

Expressions of Interest – Terms of Reference

Covered Housing Systems –Best Practice Management Guide

Summary:

Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) is seeking expressions of interest from organizations with the capability develop a best practice management guide for covered housing systems.

Background:

Covered housing systems encapsulate a variety of construction types in Australia.

- Corrugated Iron shed designs
- Concrete slatted floor facilities
- Waterproof Fabric based structures
- Hoop shelters
- Compost bedded pack facilities

In recent years the use of covered housing systems has emerged as a potential solution for protection against summer heat and wet winter weather for grain fed cattle in Australia. MLA has published general recommendations for covered housing system design in the [MLA Beef cattle feedlots: design and construction guide](#).

Further information is required to guide the industry on best practice management of Covered Housing Systems compared to conventional open pen feedlot production.

Project objectives:

Deliver to MLA by the agreed date:

- (1) Conduct a literature review of best practice design and management of common corrugated iron shed designs, concrete slatted floor facilities, water-proof fabric based structures, hoop shelters and compost bedded pack facilities.
 - a. Design, layout and orientation
 - b. Floor surface
 - c. Stocking density
 - d. Pen cleaning or bedding considerations and their interaction with stocking density
 - e. Lighting and ventilation considerations
 - f. Nutritional considerations (bunk space, water and vitamin requirements)
 - g. Animal health considerations
 - h. Manure/Effluent management and value
 - i. Facility life and repairs and maintenance
- (2) Determine difference in Labour units and Removable Plant required to each facility in feedlots of different size/scale
- (3) Determine any ancillary benefits/opportunities associated with each facility type (e.g. cattle cleanliness, water capture, reducing effluent pond size/construction etc.)

- (4) Conduct an updated review of regulations (national, state and federal) required for building and operation of covered housing facilities
- (5) Produce best management practice guidelines with the findings from objectives 1-4

Brief project design and methods:

The methodology to achieve the objectives should involve:

- consultation of peer-reviewed literature and reports of covered housing systems from beef cattle feedlots globally,
- site visits or interviews with existing covered housing facilities in Australia
- consultation with other industries that use covered housing as part of their production systems in Australia – such as the Australian Pork Industry, Broiler Chickens and Dairy industry.
- consultation with a variety of covered housing systems builders/engineers to cover the range of designs likely to be available to industry in Australia.
- interviews with industry subject matter experts - industry and regulators.

Reporting Requirements:

The successful applicant will provide milestone reports (if required) and a final report giving full details of the results of the work. Milestone and final reports will be prepared in line with MLA report guidelines and delivered in Microsoft Word format.

In addition to MLA standard reports, the following will also be provided to MLA at the time of delivery of the Final report:

1. a copy of all project data, including meta-data

Timing:

Delivery timeline is a selection criterion at both stages of application assessment and speed to delivery outcomes for commercial industry will be viewed positively. The project should be completed with a maximum of 1 year.

Budget:

There is no set budget for the total project however, applicants should deliver a fully justified budget to achieve project objectives within the desired timeframe. Value for money is a selection criterion.

Confidentiality:

By submitting an expression of interest, the applicant will disclose information in the preliminary application form to MLA's employees, agents, contractors and advisors, for the purposes of this tender process and any legal or MLA policy requirement. Applicants must identify any information that they consider should be protected as confidential information and provide reasons for this.

Conflict of interest:

Applicants, research teams or subcontractors with any potential conflicts of interest, should thoroughly outline these in this application, including how they propose to manage them, if applicable.

Process:

Expressions of interest: Applicants submit a preliminary application, utilizing the MLA Preliminary Application form (see below), addressing the Terms of Reference. Proposals will be scored against the selection criterion set out in this Terms of Reference. Preliminary applications must not exceed six (6)

pages. MLA will acknowledge receipt of each application. Applicants will be advised in writing of the success or failure of their preliminary application.

Selection criteria:

Stage 1 - Expressions of Interest applications will be reviewed by Meat & Livestock Australia, and selection will be based on assessment against the following criteria:

1. Background of proposed work
2. Outputs, outcomes and impacts of the R&D that will be undertaken
3. Quality of brief project design and methods to achieve project objectives
4. Adequate resourcing and expertise to facilitate proposed R&D
5. Value for money of preliminary budget
6. Delivery timeline

Project proposal submissions:

To access the MLA Preliminary application templates (Grain-Fed, Live Export & Goats), go to <https://www.mla.com.au/research-and-development/funding-opportunities/industry-researchers/>, then navigate to the preliminary application form.

MLA applications must be lodged electronically as Word document to: mvandersaag@mla.com.au

Stage 1 MLA Preliminary Applications must be received by COB, 16th February, 2022.

Strict adherence to the time deadline for applications will occur. Applications received past the deadline will not be assessed. Applications not received in the standard MLA application template will not be assessed.

Further information:

Dr. Matthew Van der Saag
Project manager – Feedlot and Sustainability
Research, Development and Adoption
Meat & Livestock Australia
Email: mvandersaag@mla.com.au
Phone: 0427 214 494