

**National Primary Industry Animal Welfare RD&E  
Strategy Steering Committee**

**Charter of Operations**

**March 2019**

## **1. Background**

In 2005, State Ministers for primary industries and the Australian Government endorsed a National Primary Industries Research, Development and Extension Framework (National RD&E Framework) that sought to engender national collaboration across a range of agricultural industries by publicly funded RD&E agencies.

This Framework seeks to:

- achieve a strong focus on national RD&E priorities,
- achieve an increased efficiency of the national RD&E effort,
- ensure that the science capability required by industry is maintained into the future.

These key outputs will be delivered by:

- industry and government working together to identify agreed national priorities,
- promoting orderly consolidation of RDE capability and infrastructure to avoid wasteful duplication and overlap,
- promoting strong collaboration amongst RD&E providers,
- facilitating effective partnerships between government and industry coinvestors to ensure that capability is retained.

At the request of the Primary Industries Standing Committee (PISC) R&D Subcommittee, DPI Victoria coordinated the development of the cross-sectoral National Primary Industry Animal Welfare RD&E Strategy and invited Research and Development Corporations (RDCs) together with core providers of farm animal welfare RD&E and state governments to join the strategy Steering Committee (SC) in 2007 as members.

In 2010 the SC funded the establishment of a part-time executive function and in 2013, Andrew Spencer (Australian Pork Limited) and Alan Tilbrook (South Australian Research and Development Institute, currently The University of Queensland) were appointed Strategy Champions to drive further development of the Strategy.

## **2. The National Primary Industry Animal Welfare RD&E Strategy**

The National Primary Industry Animal RD&E Strategy is focussed on better delivery of industry outcomes from animal welfare RD&E and seeks firstly to provide a platform for performance of RD&E of common interest across sectors and thereby to reduce duplication and fragmentation of the animal welfare RD&E effort.

The Strategy's rationale is guided by the National RD&E Framework and is that:

- basic and strategic research can be conducted in a NATIONAL context,
- applied R&D is best delivered in a REGIONAL context,
- extension needs to be delivered in a LOCAL context.

The Strategy outlines roles for members to assist:

- with developing a coordinated planning process focussed on high priority industry cross-sectoral animal welfare issues,
- industry and government make informed investment decisions on strategic RD&E of cross-sectoral animal welfare interest and

- research providers retain and build critical RD&E capability and capacity in areas of importance to their role in the Framework.

### **3. Role of SC members**

Members will elect a Chair and will determine individuals to act as Strategy Champions. Champions will represent the Strategy at Research and Innovation Committee meetings and at meetings of the Council for Rural RDCs.

Members will make a long-term commitment to developing and implementing strategies to deliver RD&E relevant to the welfare of farm animals as well as maintain a critical mass of the skills, expertise and infrastructure required.

For funding organisations and research providers, animal welfare RD&E activities will be able to be demonstrated by inclusion of projects in the NAWRDES Project Register.

The SC will annually review the activities of funders and providers to determine the appropriateness of SC membership.

Steering Committee members must be authorised to:

- represent their organisation,
- make recommendations on their jurisdictions' RD&E priorities and priorities for future capability,
- make recommendations on RD&E investment and infrastructure investments,
- make recommendations on their preferred arrangements for national collaborations within the proposed strategy.

## **4. SC Roles**

### **4.1 Primary Industry Cross-sectoral Animal Welfare RD&E priority setting**

- Prioritise RD&E projects for investment. Projects will be nationally significant, *cross-sectoral* and require a high degree of collaboration,
- Maintain the currency of cross-sectoral priorities by ensuring adequate review and wide input into priority setting,
- Develop and further refine the identified processes for priority setting and project identification. (Appendix 1)

### **4.2 RD&E project oversight**

- Strategic oversight of national RD&E project development and implementation,
- Map current investment against the RD&E priorities,
- Facilitate co-investment and access to resources for priority national RD&E projects.

### **4.3 RD&E resource monitoring and re-alignment**

- Monitor changes in human capacity across organisations and identify gaps in human capacity against priorities,
- Agree on succession and capacity building initiatives to address shortfalls and/or misalignment of human capacity,
- Identify infrastructure and IP critical to successful execution of projects and agree on their retention for the industry.

#### **4.4 Monitoring, evaluation and reporting**

- Maintain a register of completed and current Australian industry-specific animal welfare RD&E projects,
- Monitor NAWRDES cross-sectoral project outcomes against KPIs,
- Report to all stakeholders on the progress of the NAWRDES including progress reports and implementation of NAWRDES projects,
- Maintain and strengthen linkages with sectoral Strategies to ensure farm animal RD&E is not duplicated and is aligned,
- Report to the Research and Innovation (a sub-committee of the Agriculture Senior Officials Committee) as required,
- Monitor Strategy outcomes against established KPIs. (Appendix 2)

#### **4.5 Annual Strategy Forum**

- Conduct annual Strategy Forum.
- Maintain a list of invitees to the annual Forum from non-core research providers, industry, animal welfare organisations and Governments.
- Develop relevant program for Forum, focussing on exchange of information relevant to Strategy cross-sectoral Themes.
- Determine the role of the Forum in developing RD&E proposals for cross-sectoral funding.

#### **5.0 SC Membership**

The SC consists of one representative of each of Australia's major publicly funded farm Animal Welfare RD&E providers, funders and State Governments with a demonstrated a interest in farm Animal Welfare RD&E. (Appendix 3)

The SC may accept applications to join the strategy from other research providers, industry funding organisations and Governments.

The SC may invite other organisations to join the SC as observer members. Observer members are invited to attend SC meetings and provide input to discussion but do not have a deliberative vote.

Links to other organisations with interests in farm Animal Welfare RD&E occur through the Annual Forum and corresponding members list. (Appendix 5)

#### **6.0 Decision making process**

Decisions will be made through consensus.

#### **7.0 Chair of the SC**

The Chair of the SC will be determined by SC. The Chair will hold the position for a period of two years and will be eligible for re-election, unless the SC agrees to nominate an alternate Chair.

#### **8.0 Meeting Frequency**

Bi-annual face-to-face meetings and teleconferences as required. (Appendix 4)

## **9.0 Secretariat**

The role and functions of SC will be supported by an Executive Officer (EO). The mechanism for EO support to SC will be determined by SC. Australian Pork Limited manage the administration of the EO.

The role of the EO will include arranging SC meetings, organising the annual Forum, maintaining a database of funded projects, facilitating the development of project proposals, drafting relevant reports to The Commonwealth R&I Committee, maintenance of the NAWRDES website and other duties as determined by the SC.

## **10.0 Funding**

### **10.1 SC operating costs**

SC members will contribute an equal share to fund the secretariat and costs associated with SC meetings and the annual Forum. Australian Pork Limited will engage the services of an Executive Officer (currently J. Skuse from University of Melbourne) and seek reimbursement from other SC members.

The level of executive support (currently 0.25FTE) will be determined by the SC on an annual basis.

SC members will fund their own individual travel and accommodation costs for SC meetings.

### **10.2 Animal Welfare RD&E program funding**

NAWRDES research projects will be funded through traditional research funding collaborations and partnerships brokered between individual organisations.

## Appendix 1

### National Animal Welfare RD&E Process

This sets out the process which will be followed to ensure that the Strategy identifies, develops, commissions and manages projects which are aligned to investor needs.

1. The Steering Committee (SC), in July each year, will review the themes that form part of the National Animal Welfare RD&E Strategy, and will determine their on-going relevance. The Executive Officer (EO) will identify initial priority areas within each sector and circulate to the research provider members of the SC who will determine cross-sectoral RD&E opportunities under each Theme for potential co-investment for the year ahead. These opportunities will be circulated to SC for discussion at its second face-to-face meeting each year.
  - a. OUTPUT - a short discussion paper detailing RD&E opportunities which will be considered at a SC meeting which will be held in the last quarter of each year.

#### *Priority Themes:*

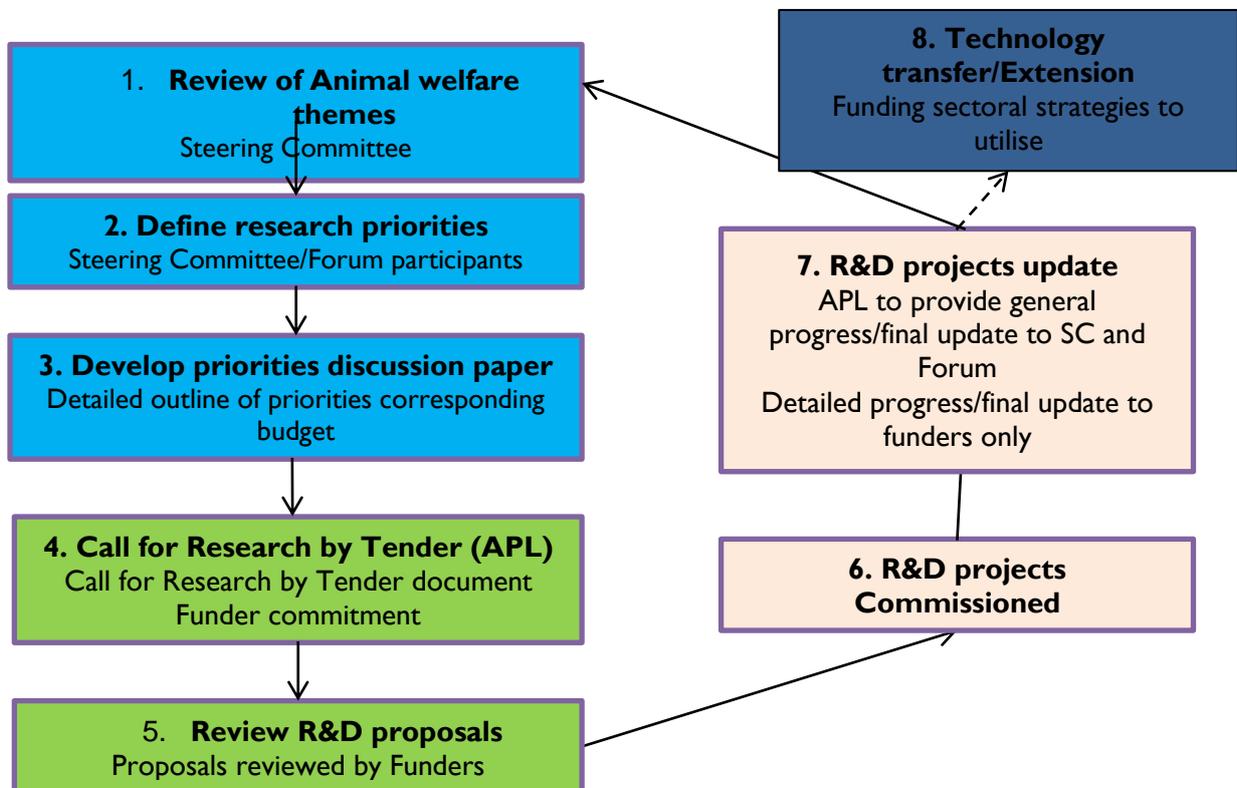
- I. Animal welfare assessment*
  - II. Pain assessment and management*
  - III. Management, housing and husbandry*
  - IV. Transport, euthanasia and slaughter*
  - V. Attitudinal effects on the welfare of livestock throughout the value chain*
2. The SC will meet at the SC meeting to discuss the RD&E opportunities discussion paper. SC funding members will indicate which RD&E opportunity(ies) will be considered further within their respective organisation.
  3. Funding members of the SC will consider the identified RD&E opportunities and will indicate to the Executive Officer the support (or otherwise) of their organisation.
  4. The Executive Officer will convene a meeting of funding members to determine the scope, aims and level of funding for each supported RD&E opportunity
    - a. OUTPUT - scope, aims and level of funding for each supported opportunity will form the basis for a tender document or research brief utilising the APL project management system.
  5. A call for tenders document will be developed by those members of the SC whose organisations support the relevant priority area. The tender will ask for project submissions from RD&E providers and will include an indicative funding amount for each project. The process of tendering is seen to be most likely to result in competitive proposals, but it is also recognised that there may be instances where research will be commissioned with relevant parties. The call will be made using APL project management system (PigConnect) in April each year
  6. Relevant funders will review R&D proposals or tenders received and approve successful tenders or proposals.
  7. R&D projects will be commissioned, and APL will manage the process. Relevant funders will be on project management teams if required.
  8. Detailed progress and final reports will be made available to funders as they are generated, and a more general indication of progress will be provided to other members of the SC, Forum and other stakeholders.

9. Output from the R&D projects will inform
  - a. the annual review of strategy themes and focus areas
  - b. extension activities which might be carried out in either cross-sector or sector-specific strategies.

### Animal Welfare RD&E Process



Review of the Themes will be performed each year to ascertain if they're still relevant and can form the backbone for identification of cross-sectoral focus areas / research priorities to be taken to the Forum if relevant to Forum program.



## **Appendix 2**

### Key Performance Indicators of the National Primary Industry Animal Welfare RD&E Strategy

- At least one collaborative project commissioned each year
- An up to date list of collaborative projects involving multiple RDC and research providers
- A record of collaborative funding per year
- Conduct annual National Primary Industry Animal Welfare RD&E Strategy Forum
- Two face-to-face meetings conducted per year

### Appendix 3

The Steering Committee Chair will be determined by the SC and current (March 2019) members are:

1. Australian Eggs Ltd
2. Australian Pork Limited
3. Australian Meat Processor Corporation
4. Australian Wool Innovation Limited
5. Dairy Australia
6. Livecorp
7. Meat & Livestock Australia
8. AgriFutures
9. Animal Welfare Science Centre, The University of Melbourne
10. Animal Welfare Science Centre, Agriculture Victoria
11. South Australian Research & Development Institute
12. The University of Adelaide
13. CSIRO
14. Murdoch University
15. The University of Queensland
16. Charles Sturt University
17. Central Queensland University
18. Western Sydney University
19. The University of New England
20. The University of Newcastle
21. Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture
22. The University of Sydney
23. The University of Western Australia
24. New South Wales Dept of Primary Industries
25. West Australian Dept of Primary Industries and Regional Development
26. Queensland Dept of Agriculture and Fisheries

The following organisations are observers on the NAWRDES SC:

- Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
- Animal Health Australia
- RSPCA Australia

## Appendix 4

### Standing Agenda for meetings of the Steering Committee of the National Primary Industries Animal Welfare RD&E Committee

Item	Discussion leader / attendees	Approximate duration (mins) and <i>end</i> time	Purpose	Papers
1. Welcome, apologies and confirmation of agenda				
2. Conflicts of interest				
3. Confirmation of previous minutes and actions				
4. NAWRDES project updates				
5. NAWRDES Communication activities				
6. NAWRDES management update				
7. NAWRDES member updates				
8. Potential new NAWRDES members				
9. Other business				
10. Future meetings				

## **Appendix 5**

### **Corresponding member list**

#### **Non-core RD&E providers**

AgResearch NZ  
Deakin University  
Flinders University  
Griffith University  
James Cook University  
La Trobe University  
Massey University NZ  
RMIT University

#### **Governments**

Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Productivity Division  
Agriculture Senior Officials Committee  
Animal Welfare Committee  
Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment,  
Tasmania  
Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry NZ  
Northern Territory Department of Resources - Primary Industry

#### **Industry bodies**

AgForce Queensland  
Australian Dairy Farmers Ltd.  
Australian Livestock Road Transporters Association  
Australian Lot Feeders' Association  
Australian Meat Chicken Federation  
Australian Veterinary Assoc.  
Cattle Council of Australia  
National Aquaculture Council  
National Farmers Federation  
NSW Farmer's Assoc.  
Pearl Producers Association  
Sheep Producers Australia  
Tasmanian Farmers & Graziers Association  
Victorian Farmer's Federation  
Wool Producers Australia

#### **National Strategies**

Australian Pork Industry National RD&E Strategy  
Dairy Moving Forward - A National RD&E Strategy  
National Beef Production RD&E Strategy  
National Sheepmeat RD&E Strategy  
National Wool RD&E Strategy  
New and Emerging Industries National RD&E Strategy  
Poultry Industries RD&E Strategy  
Red Meat Coinvestor Committee  
Working Together: The National Fish and Aquaculture RD&E Strategy

**Other Funders**

Fisheries Research and Development Corporation

**CRCs**

Food Agility CRC

CRC for sheep industry innovation

**Other**

Rivalea Australia

Australian Pork Research Institute Ltd

Sunpork Farms

PoultryHub

Council of Rural Research and Development Corporations

**AW Groups**

RSPCA Aust

RSPCA NSW

RSPCA Qld

RSPCA SA

RSPCA Tas

RSPCA Vic

RSPCA WA