Request for Tender for Levy and Co-Contributor Producer Demonstration Site Projects Terms of Reference (TOR) for 2025/26 Open Call

Timing:

Stage	Date
Preliminary applications in response to terms of reference for PDS project open	01 April 2025
Preliminary applications in response to terms of reference for PDS projects close	12 May 2025
Successful and unsuccessful preliminary applicants notified	27 June 2025
Successful preliminary applicants to submit full applications	25 July 2025
Successful and unsuccessful full applications notified	29 August 2025
New producer demonstration site projects commence subject to MLA approval processes and consultant acceptance of MLA standard terms and conditions.	November 25 – April 2026

Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) is committed to partnering with producer groups to improve business profitability and productivity. Producer Demonstration Sites (PDS) aim to increase the rate of adoption of key management practices and technologies that improve business profitability, productivity and sustainability through livestock producers pursuing new skills, management and practices in their commercial livestock production systems.

The PDS program underpins MLA's research, development and adoption (RD&A) programs by supporting groups of producers to demonstrate, adapt, and validate the triple-bottom-line benefits of integrating new management practices, research and development outputs and associated skills within the context of their commercial production systems. The key outcome of a PDS is the producer's adoption of the demonstrated management practices resulting in improved business performance.

MLA is calling for preliminary applications for PDS projects related to improving sheep, beef cattle and/or goat enterprise business profitability, productivity and sustainability that can commence during 2025/26.

Funding is available to support groups of sheep, beef cattle and/or goat enterprises to validate and demonstrate the business value of integrating new commercially available technologies and on-farm management practices into local production systems.

We're thrilled to announce a new funding option for the 2025/26 PDS open call, providing applicants with three funding streams to consider:

1. **Levy PDS Projects**
   These projects are funded 100% by producer levies and must align with the PDS priorities identified by the Research Advisory Councils (RACs).

2. **Co-Contributor PDS Projects**

   This stream aims to achieve the same outcomes as the Levy PDS stream but offers producers and other third parties the opportunity to co-invest and access further funding to enhance the project. Co-investment is matched through the MLA Donor Company (MDC), doubling the available funding compared to a Levy PDS.

   These projects must align with industry priorities and targets, as outlined in RedMeat 2030 – the red meat industry plan and the MLA Strategic Plan.

3. **Partnership PDS Projects**

   Like the Co-Contributor PDS, the Partnership PDS Project allows producers and other eligible third parties to partner with MLA to enhance the delivery and outcomes of the project by accessing higher funding values.

   Partnership PDS projects require a cash contribution that is matched through the MLA Donor Company (MDC).

   These projects offer greater flexibility in potential project topics/issues or opportunities that groups wish to address. Applicants are encouraged to consider the Levy PDS priorities and will need to show alignment with industry priorities and targets, e.g. Meat Industry Strategic Plan (RedMeat 2030) and MLA Strategic Plan targets.

*Note: regardless of the application type, all project applications related to **goat enterprises** must align with the goat priorities outlined in these terms of reference.*

What is a PDS?

Proposals must:

- Be initiated by a producer group and address a key adoption issue limiting enterprise productivity and profitability, resulting in impact when adopted by producers.
- Be of sufficient interest that it is demonstrated on a minimum of three different properties and at a commercially relevant scale. Flexibility is offered for projects in extensive regions.
- Have a **core** group of at least ten producers directly involved in the project, with a larger network of producers **(observers**) keen to attend workshops or field days to learn about outcomes. Flexibility in numbers is offered for projects in extensive regions.
- Core producers are responsible for much of the in-field activities (e.g. measurements, stock rotations etc.)
- Be based on known, scientifically proven practices and/or commercially available technology, i.e. not research on a problem/issue.

- Have a robust method designed to lead to an outcome, including controls for comparison to demonstrate productivity, profitability and sustainability benefits to the group and broader producer community.
- Have a suitably skilled facilitator to guide group activity, coordinate extension activities, implement protocols, and report back to MLA.
- Include extension and communication activities to extend key messages and learnings beyond the core group.
- Implement monitoring, evaluation and reporting (MER) processes to demonstrate producer engagement, practice change and the benefit to the production businesses and broader industry. All projects will be required to develop a MER plan using MLA's standard framework within one month of commencing, and support will be available to assist facilitators with development. A copy of the MER plan guidelines is available on the MLA website.

(Note: communications and monitoring & evaluation plans will be due four-six weeks from contracting as part of the first milestones for each project).

What is not a PDS?

- Based on an issue of limited interest to producers in the area or an issue that contributes only very marginal improvement in enterprise business performance.
- Basic or applied research regarding a problem/issue (i.e. the solution is not yet known)
- Demonstration of how commercial technologies operate and perform. Demonstrations involving commercial technologies must focus on the business/decision-making value of the technology, not whether it works.
- Demonstrations not at commercial scale.
- A project where the facilitator does all the work, including taking in-field measurements, etc.

Who can apply?

Applications are welcome from groups of producers, farming system groups, NRM Groups, as well as, state departments, consultants, universities, and other service providers in partnership with an engaged group of producers.

All MLA contracts will be with a company or other legal entity, excluding individuals/sole traders. For unincorporated producer groups, arrangements should be made for contracting through an affiliated company.

Where the intended contracted party is a Trustee (on behalf of a trust), MLA will require copies of ID for all Trustees and a copy of the Trust Deed.

The Tenderer must provide details of its current insurance policies, and each proposed subcontractor and supplier as outlined in the preliminary and full applications.

What is funded?

Levy PDS Projects

Producer groups engaged in Levy PDS projects will be able to access up to **$30,000 per year** for the length of the project (Minimum **two** years, maximum **six** years).

Co-Contributor PDS projects

Producer groups engaged in Co-Contributor PDS projects will be able to access up to **$60,000 per year (plus access fee)** for the length of the project (minimum **two** years, maximum **six** years).

Co-Contributor projects require cash investment in the project, which is matched by the MLA Donor Company (MDC). Producers must invest a minimum of 15% of the cash investment.

There are two funding options for these projects:

Option 1: Producer cash contribution only

- 50% Levy
- 30% Producer cash contribution + 8% access fee (calculated on contribution value)
- 20% MDC + 8% access fee (calculated on contribution value)

Option 2: Producer & third-party (non-producer) cash contribution

- 45% Levy
- 15% Producer cash contribution + 8% access fee (calculated on contribution value)
- 18% Third party cash contribution + 12% access fee (calculated on contribution value)
- 22% MDC + access fee calculated on contribution value (8% on producer contribution value & 12% on third party contribution value)

Partnership PDS Projects

Applicants wishing to engage in a partnership PDS can apply for funding of up to **$100,000/year (plus access fee)** for the length of the project (minimum **two** years, maximum **six** years).

Partnership PDS projects require a cash contribution which is matched by the MDC (up to 40%)

Refer to Co-Contributor/Partnership PDS Cash-Flow Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for further detail on the process of investing in Co-Contributor and Partnership PDS projects available on the MLA Website.

MLA funding can be used for the following:

- Facilitator time and expenses (for example, reporting, coordination, group activity)
- Operational aspects of the demonstration
- Extension and communications activities
- Conducting and reporting of robust monitoring & evaluation plan ***(note: budget should be allocated for one trip to Sydney for training purposes)***

MLA funding cannot be used for the following:

- Purchase of capital items (applicants should investigate sponsorship, share or leasing arrangements)
- Items of significant private benefit, e.g. DNA testing of whole flocks

- Purchase of animals
- Fencing and infrastructure (including temporary)
- eID Tags

Priority areas:

Levy PDS:

MLA is seeking proposals for the Levy PDS program related to sheep and cattle enterprises that align with the relevant regional Northern Australian Beef Research Council (NABRC) (see Table 1), Southern Australian Meat Research Council (SALRC) (see Table 2) and West Australian Livestock Research Council (WALRC) (see Table 2) PDS priorities outlined below:

Table 1: Levy PDS priorities for Northern Australia (Northern WA, NT & QLD).

Category	Priority
Animal Wellbeing	Demonstrate the correct use and benefits (triple bottom line – social, environmental, and economic as well as animal wellbeing, producer satisfaction, and market access) of using best practice pain mitigation techniques. Applications should include the use of registered pain relief products in conjunction with best practice routine animal husbandry practices for cattle (including best practice weaning, nutritional management, castration and dehorning and wound management).
	Demonstrate the benefits of addressing mineral deficiencies and the mechanisms for delivery in extensive regions.
Water management	Demonstrate productivity and welfare benefits from improved water management systems and practices (quantity and quality). Applications may consider addressing/incorporating the following: • Varying levels of chemical elements in bore water (still fit for stock) • Impact of water quality on animal production • Water quality testing and utilisation of data for decision making • Water security via efficient and effective harvesting, storage, and distribution • Commercially available technology to achieve efficient water supply

Feedbase Productivity	Demonstrate pasture/forage/tree selection, establishment and management practices to improve whole farm productivity and sustainability, addressing one or more of the following: • Optimising the tree/pasture balance, • Economic value of the benefits of managing the tree-grass/shrub balance and controlling native and exotic weeds.Increase year-round productivity (addressing seasonal feed gaps) • Improve establishment and persistence under increasing climate variability • Production and economic benefits of fertilising sown pastures in southern regions of Qld • Management strategies to minimise Indian couch spread in native and sown pastures, and improvement of pastures dominated by Indian couch.Improve pasture establishment, productivity and persistence in landscapes prone to sub-soil compaction or "hard pan" soil structure, or other soil constraints • Encourage diversity of plants for landscape, soil and animal health • Examine the role of P and S fertilizers in the establishment and maintenance of sown pastures in northern Australia.Alternative grass/legume (Luceana, Desmanthus, stylos etc) to extend protein digestibility and animal performance into the dry season • Implementation of soil conservation practices to slow water run-off and increase water penetration • Potential contributions to soils carbon levels through carbon sequestration *Note: the top 2 bullet points were seen as a high priority across 9 of the NABRC regions.*
	Prevention, restoration and management of rundown/degraded lands caused by long-term overgrazing, previous management, weed invasion or extreme and difficult-to-predict extreme events (i.e. drought, floods, dieback or fire), addressing one or more of the following: • Value proposition/economic analysis of the benefits of improving, maintaining and restoring land condition. • Restoration of the feedbase after extreme events (drought, fires or floods), including reducing the impact of weeds • Integrated strategies for managing invasive grasses and weeds (such as grader grass, Giant Rats Tail, creeping lantana, Love grasses, Parthenium, Rubber vine, parkinsonia, Pimalea, etc.) • Strategies to minimize and restore ‘pasture dieback’ lands.
	Demonstrate the application of best practice grazing and land management (such as wet seasons spelling, rotational grazing, light stocking rate etc) practices to benefit productivity and sustainability, including the use of commercial tools and technologies.
	Demonstrate the effectiveness and livestock productivity gains from cost effective and practical management of:

	• Native woody weeds and poisonous plants (e.g. Pimelea, Heartleaf, Georgina gidgee, gidgee, black wattle, mulga, mimosa, gutta-percha, sandalwood). • Exotic weeds and poisonous plants (e.g. Parkinsonia, Mesquite, Prickly acacia, Calotrope, rubber vine, lantana, Harrisia cactus).
Production System	Demonstrate adaption to climate variability within a region through business planning, enterprise mix and risk management strategies to drive towards business and environmental sustainability, including progression towards carbon neutrality and practical on-farm strategies that demonstrate improved soil or landscape carbon sequestration and reduced farm emissions. Applications should consider which methods would be employed to account for improvements in carbon and/or other measures of natural capital.
	Demonstrate the application of commercially available technologies (including remote monitoring) to address production and management efficiencies and address labour shortfalls, particularly in extensive systems, in relation to one or more of the following: • Animal health and welfare • Stock location and movements • Security • Water and feed • Predator control • Virtual fencing/alternate fencing options • Satellite imagery • Weed monitoring/control
Beef Productivity	Demonstrate improvements in **cattle reproductive performance** and weaning rates through the adoption of selected management techniques. The management techniques are to be aligned to agro-ecological zones and the management capabilities of the proposed demonstration site. Management techniques to be considered for demonstration include; • Replacement heifer selection and heifer management up to and through their 1st & 2nd calf • Pregnancy testing and foetal aging • Cow condition assessment prior to joining • Bull fertility assessment • Fertility of females (particularly first calf heifers) • Joining length • Time of calving/herd • Feedbase/nutritional management (inc. heifer nutritional management following first calving) • Reproductive disease management e.g. pestivirus • Predator control • Genetics (i.e. the effective use of breeding values to meet breeding objectives), balanced with structural and reproductive soundness • Supplementary feeding methods for growth vs. maintenance (effectiveness & cost efficiency) inc. phosphorus supplementation • Virtual fencing

	Note: the top 2 bullet points were seen as a high priority across all NABRC regions.
Supply chain	Demonstrate improvements in productivity and profitability through **carcase performance and eating quality outcomes**, including adherence to target market specifications and compliance, through adoption of selected tools and management techniques aligned to agro-ecological zones and production system capabilities. Tools and management techniques to be considered for demonstration including; • Feedbase/nutritional management • Supplementary feeding methods (effectiveness & cost efficiency) • Animal husbandry and handling • Animal health and welfare • Genetic selection (breeding values) to meet breeding objectives • Utilising benchmarking & carcase feedback data to underpin decisions and identify opportunities • Using technologies and systems such as Livestock Data Link/Commercial feedback systems • Other

Some priorities identified for southern Australia (NSW, VIC, TAS, SA, ACT, QLD (Sheep regions) and Southern WA) (Table 2) have a recommended agri-climatic zone/region that the priority is relevant to. The following is the key for the agri-climatic zones/region referred to:

SALRC:

- High rainfall, winter dominant rainfall zone (HRW)
- Low rainfall (<450mm p.a.), winter dominant rainfall zone (LRW)
- High rainfall, summer dominant rainfall zone (HRS)
- Low rainfall (<450mm p.a.), summer dominant rainfall zone (LRS)
- Semi-arid/arid rangelands zone (R)

WALRC

- Rangelands (R)
- High Rainfall (HRF)
- Mixed Farming (MF)

Table 2: Levy PDS priorities for southern Australia (NSW, VIC, TAS, SA, ACT, QLD (Sheep regions) and Southern WA.

Category	Priority
Animal Wellbeing	Demonstrate the correct use and benefits (triple bottom line – social, environmental, and economic as well as animal wellbeing, producer satisfaction, and market access) of using best practice pain mitigation techniques. Applications should include the use of registered pain relief products in conjunction with best practice routine animal husbandry

	practices for sheep and cattle (including best practice weaning, nutritional management, mulesing, tail docking, castration and dehorning and wound management).
	Demonstrate effective dag management in non-mulesed flocks, including prevention techniques, feed management, the use of appropriate genetics, and best practice fly management in circumstances of reduced efficacy of existing chemistry. Applications should include the incorporation of relevant tools and resources such as FlyBoss and AWI's Flystrike resources - Its Fly time!, SimpliFly, DemistiFly, ClassiFly etc.
	Demonstrate best practice management of internal parasites in sheep and cattle for maximised animal performance and reduced drench resistance. Applications should consider product decision-making, drenching best practice, and resistance mitigation. Incorporation of ParaBoss tools/resources and relevant AWI resources is essential.
Feedbase Productivity	Demonstrate management practices to address one or more of the following: • Pasture/shrub selection to improve establishment, increase year-round productivity, persistence and maximise stocking rate under increasing climate variability • Restore feedbase after extreme events (drought, fires, or floods), including reducing the impacts of weeds • Multi-species fodder cropping • Region-specific extension and demonstration of best practice to manage existing and emerging high-priority weed species • Reduce bloat risk • Improve pasture establishment, productivity, and persistence in landscapes prone to sub-soil compaction or "hard pan" soil structure, or other soil constraints • Encourage diversity of plants for landscape and animal health • Increase grazing enterprise profitability • Assess yield %, growth rates, productivity and profitability per hectare of different pasture and supplementary feeding options for weaner lambs and calves • Management of invertebrate pasture pests • Quantify return on investment from improved pastures • Innovative methods of manipulating pasture species composition in new and established pastures (particularly increasing legume content) through fertiliser, sprays, grazing management or other methods • Effectiveness of manipulation of soil fertility to improve rhizobia function • Pasture productivity, profitability and biodiversity impacts of conventional and alternative fertiliser products

	Agroclimatic zones in the SALRC region, this priority is relevant to HRW, HRS
	Demonstrate effective management strategies to address the autumn/winter feed gaps in the Mediterranean zone to increase productivity, reduce risk and improve profitability.
	Demonstrate the application of improved grazing practices to benefit productivity and sustainability, including the use of commercial tools and technologies.
	Demonstrate feedbase species and management systems, particularly perennial grasses and shrubs, suited to low rainfall mixed farming zones and rangelands. Encourage diversity of plants for landscape and animal health. Within SALRC region this priority is most relevant to LRW, LRS, R zones.
	Demonstrate the effectiveness and livestock productivity gains from management of invasive woody weeds/scrub in rangelands areas. Within SALRC region this priority is most relevant to R.
Production System	Demonstrate adaption to climate variability within a region, through business planning, enterprise mix and risk management strategies to drive towards business and environmental sustainability. Applications should consider the impacts of a range of approaches to management of commercial grazing properties including one or more of the following: - progression towards carbon neutrality - strategies that demonstrate improved soil or landscape carbon sequestration and reduced farm emissions - business performance - pasture productivity and persistence - environmental benefits such as soil health, groundcover, water quality and vegetation biodiversity - management of emerging, new weed and animal parasite/disease issues - methods for accounting for improvements in carbon and/or other measures of natural capital
	Demonstrate the application of commercially available technologies, including remote monitoring, virtual fencing, drones etc, to increase efficiency in production and management and/or address labour shortfalls in relation to one or more of the following: • Animal health and welfare • Stock location and movements • Security • Water and feed supply • Predator control

	Demonstrate practices that achieve better integration of livestock and crop enterprises. Within WALRC low and medium rainfall mixed farming zones
	Evaluate and demonstrate the production and economic returns of a precision approach to diagnostic tests of the nutritional and health status of livestock, forage sources and soils (e.g. blood, parasite, food, plant tissue, and soil testing). As a result of leading to more precise definition of nutritional availability and livestock health requirements, appropriate programs can be implemented, measured and refined as part of the project. Within SALRC region this priority is most relevant to HRW, HRS.
	Demonstrate and evaluate the benefits of alternative finishing practices and markets for lambs to ensure the sustainability and profitability of sheep production systems in Western Australia. Applications should consider: • best management practices • practical and cost-effective strategies to fill feed gaps
	Demonstrate best practice management for hay and/or silage production for the purpose of on-farm feed preservation.
Sheep Productivity	Demonstrate improvements in **sheep reproductive performance** and mortality rates through the adoption of selected management techniques. Management techniques are to be aligned with agroecological zones and the management capabilities of the site. A minimum of three management techniques from the following should be considered; • Ewe body condition scoring, at key stages in the reproduction cycle • Fit to join (body condition score, udder health etc) • Ram fertility assessment • Joining length/mob size • Mating ratios in different climates, environments and for different flock age structures • Pregnancy scanning for multiples and early versus late • Nutritional management of triplets, twin and single bearing ewes • Predator control • Lambing group size • Time of lambing • Shelter • EID to inform culling strategy • Feeding strategies • Genetics (i.e. the effective use of breeding values to meet breeding objectives), balanced with structural and reproductive soundness • Reproductive diseases • Effect of early weaning on ewe condition and lamb growth rates, etc.

	• Best practise ewe lamb joining, growth pathways, body condition score and lambing practices, including ewe lamb recovery. • Collection of dam pedigree using commercially available technology (such as pedigree match-maker, smart-shepherd, etc.), in sheep flocks, focusing on the cost benefit of implementing the tools and business decisions made from the available data to improve reproductive performance and productivity.
	Demonstrate best practice weaner management to improve productivity and welfare outcomes, including ewe recovery.
Beef Productivity	Demonstrate improvements in **cattle reproductive performance**, weaning rates and weaning weights through the adoption of selected management techniques that are suited to specific agroecological zones and management capabilities of the site. Management techniques to be considered for demonstration include; • Replacement heifer selection and heifer management up to and through their 1st & 2nd calf • Cow condition assessment prior to joining • Bull fertility assessment • Joining length • Time of calving/herd structure • Feedbase/nutritional management (inc. heifer nutritional management following first calving) • Replacement heifer selection • Pregnancy testing and foetal aging • Early weaning • Reproductive disease management, e.g. pestivirus • Predator control • Genetics (i.e. the effective use of breeding values to meet breeding objectives), balanced with structural and reproductive soundness • AI in commercial beef herds Supplementary feeding methods for growth vs. maintenance (effectiveness & cost efficiency)
	Demonstrate best practice management weaning techniques to improve productivity and welfare outcomes prior to sale.
Feedback Systems	Demonstration of MyMSA, MyFeedback and/or other commercial feedback systems to enable greater on-farm decision-making for improved compliance and increased profit.

Co-Contributor PDS:

MLA seeks proposals for the Co-contributor PDS program aligning with industry priorities and targets (refer to Red Meat 2030 and MLA Strategic plan for industry issues/priorities and targets). Applicants are also encouraged to also consider the Levy PDS priorities.

Partnership PDS:

MLA is seeking proposals for the Partnership PDS program focused on increasing the adoption of best management practices, implementing research outcomes, and integrating commercially available technology to improve the productivity, profitability, and sustainability of sheep and/or cattle enterprises.

Applicants are encouraged to consider the Levy PDS priorities and must demonstrate alignment with industry priorities and targets, as outlined in RedMeat 2030 – the red meat industry plan and the MLA Strategic Plan.

GOAT PDS:
MLA is seeking Levy, Co-Contributor and/or Partnership PDS proposals related to Goat enterprises that align with the following industry priorities:

1. Increasing the productivity and profitability of harvested rangeland goat and/or managed goat herds.

Applications against this term of reference should consider industry issues including at least one of the following topics:

- Fertility and reproductive performance
- Kid loss
- Supplementary feeding and finishing
- Animal health and welfare (including disease and parasite management
- Biodiversity and environment

2. Supporting the transition from harvested rangeland goat to managed herds

Preparing and submitting an application

Applicants should follow these steps:

1. Establish a producer group supported by a facilitator (may be a partnership with an organisation with a common purpose). All groups must include a person experienced in facilitation, communication and MER of on-farm projects.
2. Define and describe what the PDS project intends to achieve. This should include the following:
    a. What is the practical problem or need that the group aims to address?
    b. What is the current level of adoption of the targeted management practice(s)?
    c. How will the targeted management practices improve business profitability and productivity, i.e. what will the project's outcome be?
    d. What is the potential scale of benefit to businesses?
3. Identify the PDS group facilitator and the producer Chair.
4. Submit a Preliminary Application (max **5** pages) outlining your proposed project. The Preliminary Application must be submitted on or before **12 May 2025.**
   Preliminary Application forms can be obtained here.

5. All preliminary applicants will be notified of acceptance or otherwise by **27 June 2025.** If your Preliminary Application has been accepted, you will then need to prepare a Full Application using the PDS Full Application forms and submit it to MLA by **25 July 2025**.
   Full application form can be obtained here.
6. If your PDS is to be contracted through a supporting agency, e.g. DPI or Landcare group, submit your PDS application to the management of the participating supporting agency before submitting it to MLA for review and endorsement.
7. All successful applicants will be notified by **29 August 2025**.
8. Projects will be contracted and ready to commence by **November 2025 to April 26.**

For further information on preparing and submitting an application, please refer to the following supporting documents available at PDS Annual Project Call | Meat & Livestock Australia (mla.com.au) or by clicking the ***'Get Involved'*** quick link at www.mla.com.au/pds

Preliminary

Levy Preliminary PDS Application

Co-Contributor Preliminary PDS Application

Partnership Preliminary PDS Application

Preliminary Application Guidelines

Full Application

Levy Full PDS Application

Co-Contributor Full PDS Application

Partnership Full PDS Application

Full Application Guidelines

General

MLA PDS MER Guidelines

MLA Tender Declaration

MDC Source of fund declaration (required with all Co-Contributor and Partnership PDS applications)

Co-Contributor & Partnership PDS MDC Cash Flow FAQ

Important information regarding the tender process:

1. Tenders must comply with all requirements specified in this request for tender/terms of reference.
2. The requirements specified in this request for tender apply to both the preliminary and full applications.
3. Please submit an electronic/ soft copy of the tender applications.
4. All sections within the preliminary application form must be completed. Where invited to submit a full application, the current version of the Full Application Form must be completed in its entirety.

5. Tenderers of successful full applications will be provided with a link to complete a questionnaire regarding modern slavery due diligence. Completion of the questionnaire is required before progressing with contracting.
6. The Terms of Agreement MLA wishes to enter with the successful Tenderer for all PDS projects may be requested by emailing Alana McEwan at amcewan@mla.com.au. MLA is non-negotiable on the terms of the agreement.
7. Where the successful Tenderer has a negotiated standard agreement with MLA, the terms of that agreement will apply. Where no previously negotiated agreement is in place unless clearly stated to the contrary in the tender, all terms of our MLA Umbrella Consultancy Agreement (Levy PDS)/MLA Umbrella Research Agreement (Co-contributor/Partnership PDS) will apply.
8. Annexure 1 contains a tender declaration to be completed by the Tenderer. Also accessible on the MLA website here.
9. Annexure 2 contains an MDC cash contribution declaration to be completed by the Tenderer when applying for a co-contributor or partnership PDS. Also accessible on the MLA website here.

Further information about PDS eligibility criteria, guidelines and application forms are available at PDS Annual Project Call | Meat & Livestock Australia (mla.com.au) or www.mla.com.au/pds; click the ***'Get Involved'*** quick link.

Selection criteria & review process

Selection of preliminary applications and full applications will be based on the following criteria

1. Alignment with priorities

- levy applications are required to demonstrate alignment with NABRC, SALRC and WALRC regional priorities.
- Co-Contributor & partnership PDS applications will need to demonstrate alignment with either the regional PDS priorities or industry issues and targets.
- Goat PDS projects must align with the goat priorities.

2. Producer engagement, potential impact/benefits and capacity to deliver:

- the number and enthusiasm of producers in the core group, the opportunity for broader engagement
- the potential impact on producer business profit drivers and industry profitability.
- The capacity and capability of the team project team (group and facilitator).

3. Clear objective and sound methodology:

- A very clear and measurable objective that includes knowledge, skill, confidence and adoption targets, clear outcomes and outputs.
- A sound methodology to demonstrate the business value of the technology/practice/innovation(s), achieve practice change and deliver on the objectives.

4. Proposed communication/extension and MER plans

- The extension and communications plan and activities proposed within the PDS group (core) and more broadly (observer group and nationally). Ensuring a focus on both building knowledge and skills of participating producers and increasing awareness among a broader producer audience.
- Proposed monitoring, evaluation, and reporting (MER) activities to track progress, demonstrate effectiveness and ensure accountability throughout the project. The proposed plans must provide the data required to determine if the objectives have been achieved.

5. Value for Money

- The project demonstrates value for money, the resources proposed in a project are being utilized efficiently and effectively to achieve the desired outcomes.

Applications that demonstrate cash and in-kind producer support, as well as sponsorship for capital items, will be viewed favourably.

Preliminary **Levy PDS** applications are assessed by a panel consisting of GIRDC, NABRC, SALRC, and WALRC producer representatives, MLA Research, Development & Adoption managers, and the PDS Coordinators. Full applications are assessed by MLA Research, Development & Adoption managers and the PDS Coordinators only.

Co-Contributor and Partnership PDS applications are assessed by a panel of MLA Research, Development & Adoption managers and the PDS Coordinators at both the preliminary and full application stages.

Additional commitments

- PDS project facilitators may be required to participate in MLA awareness events and regional forums, which are part of MLA's regional producer consultation strategy.
- Projects may need to nominate a producer case study for MLA communication activities.
- Producers involved in projects may be required to participate in impact evaluation surveys in future years, including post-project completion.
- Successful applicants will be required to participate in MER training before the commencement of the project.
- Projects will need to robustly estimate the potential scale of adoption beyond the core group and the potential benefits to individual producers and the industry as part of their MER plan.

For further information:

- Russell Pattinson, National PDS Coordinator, Phone 0419 872 684, Email: miracledog@bigpond.com
- Maria Thompson, National PDS Coordinator, Phone: 0411 961 545, Email: maria@agstarprojects.com.au
- Alana McEwan, MLA Project Manager – Producer Demonstration Site program Phone: (07) 3620 5227 or 0417 541 000, Email: amcewan@mla.com.au

ANNEXURE 1 TENDER DECLARATION

Applications to complete the most appropriate declaration to their business and ensure that this is submitted with all applications.

NOTE: an editable word version of this template is available at: PDS Annual Project Call | Meat & Livestock Australia (mla.com.au)

1. DECLARATION

1.1 **For corporate tenderers**

I, ...
of .....
do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

I hold the position of ..... and am duly authorised by ..... (**Tenderer**) to make this declaration on its behalf.

I make this declaration to the best of my knowledge, information and belief as to the accuracy of the material contained in it and after due inquiry in relation to such material.

This tender comprises:
.....
.....
.....
.....

Neither the Tenderer nor any of its employees or agents had any knowledge of the price submitted by any other tenderer prior to providing its tender, nor did the Tenderer disclose to any other tenderer the Tenderer's tendered price prior to closing of tenders.

Neither the Tenderer nor any of its employees or agents has entered into an agreement, arrangement or understanding which would have the result that, on being the successful Tenderer, it would pay to any unsuccessful tenderer any moneys in respect of or in relation to the tender or any agreement resulting from it.

The Tenderer is not aware of any fact, matter or thing which would materially affect the decision of MLA in accepting the tender, except as disclosed in the tender.

The contents of the tender are true and correct.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the *Oaths Act 1900*.

DECLARED at)
this day of 2025).....

Before me,

.....
Justice of the Peace/Solicitor

1.2 **For individual tenderers**

I, ...
of .....
do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

I make this declaration to the best of my knowledge, information and belief as to the accuracy of the material contained in it and after due inquiry in relation to such material.

This tender comprises:
.....
.....
.....
.....

Neither me nor any of my employees or agents had any knowledge of the price submitted by any other tenderer prior to providing its tender, nor did I disclose to any other tenderer my tendered price prior to closing of tenders.

Neither me nor any of my employees or agents has entered into an agreement, arrangement or understanding which would have the result that, on being the successful Tenderer, I would pay to any unsuccessful tenderer any moneys in respect of or in relation to the tender or any agreement resulting from it.

I am not aware of any fact, matter or thing which would materially affect the decision of MLA in accepting the tender, except as disclosed in the tender.

The contents of the tender are true and correct.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and by virtue of the provisions of the *Oaths Act 1900*.

DECLARED at)
this day of 2025).....

Before me,

.....
Justice of the Peace/Solicitor

ANNEXURE 2 CO-CONTRIBUTOR PDS SOURCE OF FUNDS DECLARATION

NOTE: an editable word version of this template is available at: PDS Annual Project Call | Meat & Livestock Australia (mla.com.au)

MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA

Source of Funds Declaration Co-Contributor PDS projects

Producer Contribution:

On behalf of [insert registered Company name] (ABN xx xxx xxx xxx), I, [insert authorised officer name] can confirm that the funds being provided by me/my organisation [delete as required] for matching via MLA Donor Company come from red meat levy paying producers/organisation.

I also confirm that the funds contributed by me do not originate from the Commonwealth of Australia.

Value of contribution: $_____

Third-party (Non-Producer) Contribution: [delete this section if not applicable]

On behalf of [insert registered Company name] (ABN xx xxx xxx xxx), I, [insert authorised officer name] can confirm that the funds being provided by me/my organisation [delete as required] for matching via MLA Donor Company come from [insert Third-party contributor].

I also confirm that the funds contributed by me do not originate from the Commonwealth of Australia.

Value of contribution: $_____

……

Signature: Authorised officer

……

Date