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Road project threatens pig farm



Tahiti, September 2, 2026 - A road development project is causing serious concern in the heart of the Titaaviri valley, in Papeari. The cause: the route of a new traffic lane serving an industrial zone, which would cross the pig farm from one side to the other.

Asked to assess the situation of a road project aimed at serving an industrial zone and which would cross a pig farm from one

side to the other, in Papeari, the Animal Health Defence Group of French Polynesia (GDS-A PF) has just issued a particularly unfavourable technical opinion, pointing to major health, economic and zootechnical risks. With a capacity of about 200 breeding sows, this structure is a link in the local pig industry and in the supply of the territorial slaughterhouse. However, for the experts of the GDS-A PF, the installation of a road in the middle of the facilities disrupts the health and operational balance of the operation.

Threats to biosecurity and animal welfare

Until now preserved by its isolation at the bottom of the Titaaviri valley, the farm would be exposed to a flow of vehicles and outside people. This increased comings and goings would significantly increase the risk of introducing pathogens – carried by tires, shoes or food waste. A health crisis in this area would have immediate repercussions on local meat production, warns GDA-A PF. In addition to the infectious threat, the organisation warns of the noise pollution generated by traffic to the industrial zone.

As pigs are very sensitive to noise, this prolonged stress could seriously alter the performance of the farm: decrease in reproduction, increase in neonatal mortality, decrease in growth and increased aggressiveness (bites, tail docking).

A brake on the development of the sector

Logistically, the passage of a road would divide the site, complicating the daily movement of employees, equipment and livestock. Even more critical: this infrastructure would compromise the farmer's expansion projects. Currently split between a maternity workshop in Papeno'o and fattening workshops in Papeari, the farm planned to group everything together on the Titaaviri



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site in order to eliminate the transport of piglets between the two municipalities.

As the plot of land targeted to accommodate the new maternity hospital is located directly on the route of the road, this strategic grouping is now threatened. In its conclusions signed by its director and veterinarian, Joséphine Malafesse, the GDS-A PF believes that the roadway project would deal a hard blow to biosecurity, animal welfare and the very future of this farm.

Written by Bertrand PREVOST on Wednesday, September 2, 2026 at 3:36 PM | Read 1403 times



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