

Terms of Reference

Propose new lines of work into the control of the sheep blowfly

Summary

Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) is seeking Preliminary Proposals from individuals, organisations or project teams with the capability to review the literature, consider modern scientific advances and propose novel prospective lines of research in the control of sheep blowfly.

Table: Key industry performance indicators addressed by this ToR

	MLA 2020	MISP 2020	SISP 2020
Pillar	Consumer and Community Support	Consumer and Community Support	
Priority / theme	Continuous improvement of the welfare of animals in our care	Welfare of the animals within our care	Wellbeing of the animals within our care
Imperative / activity / program		Continuous improvement of animal welfare / Minimising the impact of endemic disease	Continuous improvement of animal welfare / Minimising the impact of endemic disease
KPI	<p>Restrict % consumers limiting red meat consumption due to animal welfare concerns to 10%.</p> <p>Four new products including vaccines, diagnostic tests and tools to reduce the cost and welfare impact of endemic and emergency disease in Australia</p>	Increase in community support for industry animal welfare practices on 2015 baseline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and actively respond to community perceptions and concerns about sheep industry practices across the entire supply chain. • Collaborate with state (industry and government) extension networks and the LBN or equivalent to promote better practices in animal health and wellbeing to producers. • Achieve enhanced animal welfare outcomes through the adoption of consistent, science-based practices. • Undertake RD&E to reduce the risk of compromised wellbeing of sheep and develop enhanced husbandry and management procedures.

Background

MLA has a regional consultation framework for directing research, development and adoption (RD&A) investment for grassfed beef and sheepmeat levies. These producer panels have identified the following needs and gaps in the MLA R&D portfolio in the area of health and welfare:

- Methods preventing the need for mulesing by addressing the causes and prevention of scouring.
- Innovative solutions and novel delivery methods for internal and external parasite management.

Given the advances made in the biological sciences is there scope to revisit new non chemical means of controlling the principal health and indeed welfare problems of sheep (Priority list of endemic diseases for the red meat industries, Lane and others; MLA 2015. B.AHE.0010). In particular are there new ways to manage sheep blow flies?

Objective

Meat & Livestock Australia is seeking expressions of interest for R&D to undertake novel work on controlling the sheep blow fly.

Scope

MLA is calling for proposals to take account of prior R&D, consider modern scientific advances and propose prospective lines of research. Proponents should feel free to suggest a whole program of work, alternatively some pilot work and/or literature reviews followed by a proposed larger program of work may be appropriate.

Output/s

- A comprehensive literature review of the field
- Clear and succinct recommendations for further research and an idea of likely budgets
- Stage 1 of a large program of work.

Outcome/s

The red meat industry will be well placed to fund further R&D into one of the principle parasitic diseases of sheep with a realistic assessment of the likelihood of success long term.

Proposed budget and timeframe

MLA would expect a detailed literature review and scoping of future recommendations for <\$100,000 AUD.

Other proposals will be considered on their merits and the costs compared with the deliverables to give a value for money estimate.

Confidentiality and intellectual property

Successful projects will be funded with sheepmeat levies.

Applicants must identify any background intellectual property (IP) they bring to the project. All data and cited references must be acknowledged appropriately in the final publication 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.

The successful applicant will be required to enter into a standard agreement with MLA.

MLA will share and discuss this proposal with producers, technical experts, other research organisations and research and development corporations. Please acknowledge this freedom to operate.

Deadline for submissions

Preliminary proposals must be received by MLA before 6.00pm (NSW time) Monday, 30 October 2017. Late proposals will not be accepted.

Use the preliminary proposal template to submit proposals electronically to MLA at:
projectcall@mla.com.au

Preliminary Proposals will be acknowledged and recorded on the MLA project information system. Applicants will be advised in writing of the success or failure of their Preliminary Proposal in January 2018.

Further information

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

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