

POSITION DESCRIPTION



Position Title	Project Manager – Sustainable Feedbase Resources
Location	Sydney/Brisbane/Armidale
Position Type	Full-time
Business Unit	Research and Development
Reports To	Program Manager – Sustainable Feedbase Resources
No. of Direct Reports	Nil
Date:	September 2025

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 focussed

Position Purpose

The purpose of the role is to oversee a portfolio of MLA funded research, development and adoption (RD&A) projects that aim to improve productivity and sustainability of the National feedbase and natural resources (i.e. native and sown pastures, soil, and other components of the natural environment).

The role involves;

- Assist with identification of RD&A opportunities in conjunction with key stakeholders (producers, advisors, researchers).
- Assist with development of the value proposition and business cases for new investments.
- Development of project proposals and contracts in conjunction with external R&D providers, in alignment with MLA processes and strategic plan.
- Ongoing oversight of RD&A projects to ensure they achieve contracted objectives
- Oversee evaluation activities within and after research projects to support MLA's impact evaluation.
- Ensure project compliance with State and Federal regulations on the use of chemicals, fertilisers, pest animals control products, as well as biodiversity (native vegetation / flora and fauna) and animal ethics.
- Assist in the development and implementation of National collaborative partnerships to deliver against the National RD&E strategies and MLA Strategic plan areas, in order to maximise synergies and avoid duplication of RD&A efforts.
- Representation of MLA at industry forums, workshops, seminars and conferences

Key Accountabilities

- Effective contract development and management for RD&A activities in accordance with MLA guidelines to ensure that contract milestones and objectives achieve stakeholder-desired outcomes (i.e. timely delivery, value for money, protection of intellectual property, communication and extension of project outcomes).
- Participation in industry strategic planning as required and in MLA business and annual investment plan development.
- Maintaining up-to-date knowledge and expertise in, feedbase resources and related science disciplines; including a network of appropriate professional contacts within relevant industry and professional associations, and knowledge of research groups and consultants who have skills required by MLA.
- Work in co-operation with MLA's Adoption and Communication team to ensure extension activities are coordinated and aligned with prevailing (current and future), industry issues and MLA's Product Impact areas.
- Participate at MLA producer consultation workshops and forums. Develop and deliver relevant and timely information regarding MLAs RDA opportunities at these forums.
- Regular engagement with producers, advisors and researchers to assess and identify high-quality potential investments.
- Responsible for implementation of MLA's OHS policies and procedures for self, other staff, contractors and all activities within area of responsibility and control.
- Maintain strong relationships within other MLA teams to ensure that on-farm outcomes for sustainable feedbase resources are consistent within a 'whole-of-chain' approach to red meat industry sustainability issues which addresses primarily production constraints (supply- short and long term) and customer, consumer and community requirements.

Major Challenges and Complexities

- Building and maintaining strong relationships with multiple internal and external stakeholders to achieve effective outcomes, including producers, their advisors, and scientists.
- Ability to analyse complex scientific information and translate it into practical, simple messages for industry (high-level written and verbal communication skills).
- Working across and with multiple MLA business units to enable efficiency in investment and effective messaging to producers and stakeholders.
- Integrating adoption and monitoring/evaluation activities into R&D programs to enable improved delivery of on-farm outcomes
- Time management of competing priorities

Key Relationships

Internal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R&D General Manager • Group Manager Sustainability • Group Manager Productivity and Animal Wellbeing • Program Manager Sustainable Feedbase Resources • Program Manager Adoption • Other MLA Managers as appropriate
External	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborating R&D providers

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry service providers • Government –State Federal • Associated industry organisations (including PHA, pasture seed, fertiliser, chemical companies)
--	--

Other (i.e. travel required, on call)

- National travel as required to meet with researchers, research managers, industry and government stakeholders, attend forums, committee meetings and congresses.
- Represent MLA as and when required, with key stakeholders and bodies including National RD&E Strategy Steering Groups, Collaborative R&D partnerships (eg CRC's, Centre Invasive Species Solutions) and targeted Committee representation.

Authority

What does the person have the authority to do?

- Initiate discussion and negotiate with RD&A providers.
- Develop project schedules and contracts for approval.
- Assess reports as evidence of contract compliance and approval payments in line with contract schedule.

What does the person need to seek approval for?

- All project final approvals.
- All travel.
- Any change to agreed business processes and protocols.
- All expenditure items.

Essential Qualifications / Experience

- Graduate and Post graduate training (or appropriate industry experience) in agricultural science, agronomy, natural resource management or related disciplines.
- Experience in multiple science disciplines relevant to the Feedbase program (preferably including soil and plant science, biometrics or other fields such as entomology, plant pathology, weed science, biotechnology).
- Project management experience including project planning, negotiation, budgeting, implementation and review.
-

Desirable Qualifications / Experience

- Knowledge of and experience in sustainable feedbase production as it relates to ruminant production and nutrition and natural resource management.
- Knowledge and experience in the application of technology and research on-farm.
- Administrative acumen to negotiate MLA's rigorous contract approval and governance processes.
-
- Experience with evaluation methods and tools, including benefit cost analysis.
- Experience working across multi-disciplinary teams (including research and delivery).
- Established government and industry networks .
- Experience in animal production research.

Essential Competencies

- High quality written and verbal communication.

- High quality science and analytical skills that facilitate rapid understanding of new science areas.
- Time management and prioritisation.
- Strong ability to build and maintain effective interpersonal relationships.
- Flexibility and adaptability.
- Results orientation / outcomes focused.
- Ability to generate ideas towards improved solutions for industry .
- Effective networking skills to disseminate and link industry programs with other MLA and external initiatives.
- Ability to work effectively in teams, provide leadership to both team members and stakeholders and deal effectively with conflict.
- Passion and enthusiasm to achieve outstanding results for MLA's stakeholders.