



Call for Expressions of Interest as potential Independent Board Member, Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit

The Animal Genetics & Breeding Unit (AGBU) is an unincorporated joint venture of the University of New England (UNE) and NSW Department of Primary Industries that carries out research and development in genetic improvement for the agricultural industries. AGBU is Australian agriculture's leading genetic evaluation systems research group, and develops and delivers improvements in genetic evaluation systems that are used to increase the economic value to industry (collectively) and individual producers from investing in genetic improvement.

AGBU's core strengths are its critical mass of scientists with unique skills in analysing large datasets and designing large scale genetic evaluations for industry, a track record of delivering practical genetic tools and research outcomes across several species, strong relationships with leading breeders and companies, and an international reputation in leadership and innovation in livestock genetics. AGBU has been a pioneer in big data methods in genetic improvement, and has lead the introduction of genomic technologies in key industries nationally.

AGBU's work program includes development of theory and methods for genetic evaluation and improvement, development and delivery of computing systems for very large-scale industry application, and deep engagement with industry partners to drive implementation of R&D outcomes.

AGBU was initiated in 1976, and is governed by a Board comprising senior representatives from UNE and NSW DPI, with an Independent Chair. The unit is funded through a mix of partner contributions and industry and private partnerships and contracts.

The role of the Board is to control the overall strategic direction of AGBU including commercialisation of AGBU IP, to oversee the implementation of the Strategic Plan, and to develop policy for AGBU. The governance role is less formal than for an incorporated body, but does include approval of the annual budget and monitoring performance against it.

Under the new 2018-2028 AGBU Strategic Plan, the partners are seeking an Independent Board member.

The Independent Board member will bring wide understanding of agricultural R&D and innovation, coupled with capacity for strategic insight and analysis, and leadership experience in agribusiness organisations. They will have expertise and experience in commercialization of R&D outcomes, in terms of both adoption and commercial arrangements, and in business development and growth in R&D, built on innovation and strong engagement with users of the R&D outcomes.

Nominal Board sitting fees and reimbursement of expenses will be provided. The time commitment is typically 3-4 meetings per year, normally face-to-face.

Expressions of interest are invited from suitably qualified individuals seeking to help drive the growth and continued success of AGBU. Nominations should include:

- A short cover letter outlining the skills and experience the person brings to the Board
- A full resume detailing work history, relevant experience and qualifications
- Full contact details

Expressions of interest should be sent to the Director (Robert Banks) at rbanks@une.edu.au and marked Confidential. EOI will be reviewed by the AGBU Board, including interviews if required. Further information including the AGBU Strategic Plan can be obtained from the Director at rbanks@une.edu.au or 0417 679 095, or from the Chair, Lucinda Corrigan at rennylea@bigpond.com or 0409038993.

Closing date for EOI is 14th May 2021.