Project Initiation

Guidelines

for

Collaboration

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# **Introduction:**

Woolgrower levy payer and Australian Government investors in Australian Wool Innovation expect collaboration with other Research and Development Corporations (RDC), public and privately funded research institutes and the commercial sector. The majority of AWI’s R&D budget is dedicated to projects with cash or in-kind contribution from these other parties.

This document guides the process for initiating collaborative projects and monitoring the collaboration contribution with the outcome of enhancing AWI’s collaboration opportunities.

Partnerships between AWI and others ensure sharing of knowledge, increase the funding pool to speed up research and progress shared problems which otherwise would not be tackled.

This document covers four areas:

A: Participate in the opportunities for collaboration

B: Expectations of AWI staff in consultation for collaboration

C: Project management for collaboration

D: Guideline review

# **A. Participate in the opportunities for collaboration**

AWI staff keep up to date with existing and emerging through the RDC community, through strategic relationship between research providers and through individuals’ professional networks.

1. The Council of Rural RDC invites AWI to discuss issues for the rural RDE sector
2. The government supported cross RDC sector strategies all hold forums with AWI being a signatory to Animal Welfare, Animal Biosecurity, Climate Change and the Rural Safety and Health Alliance strategies
3. AWI attends hoc forums hosted by an individual RDC such as the Emerging National Rural Issues Forum hosted by Agri-Futures Australia
4. AWI and MLA hold formal annual “Eureka” meetings during a synchronised call for proposals.
5. The National Wool RDE Strategy Steering Committee membership [https://www.wool.com/education-and-extension/national-wool-research-development-and-extension-strategy/strategy/](https://www.wool.com/education-and-extension/national-wool-research-development-and-extension-strategy/strategy/%20) includes a broad membership of research providers and co investors
6. AWI staff maintain working relationships with a network of research relevant staff in the public and private sector which forms the basis of the subscription list for the call for proposals
7. AWI initiates and or hosts R&D updates or forums for research providers and the private sector eg the Flystrike R&D Update and the AWI Artificial Breeding Workshop.
8. AWI initiates or responds to invitations on strategic needs e.g. WA RD&E Prospectus development, Tasmanian Institute of Agriculture and Davis Research Centre briefings and National Wild Dog Action Plan activities.

# **B. Expectations of AWI staff in consultation for collaboration**

1. Collaboration is the default mode of investment for AWI in fulfilling its Strategic Plan.
2. GM Research to ensure AWI research staff engagement with the CRRDC
3. Program Managers to ensure AWI attends every National RDE Framework meeting
4. GM Research, Program Managers and other relevant AWI research staff to attend research conferences and seminars in line with the annual operational budget.
5. AWI research staff to keep current contacts for their peers and update the Call for Proposals subscription list.
6. AWI research staff to keep file notes on all meetings and report items at the fortnightly Research team staff meetings.
7. AWI to publish the outcomes of “Eureka” meetings on its website.
8. AWI to invite researchers and investors from the public and private sector to AWI hosted events such as the Flystrike R&D update or strategic workshops such as the AWI Artificial Breeding Workshop.
9. AWI research staff to abide by relevant AWI policies relating to procurement of goods and services and code of conduct.

# **C. Project management for collaboration**

1. These guidelines will be published on the AWI Call for Proposals web page
2. The timing of the AWI annual Call for Proposals will align with MLA to enable joint consideration of proposals
3. The AWI Call for Proposals documentation will include those areas of the AWI Strategic Plan where AWI invites RDC collaboration. Key criteria for RDC collaboration may include (but not be limited to) those taken from the National Wool RD&E Strategy as follows:
	1. Best practice on farm – labour, market specifications, parasites, reproduction, predators
	2. Accelerating genetic gains
	3. Enhancing welfare
	4. Effective biosecurity systems and enhanced product integrity
	5. Enhanced resilience – climate variability, carbon markets, industry skills and knowledge
	6. Environmentally sustainable enterprises – pasture productivity and natural resource management
	7. Building strategic thinking
4. AWI’s Call for Proposal website will encourage those developing proposals to discuss matters with relevant AWI staff prior to proposal submission
5. The AWI Proposal Assessment Tool will identify whether the proposal has potential for collaboration with multiple parties.
6. The AWI Project Management tool will identify RDC collaboration for approved projects.
7. On the AWI Contract Checklist staff will record the outcome of efforts to identify an RDC collaborator
8. Written feedback from AWI to proposal proponents (successful or unsuccessful) refers to these guidelines, explains the reason for AWI’s decision and invites a response from the proponent.

# **D. Guideline review**

These Guidelines are reviewed prior to each annual Call for Proposals.