

# **Assessment of compliance with NSW brand legislation of peri-urban and regional saleyards and abattoirs**

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At the end of the university semester, I was faced with two choices which were polar opposites of each other – either do nothing all summer (lazy days at the beach, long nights out with friends), or be insanely busy (long days peering into pig pens, ever longer nights in motel rooms far from home). Committing myself to the more productive option was easy – my lecturer/AB-CRC contact won me over with fantastic tales of endless driving, passionate data collection, and the dreamy promise of being a published author.

The Pig Tattoo Project involved me visiting the saleyards in Camden and Forbes, as well as the abattoirs in Wollondilly and Young. I completed three trips to each facility, collecting data on the presence/absence of tattoo brands (legally required on all pigs greater than 25kg going to sale in NSW). Also, I recorded the legibility of the brands that were present, and determined the reasons for illegible results. The positions of the brands were similarly noted. Finally, when the dust had settled (ie. data entered into computer), I stuck my teeth into analyzing the results – and the resulting picture they painted was very interesting! Definitely keep an eye out for when the results are published!

Overall, I had a fantastic time over this summer, made especially enjoyable because of the support I received from the entire Pig Group at Sydney University. They provided me with my first foray into the world that is “research”, and demonstrated the endless passion, dedication and hard work that goes into every research program. (Coincidentally, I also developed a lovely tan at the saleyards, so who needs the beach anyway?)