



## SALRC PRODUCER DEMONSTRATION SITE (PDS) PRIORITIES 2021

In response to a request 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 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021 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)

It should also be noted that SALRC Regional Committee chairs have indicated that their regional producer groups are keen to encourage and potentially contribute to the planning and implementation of region specific PDS projects which have the potential to become regional “flagships” in the demonstration and adoption of new management practices and R&D outcomes of relevance to their agri/climatic zones and production systems. The integration of a “local call” element into the PDS process requires further consideration, but the principle of a local SALRC Regional Committee having an influence on the PDS project(s) in their area is encouraged.

| Priority | Livestock industries<br>priority<br>Issue to be addressed                               | Possible project components                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | SALRC<br>agri/climatic<br>zone(s) in<br>which this is a<br>priority |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1        | Improved feedbase establishment, perennality and persistence in the high rainfall zones | Demonstrate pasture/shrub selection, establishment and management practices to address one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Restore feedbase after extreme events (drought, fires or floods)</li><li>• Increase year round productivity</li><li>• Improve establishment and persistence under increasing climate variability</li><li>• Reduce impacts of weeds after extreme events</li><li>• Improve pasture establishment,</li></ul> | HRW, HRS                                                            |

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|   |                                                                                        | <p>productivity and persistence in landscapes prone to sub soil compaction or “hard pan” soil structure, or other soil constraints</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage diversity of plants for landscape and animal health</li> <li>• Increase grazing enterprise profitability</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |             |
| 2 | Improved feedbase establishment, perennality and persistence in the low rainfall zones | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Demonstrate the effectiveness and livestock productivity gains from management of invasive woody weeds/scrub in rangelands areas.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 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 one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ewe condition scoring at key stages in the reproduction cycle</li> <li>• Joining length/mob size</li> <li>• Pregnancy scanning for litter size</li> <li>• Nutritional management to meet the requirements of triplet, twin and single bearing ewes</li> <li>• Predator control</li> <li>• Lambing group size</li> <li>• Early versus traditional weaning effects on ewe condition, lamb growth rates</li> </ul> | 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 one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supplementary feeding of weaners for</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | HRW, HRS    |

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|   |                                                  | <p>growth vs maintenance through periods of limited pasture quantity and quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replacement heifer selection and nutritional management</li> <li>• Heifer nutritional management following first calving</li> <li>• Cow condition assessment prior to joining</li> <li>• Supplementary feeding methods effectiveness and cost efficiency</li> <li>• Pregnancy testing and foetal ageing</li> <li>• Predator control</li> <li>• Early weaning</li> <li>• Set and/or shortened joining periods</li> </ul> |                 |
| 5 | Pest and predator management                     | 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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | All zones       |
| 6 | Animal husbandry and welfare                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 sheep and cattle (including mulesing, tail docking, castration and dehorning).</li> <li>• Evaluation of management techniques in unmulesed flocks.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                  | All zones       |
| 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"> <li>• Site selection criteria</li> <li>• Optimum mob sizes</li> <li>• Joining and management of pregnant ewes and cows</li> <li>• Monitoring of animal health and nutritional status</li> <li>• Decision making on when confinement feeding is justified (under drought conditions; bushfire recovery; other)</li> <li>• Mineral supplementation</li> </ul>                                                          | All zones       |
| 8 | Precision/remote                                 | Evaluate the practical use of current and new                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | All zones (with |

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|    | livestock and property management systems                                               | technologies for remote collection and transmission of data to monitor and increase efficiency of management in relation to one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animal health and welfare</li> <li>• Stock location and movements</li> <li>• Security</li> <li>• Water and feed supply</li> <li>• Predator control</li> <li>• Virtual fencing</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | specific focus in R) |
| 9  | Business and environmental sustainability in response to increasing climate variability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate adaptation to climate variability on a range of commercial properties within a region through business planning, enterprise mix and risk management strategies.</li> <li>• Evaluate and demonstrate the impacts of a range of approaches to management of commercial grazing properties on one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- progression towards carbon neutrality</li> <li>- business performance</li> <li>- pasture productivity and persistence</li> <li>- environmental benefits such as soil health, groundcover, water quality and vegetation biodiversity</li> <li>- management of emerging, new weed and animal parasite/disease issues as a consequence of an increasingly variable climate</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | 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             |
| 11 | Performance of cattle or lamb finishing/trading enterprises                             | Demonstrating key indicators and benchmarks to improve the performance of finishing/trading operations for beef or lamb                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | HRW, HRS             |