



2027 PTN Sowing Program: Expressions of Interest

Prepared by: Pasture Trial Network Limited.



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1. Call summary

The Pasture Trials Network (PTN) provides independent, rigorous, and freely available forage variety performance data from across temperate Australia. This information helps advisors, consultants, and producers make informed sowing decisions and supports both the MLA PTN eTool and the Dairy Australia Forage Value Index.

PTN invites expressions of interest from organisations looking to establish and run region-specific trials as part of the PTN 2027 sowing program.

Table 1: 2027 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 wishing to conduct PTN trials across temperate Australia. Through a network of trial collaborators, partners provide PTN with high-quality, reliable, and scientifically rigorous data that meet or exceed the standards set out in the PTN protocol.
Focus:	Delivery of trials sown from autumn to spring 2027.
Release date:	Friday, 2 nd October 2026.
Closing time:	Friday, 6 th November 2026, 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, 6 th November 2026, at 05:00 PM AEST.
Contact and enquiries:	All enquiries can be made to the PTN via email. Email: letstalk@pasturetrials.com.au .
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 .

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2. Program background

The Pasture Trials Network (PTN) provides independent, rigorous, and freely available data on forage variety performance. This information enables red meat and dairy producers, and 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 Seed Federation (ASF), and leading proprietary seed companies.

For over ten years, PTN has delivered high-quality trials across multiple forage species, providing the grazing industry with free, localised, seasonal, independently reviewed trial data via its online tools:

- MLA PTN eTool (<https://ptntool.mla.com.au>): Hosted by MLA, the tool is central to sharing individual trial results from the PTN program and is updated regularly as trials are completed and peer-reviewed.
- PTN Genotype x Environment (GXE) tool (<https://www.pasturetrials.com.au/resources/>): hosted on the PTN website, collates approved PTN trials and identifies variety performance across different environmental drivers such as rainfall and temperature.

Generated ryegrass data also supports the annual update of the [Dairy Australia Forage Value Index \(FVI\)](#).

3. Trial expectations

PTN is seeking suitably qualified trial collaborators to establish and conduct regional trials across New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia, and southeastern Queensland. The aim is to generate high-quality, reliable, and impartial trial data in line with PTN program specifications and to meet or exceed the standards set out in the PTN protocol.

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

Organisations must outline their capabilities to demonstrate compliance with the PTN expectations and systems set out in this document. All trial sites are audited at least annually (at the PTN's

expense), with all interim data submitted within 10 days of assessment, and all data will be reviewed upon receipt. *Failure to do so may attract contractual penalties.*

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

Grasses and forbs:

- 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*).

Legumes:

- Sub clover (*Trifolium subterranean* and subspecies).
- White clover (*Trifolium repens*) – yield and grazing tolerance.
- Red clover (*Trifolium pratense*).
- Lucerne (*Medicago sativa* and subspecies or hybrids) – yield and grazing tolerance.

Forage cereals:

- Oats (*Avena sativa*).
- Barley (*Hordeum vulgare*).
- Wheat (*Triticum aestivum*)
- Triticale ($\times$ *Triticosecale*).

A copy of a previous PTN trial protocol version is available upon request. *The current version will not be made available until work is contracted.*

For trials sown in spring 2027, 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.

Co-location of multiple trials in a hub is desired, with respect to species that are appropriate and commonly used in the trial region.

4. Contracting

All trials will be contracted under a PTN Services Contract. The contract duration will range from 12 months to 3 years, depending on the species. If the trial is in good health, the term can be extended with investor approval. A draft contract is provided in advance for review.

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.

5. Pricing

Formal pricing for 2027 is being developed, with prices expected to increase from 2026. **Table 2** should therefore be used as a guide to support internal costings.

The PTN pricing is defined into two rainfall zones:

- High rainfall, defined as an annual rainfall of 800 mm or greater, or irrigated.
- Dryland, defined as 400 to 799 mm.

The rainfall category at the proposed site is determined using data from the nearest Bureau of Meteorology (BOM).

Total contracted trial value is based on the number of individual varieties submitted within the trial, with minimum viable numbers required from investors for the trial to proceed. Higher contracted pricing can be negotiated with PTN. Such requests are evaluated on a merit system with clear reasoning and must be agreed upon by all investing parties.

Table 2: 2026 PTN species trial co-operator pricing matrix. The PTN protocol defines rainfall zones.

Operator payment (\$/variety/site/year)			
Species	Minimum no. of varieties	High rainfall (800 mm)/Irrigation	Dryland
Perennial ryegrass	12	\$995.00	\$900.00
Long-rotation ryegrass	12	\$995.00	\$900.00
2-Yr ryegrass	12	\$995.00	-
1-Yr ryegrass	12	\$995.00	-
Tall fescue (Cont.)	6	\$995.00	-
Tall fescue (Med.)	6	-	\$780.00
Cocksfoot (Cont.)	6	-	\$780.00
Cocksfoot (Med.)	6	-	\$780.00
Phalaris	6	-	\$900.00
Lucerne	12	\$995.00	-
Sub clover	12	-	\$780.00
White clover	6	\$995.00	\$900.00
Chicory	6	\$995.00	\$900.00
Forage oats	6	-	\$780.00
Forage barley	6	-	\$780.00
Cocksfoot (grazing tolerance)	6	-	\$300.00
Phalaris (grazing tolerance)	6	-	\$300.00
Tall fescue (grazing tolerance)	6	-	\$300.00
Lucerne (grazing tolerance)	6	-	\$300.00

6. Eligibility criteria

Successful candidates will be assessed against a set of eligibility and selection criteria (see **Table 3**). Applicants **MUST** meet 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 with 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) relating to employee entitlements and must not have paid the claim. - The applicant and any subcontractor must not be listed on the Consolidated List, maintained by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, which lists persons and entities subject to targeted financial sanctions or travel bans under Australian sanctions laws. - The applicant must have procedures in place to identify, assess and address Modern Slavery in its operations and in its compliance with the Modern Slavery Act 2018.
Technical capability	- Evidence of ownership (preferably) or ready, guaranteed access to suitable equipment for delivering specialist forage trials, including (but not limited to): - Plot seeder. - Forage harvest equipment. - Plot sprayers. - Drying ovens. - Scales. - Fertiliser application equipment. - Proven ability to plan and conduct rigorous, high-quality forage variety trials following a protocol and to achieve high-quality outcomes. - Outline the team's expertise and experience in establishing and managing forage trials to set standards. - Staff certification for any specialist skills or equipment used in the delivery of trial work. - Demonstrated ability to follow standard trial management protocols and comply with program standards. - Ability to complete data requests via the PTN portal within contractual timelines of 10 days.
Technical capacity	Demonstrate team capability, trial equipment and other resources to deliver the tendered forage trials.

	- Outline the roles and responsibilities within the team for the delivery of the proposed trials. - Proven record in following good science data recording processes. - Sound skills in the Microsoft 365 suite to ensure PTN supplied raw data record sheet is correctly updated.
Communication	- The project team's ability to collaborate with external parties such as the PTN Executive Officer (EO), the PTN Operations Manager, and the Technical Working Group (TWG) representatives. - Identify and outline opportunities to promote the PTN's work and activities and to demonstrate its value to the red meat and dairy sectors. - Willingness to engage in PTN-initiated and approved extension activities, such as field days. - Attend monthly online trial co-operator meetings. - Contribute to and actively participate in PTN trial network communication channels. - Provide photo updates to stakeholders on trial progress.
Risk	- Established internal processes to manage risks and ensure compliance with PTN expectations. - Note any actual or perceived conflict of interest. - Ensure a rigorous site selection and preparation process will support successful trial emergence in the coming months and ongoing maintenance. - Have access to irrigation or other trial-supporting infrastructure if seasonal conditions deteriorate can help reduce the risk of losing the trial investment. - Ensure established work, health, and safety systems for delivering trial work.

7. Application process

Applicants **MUST** submit an Adobe PDF response containing the following outline:

- Please submit all details on company letterhead.
- Provide a company brief (~300 words).
- Demonstrate compliance with each eligibility criterion: organisational, technical capability and capacity, and communication and risk.
- Include details of proposed trial(s) and site details, such as location (to closest town), species, and rainfall conditions (dryland, high rainfall, or irrigated).
- If sowing in spring 2027, provide a brief site preparation and sowing plan that includes land preparation details and sowing timelines scheduled from autumn through to sowing.
- Add any additional notes if necessary.

Some considerations:

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

- 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, 6th November 2026, at 05:00 PM AEST.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email: letstalk@pasturetrials.com.au.

8. Application review

The PTN Technical Working Group (TWG) will review submitted EOIs in mid-November 2026. If required, candidates may be contacted for additional supporting information or to negotiate.

Candidates will be informed of the outcome of their EOI by 30th November 2026.

Once entries are confirmed, a 2027 pricing matrix will be finalised by late February 2027, subject to seed submissions and negotiations with participating members.

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

9. 2027 Sowing proposal

PTN trials are defined by the agro-climatic zones shown in **Figure 1**. **Table 4** lists locations or municipalities of particular interest. Expressions of interest from other regions and agro-climatic zones are also encouraged and will be reviewed.

Apply only for species that can be delivered successfully at the proposed location with a high degree of confidence.

Selected trials are designated as preferred for dryland or irrigated in some regions.

Submissions may include alternative locations within the designated agro-climatic region. Contact the PTN Executive Officer for help confirming the agro-climatic zones of potential sites of interest.

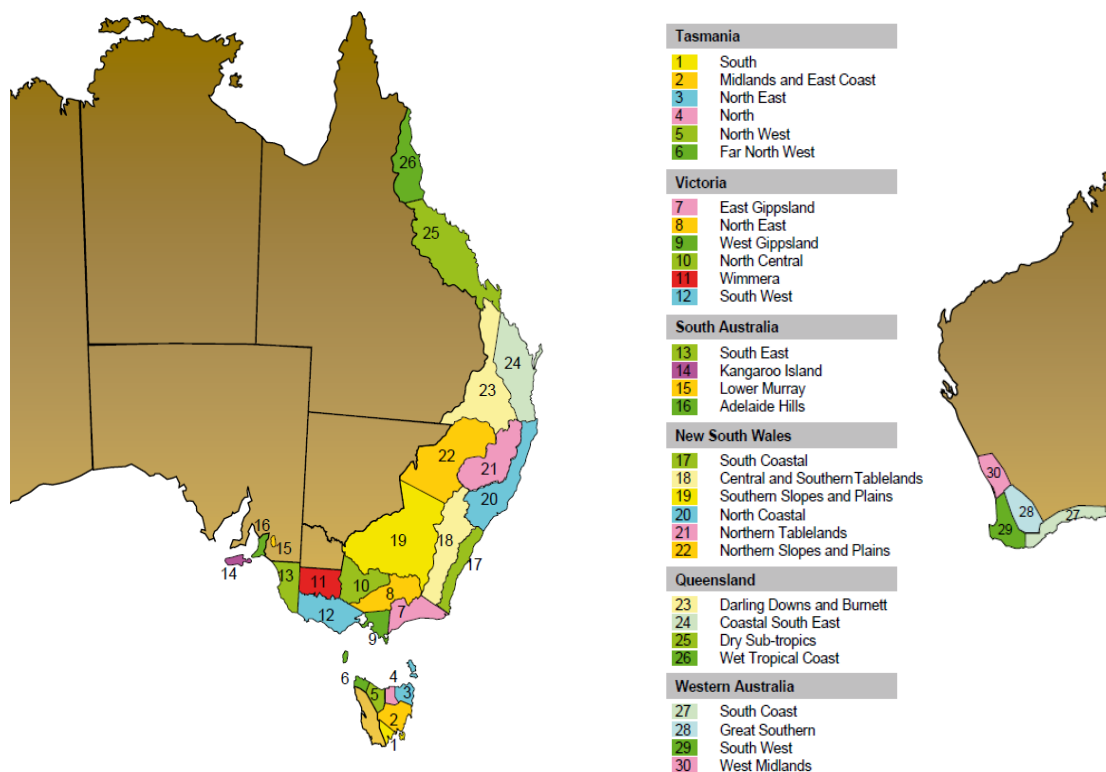


Figure 1. Agro-climatic zones defined by the PTN. Sourced from Gourley 2007.

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 seeks to expand its network partnership. Expressions from all other regions are considered. Key: D = dryland, I = irrigated.

Rainfall environment	Agro-climatic 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	Red clover	Chicory	Grazing oats	Grazing barley	Grazing triticale	Grazing wheat	Grazing tolerance phalaris	Grazing tolerance cocksfoot	Grazing tolerance tall fescue	Grazing tolerance lucerne	Grazing tolerance white clover																									
																									D or I	Northern Tasmania		TAS											Y	Y	Y									Y
																									D or I	Northwest Tasmania		TAS											Y	Y	Y									Y
																									D or I	Northeast Tasmania		TAS											Y	Y	Y									Y
																									D or I	Midlands and east coast		TAS											Y	Y	Y									Y
																									D or I	South Tasmania		TAS																						

D or I	East Gippsland		VIC											Y	Y	Y								Y
D	Northeast Victoria		VIC																					
D	North Central Victoria		VIC																					
D	West Gippsland		VIC											Y	Y	Y								Y
D	Wimmera		VIC																					
D	Southwest Victoria		VIC																					
D or I	Southeast		SA																					
D	Adelaide Hills		SA																					
D	South Coastal		NSW											Y	Y	Y								Y
D or I	Central & Southern Tablelands		NSW																					

[illegible]