

**Expressions of Interest**

**Sustainability on-farm adoption proposals**

 **Summary**

Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) is seeking expressions of interest (EOI) via preliminary applications from organizations (or partnerships of organizations) to deliver adoption focused sustainability proposals via co-investment in the MLA Donor Company.

The primary focus of these proposals must be for producer engagement and practice change in the reduction of overall net farm emissions. Proposals that include partners across the red meat supply chain are encouraged.

 **Background**

Australian graziers have the opportunity through best management practices to improve livestock resource use efficiency and emissions intensity of production (kg CO2 equivalents per kilogram of finished liveweight). This is the primary lever that many Australian farms can currently use to decrease their direct environmental footprint, while maintaining business activities.

There are many drivers of on-farm livestock resource use efficiency, such as increasing sale weight for age, reduction of unproductive animals, genetic selection for more productive animals and improvements to the feedbase. Examples of direct interventions that can be taken on-farm include ensuring peak feed availability matches peak nutritional demands of calving and lambing time, watering point distribution to manage pasture utilisation, appropriate weaning times for environment, genetics for growth and fertility, ionophore or science based additive use, health management (parasites, viruses, bacteria), strategic supplementation of energy, mineral and protein, lot feeding and effective hormonal growth promotant (HGP) use.

Adoption of these efficiency drivers varies regionally across Australia. With emerging climate related financial disclosures by the Federal Government, it is likely that large businesses that service the red meat industry, which qualify under this legislation, will be seeking readily available strategies that can decrease the Scope 3 emissions of their supply chains. Reductions in direct emissions of between 10 and 30% are possible, while providing a positive return on investment for the producer.

**Objectives**

1. Identify opportunities for livestock efficiency strategies in a target region that improves resource use intensity, emissions intensity, decrease in direct greenhouse gas emissions and improve farm profitability ($/ha and $/ha/100 mm rainfall).
2. Conduct peer to peer learning or demonstration sites to accelerate adoption of the target strategy and deliver impact measured by:
3. Livestock performance on per hectare basis (kg/ha and kg/ha/100mm rainfall)
4. Any effects on livestock reproduction, welfare, morbidity or mortality
5. Effects on meat or eating quality characteristics
6. Above and below ground carbon stocks from vegetation and soils
7. Forage biomass and nutritional characteristics
8. Direct and net greenhouse gas emissions per head, hectare and farm
9. Relevant ecosystem services
10. With research outputs conduct ex-post cost benefit analysis across a range of establishment costs, livestock prices as relevant
11. Engage producer participants, advisors and supply-chain partners in the sharing of knowledge and increase of capability in the areas of emissions reduction and carbon sequestration practices.
12. Utilise a variety of adoption activities to drive on farm-practice change including awareness activities, short-term training programs and long-term practice change activities.
13. Monitor the impact of utilising the [MLA Extension Program Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.](https://www.mla.com.au/globalassets/mla-corporate/about-mla/documents/planning--reporting/evaluation/mla-extension-program-framework_v01.pdf)

**Funding:**

This expression of interest is to identify opportunities for funding through the MLA Donor Company. Information and guidelines on the MLA Donor Company can be found on the [MLA website](https://www.mla.com.au/about-mla/what-we-do/mla-donor-company/).

Per MLA Donor Company guidelines, applicants (individually or as a collective) will be expected to contribute 60% of the total project costs.

Project concepts for all values are encouraged and value for money will be determined based on the impact the project delivers.

**Confidentiality:**

By submitting an EOI, the applicant will disclose information in the preliminary application form to MLA’s employees, agents, contractors and advisors, for the purposes of this tender process and any legal or MLA policy requirement. Applicants must identify any information that they consider should be protected as confidential information and provide reasons for this.

**Expressions of Interest**

Please submit an EOI using the preliminary application form or contact Sally or Hilary to run through your project concept prior to submitting an EOI.

All EOIs are to be submitted by **10 March 2025** to:

Sarah Leigo sleigo@mla.com.au and Hilary Connors hconnors@mla.com.au

 **Further information**

**Sally Leigo**

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