

MLA's Pasture Dieback strategy

OBJECTIVE ONE

Develop detection, identification and monitoring options for pasture dieback



CAUSAL AGENTS AND PREDISPOSING FACTORS

- Conduct fundamental research centred on identifying leading causal factors including soil conditions, pathogens and pests.
- Investigate likely multifactorial causes of pasture dieback and determine interactions between environment, management and causal factors.
- Investigate credible alternative hypotheses for additional primary and secondary causal agents of pasture dieback.

DETECTION AND MONITORING

- Develop methods for reliable, objective detection both on-farm and by remote processes.
- Development and analysis of a meta-dataset on dieback progression over time and locations.
- Broadscale monitoring and detection, engaging producers to inform R&D and support research inputs.
- Predictive analysis – early warnings.

EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE RESEARCH

- Integrate with related initiatives to improve R&D output at scale and avoid duplication.

OBJECTIVE TWO

Coordinate management interventions for producers affected by pasture dieback



INTEGRATED SOIL – PATHOGEN – PEST – PLANT MANAGEMENT

- Site specific soil testing – testing for chemical and biological changes.
- Identify treatment and management options for the control of pasture dieback.
- Soil, pasture and grazing management to improve pasture productivity and reduce potential impacts of seasonal variability on dieback expression.

RESISTANT GRASSES

- Screen grass species for resistance and potential control methods.
- Develop and evaluate pasture management strategies identified in R&D findings.
- Breed, evaluate and commercialise pasture dieback resistant cultivars.

SMALL PROJECTS – COMPLEMENTARY AREAS

- Prospective research areas targeting alternative casual theories, detection and monitoring tools and technologies and management interventions to control or reduce the impacts of dieback.

OBJECTIVE THREE

Engage with stakeholders and communicate findings



COMMUNICATIONS

- Coordinated, consistent and targeted messaging to producers and industry.
- Utilisation of stakeholder contact networks (industry, government) to ensure common, consistent and complete messaging.
- Information forums, regional events.

INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT AND PROGRAM GOVERNANCE

- Collaboration: formation of the 'Dieback Management Group' involving MLA, QDAF and NSW DPI
 - information sharing, coordinate dissemination
 - strategic planning.
- Strategic: 'Program Steering Committee' (MLA program coordinator, producer representatives).
- Operational: 'Advisory Group' (MLA project coordinator, science theme leads, producer representative organisations).
- Science forum: external and internal scientists.

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT – ADVISORS AND INFORMATION SOURCES

- Increase number and capability of local advisors & consultants in detection and dieback management.
- Increase number and capability of information providers (e.g. agribusiness) for dieback management.