

Terms of reference

GIRDAC Investment Call

Destination Goat: Driving improved transport welfare outcomes for goats

Summary

Ensuring that livestock are fit for their intended journey is a key priority for all stakeholders across the supply chain including but not limited to producers, agents, saleyard and depot operators, transporters and processors. Consequently, there is a need to support best practice animal welfare outcomes and the social capital of the Australian goat industry by ensuring all supply chain stakeholders are informed of their responsibilities toward the animals in their care. This project will design and deliver a goat-specific transport education package targeted at key stakeholders across the supply chain (e.g. producers, transporters, agents, saleyard/depot operators, buyers, processors etc.).

Purpose and Background

Movement of livestock via road is a vital, yet highly visible component of the transport supply chain. Ensuring good animal welfare and industry best practice upholds Australia's world class transport welfare standards and reinforces the goat industry's social capital and licence to operate. As a result, the Goat Industry Research, Development and Adoption Committee (GIRDAC) have prioritised the design and development of a transport education package to champion current practices and ensure the entire transport supply chain are informed of their responsibilities and best practice guidelines, whether goats are transported from managed (meat, fibre and dairy) or Harvested Rangeland Goat enterprises.

The [MLA Livestock Transport Hub](#) was developed by livestock transport operators to increase awareness and knowledge of the importance of best practice preparation for livestock transported by road across Australia. The Transport Hub hosts a suite of practical resources developed to ensure the safe preparation and transport of the three major livestock species (cattle, sheep and goats). It is anticipated that the outcomes from the project will be complimentary to the Transport Hub's core activities.

Expected outcome

Proposed RD&A activities will meet agreed milestones identifying progress in achieving one or more of the objectives and outcomes identified in this TOR which align with identified priorities by GIRDAC.

Scope

MLA is calling for applications for levy, hybrid -funded projects that will consider the following objectives:

- i) In consultation with GIRDAC, develop goat-specific e-Learning and/or other interactive learning design resources for topics including (but not limited to): awareness of transport standards by relevant Australian state/territory; enhancing best practice animal care; transport of goats; managing the intended transport of goats in variable weather and climatic conditions (e.g. wet/dry season)
- ii) Design and deliver physical and electronic resources targeting key stakeholders across the supply chain (e.g. producers, transporters, agents, saleyard/depot operators, buyers etc.)
- iii) Execute a strategic communications campaign across key goat-producing states which promotes the resources within industry channels and the MLA Transport Hub to enhance supply chain uptake

Project proposals which show how they will engage with and widely consult supply chain stakeholders will be favourably assessed.

Proposed activities

The prospective service provider will be required to design and develop e-Learning and/or other interactive learning design resources for topics identified in consultation with GIRDAC and key subject matter experts involved in the goat transport supply chain. It is anticipated that the project will develop inclusive, long-term resources that target key focus areas across primary production, transport and processing to enhance learning outcomes. Opportunities should be identified to promote industry best practice.

Other requirements

All projects will be required to implement a comprehensive monitoring, evaluation and reporting (MER) plan aligned to the MLA framework to demonstrate producer engagement, practice change and the benefit to the production businesses and broader industry. A copy of the MER plan guidelines is available on the MLA website. The MER plan will be a requirement of milestone one if the project is successful. Please budget for MER in this proposal.

Project duration and timing

The project is anticipated to be contracted in **FY26**, with a duration of two (2) years.

Resources Required

The proposal should include all resources, personnel and budget required to complete the project.

Important information and selection criteria

This proposal will encompass research, development and adoption (RD&A) activities in the Goat Productivity sub-program that achieve outcomes in line with the priorities of the Goat Industry Research, Development and Adoption Committee (GIRDAC).

MLA is seeking **full RD&A proposals** to design, develop and deliver a comprehensive transport education package for the entire Australian goat industry transport supply chain. Proposals will be reviewed by GIRDAC to assess alignment with key RD&A priorities. Project proposals which detail extensive producer and stakeholder consultation will be favourably assessed.

Funding mechanisms

The successful project will be funded via a levy, hybrid (goat levy and MLA Donor Company) or MLA Donor Company funding stream. Applications that utilise the MLA Donor Company funding pathway will be favourably received. For projects to be funded, they must be recommended for funding by GIRDAC prior to progressing through the MLA governance process. For more information on the goat levy funding system please see [here](#).

Confidentiality and intellectual property

The successful applicant will be required to enter into an Umbrella Research Agreement with MLA. A link to the template is provided in section four of the request for tender document.

Applicants must identify any background intellectual property (BIP) brought to the project and bring any background IP required that is not owned by MLA. All data and cited references must be acknowledged in the final report and it is the sole responsibility of the applicant to ensure copyright laws are not breached.

Where further information is available which may assist the successful applicant in meeting the requirements of the project, MLA will provide such information to the successful applicant.

Deadline for submissions

Full proposals must be received by MLA before 11.59pm (AEDT) Friday 5 December 2025. Late proposals will not be accepted.

Use the [full application template](#) to submit proposals electronically to MLA at: projectcall@mla.com.au

Full proposals will be acknowledged and recorded on the MLA project information system.

Applicant outcomes will be advised in writing by 19 December 2025.

Further Information

If you have questions about these terms of reference, contact:

Dr Melanie Smith

Program Manager – Sheep and Goat Productivity
msmith@mla.com.au
+61 (0) 499 649 072