

## Expression of Interest

### National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) Database Uplift Transition Support Project

#### Independent Chair of the Review Panel

December 2024

#### Purpose

Integrity Systems Company (ISC) is seeking expressions of interest for an Independent Chair to Chair the NLIS Database Uplift Transition Support Review Panel to oversee the Review Panel's assessment of applications from the Integrators and their funding decisions.

#### NLIS Uplift Project

The NLIS database is a vital asset for the red meat industry and the state and federal governments of Australia. As a key enabler of red meat traceability, biosecurity and market access, investment in the NLIS database is crucial for our industry to respond to biosecurity risks and market access demands, of both today and into the future.

NLIS was introduced in 1999 to underpin the market access requirements for red meat products being supplied into the European Union and was expanded in 2002 to enhance Australia's ability to trace cattle during disease and food safety incidents. The NLIS database was extended to accommodate sheep and goat traceability in 2006, and also supports traceability requirements for pigs and South American camelids. NLIS reflects Australia's commitment to biosecurity and food safety and provides a competitive advantage in global markets.

In the October 2022-23 Budget, the Australian Government announced funding to support traceability database upgrades as a part of the biosecurity package '*Bolstering Australia's biosecurity system*'. ISC has been recently awarded an Australian Government grant to build a new national livestock traceability platform to replace the current NLIS database.

The build of a new national livestock traceability platform will ensure that there is a fit-for-purpose data capture, storage and distribution system for tracking livestock and their movements. The new platform will provide improved interoperability in being able to accommodate additional data inputs from other systems, to assist in being able to demonstrate Australia's agricultural credentials and compliance with international market access requirements, now and into the future.

#### NLIS Database Uplift Transition Support Project

The NLIS has several linkages to state and territory regulatory systems (known as mirrors) and industry third-party systems, which offer automated reporting coupled with livestock monitoring and management tools. Uplifting the NLIS database will break the feed between the NLIS and these systems, and they will require enhancement, improvement or a complete rebuild to integrate with the uplifted database.

To support industry transition to the uplifted NLIS Database the Australian Government also approved additional funding of \$3.9 million (excl. GST). The purpose of the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) Database Uplift Transition Support grant is to provide support to industry and government integrators (via pass-through funding) to transition to the uplifted NLIS database.

### **NLIS Database Uplift Transition Support Project – Review Panel**

To deliver the NLIS Database Uplift Transition Support Project, ISC is conducting a Request for Proposal (RFP) process/open tender for existing NLIS Integrators to allow them to apply for funding to assist them in their transition from the current NLIS database to the uplifted NLIS database. To ensure that all Integrator applications are treated fairly and equitably, ISC will establish a Review Panel to assess the funding applications and approve funding proposals of Integrators.

The Review Panel will oversee the application and funding approval process, which involves reviewing the Integrator applications and making funding approval decisions. The Review Panel will consist of an Independent Review Panel Chair, ISC subject matter experts, Commonwealth staff members and a probity officer.

### **Competencies required of the Chair**

The following skills and knowledge are required of the Chair:

- understanding of the meat and livestock supply chain, key supply chain stakeholders, and the challenges and interdependencies associated with farm to customer supply chains;
- understanding of the traceability landscape within Australia including the relationship between state and territory regulation and industry policy;
- high level understanding of the technology components that underpin the livestock traceability system and how the technology is implemented through the supply chain;
- relevant professional experience with previous experience facilitating or chairing meetings;
- ability to lead and inspire Members and experts towards consensus;
- understanding of the nature of ISC's work and the Project and its resulting benefits;
- ability to develop solutions through innovative, strategic and creative thinking in a consensus environment;
- excellent communication, negotiation and facilitation skills including the ability to engage stakeholders and manage relationships; and
- ability to act proactively and communicate diplomatically.

### **Time commitment**

The Review Panel will be meeting regularly to review the Integrator applications (expected March to April 2025).

Meetings may be held either face to face or via video-conference.

### **Submissions**

Applicants should submit both a cover letter and CV to Project Manager Anna Ly via email [aly@integritysystems.com.au](mailto:aly@integritysystems.com.au) by **5pm (AEDT) Friday, 17 January 2025**.

**Further information**

Renelle Jeffrey,

Program Manager - Digital Adoption – Integrity Systems Company

Email: [rjeffrey@integritysystems.com.au](mailto:rjeffrey@integritysystems.com.au)