

POSITION DESCRIPTION



Position Title	Project Manager – Feedlot
Career Level	4
Location	Brisbane, Armidale or North Sydney
Position Type	Permanent full time
Business Unit	Research, Development and Adoption
Reports To	Feedlot Program Manager
No. of Direct Reports	0
Date	July 2024

About MLA

MLA works in partnership with the red meat industry and the Australian Government to deliver marketing, research and development products and services to cattle, sheep and goat producers, with the core purpose of fostering the prosperity of the Australian red meat industry.

Our values:

- Integrity at heart
- Stronger together
- Future focused

Position Purpose

- Identify Research Development & Adoption (RD&A) needs and opportunities to improve the productivity and profitability of grainfed cattle production in Australia.
- Address those needs through the establishment, management and execution of appropriate RD&A programs and projects.
- To align productivity RD&A activities with cross sectional RD&A programs with particular emphasis on Sustainability and Animal Wellbeing programs

Key Accountabilities

- Focus on delivering the outputs agreed in the MLA-ALFA Feedlot program 5 year horizon strategic plan.
- Development of terms of reference and information papers for the Australian Lot Feeders' Research & development committee approval on research priorities agreed by MLA and ALFA.

- Undertaking tenders of approved terms of reference in accordance with MLA’s procurement guidelines.
- Membership in the MLA feedlot program tender selection panel to select successful applications from quoting/tendering process.
- Maintain a strong understanding of key technical issues and research issues which can help lead to development of new solutions to improve Feedlot Industry productivity and profitability.
- Development of opportunity assessment and product development cycles to help objectively assess new opportunities.
- Management of grainfed cattle R&D projects in accordance with MLA procedures in order to achieve outcomes within specified time limits and budget. This includes detailed review and assessment of milestone and final reports.
- Manage program expenditure relative to approved budgets.
- Representation of MLA at industry forums, workshops, seminars and conferences.
- Participation in industry strategic planning as required.
- Participation in MLA business and annual operating plan development.
- Provide reports as required on program and project performance to MLA management.
- Liaison with industry Peak Councils and other industry groups, including Australian Lot Feeders Association (ALFA), Cattle Australia (CA), Sheep Producers Australia (SPA), Goat Industry Council of Australia (GICA), research advisory councils, government and research organisations as necessary to ensure agreed program/project outcomes and to report progress and outcomes of R&D program.
- In collaboration with RDA adoption team, communications team, and the Australian Lot Feeders’ Association support timely and effective communication, extension and/or commercialisation of R&D outcomes.
- Act in accordance with the Australian Government – MLA statutory funding agreement.
- Undertake effective measures to ensure compliance with MLA’s policies and procedures in workplace health and safety as applicable to self, other Workers and all activities within area of responsibility and control:
 - Providing information, instruction, training and supervision to workers
 - Undertaking risk assessments, designing and implementing control measures to reduce risks
 - Ensuring application of appropriate risk control measures
 - Ensuring all hazards, incidents and near misses are reported

Major Challenges and Complexities

- Management of stakeholder relationships.
- Building and maintaining strong relationships with multiple internal and external stakeholders to achieve effective outcomes.
- Ability to analyse complex information and translate it into practical messages for industry .
- Communicating and engaging with stakeholders to drive practice change.
- Working across and with multiple MLA business units.

Key Relationships

Internal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RDA General Manager • RDA Group Manager – Productivity and Animal Wellbeing • RDA Group manager – sustainability • Program Manager Sheep and Goat Productivity • Program Manager Sustainable Feedbase Resources • Program Manager Animal Wellbeing • Program Manager Beef Productivity • Other MLA Managers as appropriate
External	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PICs • Research service providers • Other stakeholders

Other (i.e. travel required, on call)
Extensive travel to interact with R&D providers is a requirement of this role

Authority
<p>What does the person have the authority to do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiate discussion and negotiate with research service providers. • Develop project schedules and contracts for approval. • Assess reports as evidence of contract compliance and approval payments in line with contract schedule. <p>What does the person need to seek approval for?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All SAP project final approvals. • All travel. • Any change to agreed business processes and protocols.

Essential Qualifications / Skills / Experience / Competencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Graduate and Post Graduate training (or appropriate industry experience) in science, animal science, or related disciplines. • Knowledge of and experience in cattle feedlot production systems. • Knowledge and experience in the application of technology and research throughout supply chains in agricultural industries. • Experience in R&D program and project management in livestock production. • Strong knowledge of the priorities and issues affecting lot feeders' and understand key drivers of profitability and sustainability of on-farm red meat production in Australia. • High quality written and verbal communication skills, including the capacity to prepare and deliver papers and briefings at Senior Management level, and to prepare and present information to public and stakeholder audiences. • Ability to work effectively in teams, provide leadership to both team members and stakeholders and deal effectively with conflict.

- Strong interpersonal, good time management and prioritisation skills.
- Passion and enthusiasm to achieve outstanding results for MLAs stakeholders.
- Strong negotiating skills with research service providers on deliverables and intellectual property arrangements.