



Background and Roles and Responsibilities for Southern Australia Livestock Research Council (SALRC)

Regional Committee Chairs

SALRC's Primary Function

The Southern Australia Livestock Research Council (SALRC) is an independent Incorporated Association and one of three national advisory councils set up to provide recommendations on research and development (R&D) and extension and adoption (E&A) initiatives and investments in the Australian grass fed red meat and livestock industries. SALRC provides this function to the beef and sheepmeat industries of south-eastern Australia, while its affiliate councils, the North Australia Beef Research Council (NABRC) and Western Australia Livestock Research Council (WALRC), provide equivalent roles to the northern beef and south-western livestock sectors, respectively.

Operating Structure

SALRC's regional zones are currently based on seven major red meat and livestock production zones in south-eastern Australia (Appendix 1) including:

- Northern NSW;
- Southern NSW;
- Central and Western NSW & QLD Sheep;
- Central VIC;
- Western VIC;
- South east VIC & TAS; and,
- South Australia.

Each of these zones is supported by a SALRC Regional Committee, comprising commercial livestock producers and processors, grower networks, RD&A providers and other key stakeholders involved in the delivery, extension and adoption of RD&A. The Chairs of the seven Regional Committees in turn make-up the producer representatives on SALRC's Council, sitting alongside senior representatives from major RD&A providers including: Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA), State Departments of Primary Industry (DPIs), CSIRO, Universities, Australian Wool Innovation (AWI), Local Land Services (LLS) and Animal Health Australia (AHA). At this level, SALRC is led by an Independent Chair and Secretariat, and supported by a governance and Management Committee.

Relationship with Meat and Livestock Australia

SALRC plays a key role in the consultation and reporting structure used by MLA in determining investments in RD&A and Producer Demonstration Site (PDS) projects. SALRC's Regional Chairs collectively form the Southern Producer Panel, which provides commercially-relevant context, direction and feedback on RD&A priorities and RD&A proposals seeking MLA funding.

In addition, the Independent Chairs – and two senior producer representatives – from SALRC, NABRC and WALRC are members of MLA’s Red Meat Panel. This panel assesses regional RD&A issues in the context of national red meat and livestock industry RD&A priorities, as directed through the Meat Industry Strategic Plan (MISP) and its beef and sheepmeat subsidiary plans (BISP and SISP).

Role of SALRC’s Regional Chairs

SALRC’s Regional Chairs have an important and influential leadership role working within each region. The Regional Chairs will be members of SALRC and act as a conduit between MLA, other investors and grass roots producers. These roles require a deep understanding of the local and regional production systems and the RD&A issues facing red meat producers in their area.

Regional Chairs will keep SALRC informed about issues in their area of expertise and their region, and keep their regional committee members informed about issues facing SALRC and the broader industry. While taking a leadership role within their region, the Regional Chairs will be expected to work closely with the other Regional Chairs, considering opportunities for collaboration.

Accountabilities of Regional Committee Chair

- Attend two SALRC Council meetings per year (up to two days each);
- Chair two regional committee meetings annually (up to two days each) and tele/video - conferences as required. The Chair’s roles include managing meeting agendas, facilitating and / or leading discussions, and building engagement and consensus around key decisions;
- Develop meeting and tele/video-conference agendas and manage the completion of action items and correspondence. This, in conjunction with MLA and the SALRC Secretariat, includes maintaining momentum in the regional committee’s out-of-session activities;
- Attend the Southern Producer Panel meeting (two days/year), providing commercially relevant context, direction and feedback on RD&A proposals seeking MLA funding and participating in training provided by MLA on this process.
- Develop and maintain effective relationships between key regional sheepmeat and grass-fed beef RD&A stakeholders (industry entities, alliances and representatives of RD&E providers);
- Seek and capitalise on opportunities to improve SALRC processes, efficacy and profile;
- Lead the region in the development of new initiatives to improve RD&A planning and delivery;
- Maintain a ‘watching brief’ on all RD&A program and project milestones, deliverables, within their region and report to SALRC;
- Collaborate with the regional committee members, participating organisations and other stakeholders involved in the region;
- Participate in discussions relating to RD&A program and project development, delivery and implementation in the sheepmeat and southern beef sectors;
- Provide (apolitical) advocacy and leadership in relation to RD&A requirements for SALRC co-investors, and more broadly for Australia’s sheepmeat and grass-fed beef sectors within the region.

KEY SELECTION CRITERIA

Professional Attributes required of Regional Committee Chair:

- Good understanding of red meat and livestock industry structures, the role of SALRC's investors in agricultural RD&A, and sheepmeat and grass-fed beef production issues in their area;
- Understanding and confidence in meeting protocols, governance, media liaison, public speaking and application of RD&A to red meat industry development;
- Experience in managing regional industry relationships within the context of the sheepmeat and/or southern grass-fed beef industries;
- Demonstrated experience in the engagement with, and communication of, program and project outcomes to regional and local groups;
- An interest in the design and development of red meat and livestock RD&A programs;
- Evidence in dealing with RD&A and/or industry organisations and associated networks.

Personal Attributes required of Regional Committee Chair:

- An advanced understanding and passion to advocate the importance of agricultural RD&A and continuous improvement in the red meat and livestock industries;
- Strong people/relationship skills, including capability to build an effective and collegiate approach to addressing a broad range of stakeholder issues;
- Demonstrated leadership skills and the ability and desire to motivate, inspire and grow the capacity of others, seek improvement and increase the profile of the Regional Committee (and SALRC more broadly) within the industry;
- A demonstrated ability to be able to lead a regional team while actively contributing to SALRC in a national RD&A context.

Sitting fees will be paid and approved travel expenses reimbursed.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Submit a short expression of interest clearly addressing the criteria outlined above (professional & personal attributes).

For more information, contact the SALRC Executive Officer Mike Stephens at info@salrc.com.au or 03 5341 6100.

Please return EOIs to Mike Stephens at info@salrc.com.au

Appendix 1: SALRC regions



ABBREVIATIONS

BISP	Beef Industry Strategic Plan
MISP	Meat Industry Strategic Plan
MLA	Meat & Livestock Australia
NABRC	North Australia Beef Research Council
RD&A	Research, development and adoption
SALRC	Southern Australia Livestock Research Council
SISP	Sheepmeat Industry Strategic Plan
WALRC	Western Australia Livestock Research Council