

final report

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AMPC/MLA Meat Industry Environmental Technology Tour 2008

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Contents

	Page
1 Environmental Technology Tour – Summary Report.....	3

1 Environmental Technology Tour –

MLA and AMPC have for the fifth consecutive year assisted Australian meat processors' vision of the future by promoting and funding an industry Technology Tour. The purpose of the Technology Tour concept is to take future industry leaders outside the comfort zone of their own plants and expose them to alternate thinking in a range of industries. It also allows participants to network closely with their peers in a confined environment for an extended period and in doing so become aware of other problems and solutions within the meat industry.

In 2008 the focus of the Technology tour has again been on environmental innovation. Sites visited were not only environmentally innovative meat processors but also processors in other food sectors and even sites outside the food industry altogether. To maintain a fresh focus from previous years' Technology Tours, many of the sites visited were new to the Technology Tour itinerary.

This year the 16 tour members who participated, on either a full time or 1 part time basis, represented processors in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. The Technology Tour has truly become a national event. Also travelling as part of the tour party was a full time tour coordinator and representatives from MLA and AMPC.



The tour group inside AMCOR's processing plant

The tour party travelled through Queensland and Victoria and visited:

- AJ Bush & Sons, Beaudesert – Methane recovery from anaerobic pond

- Thiess Services, Swanbank – Methane recovery from landfill
- University of Queensland Advanced Water Management Centre – Current and future research in meat industry waste water treatment
- AMCOR Paper Board Plant – Cardboard recycling and water reuse modelling
- Brisbane Water, Seventeen Mile Rocks – Sewer mining and reed-bed treatment for park irrigation
- Brisbane Water, Wynnum – Advanced effluent treatment to potable standard
- Szencorp, Sth Melbourne – Australia's only 6 green star building, designed for environmental efficiency
- Smorgon Fuels – Biodiesel manufacture from a range of feedstocks including tallow
- CRF (Colac Otway), Colac – Carbon Dioxide based refrigeration and heat recovery from boiler stacks and effluent streams
- Warrnambool Cheese and Butter Factory – Methane recovery from an anaerobic lagoon
- Midfield Meat International, Warrnambool – Baleen filters, Geothermal bore, Distech waste heat vacuum distillation and Scada energy management
- Warrnambool Saleyards, Warrnambool – Baleen filters and Geobags

Each site offered insights into the innovative use of technology. The sites visited provided technical support from the individual staff members involved in the development and implementation of the innovation or where possible, sites were supported by their innovation partners. This focus on technical support ensured that all members of the Technology Tour received not only a close up look at plant and equipment but also an in-depth technical explanation of each technology or innovation observed.



Members of the group at Brisbane Water's Wynnum treatment plant



Members of the group observing the solar cells on the roof at Szencorp's 6 green star building

With the tour group again containing mostly younger members, this activity has become established as a pathway for meat processors of the future and of particular benefit to those who would be likely future leaders within the companies involved.