

Expression of Interest

National Livestock Genetics Consortium

Skills Based Taskforce Vacancy – Genetics Researcher

Date: 15th November 2021

MLA Program: Livestock Genetics

Livestock Genetics Program Manager: Hamish Chandler – hchandler@mla.com.au

1. Purpose:

Meat & Livestock Australia and the National Livestock Genetics Consortium (NLGC) are seeking expressions of interest from individuals with extensive genetics and breeding experience to contribute to the NLGC Taskforce in the capacity of a Genetics Researcher.

2. Relevant and necessary background

The National Livestock Genetics Consortium (NLGC) is governed by a skills-based taskforce. The role of the NLGC Taskforce is to provide advice to support MLA's efforts in driving transformational change within the investment areas of genetics and genomics for the benefit of the livestock industry and whole of supply chain. The primary aim of this initiative is to significantly increase the rate of genetic progress achieved in the sheep and beef industries. The NLGC functions as a collaborative co-investment vehicle for new investments in genetics and genomic RD&A that utilises MLA and MLA Donor Company (MDC) governance structures to engage and oversee projects.

The goals of the NLGC Taskforce are to;

- a. Develop world leading genetic improvement technologies and resources
- b. Maximise the effectiveness and value of genetic improvement tools
- c. Stimulate demand for genetic improvement across the value chain
- d. Maximise adoption of genetic improvement tools
- e. Foster value chain collaboration and cooperation
- f. Deliver world's best genetic R+D, evaluation and delivery service
- g. Fast track genetic gain
- h. Address industry priorities in advancing livestock genetics and genomics in Australia
- i. Co-ordinate delivery of R+D outcomes to industry
- j. Reduce timelines and delivery costs for RD+E services
- k. Have seamless transfer of information through industry
- l. Have easy to use, accessible products and services
- m. Foster operational transparency and accountability
- n. Deliver disruptive transformation change

These goals will be achieved through supporting projects that deliver one or more of the following imperatives:

- World leading Research & Development
- Cultural Change
- Disruptive Technologies
- National accessible data platform
- Disruptive partners/collaboration

The NLGC taskforce provides advice to MLA on key areas of investment for the advancement of livestock genetics. Recommendations from the Taskforce are considered by MLA in making decisions on major investments into genetics and genomics RD&A that address the NLGC goals. When formulating advice, the Taskforce seeks a consensus position across industry representatives.

3. Discussion

The National Livestock Genetics Consortium (NLGC) provides direction and support to increase collaboration, transparency, communication and investment in livestock genetics research, development and adoption (RD&A) in Australia through an advisory capacity.

One of the key factors in delivering on the objectives of the NLGC is world leading genetic evaluation systems and models. To ensure new and novel genetic technologies along with their practical application are considered in the Livestock Genetics R&D sector the NLGC Taskforce are seeking to appoint a Genetics Researcher. This appointment will have extensive genetics and breeding research experience. As well as having the skills to ensure investments through the NLGC will deliver greater impact for livestock producers and the red meat value chain.

Terms of Reference

The NLGC is currently seeking an individual with the following essential experience and skills:

- Current or preceding involvement and experience in genetics research
- Knowledge and understanding of livestock genetics and breeding systems in Australia
- Extensive experience research of genetic and genomic tools

Applicants with the following additional knowledge and understanding will be preferred.

- A PhD in livestock production and/or genetics
- Involvement in strategic thinking and planning
- Knowledge and understanding of the broader red meat industry.
- Experience reviewing and assessing project applications.

For further information on the role of taskforce members please refer to the NLGC Taskforce Terms of Reference.

4. Submissions

Applicants should submit both a cover letter and CV to Hamish Chandler hchandler@mla.com.au by the close of business the 10th of December 2021.