

RDE annual stocktake of RDC collaborative co-investment activities - 2018

Purpose

To provide a snapshot of collaborative co-investment projects across the RDC network. Only collaborative projects will be identified and reported.

Potential audiences include Government, government departments (DAWR) and RDCs.

The value of this work is in communicating the collaboration successes to all of our stakeholders which, in turn, supports both the RDC model and the roles of individual RDCs.

Questions

1. During the previous financial year was your organisation involved in any RDE (research, development, extension) activities with other RDCs?
2. If yes, then for each activity/project can you provide:
 - a. Activity/project title
 - b. Main aim(s) of the activity/project
 - c. When did it commence and, if finished, when did it cease?
 - d. Approximate value of your RDC's investment during this financial year
 - e. How would you categorise the focus of the activity/project? Economic, Environmental, Social or a combination?
 - f. Finally, you may want to add some additional comments about the activity project.

Timings

Each July we will send out this stocktake request to all RDCs with the intention of providing a consolidated report back to all members by the end of September.

This should give each RDC time to prepare their inputs and for the Council, subsequently, to address any information gaps.

Milestones as follows:

Early July:	Stocktake request sent to all RDC R&D Managers
Late July:	Completed stocktake request returned to Council
August:	Information collated, data gaps addressed and analysis completed
Early September:	Opportunity for R&D Managers to comment on final report
Late September:	Stocktake report circulated across RDCs and to DAWR

Input table – NAME of RDC completing this table

Activity/project title	Aim(s)	Commenced	Finished	\$ value investment in current financial year	Category* (Eco, Env, Soc)	RDCs involved in this activity/project
Wild Dog Alert System (ON-413 – 45/9160) (N-355-45/7858)	<p>A prototype early warning system for livestock producers to help prevent predation by wild dogs. The system will integrate a series of camera traps placed at areas where wild dogs are known to travel, feed or water. These will form a network that communicates automatically with a field computer. Software will analyse each image in real-time, recognise and differentiate wild dogs from among other images, and individually identify them. Land managers will be alerted to the location of the incursion along with a photo of the dog so they will know when a dog has entered the holding, is in close proximity to sheep or is breaching a fence line. Because the dog is identified, the number of dogs can be determined, and the local and regional WildDogScan maps will be automatically updated. Land managers will be provided with vital facts in real time for both immediate action and future planning.</p>	AWI involvement commenced FY2016	AWI involvement finished FY2018	\$130,451 (Excludes AWI project admin costs)	Economic	AWI MLA
RHD boost and Rabbit accelerator (ON-415 – 45/7862) (ON-355 – 45/7862) (ON-210)	<p>The RHD-Boost project has identified a new strain of RHDV from South Korea (referred to as K5) that is suitable for release into Australia's rabbit population. K5 has been shown to better overcome the protective effects of the benign virus RCV-A1 amongst the strains tested. This project will extend and significantly enhance the outcomes and outputs of the RHD Boost Roll-out project 3.L.1., allowing the broad-scale release of K5 into the Australian rabbit population to be more effectively monitored. Enhanced and broad-scale virus release and monitoring is necessary to;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) maximise the impact of the virus on Australian rabbit populations, 2) more thoroughly assess efficacy and understand the impact of the release of K5 on rabbit populations in the field and under a range of environmental conditions and climatic regions, including where new strains and benign virus are present, 3) estimate the benefits and costs of current and future investment in RHDV as a continuing source of biological control, and 4) enhance community ownership and involvement in the program. 	AWI involvement commenced FY2013	AWI involvement finished FY2017	\$123,000 (Excludes AWI project admin costs)	Economic	AWI MLA

	<p>Recently the incursion of two new strains of calicivirus has been reported. In 2014 a strain closely related to an RHDVa strain from China was identified and, in 2015, the presence of the antigenic variant RHDV2 was confirmed in wild and domestic rabbits. With these two new strains there will be four different virulent calicivirus strains in the Australian environment, in addition to nonpathogenic strains of calicivirus that are also known to circulate. For the impact assessment of K5 it is therefore critically important that reliable discriminative diagnostic assays are developed. This includes effective assays for the molecular characterisation of the viruses recovered from dead or recovering rabbits during or shortly after virus outbreaks, as well as serological assays to discriminate between antibodies raised to the respective strains.</p>					
<p>Rabbit biocontrol pipeline/ RHDV2 product registration/ National Rabbit Biocontrol Optimisation(On-415 CISS)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify new rabbit pathogens that may be suitable as biocontrol agents within Australia (e.g. RHDV 1-2 recombinants) and internationally. 2. Progress the registration of RHDV2 including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Liaison with the APVMA to confirm testing requirements for an RHDV2 (or naturally occurring recombinants between RHDV1 and RHDV2) for product registration. b. Produce efficacy data required by the APVMA to experimentally assess the efficacy of RHDV2 (ability to infect young rabbits and ability to overcome immunity in domestic and wild rabbits). c. Prepare APVMA registration package. 3. Improve social licence for rabbit biocontrol including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Updating the humaneness assessment for RHDV2 based on an experimental virulence assessment. b. Support the development of a multivalent vaccine to protect pet rabbits. c. Prepare APVMA registration package. 4. Develop strategies to deploy available RHDV strains to work in synergy and maximise impact on rabbit populations in different climate zones of Australia. 5. Determine diversity and distribution of RHDV's and which viral genes account for high levels of virulence and successful transmission in the field using genetic and functional studies of viral recombinants, which will inform the selection of possible future RHDV products (NOTE: development of a new product is not part of this proposal). 6. Assess the feasibility of insect vector sampling as an additional more cost-effective tool for landscape scale tracking of rabbit disease activity. 	<p>AWI involvement FY2018</p>	<p>Not finished</p>	<p>\$19,766 (Excludes AWI project admin costs)</p>	<p>Eco</p>	<p>AWI MLA</p>
<p>National Wild Dog Facilitator (National Wild Dog Management Coordinator)</p>	<p>National Wild Dog Management Coordinator role to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to improve wild dog management nationally. • Adoption of nationally agreed best practice wild dog control techniques. • Produce a range of user friendly extension materials to assist stakeholders to better manage vertebrate pest species. 	<p>AWI involvement FY2010</p>	<p>Not finished</p>	<p>\$100,000 (Excludes AWI project admin costs)</p>	<p>Social</p>	<p>AWI MLA</p>

<p>(ON-414 – 45/9731 & CISS) (ON-210)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved adoption and use of Pestsmart and FeralScan applications for the management of vertebrate pest species. • Re-establishment of the sheep and wool industry in areas of Australia where wild dogs have decimated numbers. • Improved awareness of wild dog management and best practice control techniques. • Inclusion of wild dog and vertebrate pest control principles in industry extensions programs. • Realisation by industry that wild dog and vertebrate pest control can be delivered routinely as part of property management activities. • Improved conservation of endangered mammal communities through reduced predation. • Improved regulatory framework for access to wild dog control products across states. • Development of a cohort of regional wild dog coordinators delivering effective community led wild dog management programs. • Access to improved training packages for wild dog control and community engagement by industry and VET training organisations. • Activities and achievements which complement the objectives and projects contained in the National Wild Dog Action Plan. 					
<p>Preparing for Resent Landscape-scale Predator Management (Prep4Reset) (ON-417 CISS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline data collection before the following activities from Reset begin: Lay the foundations for transformational change from patchy and ad hoc control to appropriate large-scale population level suppression of wild dogs and foxes • Strengthen regional stakeholder networks for landscape management of predators <p>A landscape scale, integrated predator control and assessment program implemented over the eastern Great Dividing Range and coastal hinterland of north east NSW.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The program will be based around aerial baiting and ground baiting at a wider scale than currently undertaken – eliminate the gaps, involve all landholders in their general biosecurity responsibilities towards invasive predators. Combined with strategic and reactive trapping, exclusion fencing and shooting; all used where appropriate and decided upon in stakeholder-driven management plans. 	<p>AWI involvement FY2018</p>	<p>Not finished</p>	<p>\$50,000 (Excludes AWI project admin costs)</p>	<p>Economic</p>	<p>AWI MLA</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensive control over the short-term pushes investment from predator population suppression (expensive, biannual, short-term) to low-level maintenance (inexpensive and annual, long-term). 					
Behaviourally effective communication and engagement in wild dog management	<p>Through continuously improving the engagement processes of relevant CISS projects this project will assist enhance the adoption of the planning processes, tools and best practice methods and solutions emerging from CISS, with an initial emphasis of those relating to wild-dog management.</p> <p>Long-term outcomes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established best practice methods for implementing and evaluating engagement and behaviour change interventions to improve management of invasive species. A culture of collaborative, science-based continuous learning in the human dimensions of invasive species management within our state government and industry partners. A clearing house of evidence-based outputs, based on credible science, explaining which communication/engagement approaches work best with which landholder groups, and why. 	AWI involvement FY2018	Not finished	\$33,00 (Excludes AWI project admin costs)	Social	AWI MLA
Optimising lamb survival through density (ON-347)	to examine the effect of mob size and stocking density at lambing and provide recommendations to industry to improve lamb survival	AWI involvement FY17	Not finished	\$99,682 (Excluding AWI project admin costs)	Economic	AWI MLA
Nutritional manipulation of sex ratio (On-359)	<p>“Investigate the practicality and viability of manipulating ewe diet at joining to influence lamb sex ratios in a commercial sheep enterprise, and establish best bet management practices</p> <p>Establish the impact of feeding a diet high in omega-3 or omega-6 will have on lamb marking percentage.</p> <p>Establish the financial benefit of change in sex ratio and produce best bet feeding guidelines, using producer case studies.”</p>	AWI involvement FT2016	Not finished	\$0	Economic	AWI MLA
National Animal Welfare RDE Strategy (ON-312) (WP510) (ON-173)	Management and delivery of the National Animal Welfare RDE Strategy. The National Animal Welfare RD& E Strategy is one of several cross sectoral strategies under the National Primary Industries RD&E Framework to develop national arrangements to deliver strong collaboration amongst existing RD&E provider groups and effective partnerships between investors and providers.	AWI involvement 2011	Not finished	\$4,158 (Excludes AWI project admin costs)	Social	AWI APL AEC AMPC DA Livecorp MLA AGRIFU
Paraboss (ON-382) (ON-272)	On-going support for the ParaBoss suite of tools, including the four main websites (ParaBoss, WormBoss, Flyboss and LiceBoss) and related communication material, ensuring content is technically correct and relevant to industry needs.	AWI involvement FY2014	Not finished	\$129,094 (Excludes AWI project admin costs)	Economic	AWI MLA

Paraboss commercialisation review (ON-496)	A review of ParaBoss to provide recommendations on potential funding and commercialisation options to meet the medium and long-term strategic requirements of the program.	AWI involvement FY2018	FY2018	\$12,667 (Excludes AWI project admin costs)	Economic	AWI MLA
Australian Pasture Genebank (ON-284)	Source, store and preserve pasture genetics for Livestock industries benefit in line with International treaty	AWI involvement FY2014	Not finished	\$142,697 (Excludes AWI project admin costs)	Environmental and social	AWI MLA DA GRDC AGRIFU
P efficient pastures RRD4P (ON-430)	Specific aims of the project :Development of low-P pasture systems based on highly P-efficient legumes, Identification and then promotion of the most P-efficient cultivars of subterranean clover, Development of the knowledge and genetic/agronomic protocols necessary for development of subterranean clover cultivars with P-efficient root traits analogous to those of serradella species and Updates to the industry decision support tool ("Five Easy Steps" soil-P management tool) to include the principles and management that underpin the achievement of highly-productive, P-efficient pasture systems.	AWI involvement FY2017	Not finished	\$30,000 (Excludes AWI project admin costs)	Environmental and economic	AWI MLA DA
Dryland Legume Pasture Systems RRD4P (ON-490)	This project will increase the production, profitability and sustainability of wool and meat in mixed farming areas, while cropping production is expected to be maintained. The project seeks to increase the adoption of novel legumes arising from over one million hectares in the low and medium rainfall areas of southern Australian (WA, SA, Victoria and southern NSW). It will focus on cultivars of Biserrula, Ornithopus, aerial trifoliums, trigonella, scorpiurus, hedysarum, with germplasm choice guided by rainfall level and soil type. Farm trials are being conducted in WA, SA and NSW	AWI involvement FY2018	Not finished	\$100,000 (Excludes AWI project costs)	Environmental and economic	AWI MLA GRDC
Red clover syndrome investigation WA (ON-508)	Address Red leaf Clover Syndrome in WA Sub Clover during 2017 growing season. Research into the cause, ongoing sample testing throughout 2018 season and development and distribution of a producer decision making guide.	AWI involvement FY2018	Not finished	\$39,125 (Excludes AWI project admin costs)	Economic	AWI MLA
Initial study in support of co-innovation (ON-535)	Survey and face to face workshops run by USQ to identify areas of co-innovation amongst producers in Qld. Whilst this project had a local focus, national relevance was identified and reported. Stage 3 was to further investigate and chart potential areas of co-innovation for further research. Areas such as Climate Change, Environment, Risk assessment, adaptation, Drivers for adoption of new innovations and technologies were identified- as well as barriers such as financial constraints. Areas for potential investment include: Pasture management and total grazing pressure, improved climate forecasting, integrated financial and livestock management, and building social networks	AWI involvement FY2018	FY2018	\$25,000 (Excludes AWI project admin costs)	Environmental, social and economic	AWI MLA
Virtual Fencing (ON-408)	Optimise the animal response to virtual fencing technology. Determine bet livestock and pasture management for intensive dairy and beef through more controlled pasture allocation. Determine best sub herd and individual animal management for dairy and beef.	AWI involvement FY2017	Not finished	\$45,000 (Excludes AWI project admin costs)	Economic	AWI DA MLA APL

	<p>Identify opportunities for labour savings through application of virtual fencing in sheep wool and meat enterprises.</p> <p>Identify considerations and challenges for integration and adoption of virtual fencing.</p>					
Precision 2 Decision (ON-431)	<p>The project will design a solution for the use of big data in agriculture. It will deliver legal guidance, consistent data systems, access to the foundational datasets and recommendations for data communications to improve decision making or decision agriculture. The outcomes are to increase the profitability of producers and will provide business strategies to realise the economic benefits within Australian farming businesses.</p>	AWI involvement FY2017	Not finished	\$15,000 (Excludes AWI project admin costs)	Economic and social	AWI MLA CRDC APL DA FRDC FPWA GRDC Hort Agrifu SRA WA
Reinventing Australian Agricultural Statistics (ON-530)	<p>The main outcomes of the research will be as follows;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A catalogue of potential sources of data that could be used to supplement or replace current national agricultural statistics. 2. A detailed understanding of the issues that would need to be considered in contemplating the inclusion of any of these in the national agricultural statistics system. 3. The identification of policies and industry initiatives that may assist in the incorporation of these alternative data sources in the national agricultural statistics system. <p>The major output will be a written report, documenting the findings of the research and detailing recommendations for industry and government to consider in seeking to improve the Australian agricultural statistics system. The findings of the research will also be summarised in audio-visual material suitable for presentation to a number of different audiences, including farmers and policymakers.</p>	AWI involvement FY2018	FY2019	\$3,900 (Excludes AWI project admin costs)	Economic	AWI CRDC GRDC MLA
WA Sheep Industry Collaborative RDE Prospectus (ON-539)	<p>the development of a detailed and quantified research, development and extension (RD&E) plan (prospectus). The 5-year plan will focus on identifying RD&E gaps within key theme areas that would lead to significant outcomes for WA sheep industry over the next 3-10 years and that would be attractive co-investment propositions for a range of key investment partners. AWI, MLA (via the MLA Donor</p>	AWI involvement FY2018	FY2019	\$15,000 (Excludes AWI project admin costs)	Economic	AWI MLA

	<p>Company) and Department of Primary Industries and Rural Development (DPIRD) are contributing funds to SAWA for this project.</p> <p>The prospectus will be developed through extensive consultation with SAWA members, interested research providers, extension service specialists and key investment partners such as DPIRD, AWI and MLA (MDC). The prospectus will be developed as a series of discrete objectives and programs that fit within the key themes. It will identify projects that provide collaborative opportunities for outcomes-focussed research, development and adoption.</p>					
Making More From Sheep ON-00458	Delivery funding under the program has ceased but AWI & MLA remain committed to continuing to enhance the modules as a critical resource for the industry.			\$33,286.67	Economic, Environmental, & Social	AWI MLA
Nuffield ON-00397	full list of partners here http://nuffield.com.au/sponsors/			\$53,000.00	Economic, Environmental, & Social	AWQI MLA Cotton RDC GRDC Hort Innovation
ARLP ON-00528	I can't find the full list on their website, so I've emailed them and copied Richard			\$50,000	Economic, Environmental, & Social	AWI MLA APL Cotton RDC Dairy Australia GRDC Wine Australia
LambEx 2018 ON-00505	sponsors here https://lambex.com.au/sponsors/			\$0 17/8 \$60,000 18/9	Economic, Environmental, & Social	AWI MLA
Young Farming Champions ON-00506	funders here http://youngfarmingchampions.com/partners/index.html			\$80,000	Economic, Environmental, & Social	AWI Cotton RDC

Science and innovation Awards ON-00412	administered by the Ag Dept, funders here http://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/conferences-events/scienceawards			\$22,727	Economic, Environmental, & Social	AWI APL Cotton RDC Dairy Australia Fisheries RDC GRDC MLA Wine Australia
It's Ewe Time Forums ON-00457		2011	ongoing	\$39,854.81 (including costs to present)	Economic, Environmental, & Social	AWI MLA

*Does the activity/project fit into any or all of these categories?

Economic – it is likely to result in increased profitability for levy payers through reducing operating costs, increasing productivity or other finance based improvements.

Environmental – will have a positive effect on land usage/management and sustainability of the environment.

Social – will lead to better outcomes for rural communities and, potentially, for all Australians. Does it impact upon the leadership capability of the rural sector?