

Expression of Interest

BREEDPLAN and Sheep Genetics Technical Committee

Independent Chair

Date: 8th April 2025

MLA Program: Livestock Genetics

1. Purpose

Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA), on behalf of the BREEDPLAN & OVIS Owners is seeking expressions of interest from individuals for the role of an Independent Chair of the BREEDPLAN and Sheep Genetics Technical Committee.

2. Relevant and necessary background

The BREEDPLAN and Sheep Genetics Technical Committee, is established by Meat & Livestock Australia, University of New England and NSW Department of Primary Industries & Regional Development, together known as the 'Owners' of the BREEDPLAN & OVIS Analytical Software. The primary objective of the committee is to provide technical guidance and review progress on items against the Animal Genetics & Breeding Unit (AGBU) project focused on the R&D of the BREEDPLAN & OVIS Analytical software. The Committee also provides technical guidance and review of the implementation of new methods and tools into the BREEDPLAN and Sheep Genetics evaluations.

Key roles and responsibilities of the committee are to provide advice and make recommendations to MLA on:

- The technical review and feasibility of all requests from Owners, licensee/s and Industry for updating the Analytical software;
- Reporting to the MLA as administrator, the Technical Committee will consider suggested modifications from Industry and Breed Societies, channelled via the Executive Committee, then make recommendations to MLA (and the Executive Committee) on feasibility and extent of work required to implement;
- Review maintenance objectives, recommend implementation pathways, timing requirements and assess the technical feasibility and prioritisation of suggested modifications/upgrades to the BREEDPLAN and OVIS Analytical Software. Then provide recommendations to MLA on-behalf of the Owners;
- Review and make recommendations on cattle and sheep genetic outcomes from National Livestock Genetics Consortium (NLGC) & MLA Livestock Genetics R&D investment and other sources which could compliment or improve the BREEDPLAN and OVIS Analytical Software and industry objectives; and
- other issues relating to the BREEDPLAN and Sheep Genetics evaluations as the Executive Committee considers appropriate.

3. Role of the Chair

The Chair must provide effective leadership of the Committee and deliver an impactful administration of the committee and its objectives. In summary, the Chair will:

- facilitate the effective and productive functioning of the Technical Committee
- facilitate discussions and decision making to achieve the objectives of the Technical committee,
- work closely with the executive officer for the Technical Committee, including review of the Terms of Reference (including positions), meeting agenda & minutes.

Skills

The chair will ideally possess the following:

- Experience in chairing meetings and strong governance skills
- Facilitate communications and discussions between members and ensure that each member is making a significant contribution
- The ability to remain impartial and objective
- The ability to synthesise various and at times conflicting opinions
- a strong working knowledge of the functions of Research Development Corporations & livestock genetics research
- familiarity with the present challenges and opportunities in the beef and sheepmeat sector, with ***technical livestock genetics knowledge essential***

Personal Qualities

A balance of desirable personal traits include:

- high personal standards of honesty, reliability, and commitment to the role
- knowing what to prioritise, when to act, and what judgement to make
- tact, diplomacy, and sensitivity
- the ability to reconcile opposing views
- the ability to respect confidences
- strong leadership including by example.

Remuneration

Expenses and sitting fees will be paid in accordance with the [MLA Policy on Payment of Expenses and Sitting Fees](#) on MLA Committees.

Commitment

To effectively perform in this position, the estimated time commitment is approx. 10 days per year, in addition to associated travel. This includes attending three meetings (a duration of two half days depending on agenda), preparation and discussions with the executive officer and reviewing projects and other information outside of this where required. The term of the role is indefinite.

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Review Criteria

Applicants are required to provide both a **Cover Letter** and **Resume**.

The cover letter is required to be a summary outlining your skills, knowledge and experience, and your motivations for taking on this leadership role.

Please respond to the following items/questions in the **cover letter**:

- What is your previous experience as a chair?
- What has your involvement in the livestock industry, specifically genetics research, been to date?
- How do your skills and qualities from previous experience relate to the role of the chair of the BREEDPLAN & Sheep Genetics Technical Committee?
- Outline examples of the key skills listed below and when you have utilised these:
 - Facilitate communications and discussions between members and ensure that each member is making a significant contribution
 - The ability to remain impartial and objective
 - The ability to synthesise various and at times conflicting opinions

Eligibility

You must not be a current or past employee of Meat and Livestock Australia within the last 24 months. You must declare any conflict of interest if you are employed by an organisation that is currently involved (Project Lead or Sub-Contractor) in any Livestock Genetics Research projects with MLA funding.

For further information on the role of the committee please refer to the [Terms of Reference](#).

Submissions

Applicants should submit both a cover letter and CV to Sarah Butler (livestockgenetics@mla.com.au) by **COB 30th April 2025**.