

**Expression of Interest  
National Livestock Genetics Consortium  
Skills Based Taskforce Vacancy – Merino  
Producer**

**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025

**MLA Program:** Livestock Genetics

### **1. Purpose**

Meat & Livestock Australia are seeking expressions of interest from individuals with extensive professional experience in merino sheep breeding in Australia, either seedstock or commercial.

### **2. Relevant and necessary background**

The National Livestock Genetics Consortium (NLGC) is a skills-based taskforce, established in 2016 by MLA. The NLGC acts in an advisory capacity and provides direction and support to increase collaboration, transparency, communication and investment in livestock genetics research, development and adoption (RD&A) for the benefit of Australian red meat producers. The primary aim of the NLGC is, through strategic research investments, to increase the rate of genetic progress for traits that drive value chain productivity and sustainability in the sheep and beef industries.

The outcomes of the [NLGC 2030 Strategic plan](#) are:

- An industry improvement of 2% in the rate of genetic gain annually through access to world leading genetic/genomic technologies
- Genetics is an established long-term enabler for achieving productivity and sustainability goals
- Genetic tools addressing sustainability outcomes are available to users across the supply chain
- Data platforms that enable genetic data to be leveraged in R&D to underpin continual data capture are established.

These will be achieved through supporting RD&A investments that align to one of the five strategic pillars outlined in the NLGC plan:

1. Enabling transparent and flexible investment
2. Continuous improvement of world leading genetic tools
3. Improved social, economic and environmental outcomes
4. Delivering direct impact of genetic investment to industry through adoption
5. Facilitating bold, collaborative and impactful R&D

### **3. Terms of Reference**

The NLGC Taskforce are seeking an individual to represent the Merino sector who has extensive genetics and breeding experience, focusing on Merino sheep for both seedstock and commercial operations. The individual will also have the skills to ensure investments and strategic direction advised through the NLGC will deliver greater impact for livestock producers and the red meat value chain.

The NLGC is currently seeking an individual with the following essential experience and skills:

- Current or preceding Merino producer/breeder in either seedstock and/or commercial breeding.
- Knowledge and understanding of livestock genetics and the application of this knowledge in a commercial or seedstock Merino sheep breeding business.
- A proven track record in delivery of high rates of genetic progress
- Involvement in utilizing genetic and genomic tools in a Merino sheep breeding program.
- Ability to work collaboratively with other scientists, producers and industry experts to achieve common goals.

Applicants with the following knowledge and understanding will be preferred:

- Industry experience in livestock production and/or genetics as it relates to Merino sheep operations
- Involvement in strategic thinking and planning
- Experience reviewing and assessing project applications
- Problem-solving skills

### **Expression of Interest**

#### ***Review Criteria***

Applicants are required to provide both an **Application form** and **Resume**.

The application form is required to be a summary outlining your skills, knowledge and experience, and your motivations for taking on this role.

The following selection criteria will need to be addressed in the application form:

- What is your previous experience in contribution to a committee or a board?
- What has your involvement in the livestock industry been to date, specifically in Merino sheep breeding and use/knowledge of genetic & genomic tools?

For further information on the role of Taskforce members please refer to the [NLGC Taskforce Terms of Reference](#).

#### **Submissions:**

Applicants should submit both a cover letter and CV to Sarah Day ([livestockgenetics@mla.com.au](mailto:livestockgenetics@mla.com.au)) by **COB 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025**.