Projects commenced prior to 2025

Project Title	Span	MLA Project Manager	Research Organisation	Project Summary
Ovine Pneumonia caused by Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae in grazing sheep	2024-2027	Sharon Dundon	Dynamic Ag Joan Lloyd Consulting	Farmers in western Victoria report increased cases of sheep pneumonia and/or pleurisy year-round, but causes remain unclear—possibly seasonal or management-related. This project aims to: 1. Assess clinical and subclinical pneumonia levels via abattoir surveillance and on-farm testing. 2. Identify disease determinants through literature review and analogy. Findings will inform a case-control study to pinpoint farm-level risk and management factors for pneumonia control.
Priority	Develop ovine pneumonia vaccine and animal health treatment/prevention guidelines			
RAC region	SALRC			
MLA Pillar	Animal Wellbeing			
Committee Origin	SE VIC/TAS, WVIC, SNSW			
Year Raised	2021-2022			

Project Title	Span	MLA Project Manager	Research Organisation	Project Summary
A vaccinology approach to scour worms	2023-2028	Michael Laurence	Moredun Research Institute	Developing an effective parasite vaccine requires identifying an antigen that triggers an immune response at the parasite's infestation site. Most Australian sheep face infestations from Small Brown Stomach Worm and Black Scour Worm, which are less affected by blood-based antibodies. The challenge is to find an antigen that works locally and neutralizes the parasite. Success would also benefit beef and goat producers.
Priority	Improved, integrated techniques for prevention and treatment of internal parasites in sheep and cattle and flystrike in sheep, to improve production and reduce resistance			
RAC region	SALRC			
MLA Pillar	Animal Wellbeing			
Committee Origin	SE VIC/TAS, WVIC, SNSW, NNSW, CVIC, SA			
Year Raised	2022-2024			

Project Title	Span	MLA Project Manager	Research Organisation	Project Summary
Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) to eradicate sheep blowfly on Kangaroo Island	2023-2028	Michael Laurence	Adelaide University & PIRSA	Flystrike by sheep blowfly costs the sheep industry $324M per year through direct losses in meat and wool production and management costs. Current management strategies are not always effective and represent risk from chemical resistance and animal welfare concerns. This project will work to develop a sterile insect technique to eradicate sheep blowfly in Kangaroo Island to demonstrate the technique be effective in geographically distinct regions, measure the benefit to producers, and add SIT to the suite of tools that can be employed to control flystrike on the mainland.
Priority	Improved, integrated techniques for prevention and treatment of internal parasites in sheep and cattle and flystrike in sheep, to improve production and reduce resistance			
RAC region	SALRC			
MLA Pillar	Animal Wellbeing			
Committee Origin	SE VIC/TAS, WVIC, SNSW, NNSW, CVIC, SA			
Year Raised	2022-2024			

Project Title	Span	MLA Project Manager	Research Organisation	Project Summary
Merino Ewe Mortality – prevalence, causes and mitigation strategies	2023-2026	Sharon Dundon	Pinion Advisory & AWI	This project conducted in three phases will: 1) examine the rates and causes of merino ewe mortality; 2) trial practical intervention strategies to reduce merino ewe mortality with producer groups and 3) complete economic modelling of the impacts of merino ewe mortality and the value of intervention at a farm and industry level.
Priority	Improved, integrated techniques for prevention and treatment of internal parasites in sheep and cattle and flystrike in sheep, to improve production and reduce resistance			
RAC region	SALRC			
MLA Pillar	Animal Wellbeing			
Committee Origin	SE VIC/TAS, WVIC, SNSW, NNSW, CVIC, SA			
Year Raised	2022-2024			

Project Title	Span	MLA Project Manager	Research Organisation	Project Summary
A new and targeted approach to improve control of cattle tick and buffalo fly	2024-2030	Sharon Dundon	University of Sydney	This project will address pressing tick and buffalo fly problems for the Australian cattle industry, whilst safeguarding dung beetle and honey bee populations. The outcomes of this research will provide a strong position to enable the establishment of collaborative agreements with industry partners to translate the research to a commercial setting. A successful outcome from this project will provide proof-of-concept for a generic approach for the development of safer and more environmentally friendly insecticides.
Priority	Minimum 6-month efficacy control methods to control buffalo fly to reduce skin lesions and production losses Identification of naturally resistant animals (Low withholding period)			
RAC region	NABRC			
MLA Pillar	Animal Wellbeing			
Committee Origin	CQLD, KPIAC, Pilbara			
Year Raised	2024-2026			

Project Title	Span	MLA Project Manager	Research Organisation	Project Summary
Calving Rewards: the effect of calving date on producer profitability	2024-2029	Stuart Bull	LA One Economics & Consulting	WA beef producers could improve their profitability per hectare by optimising their time of calving. Often high demand for energy from cows during lactation coincides with low pasture supply. Identified as the major impairment for the expansion of industry in southwest Australia. The current annual “peak and trough” of weaner supply challenges the ability of feedlots and processors to deliver a year around supply of products that meet specification. Five facilitated learning groups (FLG) linked with five demonstration sites, located between Esperance and Geraldton for four years will support more than 100 beef producers in Western Australia to make more informed decisions about increasing efficiency in their calving system. An extensive industry survey at the start of the project will be used to identify opportunities, barriers, appetite for change and map gaps in knowledge and skills. This information will be used to fine tune myFARMSMART, a customisable economic tool designed to empower farmers to create change.
Priority	Optimising southern beef systems with time of calving and stocking rate			
RAC region	WALRC			
MLA Pillar	Grassfed Beef Productivity			
Year Raised	2022-2024			

Project Title	Span	MLA Project Manager	Research Organisation	Project Summary
Producing profitable and resilient Southern Beef herds.	2024-2030	Stuart Bull	Adelaide University	The Profitable and Resilient Southern Beef Herds project aims to achieve a measurable increase in lifetime cow productivity, while building beef business resilience and supporting producers to make more informed enterprise decisions. The project consists of four main components; 1). a comprehensive review, renovation, and refurbishment of the archived More Beef from Pastures program (MBfP), 2) engaging 200 commercial beef businesses in an updated MBfP 2.0 long term learning pathway 3) these 200 beef business will track a heifer cohort for 2 years collecting feedbase and maternal productivity data 4) dedicated feedbase research in Tasmania focused on pasture utilisation and diversity. Innovative extension and adoption activities will reach 2000 producers, with 200 beef businesses measuring impact on-farm. The long-term learning pathway and supporting activities will be designed specifically for southern beef production systems, focused on driving measurable on-farm practice change to increase whole of lifetime cow productivity while remaining flexible and nuanced to regional needs across Southern Australia. Two key research and development components underpin the renovation and extension of the MBfP program. The R&D components are focused on 1) maternal productivity and 2) increasing pasture utilisation/feed quality. Innovative technologies (e.g. virtual fencing) will support the development of diverse and resilient beef feedbase systems. The project will reach a minimum of 2000 beef producers in awareness activities, with 200 beef businesses measuring practice change on farm, to validate our aim of increasing annual profit by $50 per cow in demonstration sites. The project will support capacity building of 20 industry advisors, including upskilling emerging livestock consultants
Priority	Optimising southern beef systems – informing best practice management to improve optimal feed utilisation, reproductive performance and a whole of business approach to increase grassfed beef cattle productivity in Southern Australia.			
RAC region	SALRC, WALRC			
MLA Pillar	Grassfed Beef Productivity			
Year Raised	2022-2024			

Projects commenced in 2025

Project Title	Span	MLA Project Manager	Research Organisation	Project Summary
Gap Analysis – Opportunities to invest in red meat industry biosecurity RD&A in Australia.	2025-2026	Michael Laurence	CSIRO	This project will conduct an analysis leveraging prior research and stakeholder insights. Australian biosecurity risks are increasing and evolving, posing threats to the red meat industry's resilience and productivity. Key drivers include but are not limited to climate change, emerging threats, shifting disease patterns, population growth, urbanisation, technological advances and global trade changes. Understanding these risks and gaps is essential for guiding strategic RD&A investments. Presently, there is no clear assessment on which RD&A opportunities can deliver the fastest impact for the red meat sector.
Priority	Strategies for sustainable, effective disease control and regional biosecurity			
RAC region	WALRC			
MLA Pillar	Animal Wellbeing			
Year Raised	2024-2026			

Project Title	Span	MLA Project Manager	Research Organisation	Project Summary
Gap Analysis – Opportunities to invest in R&D to control Buffalo Fly in Australia	2025-2026	Michael Laurence	Colere	Managing buffalo fly, a widespread endemic pest, involves pest ecology, animal health, pesticide development/regulation, and on-farm practices. Creating an effective, risk-managed program with short, medium and long-term solutions requires technical review and situational analysis. Colere Group will investigate buffalo fly control impacts through literature review, patent analysis, industry consultation, and global R&D pipeline assessment. They will develop business cases for selected products and practices, providing MLA with clear investment options for new solutions.
Priority	Minimum 6-month efficacy control methods to control buffalo fly to reduce skin lesions and production losses Identification of naturally resistant animals (Low withholding period)			
RAC region	NABRC			
MLA Pillar	Animal Wellbeing			
Committee Origin	CQLD, KPIAC, Pilbara			
Year Raised	2024-2026			

Project Title	Span	MLA Project Manager	Research Organisation	Project Summary
Buffalo Fly resources review and revision	2025-2026	Michael Laurence	Dawbuts	This project will review the publicly available resources that address Buffalo Fly control in cattle. These resources will be updated, and a stand-alone document will be developed that includes recommendations on best practice BF control, alternatives for producers that previously used diazinon ear tags, an outline of an integrated pest management approach.
Priority	Minimum 6-month efficacy control methods to control buffalo fly to reduce skin lesions and production losses Identification of naturally resistant animals (Low withholding period)			
RAC region	NABRC			
MLA Pillar	Animal Wellbeing			
Committee Origin	CQLD, KPIAC, Pilbara			
Year Raised	2024-2026			

Project Title	Span	MLA Project Manager	Research Organisation	Project Summary
Foetal and maternal heart rate monitor to detect pregnancy in cattle	2025-2028	Ainsley Smith	ART Lab Solutions	Pregnancy diagnosis informs on-farm management including culling empty cows, making genetic progress, enabling AI programs, and meeting market specifications. Currently, pregnancy testing through rectal palpation or ultrasound are the most common and accurate means of pregnancy diagnosis in beef cattle, however, these techniques are considered invasive and requires a veterinarian or trained technician depending on state legislation. Cost and availability of veterinarians in remote regions are perceived as a barrier to adoption of pregnancy testing by producers. This project will develop and field test a re-usable, user-friendly and non-invasive pregnancy detection device for cattle to detect pregnancy status from 42 days gestation.
Priority	Identification and collection of health and nutrition data on farm to assist with real time decision making (crush-side).			
RAC region	NABRC			
MLA Pillar	Grassfed Beef Productivity			
Committee Origin	BRAC, CQLD, KPIAC, NQLD, NWQLD, SEQLD, WQLD			
Year Raised	2024-2026			

Project Title	Span	MLA Project Manager	Research Organisation	Project Summary
Hand-held electrochemical sensor for phosphorous deficiency detection in beef cattle	2025-2029	Ainsley Smith	Deakin University	Nutritional deficiencies are a major limiting factor for cattle productivity contributing to low growth rates, reproductive rates, and increased costs for producers. With the high cost of purchasing and supplying supplement in extensive production systems, producers require assurance that there is a deficiency to correct, and that their investment will have a positive return. This project will deliver a crush-side sensor to detect phosphorus deficiency in cattle in real time, validating a platform technology that can be adapted to other nutritional and disease markers to enable informed management decisions and strategic supplementation.
Priority	Identification and collection of health and nutrition data on farm to assist with real time decision making (crush-side).			
RAC region	NABRC			
MLA Pillar	Grassfed Beef Productivity			
Committee Origin	BRAC, CQLD, KPIAC, NQLD, NWQLD, SEQLD, WQLD			
Year Raised	2024-2026			

Project Title	Span	MLA Project Manager	Research Organisation	Project Summary
Impact of practices in the first year of life on cattle productivity and profitability	2025-2028	Megan Walker	Agrista	The purpose of this project is to provide a robust, evidence-based framework for best practice management of beef cattle during their first year of life. SALRC has identified this period as pivotal for ensuring optimal productivity, profitability, and overall beef enterprise success. Producers face significant challenges in determining which management interventions will yield the highest returns while minimising risks.
Priority	Increased understanding of the impacts on red meat yield and quality, of early life experiences related to feed, health supplementation, pain relief and disease management			
RAC region	SALRC			
MLA Pillar	Grassfed Beef Productivity			
Committee Origin	SA, SE VIC & TAS			
Year Raised	2024-2026			

Project Title	Span	MLA Project Manager	Research Organisation	Project Summary
FlockMate: Novel approach for liveweight and fleece-weight estimation in sheep	2025-2027	Daniel Forwood	CSIRO	This project will trial a multiple depth/3D and camera system to produce high-resolution 3D images of sheep (via LiDAR) to provide real-time, data-driven liveweight and fleece weight insights on-farm at the individual animal and flock level. This project will also demonstrate the technology's utility, versatility and benefits for multiple stakeholders in the supply chain.
Priority	Utilising in-paddock technologies to provide real time data and actionable insights to producers, to reduce labour intensity, increase labour efficiency and identify animal productivity improvement.			
RAC region	SALRC			
MLA Pillar	Sheep Productivity			
Committee Origin	SA, SE VIC & TAS, CVIC, WVIC			
Year Raised	2024-2026			

Project Title	Span	MLA Project Manager	Research Organisation	Project Summary
Multivalent nanoparticle-based vaccine for infectious bovine keratoconjunctivitis	2025-2028	Michael Laurence	University of Sydney	This project will develop and validate a proof-of-concept multivalent nanoparticle-based vaccine platform to protect Australian cattle against Infectious Bovine Keratoconjunctivitis (IBK or “pinkeye”).
Priority	Develop science-based options for improved prevention, treatment and management of pink eye in sheep and beef cattle			
RAC region	SALRC			
MLA Pillar	Animal Wellbeing			
Committee Origin	SNSW, WVIC, SE VIC & TAS, CVIC			
Year Raised	2024-2026			

Project Title	Span	MLA Project Manager	Research Organisation	Project Summary
Improved monitoring of land condition and trends in the Northern Rangelands	2025-2027	Allan Peake	CIBO Labs	Rangelands cover approximately 80% of Australia and carry over 60% of the national beef herd in the north, but declining landscape productivity (a.k.a. land condition) is of significant concern to producers across the rangelands nationally. The purpose of the project is to develop and deliver tools and services for scalable monitoring and reporting land condition trajectory over time and at paddock level in response to changing environmental conditions and grazing management practices. Developing a tool for land condition monitoring was NABRC priority #1 in 2022. The project will work collaboratively with producers to develop a producer-relevant product that also reports the potential economic benefits available from improving landscape productivity.
*Note: the above project addresses a priority from the 2022-24 producer consultation cycle which initially went to project call in 2023.				
Priority	Land condition trajectory reporting			
RAC region	NABRC			
MLA Pillar	Animal Wellbeing			
Year Raised	2022-2024			

Project Title	Span	MLA Project Manager	Research Organisation	Project Summary
A GnRH agonist implant for long term infertility in female cattle	2025-2030	Michael Laurence	Sorensis	This project will develop a controlled-release implant for cattle providing a sustained period (aim 12mths) of contraception of female cattle. The technology will be an implant that contains a Gonadotrophin Releasing Hormone (GnRH) agonist contained within a polymeric matrix. These chemistries are well known to global regulators and in every market where this group are approved in cattle, all products carry a nil meat withholding period. Once the program has been successfully completed, a full dossier will be submitted to the APVMA for review and product registration.
Priority	Non-surgical female contraception (both permanent and reversable)			
RAC region	NABRC			
MLA Pillar	Animal Wellbeing			
Committee Origin	ASPIAC, BRAC, KPIAC, Pilbara, SQLD			
Year Raised	2024-2026			