



# Permethrin for use on pigs under emergency permit

## Submission to the APVMA

Submission of the  
Australian Veterinary Association Ltd

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## The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA)

The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) is the national organisation representing veterinarians in Australia. The AVA consists of over 8500 members who come from all fields within the veterinary profession. Clinical practitioners work with companion animals, horses, farm animals, such as cattle and sheep, and wildlife. Government veterinarians work with our animal health, public health and quarantine systems while other members work in industry for pharmaceutical and other commercial enterprises. We have members who work in research and teaching in a range of scientific disciplines. Veterinary students are also members of the Association.

## Background

The APVMA have issued a Trade Advice Notice indicating that it is considering an application to issue an emergency use permit for permethrin in pigs. This is aimed at assisting in the control of mosquito vectors of Japanese encephalitis.

## Discussion

AVA strongly supports the proposed use of permethrin for use on pigs under emergency permit.

JEV has had a substantial impact on Australian pig health and productivity, with 80 infected herds nationally and an estimated 60% of the national pig industry impacted.

Pigs are considered major amplifiers of JEV and that JEV in humans is a significant public health risk. Management of mosquito vectors in piggeries and specifically on pregnant sows is critical to mitigating both pig and human health risks.

Currently there are no direct-to-pig mosquito control products registered in Australia that provide multi-day protection. There are only two currently registered and permitted options for direct application to pigs, however both of these have a duration of effect is limited to hours. As such, they are impractical for effective mosquito control.

The products proposed in the permit are already registered for use in cattle and horses for control of biting insects, and that permethrin is widely used around the world for mosquito control in livestock.

The AVA strongly endorses issuance of this permit as it will provide the pig industry with a mosquito control alternative that delivers multiday efficacy to support control of JEV vectors. The AVA further endorses this permit with consideration to other vector borne or spread diseases such as African swine fever that the industry is actively preparing for.

Based on guidance provided by members of the Consultative Committee on Emergency Animal Disease (CCEAD) JEV National Vector Management Working Group, the AVA supports that this proposed use does not present a risk to trade.

We do however seek some clarification on the application of the emergency permit. Page four of the Trade Advice Notice states:

*The proposed use is for the topical pour-on application of the maximum dose rate of 6.9 mg permethrin/kg bw to pigs every 14 days, in conjunction with a 14-daymeat withholding period, for the treatment of biting insect pests including mosquitoes.*

Restrictions on the label specifically state that the product is not to be used more than three times in any given 12 month period.



This is important because it makes the difference between a sow being treated at 14 day intervals as often as required during the vector season or a sow only being treated up to a maximum of 3 times annually – which would not even covering the gestation length of a sow let alone the vector season.

### **Recommendation**

- That the emergency use permit for the use of permethrin on pigs be approved.
- That the potential constraints of the product label be considered and the permit adjusted if needed to allow more frequent application than 3 times per year.

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