

final report

Project code: B.CMM.0183
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Date published: 30 August 2018

PUBLISHED BY
Meat and Livestock Australia Limited
PO Box 1961
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2059

The Leucaena Network secretariat support 2017-2018

Meat & Livestock Australia acknowledges the matching funds provided by the Australian Government to support the research and development detailed in this publication.

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Abstract

The main activities and achievements over the last 12 months have involved the Redlands for Regions project and providing secretarial and technical support to the new Executive Officer. The long-term financial future of The Leucaena Network will depend on increasing membership and securing external funding assistance. Improved availability of Redlands seed along with animal production data should see a significant expansion in Leucaena plantings. The future of Leucaena will be assured when a sterile variety of Leucaena is commercially available.

Executive summary

The role of secretariat took on more focus during 2017 when there was a change over from one Executive Officer to the next. This was an important period where new funding models were being developed and the Redlands for Regions project was in its initial stages.

During this period, the secretariat supported the Executive Committee in appointing a new Executive Officer, kept up to date with administration duties and communicated on a regular basis with Meat & Livestock Australia.

A summary of activities and achievements appears later in this report.

The future of The Leucaena Network will depend on continued membership and external funding, the promotion of the Redlands variety and if a sterile and productive variety can be developed. The Target Markets for Adoption project being managed by the Rural Consulting Group will be an important landmark for The Leucaena Network with the final report for this project is due at the end of 2018.

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1. Milestone description

1.1. Milestone 4 – due 31 August 2018

Final report summarising activities and achievements.

2. Project objectives

By 31 August 2018:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support engagement activities between MLA, industry stakeholders and The Leucaena Network as required 2. Provide secretariat support that facilitates at least two committee meetings, one workshop and one field day per calendar year for The Leucaena Network 3. Liaise with The Leucaena Network, MLA staff, R&D providers and other stakeholders as required by MLA to ensure industry engagement and governance is maintained |
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3. Success in meeting the milestone

3.1 Final report summarising activities and achievements

- Attended three executive group meetings – Cooroy and Brisbane
- Taking of minutes at meetings including the AGM on 10 May 2018
- Attended Redlands for Regions meeting and farm visits on Atherton Tableland, Goshen Station and Townsville
- Submitted Annual Returns of Association for years ending 2015, 2016 and 2017
- Assisted in development of eight fact sheets for the website and Beef 2018
- Organised three executive group teleconferences
- Assisted with scope of work by Sean Kenny looking at value of leucaena to industry
- Help staff the network's stand at Beef week, Rockhampton
- Review and advise on other general business
- Make comment on possible inclusion of Code of Practice into Grazing BMP
- Consultations around development of new web site.
- Work with EO on budget for the two MDC projects
- Discussions with QDAF on mapping area sown to leucaena
- Assist in planning for Leucaena conference field trip
- Review Wandoan PDS final report
- Review Redlands for Regions milestone reports
- Prepared scoping paper for possible financial support from ANZ and NAB banks.

4. Conclusions/recommendations

The secretariat role involves a diverse set of duties and responsibilities in supporting the Executive Officer and the rest of the Executive team. A lot has been achieved with a new Executive Officer and there remains a lot still to do. The Target Markets for Adoption project being run by Sean Kenny of Rural Consulting Group will be an important landmark for The Leucaena Network with the final report for this project is due at the end of 2018.