

# Strategic Partnership for Animal Welfare Research, Development and Adoption

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In one of the largest investments in livestock welfare research to date, MLA Donor Company (MDC) is partnering with some of Australia's leading research bodies to undertake ground-breaking projects to enhance animal welfare.

Announced in May 2017, the Strategic Partnership for Animal Welfare Research, Development and Adoption involves MDC collaborating with a group of organisations with a shared commitment to further improve the Australian livestock industry's animal welfare practices.



## Partner organisations currently include:

- Animal Welfare Science Centre which includes the University of Melbourne, South Australian Research and Development Institute and University of Adelaide
- Charles Sturt University
- CSIRO Armidale
- NSW Department of Primary Industries
- University of Queensland/Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation
- University of Sydney
- University of Western Australia
- VIC Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources.

## \$35 million

invested over 5 years by the 50:50 partnership between MDC and collaborating research bodies

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## \$24 million

of projects underway by end of 2017

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The research projects look at issues including the improvement or replacement of aversive practices, such as branding, dehorning, and castration. Tools to improve early detection of disease, test immunity and reduce mortality rates are also being explored. In addition, a large program of work is directed at practically benchmarking and assessing welfare on farms that will give farmers the tools they need to improve the welfare of their animals.

The 50:50 partnership between MDC and the collaborating research bodies will see up to \$35 million invested over five years. The MDC Board endorsed the assessment and contracting of projects within the Strategic Partnership of up to \$7 million/year. By the end of 2017, \$24 million of projects were underway.

MLA Program Manager, Animal Health Welfare and Biosecurity, Dr Jim Rothwell, said that the unprecedented commitment of funds allows for strategic, innovative research that will lead to valuable and long-lasting outcomes.

*“Australia’s livestock industry understands the importance of animal welfare and is proactive in seeking to continually improve welfare outcomes.”*

The partnership is governed by a management committee consisting of a scientific representative from each financial member, and chaired by internationally-renowned livestock researcher Professor Emeritus Alan Bell.

The committee is responsible for peer review of projects, ensuring projects comply with the objectives of the Meat Industry Strategic Plan 2020 and organising an annual forum, whilst MLA supports the committee and acts as lead coordinator.

## About MDC

MLA Donor Company Limited (MDC) is a fully-owned subsidiary of Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA). MDC accelerates innovation across the value chain so the Australian red meat and livestock industry can remain competitive on the world stage.

It does this by attracting commercial investment from individual enterprises and others that share a mutual interest to co-invest in innovation that will benefit the industry.

## How does MDC’s co-investment funding work?

MDC attracts commercial investment and the Australian Government matches partner contributions (up to 50%) for projects that address industry and government priorities and benefit the Australian community.

MDC attracts investment from every part of the red meat and livestock value chain, including processors, value-adders, breed societies, large pastoral companies, international collaborators, universities, research providers and technology providers.

MDC works in partnership with these value chain partners to deliver products and services to the Australian red meat industry.

### For more information about partnering with MDC contact:

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