Final report

EDGEnetwork Support and Coordination 2021-2023

Project code: L.EDG.2201

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Date published: 11 October 2023

Abstract

Meat & Livestock Australia's EDGE*network*® (EDGE) offers practical 1-3 day workshops to help beef, sheep and goat producers gain knowledge and develop skills necessary to improve their livestock enterprises. The EDGE workshops have been developed by industry specialists and tested by producers to guarantee their quality and relevance. They are a key avenue for the delivery of Research and Development (R&D) outcomes in northern Australia.

This project was designed to support Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) in the effective and efficient delivery and evaluation of its suite of EDGE*network* workshops from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2023. Highlights of the project include the evaluation of 73 individual EDGE workshops, the production of eight Quarterly EDGE Evaluation Reports, two Annual EDGE Evaluation Reports, the maintenance of a Master EDGE Workshop Register and Master Participant Database, the update of over 100 EDGE technical/support documents and regular contact with over 20 deliverers and administration staff to support them in the delivery of EDGE.

Executive summary

Background

EDGE workshops are designed to bring the latest research and development, scientific and technical information together into a package to deliver outcomes to participants, based on what livestock producers want and need to know across the areas of business, breeding, grazing land management and ruminant nutrition.

The EDGE workshops were developed by industry specialists and tested by producers to guarantee their quality and relevance. They are a key avenue for the delivery of Research and Development outcomes in northern Australia. The educational and informative format encourages producers to expand their current expertise, learn new skills, be motivated by other producers, and provides access to the latest information that will contribute to effective practice change in their business.

Objectives

This project was designed to support MLA in the effective and efficient delivery and evaluation of its suite of EDGE*network* workshops from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2023. This project also supported the MLA Producer Adoption strategy, with EDGEnetwork being an important 'category B' short-term training program within the adoption pathway.

Methodology

- Evaluation data is collected for each individual workshop in excel spreadsheet form and then aggregated for quarterly and annual evaluation reporting.
- The Master EDGE Workshop Register is assembled in excel spreadsheet form for ease of filtering and future workshop planning.
- The Master EDGE Participant Database is assembled in excel spreadsheet form.
- EDGE technical documents are housed in the EDGE SharePoint facility and only accessed by authorised users.

Results

The outcomes of this project included:

- evaluation of 73 individual EDGE workshops
- production of eight Quarterly EDGE Evaluation Reports
- production of two Annual EDGE Evaluation Reports
- maintenance of a Master EDGE Workshop Register incorporating 417 workshops planned since 2011
- maintenance of a Master EDGE Participant Database incorporating over 3,300 contacts for people who have attended an EDGE workshop since 2011
- updates/creation of over 100 EDGE technical/support/resource documents and the maintenance of over 200+ documents in the EDGE SharePoint facility.

Benefits to industry

According to MLAs Producer Adoption Outcomes report 2022-23, EDGE has delivered $468.4m* in total net benefits to participating producers as a result of workshops attended between 2015 and 2022. This includes $72.6* of total net benefits identified for 2022.

MLA's investment in EDGE since 2015 has delivered $26.5m in annual net benefits to producers in 2022-23. On average, and depending on the area of practice change, northern beef producers participating in an EDGE workshop can expect an additional net benefit of between $8-$89/km2 annually. Southern producers participating in an EDGE workshop can expect an additional net benefit of $6.33/ha annually.
*calculated as net present value of adoption to 2045, discounted at 5% annually.

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1. Background

The EDGE*network* (EDGE) offers practical learning opportunities to help beef cattle and sheep producers (primarily in northern Australia) gain knowledge and develop skills necessary to improve their livestock enterprises. EDGE workshops are primary vehicles for delivering key research and development messages, technologies and tools to industry. There are currently five EDGE training packages delivered by Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) accredited public and private sector extension providers:

1. Grazing fundamentals EDGE
2. Breeding EDGE
3. Business EDGE (also incorporating Business EDGE Young Guns)
4. Nutrition EDGE
5. Grazing Land Management (GLM) EDGE.

Two additional EDGE packages are currently under development: Carbon EDGE and Southern Rangelands Grazing Land Management EDGE.

The EDGE*network* workshops operate as category B events (short-term training) in the MLA Adoption Strategy and plays a key role as feeder activities into category C (long-term practice change activities) such as PGS, especially in the north, either as workshops or modules.

2. Objectives

The project objectives for EDGE*network* Support and Coordination 2021-2023, were as follows:

1. Support MLA's adoption strategy to engage with 950 producers over 2 years and deliver 45 EDGEnetwork workshops during the project.
2. Maintain an M&E data reporting system for EDGEnetwork workshops and modules. Enter M&E data directly from workshop participant feedback sheets. Collate, analyse, and report to MLA and all service providers on a quarterly basis via email and then annually in the EDGE M&E report.
3. Oversee the service provider EDGE workshop register.
4. Maintain a centralised, easily accessible repository for all EDGE workshop materials, tools, and promotional material with access for service providers. Ensure the housing of the most available up to date workshop and supporting material, with appropriate Branding.
5. Maintain a simple, effective national EDGE participant database.
6. Manage enquiries from prospective participants and link them to relevant EDGEnetwork workshops and/or the PGS program.
7. Produce an annual EDGEnetwork report which includes the analyses of EDGE M&E, participant and registration of interest data, emerging issues with delivery and service provider recommendations for workshop improvements.
8. Conduct an annual review of EDGE products, delivery methods and engagement, with recommendations to encourage the growth of the program.
9. Review EDGE materials including training manuals, PowerPoint slides and producer booklets in collaboration with MLA and other EDGE delivery organisations to ensure content is up to date with the latest research outcomes.
10. Participate in and support the development of new EDGE products for northern and southern production systems.
11. Provide administrative support to the recruitment and mentoring of deliverers for EDGE products.
12. Participate in MLA extension advisor working group meetings (up to 4 days per year), including face to face meetings and phone hook-ups/webinars. (For example, Livestock Advisor Updates, Livestock Advisor Essentials).
13. Work closely with Northern Breeding Business (NB2) to ensure consistent messaging of content from both projects.
14. Be the first port of call for service providers delivering the EDGEnetwork in relation to collection of monitoring and evaluation data, the EDGE workshop register, sourcing up to date EDGE material and organising EDGE workshop promotions via MLA Comms.
15. Support the promotion of EDGE packages to producers through other MLA packages such as MeatUp and BeefUp.
16. Liaise with the state PGS coordinators in relation to EDGEnetwork as a feeder activity.
17. Provide contact details and workshop evaluation information to MLA project manager to assist with the completion of post workshop surveys.
18. Incorporate adult equivalent (AE) system into the EDGEnetwork workshops and modules, as per findings from final report 'Re-defining the animal unit equivalence (AE) for grazing ruminants and its application for determining forage intake, with particular relevance to the northern Australian grazing industries' (B.GBP.0036).

3. Results

EDGE*network*® (EDGE) training workshops have been developed and targeted primarily to northern Australian beef producers to improve beef production, enterprise profitability and sustainability. These workshops have been used for more than a decade to lift the awareness of MLA and collaborator–funded research and development outcomes and to accelerate the adoption of best management practices. The coordination and delivery of EDGE workshops through 2021-23 has met, and in some cases exceed the objectives of the project, delivering 73 workshops with a total of 888 participants attending representing 505 businesses.

3.1 Support MLA's adoption strategy to engage with 950 producers over 2 years and deliver 45 EDGE*network* workshops during the project (Objective 1)

Between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2023, the EDGE*network* engaged with 888 participants and delivered 73 workshops.

Table 1: High level EDGE engagement results 2021-22 to 2022-23

Activity	2021-22	2022-23
Number of EDGE workshops	30	43
Number of EDGE participants	369	519
Number of businesses participating in EDGE	199	306

3.2 Maintain an M&E data reporting system for EDGEnetwork workshops and modules. Enter M&E data directly from workshop participant feedback sheets. Collate, analyse, and report to MLA and all service providers on a quarterly basis via email and then annually in the EDGE M&E report (Objective 2)

Evaluation sheets from the individual workshops are emailed or posted to the EDGE Coordinator within 3 weeks of a workshop being delivered. These results are then collated into an excel spreadsheet and then sent back to deliverers with individual and aggregated data. In parallel, this data is then updated in the MASTER EDGE Workshop Register, the MASTER EDGE Participant Database and the EDGE workings spreadsheet to be aggregated for the generation of Quarterly and Annual reports. Evaluation templates for the 5 EDGE packages are uniform across the board and ensure consistent and streamlined reporting.

Between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2023 evaluation was conducted on 73 individual workshops across the five packages.

3.2.1   Business EDGE

28 Business EDGE workshops were evaluated between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2023. High level results are shown below in Table 2.

Table 2: High level Business EDGE evaluation results 2021-22 to 2022-23

Activity	Business EDGE 2021-22	Business EDGE 2022-23
Number of workshops	13	15
Number of EDGE deliverers	6	9
Event value average	8.9	8.9
Event satisfaction score average	9.5	9.3
Event improving knowledge average	9.2	9.1
Event improving confidence average	8.9	8.9
Delivery of workshop average	9.5	9.4
Plan to make changes to business as a direct result of attending this EDGE workshop	89.8% yes	86% yes

3.2.2   Breeding EDGE

14 Breeding EDGE workshops were evaluated between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2023. High level results are shown below in Table 3.

Table 3: High level Breeding EDGE evaluation results 2021-22 to 2022-23

Activity	Breeding EDGE 2021-22	Breeding EDGE 2022-23
Number of workshops	5	9
Number of EDGE deliverers	5	5
Event value average	8.9	8.8
Event satisfaction score average	9.2	8.9
Event improving knowledge average	9.4	9.0
Event improving confidence average	8.9	8.9
Delivery of workshop average	9.1	9.0
Plan to make changes to business as a direct result of attending this EDGE workshop	79.6% yes	98% yes

3.2.3   Nutrition EDGE

18 Nutrition EDGE workshops were evaluated between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2023. High level results are shown below in Table 4.

Table 4: High level Nutrition EDGE evaluation results 2021-22 to 2022-23

Activity	Nutrition EDGE 2021-22	Nutrition EDGE 2022-23
Number of workshops	8	10
Number of EDGE deliverers	2	2
Event value average	9.4	9.4
Event satisfaction score average	9.6	9.6
Event improving knowledge average	9.6	9.7
Event improving confidence average	9.0	9.3
Delivery of workshop average	9.7	9.7
Plan to make changes to business as a direct result of attending this EDGE workshop	96.3% yes	99% yes

3.2.4   Grazing fundamentals EDGE

10 Grazing fundamentals EDGE workshops were evaluated between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2023. High level results are shown below in Table 5.

Table 5: High level Grazing fundamentals EDGE evaluation results 2021-22 to 2022-23

Activity	Grazing fundamentals EDGE 2021-22	Grazing fundamentals EDGE 2022-23
Number of workshops	2	8
Number of EDGE deliverers	3	7
Event value average	9.3	8.9
Event satisfaction score average	9.5	9.4
Event improving knowledge average	9.3	9.0
Event improving confidence average	9.1	9.0
Delivery of workshop average	9.4	9.5
Plan to make changes to business as a direct result of attending this EDGE workshop	85.2% yes	78% yes

3.2.5 Grazing land management EDGE

Grazing land management EDGE workshops were evaluated between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2023. High level results are shown below in Table 6.

Table 6: High level Grazing land management EDGE evaluation results 2021-22 to 2022-23

Activity	Grazing land management EDGE 2021-22	Grazing land management EDGE 2022-23
Number of workshops	2	1
Number of EDGE deliverers	2	2
Event value average	9.0	9.0
Event satisfaction score average	9.5	9.8
Event improving knowledge average	9.3	9.9
Event improving confidence average	9.0	9.8
Delivery of workshop average	9.3	9.8
Plan to make changes to business as a direct result of attending this EDGE workshop	82.4% yes	90% yes

3.3 Oversee the service provider EDGE workshop register (Objective 3)

As part of this project, a register of all EDGE workshops must be maintained. The master register contains information on all 417 planned and cancelled workshops across Australia between April 2011 and 30 June 2023. The register contains information on the type of workshop, location, state, date, year, number of attendees, number of businesses and presenter names (see below Figure 1). Through the period of this project, 109 workshops were added to the master EDGE register.

Figure 1: Screen shot of the MASTER EDGE Workshop Register
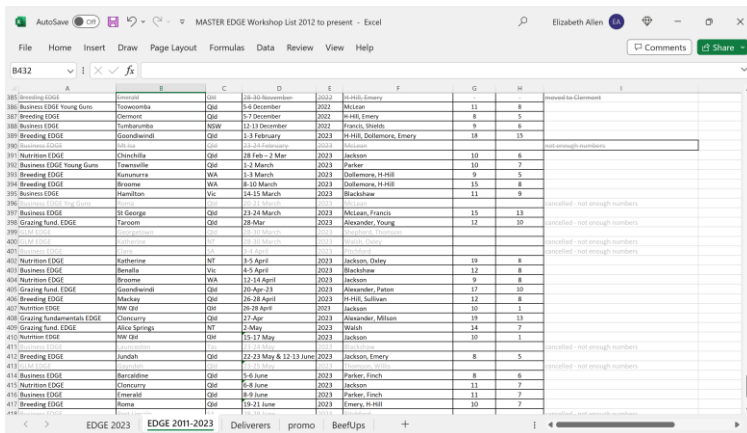
3.4 Maintain a centralised, easily accessible repository for all EDGE workshop materials, tools, and promotional material with access for service providers. Ensure the housing of the most available up to date workshop and supporting material, with appropriate Branding. (Objective 4)

Following on from project *E.IFL.1302 Review and Update of FutureBeef Extension training packages*, significant work has been undertaken to ensure that technical materials/resources for each EDGE package are updated as soon as changes/issues have been identified. More than 200 technical, admin support and resource documents currently sit in the EDGE SharePoint facility (not including Carbon EDGE or Southern Rangelands Grazing Land Management EDGE).

Table 7: Technical and support materials contained in EDGE SharePoint [documents updated during this project shown in italics]

MASTER docs *[4 docs]*	• *MASTER EDGE Workshop List 2012 to present* • *EDGE Participants contact details template* • *EDGE pricing* • *How to organise an EDGE workshop*
MLA Resources *[54 docs]*	• *Cattle [20 publications]* • *Generic livestock [1 publication]* • *Goats [2 publications]* • *Live export [2 publications]* • *Pasture [13 publications]* • *Sheep [9 publications]* • *Staff [5 publications]* • *+ 2*
Grazing fundamentals EDGE *[18 docs]*	• *Workshop Notes NT-WA and QLD* • *Workbooks NT, WA and QLD* • *PowerPoint Sections 1.1, 1.2 and 2* • *PowerPoint rainfall records extra x 5* • Module overview • *Simple forage budget* • Workshop preparation • Workshop run sheet • *Evaluation Sheet*
Business EDGE South *[12 docs]*	• *Workshop Notes* • *PowerPoint* • *PowerPoint handouts* • *PowerPoint Module 5B* • *Overview* • *Case Studies* • *Accounting exercises* • *Accounting exercise information sheet* • *Accounting exercise worksheet 1 and 2* • *Flow chart of profit calculation process* • *Evaluation Sheet*

Business EDGE North *[5 docs]*	• *Workshop Notes* • *PowerPoint* • *PowerPoint handouts* • *PowerPoint Module 5B* • *Evaluation Sheet*
Breeding EDGE *[20 docs]*	• *Workshop Notes* • *Workbook* • *PowerPoints x11 (Intro and Modules, 1-10)* • *Module overview* • Run sheet • *Resource - Breeder herd performance 1 & 2* • Resource - Focusing framework template and example • *Resource - Herd management calendar* • *Evaluation Sheet*
Nutrition EDGE *[20 docs]*	• *Workshop Notes* • *Workbook* • *PowerPoints (Intro and Modules 1-7)* • Resources and materials required • Resources required for workshop modules • Start and finish times for each module • Workshop preparation • Resource - Annual Forage Demand as DSEs • Resource - Metabolisable Energy Requirements of Cattle • Resource - Nutrient Requirements of Breeding Cattle • Resource - Nutrient Requirements of Sheep • Resource - Protein Requirements of Cattle • Resource - Relative Adult Equivalents • *Evaluation Sheet*
GLM EDGE *[17 docs]*	• *Workshop Notes* • *Workbook Qld* • *Workbook NT* • *PowerPoints (Modules 1-3)* • *Resource - Pasture growth tables* • *Resource - Land condition* • *Resource - Long term carrying capacity calculator* • *Resource - Forage budget* • Resource - videos x3 • Module overview • Workshop preparation • *Workshop run sheet* • *Evaluation Sheet*
Admin docs	• *Participant Certificates [21 docs]* • *Print specs, covers and spines [10 docs]* • *EDGE videos [8 videos]* • *FutureBeef Videos [8 videos]* • *EDGE Annual Evaluation Reports [9 docs]*

3.5 Maintain a simple, effective national EDGE participant database (Objective 5)

As part of this project a register of all EDGE participants is maintained. This register, in excel format contains the contact details of over 3,300+ people who have attended EDGE workshops since 2011. The register shows type of workshop, location, state, year/month, name, surname, mailing address, town, state, postcode, telephone, fax, mobile and email. Contact details for EDGE participants are kept so follow-up surveys can be conducted post workshop to evaluate practice change. Note – the MASTER EDGE Participant List is not available for viewing. Only the EDGE Coordinator and MLA have access to this document.

3.6 Manage enquiries from prospective participants and link them to relevant EDGE*network* workshops and/or the PGS program (Objective 6)

People who express an interest in attending an EDGE workshop via the MLA BeefUp Forum evaluation form are contacted with dates of future workshops in their area. Any producer enquiries that come to MLA (via the MLA helpline and email address) are forwarded to the EDGE Coordinator for actioning. Likewise, the contact details of any participant who expresses an interest in becoming an MLA member on their evaluation form are passed on to MLA for actioning.

3.7 Produce an annual EDGEnetwork report which includes the analyses of EDGE M&E, participant and registration of interest data, emerging issues with delivery and service provider recommendations for workshop improvements (Objective 7)

Annual Evaluation Reports for 2021-22 and 2022-23 were produced during this project.

The EDGE Annual Evaluation report contains information on workshops held during the financial year, locations, deliverers and how EDGE fits within MLA's key performance indicators. The report also provides detailed data on each of the five EDGE packages with information on:
- number of workshops
- number of deliverers
- number of participants and number of businesses participating
- average number of participants per workshop
- median property size of participants and total area under management of participant businesses
- median number of cattle and total cattle under management of participant businesses
- median number of sheep and total sheep under management of participant businesses
- median number of goats and total goats under management of participant businesses
- number of participants who completed an evaluation form
- average session score for 'Value'
- average session score for 'Value in Improving Knowledge' and 'Confidence' to manage the business
- number of participants who said they 'Plan to make changes' to their business as a direct result of attending EDGE workshop
- average scores for presenters
- examples of written responses in relation to questions on:

- o 'What comments do you have on the presenter'
- o 'What aspect of the workshop did you find most valuable and why?'
- o 'How would you describe the benefits of the workshop in terms of your investment of time and money?'.

The reports also detail 'What's new' for the year and 'What's planned' for the next year.

3.8 Conduct an annual review of EDGE products, delivery methods and engagement, with recommendations to encourage the growth of the program (Objective 8)

Feedback from all workshops is taken on board and changes made when required. If technical updates are flagged, then the EDGE*network* coordinator and the lead author discuss next steps. The fluid nature of the EDGE technical documents allows for updates to be completed in timely fashion ensuring delivery of up-to-date research and technical content.

Activities are always reviewed, and adjustments made to ensure the learning process is easy to understand and results in practice change once producers return home.

Feedback from deliverers was also sought at the EDGE deliverer get together held in February 2023 to improve and grow the program. Some of the key topics discussed at this meeting include:
- tips and tricks for the new deliverer
- tips for communicating EDGE value for money to producers
- bringing new deliverers on board
- new R&D/topics that need to be incorporated into packages
- R&D/topics that could be removed from packages
- R&D/topics that should be retained but updated with more recent information
- sections that are/are not working well and why
- ideas to make activities more interactive/engaging
- ideas for new resources i.e. videos, calculators, interactive templates etc.

3.9 Review EDGE materials including training manuals, PowerPoint slides and producer booklets in collaboration with MLA and other EDGE delivery organisations to ensure content is up to date with the latest research outcomes. (Objective 9)

Regular contact is made with researchers to ensure EDGE stays at the forefront of incorporating new research into the packages. Regular contact is also made with MLA Program Leaders who are managing research and adoption projects of importance to EDGE.

Every package is reviewed regularly to ensure web links are up to date and graphs/table refreshed. Examples refreshes include updated BREEDPLAN runs for the Breeding EDGE package and updated ABARES data for Business EDGE.

If technical updates are flagged then the EDGE*network* coordinator and the lead author discuss next steps i.e. if the update is warranted, and if so, the process for the updating of technical documents. The fluid nature of the EDGE technical documents allows for updates to be completed in timely fashion ensuring delivery of up-to-date research and technical content. Over the course of this project, changes and updates were made to every EDGE package.

3.10 Participate in and support the development of new EDGE products for northern and southern production systems. (Objective 10)

During the life of this project, two new EDGE packages were developed with one being piloted before 30 June 2023.

3.10.1 Development of training package for Rangelands EDGE

In October 2022, MLA submitted an application to the SA Arid Lands Landscape (SAAL) Board for the development and delivery of a Southern Rangelands Grazing Land Management Course. In November 2022, this application was approved, and work quickly began on the development of a one-day training package in feedbase, grazing and land management relevant to the SA Arid Lands regional area.

The work was undertaken by a project working group, comprising a mix of professionals with experience and expertise in southern rangelands environments delivering RD&E. The outputs of the project encompass a Deliverer manual, Participant manual, Participant workbook, PowerPoint slide deck, M&E materials, a pilot course with SAAL staff, 11 workshops and a report including workshop summary and evaluation plus opportunities and gaps for future training.

On Thursday 25th May 2023, the pilot workshop was delivered. Work has since progressed on edits to the delivery model and technical materials following feedback from participants. Workshops for participants will commence August 2023.

3.10.2 Development of training package for Carbon EDGE

Carbon EDGE is a new training package being developed for the red meat industry. Its purpose is to help participants better understand, identify and apply opportunities for carbon sequestration and emissions reduction within their livestock enterprise, in alignment with their own business and production goals.

The project, which commenced in June 2022, is being managed and funded by MLA. Following a competitive tender process, Environmental Accounting Services (EAS) were contracted to develop the technical materials and Pinion Advisory were contracted for the development of extension materials, deliverer training and pilot workshops.

A Working Group comprising of producers, advisors and technical experts – representing northern, southern and rangeland regions of Australia – was formed to guide the development of the program, ensuring its relevance and suitability for industry.

The project has involved the development of a deliverer manual, a participant manual, a participant workbook, a slide deck and supporting training tools. The first round of Train the Trainer sessions will be held in August 2023 and five pilot workshops will be delivered in diverse regions from Ocotber to December 2023. The program is expected to roll out from 2024 as part of the broader EDGE*network*.

3.11 Provide administrative support to the recruitment and mentoring of deliverers for EDGE products. (Objective 11)

To ensure professional workshop delivery, MLA approves workshop deliverers with exceptional technical expertise and adult learning skills to deliver EDGE.

Recruitment

Four new trainee deliverers joined the EDGE team during this project, being Alex Thomson (Grazing fundamentals EDGE and Grazing land management EDGE), Rob Young (Grazing fundamentals EDGE and Grazing land management EDGE), Sally Finch (Business EDGE North) and Tanisha Shields (Business EDGE South). Deb Scammell is also in training and will deliver her first workshop in August 2023 (Southern Rangelands Grazing Land Management EDGE).

Former EDGE deliverer Trudi Oxley has also rejoined the team (Grazing fundamentals EDGE, Grazing Land Management EDGE and Nutrition EDGE).

Mentoring:

In February 2023, MLA hosted a get together of all EDGE deliverers. Day 1 saw a session for 'new deliverers only' covering Who's who, Processes, Resources and Tips and tricks for the new deliverer. Day 2 saw sessions on Pricing review/Remote Delivery, Deliverer Guidelines, EOIs, KASA updates, new EDGE packages, bringing new deliverers on board, accreditation process, current challenges (and how to address them), R&D updates, current R&D projects underway and their alignment to the EDGEnetwork packages and breakout groups for package updates. Day 3 had another session on package updates with groups reporting back on priorities and action plans, promotion, KASA and final review.

3.12 Participate in MLA extension advisor working group meetings (up to 4 days per year), including face to face meetings and phone hook-ups/webinars. (For example, Livestock Advisor Updates, Livestock Advisor Essentials). (Objective 12).

On 29 November 2021, I attended the Livestock Advisor Updates (LAU) Workshop in Brisbane and following this event, spoke with MLAs Keely Kovacevic about becoming a member of the working group. In 2022 I became a member of the LAU Working Group and attended numerous teleconferences for national and northern LAU workshop and webinar planning. A northern LAU workshop was held in Townsville July 2022. The LAU project ended, and my last participation was the Working Group wrap-up meeting in November 2022.

3.13 Work closely with Northern Breeding Business (NB2) to ensure consistent messaging of content from both projects. (Objective 13).

Through the life of this project numerous phone calls, emails and meetings were held with members of NB2 including Nigel Tomkins, Steve Banney, Lee Fitzpatrick, Dave Smith and Tony Parker. The sharing of information also included participation in the NB2 Pillars Committee teleconference in May 2022. EDGE keeps an ongoing watch of NB2 to ensure EDGE is consistent with NB2 messaging.

3.14 Be the first port of call for service providers delivering the EDGEnetwork in relation to collection of monitoring and evaluation data, the EDGE workshop register, sourcing up to date EDGE material and organising EDGE workshop promotions via MLA Comms. (Objective 14).

Contact with all EDGE deliverers and administration staff is made on a regular and ongoing basis.

An email is sent to all EDGE deliverers and administration staff at the end of every month requesting information on future planned workshops. Once the workshop date is set, work begins on preparation of a workshop flyer and liaison with MLA Communications for event promotion via the MLA website and emails to MLA members within a certain kilometre radius of the workshop. Social media banners are also created for scheduled promotion. For workshops held in northern Australia flyers and banners are also sent to FutureBeef for promotion.

If timing allows, promotion is also done via MLA Feedback Magazine and MLA The Weekly email. Promotion is also done via the FutureBeef website (northern Australia), local catchment groups, local State Departments of Agriculture and any other local groups that may aid in the promotion of an EDGE workshop.

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) data is collected within three weeks of a workshop occurring. The aim is to return the evaluation results within a week of receiving the M&E data.

People who express an interest in attending an EDGE workshop via the MLA BeefUp Forum evaluation form are also contacted with dates of future workshops in their area.

3.15 Support the promotion of EDGE packages to producers through other MLA packages such as MeatUp and BeefUp. (Objective 15).

Working with MLA Corporate Comminutions, EDGE flyers for promotion in BeefUp and MeatUp handbooks were developed. Some examples of the flyers can be seen below.

Figure 2a and 2b: Sample EDGE flyers in BeefUp and MeatUp Forum handbooks
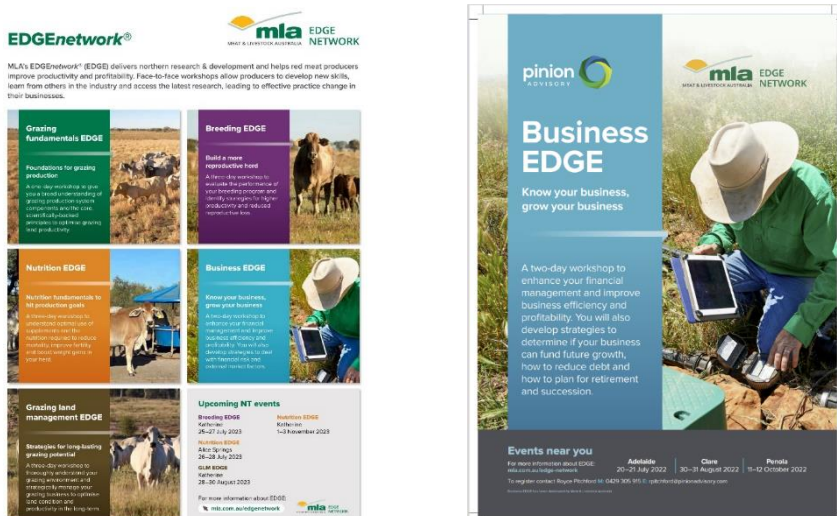
3.16 Liaise with the state PGS coordinators in relation to EDGEnetwork as a feeder activity. (Objective 16).

Email, telephone, Zoom and face to face contact has been made with the PGS Project Managers and the PGS State Coordinators through this project.

3.17 Provide contact details and workshop evaluation information to MLA project manager to assist with the completion of post workshop surveys. (Objective 17).

Upon request, contact details and workshop information are supplied to MLA staff as and when required. The format of the MASTER documents allows these requests to be fulfilled in a matter of minutes.

3.18 Incorporate adult equivalent (AE) system into the EDGEnetwork workshops and modules, as per findings from final report 'Re-defining the animal unit equivalence (AE) for grazing ruminants and its application for determining forage intake, with particular relevance to the northern Australian grazing industries' (B.GBP.0036). (Objective 18).

Following on from project B.GBP.0036 *Re-defining the animal unit equivalence (AE) for grazing ruminants and its application for determining forage intake, with particular relevance to the northern Australian grazing industries,* significant work has been undertaken to include this work into the existing EDGE packages.

In summary, the following has been rewritten and/or incorporated into Nutrition EDGE, Grazing fundamentals EDGE and Grazing land management EDGE packages:
- forage demand
- expressing livestock numbers using adult equivalents
- AEs and Intake
- standard herd AE ratings
- applying AEs
- dry sheep equivalent (DSE)
- the limitations of applying the intake constant
- general points about intake.

Tables were also updated to incorporate:
- standard generic mob-based AE and DSE ratings for cattle
- standard generic mob-based AE and DSE ratings for merino sheep
- standard generic mob-based AE and DSE ratings for meat sheep and goats
- standard generic mob-based AE and DSE ratings for horses and kangaroos.

Grazing fundamentals EDGE and Grazing land management EDGE are complete, have been updated by the MLA designer and published in the InDesign format. The AE work related to Nutrition EDGE will be done as part of the wider technical review currently underway (at this time, presented as an appendix).

4   Conclusion

Participant feedback for event satisfaction, content, value, improving knowledge, improving confidence and delivery continue to rate very highly.

Whilst Covid-19 did its best to interrupt workshop delivery early in this project, the EDGE team preserved and managed to deliver 73 workshops in the last two years. There is no doubt that the continued success of EDGE is helped by a team of committed, enthusiastic and professional deliverers.

The focus on incorporating the most up to date research guarantees the delivery of quality and relevant materials and ensures EDGE stays at the forefront of producer learning.

Evaluation processes are working extremely well and ensure efficient and streamlined reporting.

Focus over the next 12-24 months will be on:

- Planning and rolling out the incorporation of numerous research updates into the EDGE packages.
- Addressing issues and reconditions from the
    - rollout out of the second tranche of Southern Rangelands Grazing Land Management EDGE, and
    - piloting and rollout out of Carbon EDGE.
- Extending the use of PowerPoint infographics to more EDGE packages.
- Development of a business case for extending EDGE further into southern Australia.
- Moving several deliverers from Trainee Deliverer status to Co-Deliverer and bringing on new deliverers.
- Integrating KASA into EDGE M&E.
- Follow up surveys to track practice change.