

Request for tender

***Strictly confidential***

Tenderer: Click or tap here to enter text.

Date completed: [Insert Date]

Click or tap here to enter text.

The contents of this request for tender and all other information and materials provided by or on behalf of MLA are the property of MLA and are confidential to MLA. All materials provided by or on behalf of a tenderer to MLA will become the property of MLA. There is no payment for tender applications.

Version 3 082024

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**SECTION 1**

1. **INTRODUCTION AND INSTRUCTIONS**
	1. **MLA**
		1. Meat & Livestock Australia Limited (ABN 39 081 678 364) and its related body corporate Integrity Systems Company Limited (ABN 34 134 745 038) [insert the following if MDC is involved: and MLA Donor Company Limited (ABN 49 083 304 867) ("MDC")](together, **"MLA")** undertake a range of research and development and marketing programs designed to benefit beef, sheepmeat and goatmeat industry participants, from livestock producers to retail service providers. It also provides a number of research and development and marketing services to related industry sectors including meat processors and live animal exporters.

 (b)

MDC invests in research and development to accelerate innovation across the value chain so the Australian red meat and livestock industry can remain globally competitive. It attracts commercial investment from individual enterprises and other companies that share a mutual interest to coinvest in innovation that will benefit the Australian red meat industry. The Australian Government matches voluntary partner contributions (up to 60% of project value) through MDC, where eligible projects deliver outcomes that address broader industry and/or government priorities and benefit the entire industry. Please refer to the MLA Donor Company (MDC) background and application guidelines (or any replacement document) which you can find on MDC's website https://[www.mla.com.au/about](http://www.mla.com.au/about)­ mla/what-we-do/mla-donor-company/.]

* 1. **Invitation**

MLA invites interested parties to submit tenders by [1700 AEST ] on 19th December, 2024 **("Closing Date"),** to deliver Livestock efficiency partnership – Effect of Legumes on Net Emissions of Grazing Lands. .

* 1. **Tenders**

Tenders must comply with all requirements specified in this request for tender.

Please submit an electronic/soft copy of the tender. All submissions must be emailed to [insert: MLA's central tender mailbox tenders@mla.com.au OR insert specific email.

All questions in Section 2 must be completed by the tenderer.

Section 3 describes MLA's requirements for Effect of Legumes on Net Emissions of Grazing Lands **("Specification").** Each tenderer must provide a statement detailing how it would meet MLA's requirements in Section 3. Tenderers should consider the MLA Donor Company (MDC) proposal guidelines and application form which are available on the MDC page MLA Donor Company I Meat & Livestock Australia (or any replacement document) in preparing this statement.]

Section 4 contains the terms upon which MLA will enter into an agreement with the successful tenderer. These terms contain minimum legal requirements that must be satisfied before MLA is prepared to enter into an agreement with a supplier and will apply unless the successful tenderer has an existing umbrella agreement with MLA. For the majority of tenders and to the extent permitted by law, MLA's terms are not open to negotiation. The tenderer acknowledges and agrees that submitting a tender to MLA will constitute acceptance of all terms of the agreement in Section 4 by the tenderer. If a tenderer has previously agreed relevant umbrella terms with MLA then those umbrella terms will instead apply.

Section 5 contains a declaration to be completed by the tenderer.

Section 6 and Section 7 should be completed by the tenderer if there are additional corporate governance disclosures required as part of the response to Section 2.

All tenders should contain:

* + 1. the answers to the questions and information required in **Section 2;**
		2. any additional information, reports or documents required in relation to the Specification in **Section 3;**
		3. a statement detailing how the tenderer will meet MLA's requirements in **Section 3;**
		4. confirmation that, if successful, the tenderer will enter into an agreement with MLA on the terms set out in **Section 4** or on any previously agreed umbrella terms; and
		5. the completed declaration in the form set out in **Section 5.**

MLA will treat all tenders in confidence.

* 1. **Ownership of tenders**

The documents which comprise this request for tender and any other material provided by MLA to tenderers, including any intellectual property rights in the same, remain the property of MLA **("MLA Material").**

MLA grants each tenderer a non-transferable, non-exclusive, royalty-free licence to use the MLA Material for the purposes of this tender process.

Any intellectual property rights that exist in a tenderer's response to this request for tender, other than the intellectual property rights in the MLA Material, will remain with the tenderer or its third party licensors **("Tenderer IP").**

The tenderer acknowledges and agrees that all material submitted by a tenderer in response to this request for tender will become the property of MLA on receipt by MLA.

The tenderer grants MLA and its employees, agents, contractors and advisers a non­ exclusive, irrevocable, royalty-free licence to copy, adapt, modify and create derivate works from the Tenderer IP for the purposes of evaluating the tender.

* 1. **Disclosure**

In providing a tender the tenderer agrees to the disclosure of information in the tender to MLA's employees, agents, contractors and advisers, for the purposes of this tender process, as required by law or otherwise with the tenderer's consent.

Tenderers must clearly identify any information that they consider should be protected as confidential or commercially sensitive information.

* 1. **Questions**

Any questions must be submitted in writing to the email address specified in section 1.3 above. MLA may provide the answers to such questions at its discretion and may share the answers with all tenderers. A tenderer may request that a question be treated as proprietary (where the information disclosed is considered commercially sensitive to the tenderer).

* 1. **Extension of Closing Date**

MLA may extend the Closing Date. Tenderers may request an extension in writing via email to the email address specified in section 1.3 above at least 3 business days prior to the Closing Date and must provide reasons in support of the request.

Any extension of time will be granted to all tenderers, not only the tenderer requesting the extension.

* 1. **Confidentiality**

The contents of this request for tender and all other information and materials provided to a tenderer by or on behalf of MLA relating to this tender, including information provided prior to the release of this document, are confidential to MLA, to the extent such information and materials are not publicly available or in the public domain at the time disclosed.

A tenderer must not use copy, reproduce, distribute or disclose such information or materials (except to the tenderer's employees, agents, contractors and advisers for the sole purpose of enabling the tenderer to submit a tender).

* 1. **Discussion and public statements**

Unless expressly provided in this request for tender, tenderers and their employees, agents, contractors and advisers must not at any time during the tender process approach or discuss with any MLA employees, agents, contractors or advisers (except the MLA Contact) any matter relating to the request for tender or the tender.

Tenderers must not make any public statement about this request for tender without the prior written consent of MLA.

* 1. **Conflict of interest**

A tenderer must not have any actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest between its interests and the interests of MLA in connection with this request for tender. If an

actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest arises, the tenderer must immediately notify MLA in writing and MLA will:

* + 1. enter into discussions to seek to resolve such conflict of interest and require the tenderer to take such steps as MLA may reasonably require to resolve or otherwise deal with the conflict;
		2. exclude the tenderer from further participation in this request for tender and disregard the tender provided by such a tenderer; or
		3. take any other action it considers appropriate.
	1. **Budget information**

Budget information specified in tenders must:

* + 1. be expressed in Australian dollars;
		2. be inclusive of all charges, and expenses;
		3. identify separately the duties and taxes, including goods and services tax **(GST)**

component of the price; and

* + 1. apply for the duration of the provision of the goods and services contemplated by this request for tender.
	1. **Project Access Fee**

The tenderer acknowledges a project access fee is payable in relation to the project if the tenderer is successful as set out in the MLA Donor Company (MDC) proposal guidelines

and application form which are available on the MDC page MLA Donor Company I Meat &

Livestock Australia (or any replacement document). The MDC project access fee is required to support the management, administration and delivery of the project.

* 1. **Tender validity period**

Each tender must remain open for acceptance by MLA for a period of at least six months from the Closing Date. The tenderer should specify any longer periods for which the offer remains valid.

* 1. **Applicable law**

The laws of New South Wales apply to this request for tender.

* 1. **Privacy**

Each tenderer must ensure that it complies with the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth) in submitting its tender and, if successful, in entering into an agreement for the provision of goods and services contemplated by this request for tender.

MLA will collect your personal information for the purposes of administering this request for tender, including corresponding with you about this tender and evaluating your tender. If you choose not to provide some or all the required personal information, we may not be able to consider your tender.

MLA may disclose your personal information to:

* + 1. our related entities, international offices, and representatives for the purpose of our business only;
		2. N/A

Click or tap here to enter text.

Please refer to our privacy policy ( https://[www.mla.com.au/general/privacy/)](http://www.mla.com.au/general/privacy/%29) for further details about how we handle your personal information, how you may access or request correction of your personal information or make an enquiry or complaint about our handling of your personal information.

* 1. **MLA's rights**

MLA reserves the right to:

* + 1. reject any tender;
		2. close the right to submit tenders at any time before the Closing Date, without giving any reason or communicating such closure to any person;
		3. accept late tenders;
		4. accept any tenders which do not otherwise comply with the terms of this request for tender;
		5. accept part tenders;
		6. withdraw this request for tender or issue a new request for tender;
		7. vary the terms of this request for tender;
		8. negotiate directly with any person before or after the Closing Date;
		9. discuss with each tenderer details of its tender;
		10. proceed with the project on the basis of a different scope and performance requirements that differ to those set out in this request for tender; and
		11. vary the tender selection process set out in this request for tender.

In addition to its rights above, MLA may decline to consider or accept any tender from a tenderer who does not satisfy MLA of the tenderer's ability to complete the tender in

accordance with its terms. MLA expects all tenderers to behave in a courteous and professional manner and will not tolerate harassment or bullying from tenderers. MLA may exclude tenderers who exhibit unacceptable behaviour from this tender process.

MLA is not obliged to disclose the nature of any negotiations, amendments, alterations, additions or other changes provided to a tenderer, nor to offer or accept the same or equivalent amendments, alterations or other changes to other tenderers.

## Tender evaluation

The successful tenderer will be selected on the basis of the tender that best meets MLA's Specifications, including where relevant:

* + 1. the quality of the goods or services;
		2. fitness for purpose of the proposal
		3. whether the tenderer has the qualifications, experience and resources needed;
		4. value for money, considering the whole of life costs (such as initial purchase price, operating costs, licensing costs, costs of additional features and transition out costs);
		5. technical, commercial, financial, legal and other risks particular to a tender;
		6. the use of proposed subcontractors;
		7. preparedness to agree to MLA's standard agreement or previously agreed umbrella terms; and
		8. any other criteria appropriate to the purpose of the request for tender.

MLA may allocate any weighting to the evaluation criteria at its discretion and is not bound to accept the lowest priced tender or any tender submitted.

In the evaluation of tenders, MLA may:

1. have regard to knowledge and previous experience and dealings with a tenderer;
2. have regard to information about past and current performance of a tenderer, including under any contract, arrangement or dealing with the tenderer; and
3. obtain and rely upon advice from any third party in respect of any legal, technical or financial matter.

MLA may waive compliance with any of the terms of this request for tender and consider and accept any tender which does not conform with these terms.

MLA may require a tenderer to provide such further information as MLA requires in order to consider the tenderer's tender and, if so required, the tenderer must promptly provide such information.

# Costs

MLA will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the tenderer arising in any way from the preparation of tenders, including if the procurement process is terminated or amended by MLA.

# Binding agreement

A tender will not be deemed to have been accepted by MLA, nor any agreement arise between a tenderer and MLA, until the successful tenderer and MLA enter into a formal written agreement for the provision of the goods and services contemplated by this request for tender. This request for tender does not form a contract between MLA and the tenderer.

# Selection process

MLA will review each tender and may select a short list of tenderers. Any such short listed tenderers may be required to present to MLA or workshop or negotiate their proposal with MLA. A successful tenderer may be selected from such a list.

**SECTION 2 – TENDERER INFORMATION**

***[Tenderer to complete]***

* 1. **Details of tenderer**

Name: [insert name of the company or individual responding to the tender] Australian Business Number (ABN): [insert]

Address [insert address of the company or individual responding to the tender]

Contact name [insert name of the person who may be contacted for further information] Telephone number: [insert]

Email address: [insert]

[MLA to insert the following if MDC is involved:

* 1. **Funding eligibility**

Tenderers are to provide details regarding the source of monetary amounts which are proposed to be contributed and confirm the source is an eligible funding source as set out in the MLA Donor Company (MDC) proposal guidelines and application form which are

available on the MDC page MLA Donor Company I Meat & Livestock Australia (or any

replacement document).]

* 1. **Pricing**

Tenderers are to provide quotes for all fees, charges and expenses. Prices are to include all work related to the provision of goods and services contemplated by this request for tender and are to be inclusive of GST and other applicable duties and taxes.

* 1. **Proposed subcontractors and suppliers**

The tenderer must list all proposed subcontractors and suppliers that the tenderer intends to engage in providing goods or services to MLA:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Description of goods or services** | **Subcontractor or supplier name** |
| [insert] | [insert] |
| [insert] | [insert] |
| [insert] | [insert] |
| [insert] | [insert] |

* 1. **Insurance**

The tenderer must provide details of current insurance policies held by it and each proposed subcontractor and supplier:

**Tenderer's Insurance**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Insurance type** | **Policy number** | **Extent of cover: per incident** | **Extent of cover: in aggregate** | **Expiry date** |
| Professional indemnity | [insert] | [insert] | [insert] | [insert] |
| Public liability | [insert] | [insert] | [insert] | [insert] |
| Workers' compensation | [insert] | [insert] | [insert] | [insert] |

[If subcontractors or suppliers are involved, duplicate the above table and complete for each subcontractor or supplier]

## Corporate Governance Modern slavery:

Please see MLA's Modern Slavery questionnaire at **Section 7** which must be completed by all MLA vendors.

## Conflicts of interest:

[ ]  tenderer confirms that there are no actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest between its interests and the interests of MLA in connection with this request for tender

OR

[ ]  tenderer has declared any actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest(s) in Section 6

## Gifts or hospitality:

[ ]  tenderer confirms that it has not provided any gifts or hospitality to MLA during the request for tender

OR

* tenderer has provided the gifts and hospitality to MLA declared in Section 6

## Anti-bribery or corruption:

[ ]  tenderer confirms that has not been convicted of or subject to formal investigations into any anti-bribery and corruption offences;

OR

[ ] tenderer has declared its anti-bribery and corruption offences, convictions or investigations in Schedule 6

* 1. **References**

The tenderer must provide details (including the relevant contact) of the last 3 agreements entered into for the provision of goods or services comparable to those set out in this Request for Tender:

* + 1. Organisation name: [insert] Telephone number: [insert] Contact name: [insert]

Goods or services provided: [insert] Completion date of agreement: [insert]

* + 1. Organisation name: [insert] Telephone number: [insert] Contact name: [insert]

Goods or services provided: [insert] Completion date of agreement: [insert]

* + 1. Organisation name: [insert] Telephone number: [insert] Contact name: [insert]

Goods or services provided: [insert] Completion date of agreement: [insert]

**SECTION 3** - **SPECIFICATION**





**Tender Specification**

**Effect of Legumes on Net Emissions of Grazing Lands**

**Summary:**

Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) is seeking preliminary applications from organizations (or partnerships of organizations) to deliver a comprehensive R&D on net emissions of grazing lands via MLA Donor company co-investment.

**Background:**

Legumes are important drivers of efficiency and productivity in Australian grazing systems. They provide crude protein to meet ruminant’s requirements during periods of forage deficit, and play a valuable role in soil health, soil carbon accumulation and ecosystem health given their inherent ability to fix nitrogen from the atmosphere. Some legumes may have woody roots that penetrate deep into the soil profile. Some commercially available legumes have shown anti-methanogenic properties and potential to reduce total methane emissions or emissions intensity of a livestock business (Badgery et al., 2023; Durmic et al., 2021). Further research, including replicated paddock-scale studies, is required to understand the impact of legumes on the carbon balance and net emissions of an enterprise.

This program of work will investigate and/or validate the potential of commercially ready legume varieties for livestock productivity, soil carbon sequestration and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in a grazing environment.

**Objectives**

1. Conduct market research to determine total addressable hectares, current producer perceptions and likely obtainable hectares for commercially ready legume systems in a target region. Assess risks or barriers to adoption of legume system, and identify and/or test strategies for mitigation of these risks.
2. Prior to commencing on-farm research conduct ex-ante cost benefit across a range of potential establishment costs and livestock prices.
3. Determine via randomised and replicated research on-farm comparing legume-based pastures (treatment) with grass-based pastures (control):
4. Livestock performance on per hectare basis (kg/ha and kg/ha/100mm rainfall)
5. Any effects on livestock reproduction, welfare, morbidity or mortality
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 hectare
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. For the target regional area development extension and adoption resources to be housed on the MLA website:
12. Industry facing communications
13. Farm and advisor manuals
14. Regionalised case studies/economic analyses
15. Extend the results of the research to the target grazing region through presentations at conferences, field day, demonstrations and on-farm extension visits.
16. Recommend a framework for annual monitoring of adoption in the target region.

**Methodology**

Applicants need to develop a robust methodology to achieve project objectives. Quality of brief project design and methods to achieve project objectives including adequate partners, resourcing and expertise to facilitate proposed R&D are selection criterion.

Animal Ethics approval must be obtained, and maintained for the duration of the project during live animal trials. In relation to experimental design, methodologies should be appropriately powered to detect treatment differences for the experimental units being utilized, and power calculations should be included in the application.

All applications must include a suitably qualified on-site project manager with a demonstrated ability to deliver to ensure that project methodology is achieved during on-farm research components.

Some considerations for the application:

* The program may consist either single or several projects, each exploring different legumes and/or regions of Australia. Applicants can submit multiple projects and are encouraged to engage the appropriate industry partners, including seed companies, research organisations, extension providers and producers for each one.
* Projects that engage producers in design, delivery and extension will be considered favourably.
* Projects delivered under this program should take place on commercial properties and/or research stations with management interventions and animal interactions that would be considered realistic for livestock breeding and trading scenarios. Potential sites and collaborators should be identified as part of the application process. Consider the opportunity to conduct trials in diverse regions to account for regional differences.
* Each project should use a randomised block design, comparing replicated treatments of legumes or legume-grass pastures with grass-based pastures. Grasses could include improved or native grasses based on potential obtainable market.
* Ideally, each site will contain several blocks of comparable land types, soil types and pasture-base that could be grazed individually (e.g. a large paddock subdivided). Applications should address how this could be managed in a commercial environment, noting the considerations around infrastructure and equipment outlined below. Where this cannot be achieved, the application should outline an alternative method to achieve similar statistical confidence levels.
* Grazing studies should take place over a minimum of one year to account for seasonal variability. Soil carbon studies should be run over several years, ideally longer, with a baseline measurement period prior to legume establishment as mandatory to accommodate for any carbon fluxes that may occur.
* Above and below ground carbon stocks in vegetation and soils must be sampled on farm by objective best practice scientific methods that enable accurate and precise quantification.
* Rainfall and seasonal conditions should be measured

Projects should address R&D gaps, considering regions and commodities that have high ‘capacity’ (support) and ‘capability’ (the biophysical and economic opportunity) for the adoption of legumes.

Projects should address some of the risks and barriers to adoption, such as:

* Landholder knowledge, attitudes, skills for adoption of legumes
* Potential future climate impacts
* Risks of pests, weeds, disease and fire.

**Interaction with existing research programs and sites**

Established sites used for other R&D could be considered if suitable for these projects, for example a research station or a ZNE-CRC Demonstration site or a currently contracted MLA project. Where data is being collected on a single site, this project may be able to provide resourcing and/or funding to collect data from a supplementary site. Similarly, where a relevant dataset is already available, this work may support ongoing monitoring of sites (e.g. to understand soil carbon levels over a longer time period).

In this instance, project applicants should consider how both sites will be simultaneously managed and how data will be collected/shared for consistency.

**Industry extension and adoption**

Project applicants should consider opportunities to include communication, extension and adoption activities into their projects. At a minimum, these should include ‘Awareness activities’, ‘Short term training programs’ and ‘Advisor capability building’ per [MLA’s Producer Adoption pathway](https://www.mla.com.au/globalassets/mla-corporate/research-and-development/documents/mla-adoption-outcomes-report-2223-web.pdf). Applicants should identify appropriate personnel to develop and deliver these outputs.

***Work areas***

The focus of this program is on commercially available legumes with high value for livestock production and high adoption potential (area, number of livestock and feasibility of adoption). This includes Leucaena, Desmanthus, Stylos and Lucerne. Other legumes of interest for red meat production systems will be considered.

***Leucaena***

Leucaena is a leguminous shrub adapted to subtropical and tropical areas of northern Australia. Typically grown with pasture grasses, the benefit of Leucaena for liveweight gains and carrying capacity in cattle production is well recognised, particularly as a source of nutrition over the dry season (Kennedy & Charmley, 2012; [Lemin, 2019](https://www.mla.com.au/globalassets/mla-corporate/research-and-development/final-reports/2019/b.nbp.1618-final-report.pdf)). [Beutel et al. (2024)](https://futurebeef.com.au/resources/feeding-leucaena-for-maximum-beef-profit-where-can-it-grow-tips-on-establishment-and-what-can-help-maximize-the-grazing-benefits/) estimate that over 27.2M ha of land across Queensland, NT and WA could viably support Leucaena, with up to 2M ha currently cultivated. A new psyllid-tolerant variety, Redlands, presents opportunities to expand the distribution into high rainfall zones ([Ouwerkerk et al., 2023](https://www.mla.com.au/contentassets/3deff08db59044b499c20bafc0ab41d7/b.gbp.0026-final-report.pdf)).

In subtropical and tropical grass–legume mixtures, Leucaena has potential to support reductions in enteric methane emissions and emissions intensity ([Harrison et al., 2015)](https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0308521X15000360). Various chamber studies have shown reductions in enteric methane yield in cattle fed Leucaena ([Kennedy & Charmley, 2012;](https://www.publish.csiro.au/an/an11103) [Stifkens et al., 2022](https://www.publish.csiro.au/an/pdf/AN21576)). A larger-scale trial conducted on two Central Queensland properties measured methane emissions at a herd level, determining mean emissions to be lower in cattle fed a Leucaena-based diet than those on Rhodes grass pastures only ([McSweeney & Tomkins, 2015](https://www.mla.com.au/contentassets/bdd865d034d84d5fa5410ec845801dc8/b.cch.6510_final_report.pdf)).

There is limited research on the impact of leucaena on soil carbon, however a paired-site study conducted in Central Queensland showed organic carbon levels higher in the topsoils of established leucaena-grass pastures when compared to a grass-only pasture and a continuous cropping site ([Radrizzani et al., 2011](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/263004334_Soil_organic_carbon_and_total_nitrogen_under_Leucaena_leucocephala_pastures_in_Queensland)). Studies on these sites are continuing (Takeda et al., submitted). Conrad et al. (2017) reported a similar sequestration rate in areas with Leucaena, but more long-term studies are needed to better understand these dynamics ([Henry, 2022](https://era.daf.qld.gov.au/id/eprint/9238/1/Soil-Carbon-Sequestration-in-Northern-Grazing-Lands_B%20Henry.pdf)).

***Desmanthus***

Desmanthus is a tropical legume adapted to the heavy clay soils of northern Australia. A number of studies have shown the potential for Desmanthus to support improved animal production, including in cattle, goats and sheep ([Charmley, 2020](https://www.mla.com.au/globalassets/mla-corporate/research-and-development/final-reports/2021/p.psh.1055-final-report.pdf)).

Early research shows potential for methane reductions from Desmanthus compared to grass pastures, although this varies significantly based on the season and feed base.

In vitro research by [Vandermeulen et al. (2018)](https://www.agrimix.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Vandermeulen-et-al-Aug-2018-CP17279.pdf), which evaluated three lines of Progardes® Desmanthus, showed potential for reductions in methane gas when compared to Rhodes grass. Reductions were variable between seasons, and trade-offs between the digestibility and anti-methanogenic properties of the three lines were observed.

Chamber studies conducted by [Suyenberg et al. (2021)](https://researchonline.jcu.edu.au/69433/1/Suybeng%20et%20al.%202021%20Biology%20Volume%2010%20Issue%209%20Article%20943.pdf) in which cattle were fed desmanthus in different quantities, did not find that the legume reduced methane emissions. By comparison, a field study by [Charmley (2020)](https://www.mla.com.au/globalassets/mla-corporate/research-and-development/final-reports/2021/p.psh.1055-final-report.pdf) showed that Progardes® Desmanthus, at 30% of the diet, could reduce methane emissions from cattle by up to 10% when the nutritive value of the companion grasses was low. However, when preferential grazing of higher nutrition grasses was observed, methane emissions were not impacted. A current study being undertaken by Charmley et al. is comparing methane emissions of cattle grazing buffel grass to a buffel and Desmanthus mix, with Desmanthus at 15-30% of the diet. Interim results suggest that including Desmanthus in the pasture increases animal productivity, but it has not reduced methane production to date. This may also be explained by selective grazing behaviours, seasonal pasture production and pasture composition. Further research is required to

Measurement and modelling using flux tower data suggests that soil carbon can be improved through the addition of Desmanthus to the pasture base (CSIRO, QUT, Agrimix), however there is no dataset that reflects the long timescale for change in soil carbon levels. This presents opportunity for further exploration.

***Stylos***

Stylos are widely used in northern Australia to improve pasture productivity and livestock growth rates, with several cultivars well adapted for use across northern and eastern Queensland ([Hall et al., 2022,;](https://futurebeef.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/DAF_Stylos_Identification_Guide-1.pdf) [Cox et al., 2022](https://www.mla.com.au/contentassets/7338fcca4ecd442d8a58ab5ed29e1886/b.nbp.0812-final-report-ms-10-publish.pdf)). Few published studies are available on the sequestration or emissions associated with stylo-based pastures, and those that are available are inconsistent, presenting an opportunity for further research.

***Lucerne***

Lucerne is widely used for grazing and fodder in southern Australian farming systems to boost pasture and livestock production ([Boschma et al., 2018](https://www.mla.com.au/contentassets/31bf09dfe8d84b74bb49dd99b0d01ea2/b.psp.0001_final_report.pdf); [McGrath et al., 2020](https://researchoutput.csu.edu.au/en/publications/liveweight-and-carcass-characteristics-of-white-dorper-and-crossb); [Harris, R. nd](https://www.makingmorefromsheep.com.au/globalassets/mmfs/manual/module-7/chapter-7.3/signposts/evergraze-action-lucerne.pdf?dl=0)). Sown over an estimated 3.2 million ha and with a wide number of cultivars available, studies suggest there is potential for additional planting across 27M to 81M ha ([Nichols et al. 2012](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/231337509_Temperate_pasture_legumes_in_Australia_-_Their_history_current_use_and_future_prospects)).

Lucerne has been identified for its potential to support methane reductions in livestock due to its saponin and/or tannin content. These compounds have been tested mainly via in vitro studies. Further work is required in this field.

Modelling by [Clewett (2015)](https://research.usq.edu.au/item/q4xq3/pasture-measurements-and-bio-economic-analyses-to-assess-effects-of-climate-grazing-pressure-and-pasture-rundown-on-soil-carbon-and-returns-from-legume-based-sown-pastures-in-the-condamine-region-of) using the GRASP simulator suggests that there are long term benefits for soil carbon sequestration associated with pastures containing lucerne, as compared to grass only pastures. However, research is required to validate this in-field.

***Other legumes***

Other legumes may be considered for this study if they demonstrate high value for livestock production and high adoption potential (area, number of livestock and feasibility of adoption). This should be discussed with MLA prior to submission.

**Reporting Requirements:**

The successful applicant will provide milestone reports (if required) and a final report containing the results. Milestone and final reports will be prepared in line with MLA report guidelines and delivered in Microsoft Word format.

In addition to MLA standard reports, the following will also be provided to MLA at the time of delivery of the Final report:

1. a copy of all project data, including meta-data

MLA Milestone reports & Final reports are to be written with the standard of 1 extra decimal place for least squared means, than the ‘breaks of the unit of measurement’. e.g. if weight is measured to ±1 kg report least squared means to XXX.X. Standard errors should be reported to one extra decimal place than the least squared mean e.g. XX.XX.

**Timing:**

Delivery timeline is a selection criterion at both stages of application assessment and speed to delivery outcomes for commercial industry will be viewed positively.

**Intellectual Property**

MLA will own all Reports (milestone and final) 100%.

Ownership of project IP will be negotiated.

**Capital Requirements, Budget & Justification:**

This project will be funded 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.

There is no set budget project, and value for money will be determined through the tender process. Quality of budget justification and value for money are both selection criteria. MLA encourages applicants to justify their budget as thoroughly as possible, and an excel spreadsheet should be attached to the application. Applicants should be detailed e.g. number of trips, mileage, meals, units used, rates, etc. in their justification.

Collaborator declarations (from approved delegation levels) that all partners agree to methodology and budget justification, and payments are to be included in the application.

This program may co-fund with partners the development of some infrastructure, including fencing and water points, to meet the specifications of the trial design. It may also support the purchase of equipment required for project management if critical to the methodology. Where necessary, the project may also support the costs of legume establishment and/or improvement to meet the project requirements. Capital assets if critical for research must be depreciated using ATO approved straight lines methods, with capital buyback prices specified in the project statement of work.

However, it would be advantageous for applicants to consider where existing infrastructure, equipment and/or sites could be used to support the project. This will be considered as part of the value for money criteria in assessing project applications

Applicants should note this MLA Donor Company tender specification is for Co-investment, and hence budget justifications should reflect proportionate sharing of project capital and expenses relative to total cash and in-kind contributions for the true cost of the research. The maximum MLA can contribute is 40% of project capital and expenses.

In addition to Capital, Fees and Expenses for the research program, the applicant should also budget for the following, and applicants should outline which elements will be provided ‘in-kind’ versus charged for in the budget.

1. Completion of MLA Grazing Study Protocol Template for each live animal trial to be signed by MLA, Research Organisation and Collaborating Grazing Property (Please email MLA for Copy of Protocol).
2. Animal ethics preparation, submission, review and reporting requirements
3. Face to Face initiation meeting at service provider site – 1 day
4. Face to Face completion meeting at service provider site – 1 day
5. Monthly Microsoft Teams catch-ups (2 hours)
6. Preparation time for relevant adoption and extension activities outlined in application
7. Presentation time for relevant adoption and extension meetings outlined in application
8. Travel expenses for relevant adoption and extension meetings outlined in the application
9. Preparation time for 2 domestic conferences
10. Presentation time for 2 domestic conferences
11. Travel expenses for 2 domestic conferences
12. Journal article publication costs
13. Cost-benefit analysis analysis
14. Verification of accurate data entry and evidence of verification provided to MLA prior to analysis and report writing
15. Approval of statistical models by qualified personnel

**Confidentiality:**

By submitting an expression of interest, 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.

**Conflict of interest:**

Applicants, research teams or subcontractors with any potential conflicts of interest with Meat & Livestock Australia, or the Australian Lot Feeders’ Association, should thoroughly outline these in SECTION 6 – CORPORATE GOVERNANCE DISCLOSURES ANNEXURE of the tender application including how they propose to manage them, if applicable.

**Process:**

For your application to be **eligible for assessment** please complete and submit:

Section 2 of Request for Tender including;

* + 1.1. Details of tenderer
	+ 1.3 Proposed subcontractors and Suppliers
	+ 1.4 Insurance
	+ 1.5 Corporate Governance
	+ 1.6 References for both tenderer and subcontractors

Section 3 of Request for Tender including;

* + The relevant MLA Application form obtained from MLA website (note applications in non-standard format will not be accepted).
	+ Appendix 1. Subcontractor/collaborator organization declaration.
	+ Attachment – Summary of research team qualifications (tenderer and subcontractors), on-time delivery track record, publications/commercialization outcomes in last 5 years.
	+ Attachment – Microsoft Excel File of your Budget justification.

Section 4 of the Request for Tender:

* Confirmation, if successful, the tenderer will enter into an agreement with MLA on the terms set out in Section 4 or on any previously agreed umbrella terms.

Section 5 of Request for Tender

* Signed Declaration witnessed by JP or Solicitor.

Section 6 of Request for Tender

* Corporate Governance Disclosures Annexure.

Section 7 of Request for Tender

* MLA modern slavery Questionaire.

Applicants submit a Stage 1 application, utilizing the MLA Preliminary Application form (see below), addressing the tender specification. Proposals will be scored against the selection criterion set out in this tender specification. MLA will acknowledge receipt of each application. Applicants will be advised in writing of the success or failure of their application with feedback relative to the Selection criteria. No further correspondence will be entered into after this feedback is provided by MLA.

If an applicant is successful in Stage 1, they will progress to Stage 2 application process. MLA will then request a completed statement of work including MLA Grazing Study Protocol, and revised budget justification based on any Stage 1 feedback.

Once a Stage 2 statement of work and MLA Grazing Study Protocol, and budget justification is completed to MLA’s satisfaction, the application will then be submitted for MLA review. Work commencement is contingent on MLA approval of the proposal and contract execution. Contract execution will involve executing an Umbrella research agreement and Statement of Work. A copy of MLA’s umbrella agreement is available on MLA’s website at [https://www.mla.com.au/about-mla/mla-agreements/http://www.mla.com.au/mla-agreements](https://www.mla.com.au/about-mla/mla-agreements/http%3A//www.mla.com.au/mla-agreements)

The total approval and contracting process may take 2 to 5 months dependent on project value.

This project will utilize MLA Donor Company funding.

Go to [Applying for MLA project funding | Meat & Livestock Australia](https://www.mla.com.au/research-and-development/funding-opportunities/), then navigate to the correct application form.

**Tender Addendums**

Tender addendums will be uploaded to[**https://www.mla.com.au/research-and-development/funding-opportunities/industry-researchers/current-tenders/**](https://www.mla.com.au/research-and-development/funding-opportunities/industry-researchers/current-tenders/)

Applicants should check this website regularly for addendum updates.

**Selection criteria:**

Stage 1 - MLA applications will be reviewed by Meat & Livestock Australia, and selection will be based on assessment against the following criteria:

|  |
| --- |
| Selection Criteria  |
| Collaborator declarations (from approved delegation levels) that all partners agree to methodology and budget justification in the application.  |
| Quality of project design and methods to achieve project objectives including adequate partners, resourcing, facilities and expertise to facilitate proposed R&D.  |
| On-time delivery track record, research publications/commercialization outcomes in last 5 years of project team. References for tender applicant and subcontractors of the last 3 agreements entered into for the provision of goods or services comparable to those set out in this Request for Tender.  |
| Quality of budget justification excel spreadsheet  |
| Value for money of budget and Presence of greater than 2 external investment partners (preference that at least one funding partner being a primary producer or key supply chain participant)  |

**Project proposal submissions:**

MLA applications must be lodged electronically as Word document to: tenders@mla.com.au

Stage 1 MLA Applications must be received by 1700 AEST on 19 December 2024.

Strict adherence to the time deadline for applications will occur. Incomplete request for tender applications without the required documentation will not be assessed.

**Further information:**

tenders@mla.com.au

Research & Development

Meat & Livestock Australia

**Section 3.0 Appendix 1. Subcontractor/collaborator organisation declaration**

A signed declaration must be provided to MLA for each subcontractor or collaborator organisation nominated in the MLA application.

**Contribution/Payment Table**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item**  | **Cash Contribution to Lead Organisation (if not providing cash directly to lead organisation put N/A)** | **In-Kind****(nominate any in-kind contributions)** | **Cash payments** **(list any cash-payments required from MLA or lead organisation)**  |
| **Details of Work to be conducted by Subcontractor/collaborator** |  |  |  |
| **Total Dollars and justification** |  |  |  |

**Declaration**

* I declare our organisation agrees to the methodology and budget outlined in the MLA tender application and Contribution/Payment

By signing below, I am authorised to sign and submit this declaration on behalf of our organisation, and agree to the above declaration and confirm all the above statements to be true.

|  |
| --- |
| Name of MLA Tender Application:  |
| Lead organisation submitting MLA tender:  |
| Industry Partner (organisation name): |
| Industry Partner ACN or ABN: |
| Authorised representative (name and signature): |
| Position/Role: |
| Address: |
| Phone: | Email: |

**Section 3.0 Appendix 1. Subcontractor/collaborator organisation declaration**

A signed declaration must be provided to MLA for each subcontractor or collaborator organisation nominated in the MLA application.

**Contribution/Payment Table**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item**  | **Cash Contribution to Lead Organisation (if not providing cash directly to lead organisation put N/A)** | **In-Kind****(nominate any in-kind contributions)** | **Cash payments** **(list any cash-payments required from MLA or lead organisation)**  |
| **Details of Work to be conducted by Subcontractor/collaborator** |  |  |  |
| **Total Dollars and justification** |  |  |  |

**Declaration**

* I declare our organisation agrees to the methodology and budget outlined in the MLA tender application and Contribution/Payment

By signing below, I am authorised to sign and submit this declaration on behalf of our organisation, and agree to the above declaration and confirm all the above statements to be true.

|  |
| --- |
| Name of MLA Tender Application:  |
| Lead organisation submitting MLA tender:  |
| Industry Partner (organisation name): |
| Industry Partner ACN or ABN: |
| Authorised representative (name and signature): |
| Position/Role: |
| Address: |
| Phone: | Email: |

## SECTION 4 - MLA TERMS

A copy of MLA's umbrella [select applicable agreement: research agreement/consultancy agreement] is available on MLA's website at [https://www.mla.com.au/about-mla/mla­](http://www.mla.com.au/about-mla/mla) [agreements/http://www.mla.com.au/mla-agreements](http://www.mla.com.au/mla-agreements)

**SECTION 5 - DECLARATION**

## For corporate tenderers

I, [insert name] of [insert address] do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

I hold the position of [position] and am duly authorised by [insert tenderer organisation]

**(Tenderer)** to make this declaration on its behalf.

I make this declaration to the best of my knowledge, information and belief as to the accuracy of the material contained in it and after due inquiry in relation to such material.

This tender comprises:

[list documents comprising tender]

Neither the Tenderer nor any of its employees or agents had any knowledge of the price submitted by any other tenderer prior to providing its tender, nor did the Tenderer disclose to any other tenderer the Tenderer's tendered price prior to closing of tenders.

Neither the Tenderer nor any of its employees or agents has entered into an agreement, arrangement or understanding which would have the result that, on being the successful tenderer, it would pay to any unsuccessful tenderer any moneys in respect of or in relation to the tender or any agreement resulting from it.

The Tenderer is not aware of any fact, matter or thing which would materially affect the decision of MLA in accepting the tender, except as disclosed in the tender.

The Tenderer confirms that they are prepared to agree to MLA’s standard agreement or proceed with the Tender under previously agreed umbrella terms.

The contents of the tender are true and correct.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the *Oaths Act 1900* (NSW).

DECLARED at [insert city]

This [insert date] day of [insert month] 2024 Before me,

Justice of the Peace/Solicitor

## For individual tenderers

I, [insert name] of [insert address] do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

I make this declaration to the best of my knowledge, information and belief as to the accuracy of the material contained in it and after due inquiry in relation to such material.

This tender comprises:

[list documents comprising tender]

Neither me nor any of my employees or agents had any knowledge of the price submitted by any other tenderer prior to providing its tender, nor did I disclose to any other tenderer my tendered price prior to closing of tenders.

Neither me nor any of my employees or agents has entered into an agreement, arrangement or understanding which would have the result that, on being the successful tenderer, I would pay to any unsuccessful tenderer any moneys in respect of or in relation to the tender or any agreement resulting from it.

I am not aware of any fact, matter or thing which would materially affect the decision of MLA in accepting the tender, except as disclosed in the tender.

I confirm that I am prepared to agree to MLA’s standard agreement or proceed with the Tender under previously agreed umbrella terms.

The contents of the tender are true and correct.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the *Oaths Act 1900* (NSW).

DECLARED at [insert city]

This [insert date] day of [insert month] 2024 Before me,

Justice of the Peace/Solicitor

## SECTION 6- CORPORATE GOVERNANCE DISCLOSURES ANNEXURE

## *[Tenderer to complete. Where the below is not applicable, please insert N/A in the below tables]*

## Conflicts of interest

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of individual with conflict** | **Date interest declared** | **Expected time frame of the conflict** | **Nature and extent of the actual, potential or perceived conflict** | **Plan to manage and mitigate the conflict of interest of the party** | **MLA approval** |
| **[insert name of individual on the tenderer’s side with a conflict]** | **[insert date the conflict of interest was declared. As per Section 1.10 of this request for tender, the tenderer must immediately notify MLA in writing of any conflict of interest.]** | **[insert time frame of the conflict e.g. ongoing, until a given date, or for a stated number of months/years]** | **[insert description of the conflict of interest, details of any MLA individuals involved and their relationship with the named individual on the tenderer’s side]** | **[insert plan to manage the conflict of interest as agreed between MLA and the tenderer]** | **[insert date of approval of conflict of interest and management plan by MLA and relevant approver from MLA]** |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
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## Gifts or hospitality

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
| [insert details of gift or hospitality provided to MLA) | [provide an estimate of the value of the gift or hospitality] |

##

## Anti-bribery and corruption

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
| [Please include details to any association to current or prior claims/events relating to bribery or corruption] | [insert details taken by the tenderer or any regulator to address the bribery or corruption) | [insert the date, or date range, of the bribery or corruption) |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
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## SECTION 7 - MLA MODERN SLAVERY QUESTIONAIRE

***[Tenderer to complete.]***

**Background:**

MLA has a zero-tolerance approach towards any trafficking, slavery, wage exploitation, involuntary servitude, forced labour and child labour and is required to comply with the Australian Modern Slavery Act 2018 (Cth). Whilst MLA is confident that its business partners adhere to such principles and strive to eliminate any modern slavery practices from its operations and supply chains, it has implemented a due diligence process, including this questionnaire, which will assist in identifying any modern slavery risks in its supply chain and address such risks appropriately. Refer to MLA's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics.

## Contact Details

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Entity Name** | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **Postal address** | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **Country of Operations** | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **Contact Name** | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **Phone** | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **Mobile** | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| **E-mail** | Click or tap here to enter text. |

**Note:**

* + - *If you respond 'No' to any of the questions, please provide information on how your organisation addresses these requirements.*
		- *Please send copies of policies, procedures, or other relevant documents such as internal Modern Slavery Policy or Modern Slavery Checklist to* *RiskandCompliance@mla.com.au* *to support your questionnaire, where applicable.*

## Questions:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1.** | Is your company required to report under the Modern Slavery Act (Cth) 2018?**If yes, please provide a link to or copy of the latest Modern Slavery Statement:** Click or tap here to enter text. | [ ] Yes [ ]  No |
| **2.** | Does your company (including its subsidiaries, where applicable) implement a process that aims to identify any potential risks of modern slavery practices in its operations and supply chain?**Please provide additional comments:** Click or tap here to enter text. | [ ] Yes [ ]  No |
| **3.** | Does your company have a code of conduct or similar compliance and ethics related policy in place?If yes, please attach a link to or copy of the policy, where applicable.**If no, please provide additional comments:** Click or tap here to enter text. | [ ] Yes [ ]  No |
| **4.** | Does your company have a policy or process that prohibits forced labour and human trafficking in your business?If yes, please attach a link to or copy of the policy, where applicable.**If no, please provide additional comments:** Click or tap here to enter text. | [ ] Yes [ ]  No |
| **5.** | **D**oes your company have a process to ensure that recruitment agencies, acting on your behalf, operate in compliance with applicable laws and act ethically by not charging workers fees or expenses to get their job?* Please tick NA if your company does not engage recruitment agencies.

If no, please provide additional comments: **Click or tap here to enter text.** | [ ] Yes [ ]  No |
| **6.** | Does your company have a policy statement concerning your commitment to workplace health and safety standards and compliance with all relevant workplace health and safety laws?Please attach a link to or copy of the policy, where applicable. **Click or tap here to enter text.**If no, please provide additional comments: Click or tap here to enter text. | [ ] Yes [ ]  No |
| **7.** | Do you provide all your workers with information on employment conditions and workplace entitlements?If no, please provide additional comments: **Click or tap here to enter text.** | [ ] Yes [ ]  No |
| **8.** | Do you have a policy that respects your workers' rights, in accordance with relevant national and state laws, to freedom of association and collective bargaining?Please attach a link to or copy of the policy, where applicable. **Click or tap here to enter text.**If no, please provide additional comments: **Click or tap here to enter text.** | [ ] Yes [ ]  No |
| **9.** | Does your company have a policy or process providing a grievance and disciplinary mechanism for workers?Please attach a link to or copy of the policy, where applicable. **Click or tap here to enter text.**If no, please provide additional comments: Click or tap here to enter text. | [ ] Yes [ ]  No |