Livestock Sector ACCU Method

Module Leaders – Livestock Sector ACCU Method

Summary

Meat & Livestock Australia is seeking applications individuals interested in applying for the four **Module Leaders – Pasture-based Beef Cattle, Feedlot Beef cattle, Sheep and Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV)** to co-develop the new Livestock Sector ACCU Method. The proponent-led process will prepare a draft method documentation and tool for Emissions Reduction Assurance Committee (ERAC) consideration, and if recommended, Ministerial decision.

Background

The Assistant Minister for Climate Change and Energy has prioritised the development of a new livestock Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) method and invited Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) to lead the proponent-led process. This method must:

- Be high integrity
- Comply with the Offsets Integrity Standards (Appendix 1)
- Be capable of delivering significant abatement opportunities and outcomes in the livestock sector
- A new carbon estimation tool for the method: the proponent must develop a transparent model-based approach to emissions reduction estimates, with simple data entry requirements
- Abatement estimation approach: the abatement estimation approach in the new method must consider emission reductions over several years relative to a baseline not annual emissions intensity change.
- Adding methane reducing feed additives-based activities into the method: The new method must incorporate methane reducing feed additives where there is evidence in scientific literature that these are effective in reducing emissions and are not harmful to animals. It is noted there is continuing work between the department and the livestock sector underway to update the National inventory method to account for these activities.
- Broadening the scope of the method: the proponent must work to develop a method that includes the following livestock categories: Pasture based beef cattle, feedlot-based beef cattle, dairy and sheep.

MLA seeks to engage Module Leaders for **Pasture-based Beef Cattle**, **Feedlot Beef Cattle**, **Sheep** and **MRV** to research, develop and pilot the new Livestock Sector ACCU Method.

Please note, this position is advertised for individuals however, organisations are also welcome to apply, on the understanding that an individual should be nominated to assume the position of Module Leader on an ongoing basis but may be supported by others from within the organisation.

Objectives

(1) Collaborate with other Module Leaders (coordinated by the MRV leader) to develop the new Livestock Sector ACCU Method across management practices, low methane genetic traits and methane inhibiting feed additives:
   a. Review Good Principles of Method design
   b. Establish eligibility criteria
   c. Establish a low-cost, simple, scalable, regionally relevant, robust method and model (aligning to Minister's criteria) to enable small, medium and large producers to participate.
   d. Establish a common approach to research to support abatement calculations
   e. Establish a common approach for additive modelling assumptions and abatement calculations
   f. Establish uncertainty and sensitivity analysis criteria.
   g. A new carbon estimation tool for the method: the proponent must develop a transparent model-based approach to emissions reduction estimates, with simple data entry requirements
   h. Abatement estimation approach: the abatement estimation approach in the new method must consider emission reductions over several years relative to a baseline not annual emissions intensity change.
   i. Plan for engagement with First Nations producers during method development and piloting.

(2) Consult MLA advisory panels to obtain feedback on the proposed method and documentation:
   a. Producer Advisory Panel
   b. Beef Technical Advisory Panel (Pasture & Feedlot)
   c. Sheep Technical Advisory Panel
   d. Low-methane genetic trait advisory panel
   e. Project Steering Committee
   f. Public consultation submissions and online forums

(3) Conduct desktop research and statistical analysis to determine:
   a. Items for improvement based on the Periodic and Sunsetting Review of the previous Beef Cattle Herd Management Method.
   b. Geographic context of additionality of management practices, low methane genetic traits and feed additives to reduce emissions.
   c. Additivity of interventions

d. Conservative efficacy factors for methane reducing feed additives, to enable discussion between the Livestock Sector ACCU module leads and the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory team on a common approach.

(4) Identify any adverse effects to the environment, animals, or humans from the proposed method that is not already dealt with by existing regulations; identify and develop mitigants and collaborate with the third-party hazard consultant.

(5) Collaborate with other Module leaders (coordinated by the MRV leader) to develop a method documentation:
   a. A detailed outline of the method including: A description of method components (eligibility, project activities, baseline and project scenarios, abatement calculations, measurement, carbon pools and emission sources) and accounting approaches to manage known risks (e.g. leakage).
   b. Tools or calculators (copies & supporting documents)
   c. Supplementary technical documents
   d. Simple method guide
   e. Reporting and Verification process, including standard annual steps of contact with Clean Energy Regulator
   f. Develop a minimum of 3 worked examples to commission and test operability of measurement, reporting and verification processes.

(6) Develop producer guidance and training materials

(7) In collaboration with the MRV Module Leader plan and execute producer pilots for the across a minimum of 6 producers for each Livestock Sector:
   a. 2 small producers
   b. 2 medium producers
   c. 2 large producers
   d. 1 first nations producer

(8) In collaboration with the MRV Module Leader refine the method and tool based on feedback received during producer pilot, technical advisory panel and industry steering committee for submission and Department Review against Principles of Good Method Design.

(9) In collaboration with the MRV Module Leader further refine the method or tools based on feedback from formal Stakeholder consultation process conducted by the Department, Emissions Reduction Assurance Committee or Clean Energy Regulator, prior to Ministerial decision.

Methodology

In addition to the requirements outlined in the Background and Objectives, the method and carbon estimation tool will be developed with Principles of Good method design (See Appendix 2).

In addition to these principles, the method and carbon estimation tool will be:

- Built with strong producer governance
- Low-cost for producers
- Have simplified data collection, reporting and verification processes to enable both small, medium & large producers to participate.
- Be scalable and replicable across different regions and producers.
- Develop context for geographic and production sector differences which may influence efficacy or additionality.
- Be Module based on livestock sector, with placeholders for efficacy factors if they have not been identified in a particular geography, to enable abatement ready technologies to progress
- The tool will be designed to be dynamic and updated over time to ensure accurate information is available on a regional basis.
- Be version controlled with clear document owners defined

The method is proposed to encompass the following activities:

Livestock Sector	**Activities**
Pasture raised beef cattle	Management practices, methane inhibiting feed additives, Low methane genetic traits
Feedlot beef cattle	Feed additives
Sheep	Management practices, methane inhibiting feed additives, Low methane genetic traits
Dairy cattle	Management practices, methane inhibiting feed additives, Low methane genetic traits

Final deliverables will include an:

- High-integrity livestock ACCU method
- Strong engagement with first nations producers
- Carbon estimation tool
- MRV framework including provisions for data privacy
- Producer guidance and training materials
- Recommendations and coordination between MLA Livestock Sector ACCU technical advisory panels and National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Agriculture Technical Advisory Panel for efficacy factors for additives.
- Frameworks to minimise hazards to the environment, humans and animals from implementation of the method (if not covered by existing regulation).

The Module Leaders will meet collectively a minimum of 7 times during the project (and further as required) and take joint ownership in developing a method that meets the Assistant minister's requirements, the Offset Integrity Standards, and Principles of good method design.

The Module Leaders will also be expected to report to the Project Steering Committee a minimum of 5 times during the project on development progress in each Sector.

It is expected that the Module Leader for the Monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV), will play key coordinating role in final documentation development with the other leaders. They will also write MLA milestone reports for the department.

Module Leaders will also chair and run technical advisory panels (as requested by MLA) to identify research requirements, review proposed methods, and outcomes of producer piloting.

- Producer Advisory Panel (e.g. key regional producers, first nation producers and research councils) – 25 members
- Beef technical advisory panel (feedlot & pasture-raised beef cattle; 5 members)
- Sheep technical advisory panel (5 members)
- Dairy advisory panel (5 members)
- Low emission genetic trait advisory panel (across all species) (5 members)

The technical advisory panels will meet a minimum of 4 times during projects duration (and as required out of session). The producer advisory panel will play a key role in piloting draft methods and tools, along with an open Expressions of Interest process for further producers that wish to pilot the draft method.

In addition, module leader will be expected to participate and present in public feedback sessions on the proposed method and tool. Online forums are planned for the following audiences:

- Technology providers (for each additive, genetics, other)
- Carbon Industry
- State based governments, Regional producer organisations/SFOs
- Processors and Retailers

Project duration

The project is expected to be contracted by August 2026 and anticipated to take up to 30 months.

An intensive time commitment (minimum 50% FTE) is expected of the Module Leads throughout the project.

Budget

Over the 30 month period, a fixed budget is available as follows:

- Feedlot Beef Cattle Module Lead ($400,000 AUD; i.e. 300 K for fees/expenses & 100 K for producer payments for pilots)

- Pasture raised Beef Cattle Module Lead ($600,000 i.e. 500 K for fees/expenses & 100 K for producer payments for pilots)
- Sheep Module lead ($600,000 i.e. 500 K for fees/expenses & 100 K for producer payments for pilots)
- Monitoring/Reporting/Verification ($800,000 i.e. 800 K for fees/expenses)

This includes the following activities:

a. Face to face initiation meeting with MLA at service provider site – 1 day
b. Face to face completing meeting at service provider site – 1 day
c. Joint module leaders meetings – preparation, attendance and post-work for 4 in person meetings & 3 online meetings. Travel and accommodation included for in-person meetings.
d. Industry steering committee meetings – preparation and attendance at a minimum of 5 online meetings
e. Technical advisory panel meetings – preparation and attendance at a minimum of 2 in person and 2 online meetings (4 total). Travel and accommodation included for in-person meetings.
f. Online attendance and presentation at up to 4 public feedback sessions.

Producer pilots will occur over a 3 month period.

a. $10,000 budget per producer with allocation for up to 7 producers per sector ($70,000)
b. Travel expenses budget of up to $30,000 for face to visit of service provider at producer sites at beginning, mid-term and conclusion of the pilot.

Confidentiality and IP

The successful applicant will be required to enter into an Umbrella Research Agreement with MLA, if one is not already in place. The terms within the Umbrella Research Agreement are non-negotiable.

All Project IP will be owned by MLA 100%.

Any Background IP being brought to the project for the carbon estimation tool or method must either be assigned to MLA, or have an irrevocable, royalty-free license developed to allow the background IP to be utilized unencumbered for the purposes of commercialisation of the Project IP.

All data and cited references must be acknowledged in the application 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 applicant in meeting the requirements of the project, MLA will provide such information to the successful applicant.

Selection Criteria

Applications will be reviewed by Meat & Livestock Australia, and selection will be based on assessment against the following criteria:

Selection Criteria
Technical capability – scientific qualifications and skills in either beef cattle or sheep management or genetics or methane inhibiting feed additives or MRV.
Relevant experience delivering projects/work of a similar nature
Demonstration of track record of on-time delivery of projects within the last 5 years.

Applications

Expressions of interest are due **Friday 3 July 2026 at 5pm AEST.**

Please fill out the Microsoft Forms application: Application for Livestock Sector ACCU Method Module Lead

Applicants should be prepared to provide:

- List of scientific publications or research reports published by yourself/your organisation in the last 5 years.
- List of projects completed in carbon, modelling or emissions in the last 5 years.
- Demonstration of track record of on-time delivery of projects within the last 5 years.

Further Information

Please contact:

Venessa Cule

Program Manager – Sustainability R&D

0427 926 378

LivestockSectorMethod@mla.com.au

Appendix 1

Offset integrity standards include:

1. Additionality: A method should result in carbon abatement that is unlikely to occur in the ordinary course of events (disregarding the effect of the Act).
2. Measurable and verifiable: A method involving the removal, reduction or emissions of greenhouse gases should be measurable and capable of being verified.
3. Eligible carbon abatement: A method should provide abatement that is able to be used to meet Australia's international mitigation obligations.
4. Evidence-based: A method should be supported by clear and convincing evidence.
5. Project emissions: Material greenhouse gas emissions emitted as a direct result of the project should be deducted.
6. Conservative: Where a method involves an estimate, projection or assumption, it should be conservative.

Methods and variations must satisfy all of the standards.

Appendix 2

Principles of good method design

This section provides a list and brief description of the principles which the Department uses to assess the quality of draft methods. As part of the method development process proponents will prepare a package of documents for review by the Department. The documents to be prepared are specified at Step 1.5 below.

A. Matters relating to the legislated Offsets Integrity Standards

- Clarity on eligibility and rules: Define project types unambiguously and consistently.
- Measurement of abatement: Define emissions/removals and ensure they are calculable.
- Verifiable and audit ready: Ensure the measurement approach allows third-party verification.
- Eligible carbon abatement and alignment with NGER Act: Align abatement with the national greenhouse gas inventory.
- Evidence-based: Back method with scientific literature or credible technical data.
- Leakage addressed: Identify and manage risks the project causes an increase in emissions outside project boundaries.
- Anti-gaming safeguards: Prevent double counting or other exploitation.
- Monitoring failures: Include clear consequences (e.g., no credits if data is missing).
- Health and safety: Incorporate hazard assessments and relevant mitigations.

B. Broader impacts

- First Nations: Opportunities for First Nations people to participate in projects under the method, including as project proponents.
- Environmental, economic and social outcomes: Implentation of the method would result in positive outcomes beyond carbon and any potential negative outcomes are documented and mitigated.

C. Workability of draft method materials

- Standalone reporting: Reporting allows the Clean Energy Regulator (CER) to assess offsets reports without needing audits.
- Calculators/tools: Test and document any required tools.
- Realistic service levels: The draft method allows the CER to deliver required oversight

D. Consistency and clarity of draft method materials

- Standard definitions: Use consistent terminology across ACCU methods.

- Clear rationale: Explain choices and assumptions in documentation.
- Worked examples: Include examples of calculations and eligibility in the documentation.
- Scope: Proponents design methods that are in accordance with the CFI Act.


mla
MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA