

LEP RD&E Program Review and Implementation

The Livestock Export Program (LEP) research, development and extension program is jointly funded by LiveCorp (25%), Meat & Livestock Australia (25%) and matching funds from the Australian Government (50%).

A review carried out in 2018 focused on the systems and processes that support the delivery of R&D for the livestock export industry, with a particular emphasis on governance and the extension of project outcomes.

The review included the efficiency and effectiveness of decision-making and processes carried out by:

- The Livestock Export Research and Development Advisory Committee (LERDAC), made up of producer and exporter representatives nominated by the peak industry councils, and an independent technical advisor; and
- The Management Committee made up of LiveCorp and MLA representatives and the Chair of LERDAC.

The findings were based on four main principles:

- **Clarity:** Clear strategic objectives, and clear decision-making and evaluation processes
- **Reach:** Better engagement with stakeholders, both within and external to the industry, to ensure the Program is delivering relevant projects
- **Structure:** A simple and efficient structure, with clear and consistent reporting and management
- **Knowledge:** Regular review to determine priorities and incorporate learnings from past projects.

Changes are being implemented in response to the review, and the aim is to have the work completed by mid-2020.

Key changes will include:

1. Collaboratively develop an RD&E Strategic Plan with industry, government and community engagement. This will guide new R&D partnerships, proposals for projects, and provide a means of tracking the Program's outcomes.
2. Develop a communications and engagement strategy to ensure ongoing, sustainable communication and extension support
3. Develop and refine templates, tools and processes for generating project concepts and converting them to projects
4. Develop a system for post-project reviews, to capture lessons and identify potentially valuable areas for future RD&E
5. Define governance structures and roles of LERDAC, Management Committee and Consultative Committees,
 - a. Adjust LERDAC composition to include people who represent producers, exporters and the wider community
 - b. Appoint an independent LERDAC Chair with appropriate skills and experience
 - c. Increase the role of consultative committees to support projects with specific stakeholder interest groups or subject matter expertise.