

## **Expression of Interest**

### **BREEDPLAN & Sheep Genetics Technical Committee**

#### **Skills Based Committee Vacancies – External technical representatives**

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019

**MLA Program:** Livestock Genetics

**Livestock Genetics Program Manager:** Hamish Chandler – hchandler@mla.com.au

#### **1. Purpose:**

Meat & Livestock Australia and the BREEDPLAN and OVIS Owners are seeking expressions of interest from individuals with extensive technical training, experience and knowledge in the development of livestock genetic evaluations to contribute to the direction of BREEDPLAN and Sheep Genetics genetic evaluation systems through the BREEDPLAN & Sheep Genetics Technical Committee.

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

Together, University of New England (UNE), NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSWDPI) and Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) (all three organisations together known as the 'Owners') have had a long research partnership spanning over 35 years, which has developed the BREEDPLAN and OVIS Analytical Software responsible for the National genetic evaluation systems which has been applied to cattle, goats and sheep under BREEDPLAN and Sheep Genetics.

The current project "L.GEN.1704 - Advanced genetic evaluation tools and systems enabling faster and more valuable genetic gain in the red meat industries", continues to enhance the genetic evaluation tools and systems used in BREEDPLAN and Sheep Genetics. The objective of this work is to provide the basis for faster rates of genetic progress in beef and sheep, and underpin planned integrated technology transfer activities.

MLA and the Owners are seeking to reinvigorate industry investment in these major genetic evaluations by updating the supporting governance structures. The existing Sheep Genetics Executive and the Sheep Genetics Advisory Committee will be retained. Additions and/or changes to the governance structure comprises of;

- A BREEDPLAN Executive Committee representing the Owners and Licensee/s responsible for approval of the L.GEN.1704 workplan for beef and overseeing the coordination and implementation of developments and modifications to the BREEDPLAN Analytical Software.
- A combined BREEDPLAN and Sheep Genetics Technical Committee to provide technical guidance to the Executive regarding these developments and modifications.
- A BREEDPLAN Advisory Committee to provide program oversight and feedback on major policy decisions to the BREEDPLAN Executive Committee. The BREEDPLAN Advisory Committee is to represent the views and requirements of BREEDPLAN clients, potential clients and the wider beef industry.

#### **3. Discussion**

The Technical Committee will:

- review and prioritise items on the proposed AGBU workplan for L.GEN.1704;
- identify and prioritise new opportunities arising from industry feedback and from similar research elsewhere (both in beef, sheep and in other species, locally and overseas) that are

considered relevant to achieving the objectives of project L.GEN.1704, considering, amongst other criteria, likely industry return on investment;

- respond to feedback and guidance from the Executive Committees in relation to projects and priorities;
- provide technical guidance and review progress in each approved item against project KPIs, key priorities and performance measures set out in the L.GEN.1704 Work Plan agreed to by the Executive Committees;
- provide technical guidance and review of the implementation of new methods and tools into the BREEDPLAN and Sheep Genetics evaluations.

Applicants with the following knowledge and understanding will be preferred.

- PhD qualifications in livestock genetics and substantial experience in research and development of relevant genetic evaluations
- Involvement in strategic thinking and planning
- Knowledge of the red meat sector.

For further information on the role of taskforce members please refer to the [BREEDPLAN & Sheep Genetics Technical Committee Terms of Reference](#).

**Submissions:**

Applicants should submit both a cover letter and CV to **Hamish Chandler** [hchandler@mla.com.au](mailto:hchandler@mla.com.au) by the close of business the **22<sup>nd</sup> November 2019**.