

NB2 producer group fund guidelines

Introduction

The NB2 producer group members will invest \$2,000 per business per annum, which will be matched with MLA Donor Company funds, to approx. \$3,800 and pooled into a group fund. For example, if there are five businesses in a group there is \$19,000 available for meeting expenses and identified skill development and training costs.

The combined producer group's contribution is leveraged to receive Commonwealth matching funds via the MLA Donor Company, therefore as all expenditure must be accountable, guidelines are needed. Producer transaction levy funds are not part of the NB2 funding model.

General

The management of group funds will be by group decision (assisted by the group's Coordinator and Facilitator). This funding creates opportunity for collaborating producers to build their skills and knowledge capacity in the areas of the breeding business (e.g. finance & people), feedbase (e.g. pasture and land management), herd (e.g. animal management) and environmental sustainability (e.g. environmental stresses such as temperature, shelter, predators, carbon neutrality and climate resilience) with most relevance to their business and the groups collective priorities.

How the contributions are managed.

The co contribution (\$2,000/annum/business) is paid directly to the North Australia Beef Research Council (NABRC), which will enter into a contract with the MLA Donor Company to leverage the money by a further 92% (8% management fee). NABRC will set up independent accounts for each group, and balances can be accessed anytime by the group Facilitator or Coordinator.

Approval for drawings from a group account will be from the group's Coordinator and Facilitator to the NABRC Secretariat. Unspent funds will carry over each year, but the balance will need to be \$0 at the end of the contracted three years. A producer may elect to leave the group at any stage, but their contribution is not refundable. If a new producer joins the group, their annual contribution will be paid pro rata to the nearest full year. The NABRC secretariat is to be notified by the Coordinator/Facilitator of any change in membership.

Guidelines

Meeting expenses

A meeting sitting fee is not paid. Other meeting expenses such as travel, venue hire, catering, etc. will be paid in accordance with existing MLA guidelines.

Skills and training development

Based on supporting evidence, the group will determine if a nominated skill development expense will potentially create a high value return for their businesses. It should be delivered by a reputable specialist with consensus from the group. Skills and training may include: registration for relevant conferences, workshops, EDGE training packages or similar.

Role of the Coordinator and Facilitator

The process and rules for how the group's money should be used needs to be discussed early within the group and with the group Coordinator and Facilitator. Reference to the guidelines above should be noted. In discussion with the group, the Coordinator and Facilitator can approve an expense and notify the NABRC Secretariat to pay on invoice. All expenses and activities will be reported by NABRC on a quarterly basis.

Other expenditure

Group funds are not to be used for the purchase of plant/equipment, property improvements/repairs/upgrades or other property capital expenditure/maintenance.