

2026 PTN Sowing Program: Expressions of Interest

The Pasture Trials Network (PTN) provides independent, rigorous, and freely available forage cultivar performance data from throughout temperate Australia to assist advisors, consultants, and producers in making informed sowing decisions. This data supports both the MLA PTN eTool and the Dairy Australia Forage Value Index.

PTN is seeking expressions of interest from organisations that wish to establish and execute regionally specific trials as part of the PTN 2026 sowing program.

Table 1: 2026 PTN expressions of interest outline.

Organisation:	Pasture Trials Network Ltd.
Operating locations:	NSW, VIC, SA, WA, TAS, SE QLD.
Objective:	This call invites expressions of interest from parties interested in conducting PTN trials throughout temperate Australia. Through a network of trial collaborators, partners provide PTN with high-quality, reliable, and scientifically rigorous data that either adhere to or surpass the standards outlined in the PTN protocol.
Focus:	Delivery of trials sown from autumn to spring 2026. Trial proposals for 2027 are reviewed.
Release date:	Friday, 10 th October 2025.
Closing time:	Friday, November 28th, 2025, at 05:00 PM AEST.
Open period:	Offers will remain open for acceptance by the PTN for one week following the closing date.
Enquiry deadline:	All requests for further information or clarification regarding this EOI should be made by Friday, November 28th, 2025, at 05:00 PM AEST.
Contact and enquiries:	All enquiries can be made to the PTN via email or phone. Email: letstalk@pasturetrials.com.au , attention Tony Butler (PTN Executive Officer). Phone: 04 3251 1011
Lodgement:	Applicants must submit their responses in a company letterhead in an Adobe PDF format to the PTN submission portal via this link. Converting Microsoft Word to PDF can be found here .

Program background:

The Pasture Trials Network (PTN) offers independent, rigorous, and freely available forage cultivar performance data. This information enables red meat and dairy producers, along with their advisors, to improve the productivity of the national temperate feedbase. The PTN program is funded through partnerships with Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA), Dairy Australia, the Australian Seeds Federation (ASF), and leading proprietary seed companies.

PTN has been delivering high-quality trials across various species for over ten years to support the biannual update of the MLA PTN eTool (<https://ptntool.mla.com.au>). This tool, hosted by MLA, is key to sharing trial results from the PTN program. Here, users can access free, localised, seasonal, and independently reviewed trial data.

Generated data is also used to support the annual update of the [Dairy Australia Forage Value Index](#) (FVI).

Trial expectations:

PTN is seeking appropriately qualified trial collaborators to establish and execute regional trials across New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia, and southeastern Queensland. The objective is to deliver high-calibre, dependable, and impartial trial data in accordance with the PTN program specifications, meeting or surpassing the standards outlined in the PTN protocol. Expressions of interest are invited from individuals or organisations capable of operating within a specific region, on a state level, or demonstrating the capacity to operate across multiple states.

PTN collates data from two types of trials: yield-focused and grazing tolerance, both of which include persistence assessments (species-specific). Grazing tolerance trials require stock handling facilities and consideration of ethics.

To ensure compliance with PTN expectations and systems, all trial sites will be audited at least annually (at the expense of the PTN), with all interim data to be submitted within 10 days of assessment, and all data will be reviewed upon receipt.

Species of interest to the PTN are listed below. Please note that not all species are sown annually.

- Sub clover (*Trifolium subterranean* and subspecies).
- White clover (*Trifolium repens*).
- Lucerne (*Medicago sativa* and subspecies or hybrids) – yield and grazing tolerance.
- Ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*, *L. hybridum*, *L. multiflorum* and other related hybrids).
- Tall Fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*) – yield and grazing tolerance.
- Cocksfoot (*Dactylis glomerata* and subspecies) – yield and grazing tolerance.
- Phalaris (*Phalaris aquatica* and hybrids of *P. aquatica*) – yield and grazing tolerance.
- Chicory (*Cichorium intybus*).
- Oats (*Avena sativa*).
- Barley (*Hordeum vulgare*).
- Wheat (*Triticum aestivum*).
- Triticale (× *Triticosecale*).

A copy of a previous PTN trial protocol version is available upon request.

For trials sown in spring 2026, the PTN requires a sowing plan. The plan must include a summary of site preparation and sowing timelines between autumn and the time of sowing.

Contracting:

All trials will be contracted under a PTN Services Contract. The contract duration will range from 12 to 48 months, depending on the species. Trial co-operators are required to invoice quarterly, in accordance with the agreed contractual terms and upon successful completion of contract milestones.

Please note that the contract will include penalties for late data submissions within the agreed-upon timelines.

Pricing:

Formal pricing for 2026 is being developed, with prices expected to increase over those of 2025 (Table 2). The PTN pricing is defined into two rainfall zones: high rainfall (annual rainfall of 800 mm or more) and dryland. Rainfall is determined by data sourced from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) to identify and delineate the rainfall zones for each site.

Table 2: 2025 PTN species trial co-operator pricing matrix. The PTN protocol defines rainfall zones. Enquire for the latest details for 2025 pricing.

Operator payment (\$/cultivar/site/year)		
Species	High rainfall (800 mm)/Irrigation	Dryland
Perennial Ryegrass	\$975.00	\$880.00
Long-rotation Ryegrasses	\$980.00	\$880.00
Italian Ryegrass	\$935.00	\$880.00
Annual Ryegrass	\$935.00	\$880.00
Tall Fescue (Cont.)	\$935.00	-
Tall Fescue (Med.)	-	\$765.00
Cocksfoot (Cont.)	\$935.00	-
Cocksfoot (Med.)	-	\$765.00
Phalaris	-	\$880.00
Lucerne	\$1,015.00	\$990.00
Sub Clover	-	\$765.00
White Clover	\$ 935.00	\$880.00
Chicory	\$977.50	\$880.00
Grazing Oats	-	\$765.00
Grazing Barley	-	\$765.00

Please contact the PTN Executive Officer for an update on 2026 pricing proposals and costings.

Eligibility criteria:

The successful candidates will be assessed against a set of eligibility and selection criteria (see **Table 3**). Applicants must fulfil the requirements to be eligible to apply.

Table 3: PTN Trial co-operator eligibility criterion.

Criteria	Requirements
Organisational	- The applicant must be a single legal entity or a recognised firm of partners. - The applicant must have professional indemnity insurance of an excess of \$2 million. - The applicant and any engaged subcontractor must comply with the Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012. - The applicant and any subcontractor must not have a judicial decision against them (excluding decisions under appeal) related to employee entitlements and must not have paid the claim. - The applicant and any subcontractor must not be listed on the Consolidated List, which is the list of persons and entities subject to targeted financial sanctions or travel bans under Australian sanctions laws, as maintained by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. - The applicant must have procedures in place to identify, assess and address Modern Slavery in its operations and compliance to the Modern Slavery Act 2018.
Technical capability	- Evidence of ownership (preferably) or ready guaranteed access to suitable equipment to deliver specialist pasture trials, including (but not limited to): - Plot seeder. - Forage harvest equipment. - Plot sprayers. - Drying ovens. - Scales. - Fertiliser application equipment. - Demonstrated ability to plan and conduct robust, high quality pasture cultivar trials and deliver results to a high standard. - Detail capabilities and experience of the delivery team in establishing and managing pasture trials based on set standards. - Demonstrated capacity to follow a set of standard protocols for trial management and remain compliant with standards set by a program. (For further relevant information, see the PTN protocol attached). - To complete data requests using the PTN portal within contractual timelines.
Technical capacity	Demonstrated sufficiency in staff, trial equipment and other resources to deliver tendered pasture trials.

	Outline the roles and responsibilities within the team for the delivery of proposed works.
Communication	- Ability of the project team to collaborate with the PTN Executive Officer (EO), PTN Operations Manager and representatives of the Technical Working Group (TWG). - Defined and stated opportunities to promote the work and activity of the PTN and its value to the red meat and dairy industry. - Willingness to engage in PTN instigated and approved extension activities such as field days. - Attend monthly trial co-operator online meetings. - Ability to contribute and be an active member of a PTN trial co-operator WhatsApp group. - Provide photo updates to stakeholders of trial progress.
Risk	- Risks inherent in the delivery of compliance with the PTN protocol. - Any actual or perceived conflict of interest. - Define site selection and preparation process to ensure high success in trial emergence in coming months and on-going maintenance. - Access to irrigation or other trial supporting infrastructure if season conditions deteriorate and can reduce loss of trial investment. - Established work, health and safety systems for the delivery of trial work. - Staff certification for any specialist skills or equipment in the delivery of trial work.

Application:

Applicants must submit an Adobe PDF response containing the following outline:

- Please submit all details on the company letterhead.
- Provide a company brief (~300 words).
- Demonstrate compliance with each eligibility criterion: organisational, technical capability and capacity, communication and risk.
- Include details of proposed trials, such as location, species, and rainfall conditions (dryland, high rainfall, or irrigated).
- If sowing in spring 2026, provide a brief site preparation and sowing plan that includes land preparation details and sowing timelines scheduled between autumn and sowing.
- Add any additional notes if necessary.

Some considerations:

- Submissions may include alternative locations within the designated agro-climatic region.
- Only apply for species that can be delivered with a high level of confidence of success for that location.

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- Trial proposals for 2027 sowing will be reviewed.

Applications **MUST** address the eligibility criteria and be submitted as Adobe PDFs addressing each requirement above.

All applications must be submitted directly to PTN's submission [portal via this link](#) by Friday, November 28th, 2025, at 05:00 PM AEST.

If you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch with Tony Butler, PTN Executive Officer.

Application review:

The EOI will be reviewed by the PTN Technical Working Group (TWG) in early December. If required, candidates may be contacted for additional supporting information or negotiations. Candidates will be informed of the outcome of their EOI by 19th December 2025.

Once entries are confirmed, a 2026 pricing matrix will be finalised by late February 2026, subject to seed submissions and negotiations with participating members.

If the proposed locations are approved, contracts will be issued for individual trials only. If relocation of sites from the contracted region occurs without prior consent from PTN, the contracts will then become void.

2026 Sowing proposal:

PTN trials are defined for agro-climatic zones as described in Figure 1, with Table 4 outlining a desired location/municipality of particular interest. Expressions from other regions, agro-climatic zones are also encouraged and will be reviewed.

Only apply for species that can be delivered with a high level of confidence of success for that location.

Contact the PTN Executive Officer for support in confirming the agro-climatic zones of potential sites of interest.

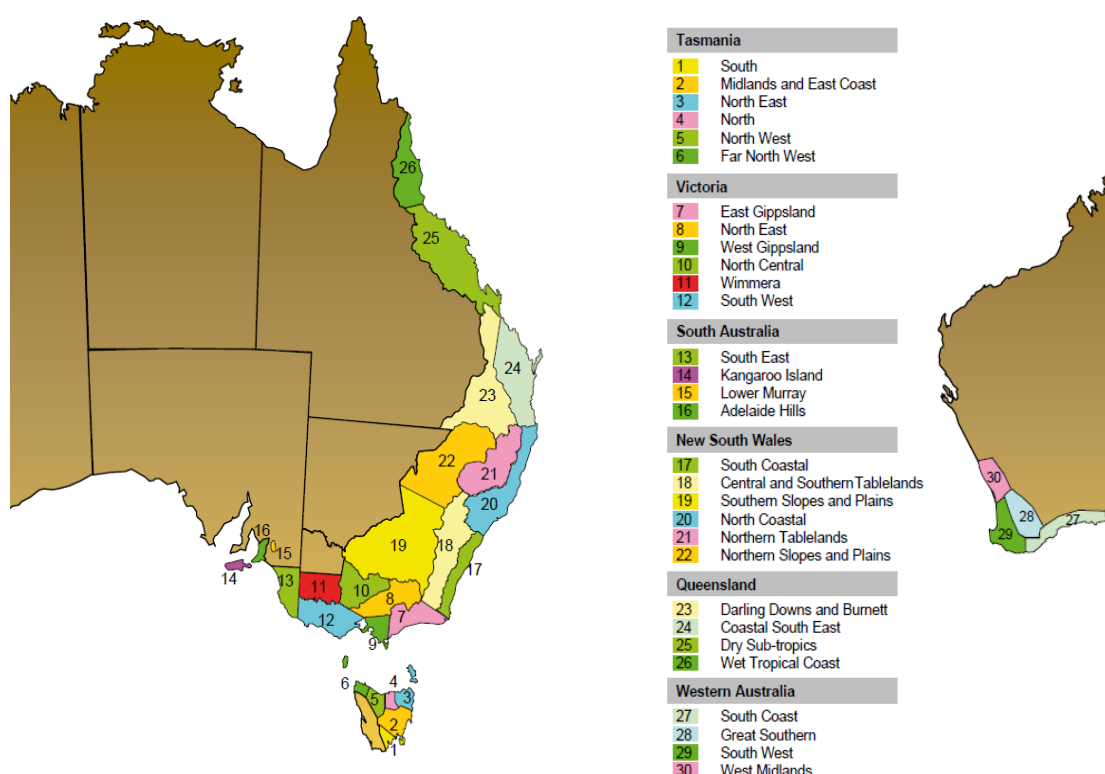


Figure 1. Agro-climatic zones defined the PTN. Sourced from Gourley 2007.

Some further considerations:

- Submissions may include alternative locations within the designated agro-climatic region.
- Co-locating trials is encouraged.
- Trial proposals for 2027 sowing will be reviewed.
- Cocksfoot, phalaris, tall fescue and lucerne are generally spring-sown trials.

References:

Gourley, C.J.P, Melland, A.R, Waller, R.A, Awty. I.M, Smith, A.P, Peverill, K.I, Hannah, M.C. 2007. *Making better fertiliser decisions for grazed pastures in Australia*. Victorian Government Department of Primary Industries.

Table 4: Cells highlighted in blue indicate locations where PTN actively wishes to expand its network partnership. Expressions from all other regions are considered. Key: D = dryland, I = irrigated.

Rainfall environment	Region	Desired location	State	1-year ryegrass	2-year ryegrass	3-year+ Ryegrass	Cont. Tall fescue	Med. Tall fescue	Cont. Cocksfoot	Med. Cocksfoot	Phalaris	Lucerne	Sub clover	White clover	Chicory	Grazing oats	Grazing barley	Grazing triticale	Grazing wheat	Grazing tolerance phalaris	Grazing tolerance cocksfoot	Grazing tolerance tall fescue	Grazing tolerance lucerne
D or I	Northern Tasmania		TAS																				
D or I	Northwest Tasmania		TAS																				
D or I	Northeast Tasmania		TAS																				
D or I	Midlands and east coast		TAS																				
D or I	South Tasmania		TAS																				
D or I	East Gippsland		VIC																				
D	Northeast Victoria		VIC																				

D	North Central Victoria		VIC																				
D	West Gippsland		VIC																				
D	Wimmera		VIC																				
D	Southwest Victoria	<i>Warrnambool</i>	VIC			Y																	
D	Southwest Victoria	<i>Ararat</i>	VIC	Y																			
D or I	Southeast SA		SA																				
D	Adelaide Hills		SA																				
D	South Coastal NSW	<i>Bega</i>	NSW	Y	Y																		
D or I	Central & Southern Tablelands NSW		NSW																				
I	Southern Slopes & Plains		NSW																				
D	North Coastal NSW		NSW																				

D	Northern Tablelands NSW		NSW																				
I	Darling Downs & Burnett QLD		QLD																				
I	Coastal Southeast QLD		QLD																				
D	Southwest WA	<i>Busselton</i>	WA	Y	Y																		
D	South Coast WA		WA																				
D	Great Southern WA		WA											Y*									
D	West Midlands WA		WA											Y*									

* = Minimum rainfall requirement of 400 mm.