



SALRC PRODUCER DEMONSTRATION SITE (PDS) PRIORITIES 2020

In response to a call from MLA, SALRC initiated a process of consulting with its seven regional producer committees to contribute an updated list of PDS priorities for our region. The SALRC Chair and Executive Officer met with all seven chairs of the regional producer committees on 20th February to compile the following priorities. It is important to note that although there are similar “themes” for PDS priorities across many of the seven SALRC regions, there are some significant differences in the way PDS projects should be planned and delivered in the vastly different agri/climatic zones that make up those seven SALRC regions. We have classified our regions into the following five agri/climatic zones and have indicated in the PDS priority table below, which of these zones should be targeted with the priority PDS projects:

- High rainfall, winter dominant rainfall zone (HRW)
- Low rainfall (<450mm p.a.), winter dominant rainfall zone (LRW)
- High rainfall, summer dominant rainfall zone (HRS)
- Low rainfall (<450mm p.a.), summer dominant rainfall zone (LRS)
- Semi-arid/arid rangelands zone (R)

Priority	Livestock industries priority Issue to be addressed	Possible project components	SALRC agri/climatic zone(s) in which this is a priority
1	Improved feedbase establishment, perenniality and persistence in the high rainfall zones	Demonstrate pasture/shrub selection, establishment and management practices to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore feedbase after extreme events (drought, fires or floods) • Increase year round productivity • Improve establishment and persistence under increasing climate variability • Reduce impacts of weeds after extreme events • Encourage diversity of plants for landscape and animal health • Increase grazing enterprise profitability 	HRW, HRS
2	Improved feedbase establishment, perenniality and persistence in the low rainfall zones	Demonstrate feedbase species and management systems, particularly perennial grasses and shrubs, suited to low rainfall mixed farming zones and rangelands. Encourage diversity of plants for landscape and animal health	LRW, LRS, R

3	Improved net reproductive performance in sheep flocks	<p>Demonstrate improvements in sheep reproductive performance and mortality rates through adoption of selected management techniques that are suited to specific agri/climatic zones. Management techniques to be considered for demonstration of impacts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ewe condition scoring prior to joining • Joining length/mob size • Pregnancy scanning for litter size • Nutritional management specific for triplet, twin and single bearing ewes • Predator control • Lambing group size • Early versus traditional weaning effects on ewe condition, lamb growth rates 	All zones
4	Improved net reproductive performance in cattle herds	<p>Demonstrate improvements in cattle reproductive performance, weaning rates and weaning weights through adoption of selected management techniques that are suited to specific agri/climatic zones. Management techniques to be considered for demonstration of impacts include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement heifer selection and nutritional management • Heifer nutritional management following first calving • Cow condition assessment prior to joining • Supplementary feeding methods effectiveness and cost efficiency • Pregnancy testing and foetal ageing • Predator control 	HRW, HRS
5	Pest and predator management	<p>Demonstrate farm level benefits (production, animal welfare, ecological and social) from control of abundant (kangaroos, deer, goats, rabbits) and predator species (wild dogs, foxes, cats and feral pigs) through currently available exclusion and/or control programs</p>	All zones
6	Animal husbandry and welfare	<p>Demonstrate at farm level the correct use and benefits (economic, animal wellbeing, producer satisfaction, market access) of using registered pain relief products in conjunction with routine animal husbandry practices for</p>	All zones

		sheep and cattle (including mulesing, tail docking, castration and dehorning)	
7	Animal husbandry and welfare/property protection	<p>Demonstrate best practice confinement feeding of sheep and cattle , with attention to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site selection criteria • Optimum mob sizes • Joining and management of pregnant ewes and cows • Monitoring of animal health and nutritional status • Decision making on when confinement feeding is justified (under drought conditions; other) 	All zones
8	Precision/remote livestock and property management systems	<p>Evaluate the practical use of current and new technologies for remote collection and transmission of data to monitor and increase efficiency of management in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal health and welfare • Stock location and movements • Security • Water and feed supply • Predator control 	All zones (with specific focus in R)
9	Business and environmental sustainability in response to increasing climate variability	<p>Evaluate and demonstrate the impacts of a range of approaches to management of commercial grazing properties on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • progression towards carbon neutrality • business performance • Pasture productivity and persistence 	All zones
10	Precision management of sheep and cattle nutrition	Evaluate and demonstrate the production and economic returns of a precision approach to diagnostic tests of the nutritional status of livestock, forage sources and soils-leading to more precise definition of livestock feed and health supplementation needs.	HRW, HRS