If that were to happen, the ultimate consequence would be that we lose an important industry and finish up importing product from countries where no such rules exist.

'Coles stated aim of improving the welfare of pigs would backfire in a big way.

'I am pleased that they have now made the decision to extend the ban to pig meat imports. Our bi-partisan approach in state parliament condemning their discriminatory ban and demanding a rethink may have convinced them that the public would not 'buy' their story for long.

'I congratulate Coles' management on taking this prompt, responsible action.

"Australian pig farmers have a code of practice to implement progressively that will address animal welfare issues.

'The federal government needs to press all states to adopt the code quickly so that changes can occur around the country in a manageable and effective way without placing any state at a disadvantage.'