

POSITION DESCRIPTION



Position Title	Project Manager - Genetics
Career Level	4
Location	Armidale, Sydney or Brisbane
Position Type	Fixed term – maternity leave cover
Business Unit	Research Development and Adoption
Reports To	Program Manager – Livestock Genetics R&D
No. of Direct Reports	0
Date:	August 2025

About MLA

In partnership with the Australian red meat industry and the Australian Government, we strive to deliver marketing, research and development products and services to cattle, sheep and goat producers. MLA's core purpose is to deliver world leading outcomes that fuel global competitiveness, sustainability and producer profitability.

What is important to us is **our values**:

- Integrity at heart - *We are unwavering in our commitment to our stakeholders.*
- Stronger together - *We embrace diversity and collaborate to deliver impact.*
- Future focused - *We strive to continuously improve and push boundaries towards a better future.*

Position Purpose

This role will drive the progress of the investments into Genetics RD&A that have been developed through the National Livestock Genetics Consortium (NLGC). The role will;

- Manage the progress of projects endorsed by the NLGC taskforce and approved by the MLA board from project development through contracting and management of milestones and delivery of final reports
- Improve the efficiency of development and delivery of genetic projects and investments through effective collaboration of research providers for the benefit of the Australian red meat industry
- Identify R&D needs and opportunities to improve the profitability of lamb, sheepmeat and beef production in Australia through investment in genetics to achieve AIP outcomes.

Key Accountabilities

- Support the development of strategy and implementation plans that addresses the industry priorities for the investment in genetics and genomics within the red meat industry
- Assist with management of the National Livestock Genetics Consortium (NLGC) Taskforce, in accordance with the NLGC Taskforce Terms of Reference
- Provide assistance and MLA contribution to the genetic evaluation governance processes. Including facilitating the operations of the BREEDPLAN Advisory Committee, BREEDPLAN and Sheep Genetics Technical Committee and BREEDPLAN Executive Committee.
- Facilitate and manage the Livestock Genetics Project Call process in line with the requirements by MLA and the recommendations provided by the NLGC Taskforce.
- Support the progress of projects endorsed by the NLGC taskforce and approved by the MLA board from project development through contracting and management of milestones and delivery of final reports
- Negotiate and manage financial milestones, reporting and strategic planning in relation to genetics and R&D projects
- Maintain strong relationships with MLAs RDA team to ensure that genetic investment outcomes are consistent with a 'whole-of-chain' approach to addressing industry priorities
- Provide assistance and support with budget management and planning
- Representation of MLA at industry events, including forums, workshops, seminars, field days and conferences
- Assist with the preparation of reports and papers for the Livestock Genetics program for internal use as well as key industry stakeholders
- Support the development of Genetics team members and wider industry stakeholders to increase capabilities for utilising genetic technologies and R&D outcomes.
- Develop and foster effective relationships with producer networks, state and territory agencies (DPIs and others), research institutions and universities along other key MLA stakeholders, to initiate joint communication and collaborative initiatives that positively influence and attract investment in genetics.
- Comply 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.

Major Challenges and Complexities

- Facilitating the achievement of the NLGC Taskforce recommendations
- Timely and efficient contracting of approved projects
- Aligning projects to deliver the greatest impact for industry benefit whilst managing external stakeholder expectations
- Balancing private v industry good for MDC projects and managing IP ownership
- Attracting unprecedented funding to genetics
- Keeping milestones on track and on time
- Successfully engaging with private and public sector researchers

- Ensuring research programs have clear adoption outcomes

Key Relationships

Internal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RDA Program Managers • Sheep Genetics Manager • Project Officer • Corporate Services (Contracts) • Program Manager Genetics R&D • Business Manager Genetics Commercial Services • General Manager RDA • MLA Board
External	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NLGC Taskforce • NLGC stakeholders • Research organisations and universities • State departments of agriculture • Private beef and livestock extension providers • NABRC, SALRC, WALRC and Red Meat Panel • Peak Industry Councils

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

- Domestic travel required

Authority

What does the person have the authority to do?

- Make recommendations in terms of program strategies, project budgets and variations
- Make technical recommendations in regard to extension and science and technology projects
- Manage projects including acceptance and approval of milestones and go/nogo stage gates, and final reporting

What does the person need to seek approval for?

- Program scope and strategies
- Project expenditures
- Personal expenses
- Travel

Essential Qualifications / Skills / Experience / Competencies

- Tertiary qualifications in an agricultural related field and/or significant experience in agricultural RD&A project management, marketing and/or extension.
- Experience with, and a passion for, project management, monitoring and evaluation of agricultural RD&A investments

- A solid understanding of the principles of project management, monitoring and evaluation, strategic planning in agriculture.
- Experience in writing, presenting and communicating research and adoption outcomes
- Knowledge and understanding of genetic technologies within the red meat industry and their application
- Ability and empathy to relate to and interact with producers, public agencies and agribusiness / consulting professionals.
- High level interpersonal skills including written and oral communications, analytical, negotiation and relationship management skills.
- Ability to work in a team environment.

Competencies

- Technical expertise
- Analytical thinking & critical analysis
- Planning and organising
- Effective Communication
- Builds collaborative relationships
- Flexibility and adaptability
- Results orientation / outcomes focused
- Time management
- Initiative and self motivation