WALRC Research, Development and Adoption - 2016/17 Issues and Prioritisation

Category	Associated Issues
OVERARCHING OF ALL KEY ISSUES *Collaborative Research, Development & Adoption + lack of Skilled Industry (on farm, education etc)*	
Feedbase Management	- Quality x Quantity - Pasture utilisation & feed conversion efficiencies (how are they effected by grazing management, pasture type and genetics) - Feed efficiency selection (including genetics) - Water use efficiency (manage for better ground cover) - Out of season feed gaps (e.g. forage shrubs, drought tolerant perennial pastures, autumn feed gap & feed transition)
Business Approach	- To develop a model of 'decision points' for livestock producers to be able to make EARLY objective decisions about selling stock, quitting lambs as stores, buying in feed etc. - Logistics and viability trading livestock. - Discover the barriers and address strategies to instill a culture of business evaluations and benchmarking in livestock systems. - Business analysis of novel/innovative production systems. - Develop a framework for small, local, time limited (2- 3year) groups with regular meetings, high levels of information sharing and an advisor or mentor to facilitate discussions. Business discussion groups. - Optimising production to best match market prices and adapt to environment.
Systems Based R & D/Mixed Farming	- Genetics x Environment x Management - Production systems (pasture, genetics, management calendar, target market, livestock & cropping systems synergies and opportunities, land usage) - Costs of Production in mixed farming - Pasture/Fodder innovation systems & management for Mediterranean climate/seasonality - Crop x Pastures interface (e.g. pasture carryover after successive crops, integrations management, pasture impacts on no till cropping/management, crop grazing impacts on following years crop).
Technology	- Increase adoption of 'BIG Data' - Livestock Data link (industry compliance, enhanced productivity) - Increase incentives to lift carcass weights (meat science cutting) - Use of technology for FOO calibrations for grazing (NDVI, smart phone, UNE FOO App)

	• Improve On farm management (robust, simple, reduce managerial complexity) • Pastures and technology uptake
Reproduction	• Increase reproductive rates • Improved fertility & weaning % • Fertility through feed base management • Lifetime performance (reproductive efficiency)
Supply Chain	• Supply chain knowledge at producer level • Producing consistent yield, carcass specifications, meat quality (include Genomic Research) • Valued based marketing using saleable yield and eating quality score
Animal Health	• General animal health • Emerging worm resistance
Lamb Survival	• Reduction of mortality rates/neo-natal mortality rates • Understand interaction between mob size or stocking rate and other animal, paddock and environmental- factors which influence lamb survival, including ewe condition score, feed on offer and weather during lambing.
Pest Management	• Wild dog control and increasing prevalence
Practice Change	• Labour saving devices • Developing a compelling case for change (tradeoff, synergies, antagonism) • Get Lifetime Ewe Management learning embedded in >50% of sheep businesses
Social License	• Public perception of sheep industry - poor public perception can cause business issues