



Background and Roles and Responsibilities for Southern Australia Meat Research Council (SAMRC) Regional Committee Members

SAMRC's Primary Function

The Southern Australia Meat Research Council (SAMRC) 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 red meat and livestock industry. SAMRC 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 an equivalent role to the northern beef and south-western livestock sectors, respectively.

Operating Structure

SAMRC's geographic area is 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 & Southern QLD (sheepmeat only);
- Central VIC;
- Western VIC;
- East VIC/TAS; and,
- South Australia.

Each of these zones is supported by a SAMRC Regional Committee, comprising commercial livestock producers and processors, grower networks, RD&E providers and other key stakeholders involved in the delivery, extension and adoption of R&D. The Chairs of the seven Regional Committees in-turn make-up the producer representatives on SAMRC's Full Council, sitting alongside senior representatives from Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA), State Departments of Primary Industry (DPIs), CSIRO, universities are other major RD&E providers. Peak Industry Councils (the Cattle and Sheepmeat Councils of Australia) also have a standing seat at the SAMRC Council table as associate members. At this level, SAMRC is led by an Independent Chairman and Secretariat, and supported by governance and Management Committees.

Relationship with Meat and Livestock Australia

SAMRC plays a key role in the consultation and reporting structure used by MLA in determining RD&E investment priorities. SAMRC's Regional Chairs collectively form the Southern Producer Panel, which provides commercially-relevant context, direction and

feedback on RD&E priorities and RD&E proposals seeking MLA funding. Equivalent functions are provided for the northern and western regions through the (NABRC) Northern Producer Panel and (WALRC) Western Producer Panel, respectively.

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

Regional Committee Members – Roles and Responsibilities

Seven regional committees provide grassroots input to SAMRC. Membership of each regional committee comprises the regional producer chair and at least six producers of grass-fed beef and sheepmeat from a range of agro-climatic zones. SAMRC provides these producers a clear avenue for input into setting relevant RD&E priorities; a platform for “testing” new concepts; and a central point to co-ordinate regular, two-way MLA communication activities such as RD&E updates.

Regional committees:

- Meet at least biannually (up to two days per meeting and/or via tele-conference) prior to SAMRC Full Council meetings. Members are expected to review information prior to regional committee meetings.
- Identify the needs of red meat and livestock producers that may be addressed by RD&E.
- Prioritise the relative importance of regional RD&E needs and potential beneficiaries and benefits.
- Provide a consultative function to SAMRC (regional) investors to review and provide feedback on RD&E concepts.
- Assess and advise on the RD&E resources required in the region.
- Report relevant regional trends and priorities to SAMRC.
- Champion and support selected MLA communication activities and where appropriate promote MLA RD&E programs.

At the discretion of each committee, others may be engaged in regional committee meetings, including members of the processing, feedlot and agribusiness / private consulting sectors.

Regional Committee Members - Accountabilities

Regional committee members are accountable to their respective Regional Chairs.

Regional Committee Members - Knowledge & Experience

Regional committee members will be appointed for up to three years. The term of appointment may be extended on application.

Regional Committee Producer Members must:

- Have a commercial interest in grass-fed beef or sheepmeat production, and be actively engaged with regional and/or local sheepmeat and/or grass-fed beef industry networks and organisations focused on RD&E;
- Demonstrate a good understanding of red meat and livestock industry structures, the role of SAMRC, its investors, and sheepmeat and beef production issues in their area;
- Have experience or an interest in communicating program and project outcomes to regional and local groups;
- Be willing to operate as an advocate of agricultural RD&E, and for continuous improvement in the red meat and livestock industries;
- Be capable of building an effective and collegiate approach to addressing a broad range of stakeholders and stakeholder issues; and,
- Demonstrate an ability to work collaboratively as part of a regional team.

The time commitment will be up to four days per year. Sitting fees will be paid and approved expenses reimbursed.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Candidates wishing to submit an expression of interest should clearly nominate their region of interest and address the criteria outlined above (in the Regional Committee Members - Knowledge & Experience section).

For more information, contact the SAMRC Secretariat Mike Stephens at info@samrc.com.au or 03 5341 6100.

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

Appendix 1: SAMRC regions



ABBREVIATIONS

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