

Request for tender

MLA Grassfed Beef Productivity Program

Revision of northern beef resource books

Summary

This Terms of Reference is calling for proposals to undertake a review and revision of several resources for northern beef producers.

Purpose and Description

MLA and State Government partners produced a series of useful resources in 2006 covering beef production systems which are used to support extension efforts through distribution at workshops and events, and as online resources to document best practice. While these manuals remain useful, progression of knowledge, technology, and information preferences over the past twenty-years have resulted in updates being required.

Scope/Objectives

MLA is calling for quotes to undertake a project addressing the following objectives:

- Review, revise and modernise the following resource books so they align with current research and industry best practice:
 - [Beef cattle nutrition – an introduction to the essentials](#)
 - [Managing the breeder herd – practical steps to breeding livestock in northern Australia](#)
 - [Grazing land management – sustainable and productive natural resource management](#)
- Create at least three new case-studies to be included in each manual, representing three states and a variety of strategies.
- Support capability building of junior staff in reviewing, writing, and project management skills.

Proposed activities

It is expected that the project will involve the following activities:

- Identify relevant stakeholders and technical experts (within and external to the organisation) and leaders for each manual.
- Define learning outcomes for each manual, and identify knowledge and content required for inclusion to support achievement of those outcomes.
- Review each manual and identify key gaps, where information requires updating, or where opportunities to modernise content and assets exists to meet information preferences.
- Identify relevant case studies to include in each manual that are representative of different geographic regions and enterprise types, and represent the key practices outlined in the manual. Each manual should include at least one case study from outside of Queensland (NT or northern WA). Co-ordinate authors and collaborators if required for across-state representation.
- Revise material according to needs and gaps identified in the review, ensuring the updated content is consistent with other MLA resources, EDGENetwork, and state extension programs.
- Seek external producer and technical review of each revised manual to ensure consensus and technical accuracy
- Once content is approved by MLA and all parties, submit content including original image files for graphic design in accordance with MLA's style guide.

Project duration

Project duration to complete this work is open to discussion depending on the agreed approach. Manuals may be updated concurrently or sequentially depending on resource availability and cost.

Budget and funding

The quote should include all resources, personnel and budget required to complete the project. This should include allocation of time and budget for external peer review and for graphic design. Experience of the project team should also be outlined to demonstrate capability to complete this project.

Progression of this project will be dependent on MLA's assessment against the criteria outlined below. MLA may not progress with all revisions and updates, instead choosing one or more resource books to update.

Intellectual property

As a levy funded investment, MLA will expect to retain ownership of the IP for this project, with the booklets to become available online through creative commons and relevant channels. Contributors to the manuals will have licences to use the IP for extension purposes. All relevant contributing organisations' branding from the first editions should be maintained, and all contributors to content and images should be acknowledged.

If not already in place, the successful applicant will be required to enter into an Umbrella Research Agreement with MLA. These terms can be found here: <https://www.mla.com.au/about-mla/mla-agreements/>

Selection criteria

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Value for money and appropriate resourcing for proposed timeline
- Expertise of the project team across all manual content
- Proposed methodology and approach
- Demonstrated past performance

Deadline for submissions

Applications must be received by MLA before 5:00pm (AEST) Thursday 1st October 2026. The application should include a full quote, proposed staff to be involved in the work alongside FTE estimation, project timeline and deliverables, and methodology to achieve project objectives. Late proposals will not be assessed.

Use the [full proposal template](#) and submit proposals electronically to MLA via tenders@mla.com.au CC asmith@mla.com.au and shassall@mla.com.au

Further Information

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

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