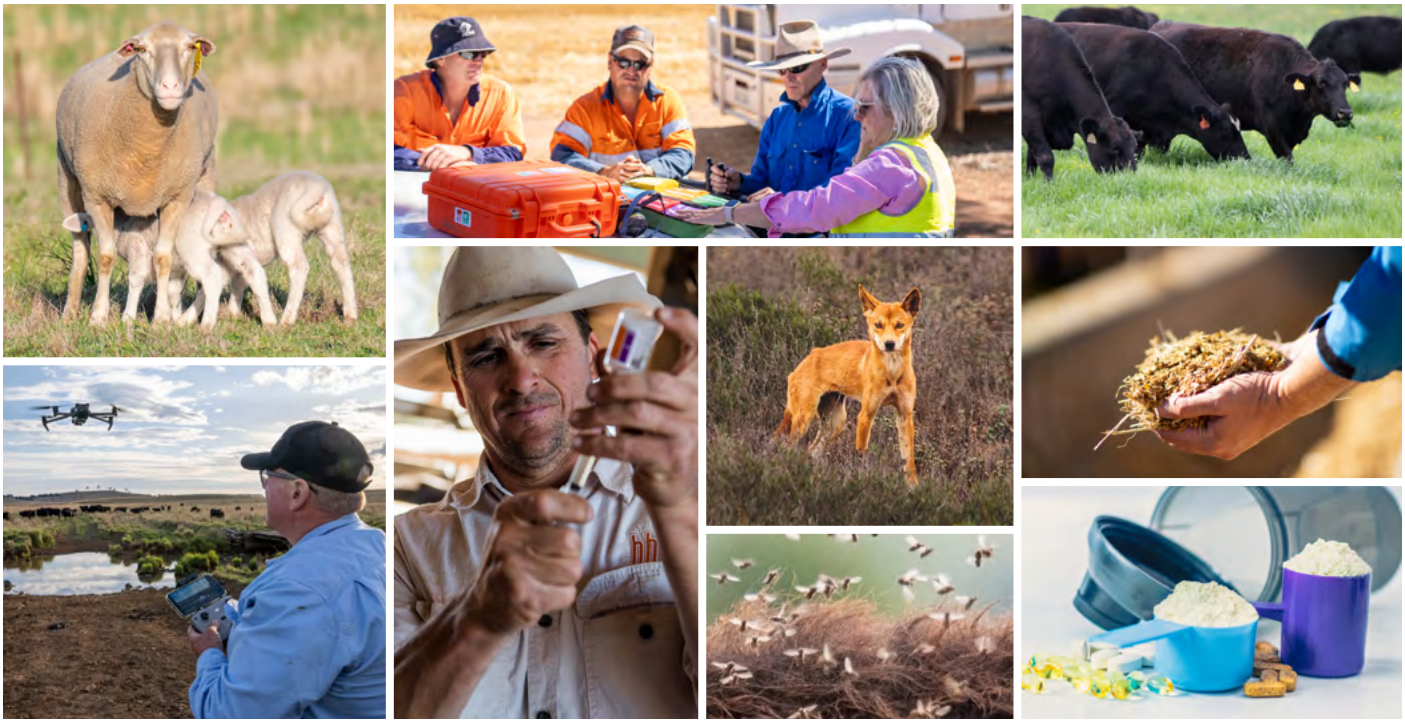
MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA

Seeking expressions of interest

MDC co-funding for new red meat industry technologies



MLA Donor Company (MDC) is a fully owned subsidiary of MLA. Its purpose is to attract investment in research, development and adoption (RD&A) for the benefit of the Australian red meat industry. MDC invested $94 million (including partner contributions) in FY24.

Who is eligible to co-invest with MDC?

All publicly funded research organisations (PFRO) with an interest in outcomes that benefit the Australian red meat industry.

How does MDC co-investment work?

MDC co-invests in a 60:40 ratio (participant contribution: MLA contribution) exclusive of access fees. Access the EOI response template and basic calculator at mla.com.au/eoi-response

MDC cannot accept:

- 'in-kind' (noting that wages are a legitimate cash cost of a project)
- cash contributions from Australian (Commonwealth) Government sources.

What is MLA looking for in this EOI?

A proven minimum technology readiness level of 4 or greater (see mla.com.au/trls). High level criteria for assessing potential investments include:

- alignment with MLA's strategic objectives (see mla.com.au/strat-plan-2030) and mla.com.au/consultation) and at least one of the example technologies listed on next page
- funding availability
- track record
- technical risk (including R&D design and strategy).

Scan or click the QR code for more details of MLA's investment decision criteria.

There is no maximum or minimum project size and MLA is flexible on IP ownership and can offer funding on either dilutive or non-dilutive terms to ensure commercial success.

How can you apply?

Expressions of Interest should be collated using the EOI response template at mla.com.au/eoi-response and submitted by the PFRO's commercialisation entity: commercialisation@mla.com.au.

MLA will process EOI responses on a first-come, first-served basis. Note that research providers are also encouraged to keep an eye on MLA's 'Current tenders' at mla.com.au/current-tenders for specific project calls (which may include 100% MLA funded opportunities).

Current new technology priorities

The following investment priorities focus on areas where solutions are more likely to be 'commercialisable' (and therefore likely to both attract co-investment and be of interest to commercialisation offices). MLA is open to co-funded opportunities not included in this list, provided they are of benefit to the Australian red meat industry.

Objective measurement	• Technologies to objectively measure health, productivity and eating quality attributes in live animals, carcasses and/or by-co-products e.g. offal (see mla.com.au/om)
Monitoring for health and nutritional status and diet quality	• In-field diagnostic tests for nutritional status of plants and animals • Improve accuracy and frequency of satellite-based monitoring, on-farm remote sensing, and AI video recognition • Real-time decision-making tools and tests for objective decision-making (e.g. crush-side pregnancy detection)
Animal health	• Technologies to address endemic animal diseases in the Australian red meat industry (see mla.com.au/endemic-disease-priorities)
Food innovation	• New high-value products that drive full carcase utilisation (see mla.com.au/innovation) • Innovative technology platforms creating new product offerings and shelf life optimisation to value add red meat and by-co-products
Calf loss	• Quantify and / or address calf loss from known reasons such as heat, disease, nutrition, stocking rates, distance to water, predation, mismothering, and other animal behaviour (with a particular focus on northern cattle herds)
Female sterilisation	• Female sterilisation methods that are non-surgical, reversible, highly effective for a minimum of 12 months, and cost-effective
Parasite management	• Technologies to manage parasites such as tick, buffalo fly and internal parasites. Might consist of vaccines, biological control/inhibitors or genomics for resistance against ectoparasites and endoparasites (see mla.com.au/endemic-disease-priorities) • Longer-lasting fly management options that are effective for 6–8 months
Carrying capacity	• Technology / Methodology for assessment of long-term carrying capacity components like pasture growth, safe utilisation rates, and browse consumption
Pasture improvement	• Pasture species measurement • Impact of pasture improvements on greenhouse gas emissions • Grazing behaviour through GPS data tracking • New tools for pasture seed distribution and establishment
Methane mitigation	• Easy-to-use, affordable technologies or processes to reduce methane production in extensively grazed cattle with production efficiency benefits
Carbon footprint assessment	• Tools to assist in reliable and standardised methodologies for benchmarking and assessing carbon footprints (including standardised measurements of carbon sequestration in rangelands)
Lamb survival and weaning rates	• Technologies and processes to improve lamb survival and weaning rates
Remote monitoring and management	• Technologies to enable remote, whole-of-livestock-system monitoring for improved productivity and management efficiency
Female sheep efficiency and reproductive success	• Technologies to improve weaner to maiden ewe development/growth and nutrition • Technologies to measure stress in weaners, in particular weaner behaviour and metabolic indicators
Farm safety	• Technologies that reduce agricultural workplace injuries and fatalities. Farming continues to be the highest risk occupation in Australia
Predation/invasive species control	• Technologies to monitor and control predation and invasive species

Example project budget

Project R&D budget	$200,000
Total project value	**$200,000**
Participant contribution (R&D) @ 60%	$120,000
MDC contribution (R&D) @ 40%	$80,000
Participation contribution (12% access fee) @ 60%	$14,400
Total participant cash contribution (R&D + access fees)	**$134,400**
Total MDC cash contribution (matched R&D)	**$80,000**

Have questions or want more information?

If you have questions or want more information, please contact:

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Please note: MDC does not fund agri-political activity or any other activity precluded by MLA's Statutory Funding Agreement (mla.com.au/sfa) with the Australian Government.