



REQUEST FOR QUOTE

REVIEW OF THE CURRENT KNOWLEDGE OF THE AUSTRALIAN CROP MIRID

Date of issue: Tuesday, 11 October 2022

Date of close: Tuesday, 1 November 2022, 5pm (ACDT)



Lucerne Australia

Lucerne Australia was formed in 2005 and is the peak industry body for the lucerne seed industry in Australia.

The organisation aims to incorporate all relevant sectors of the Australian lucerne seed industry and has formed a membership body that acts in the best interests of the industry.

About this Request for Quote

This Request for Quotation (RFQ) is seeking services of a suitably qualified individual or organisation to review the current knowledge of the Australian crop mirid (*Sidnia kinbergi*).

The purpose of the review will be to provide lucerne seed producers and industry advisors with the background information needed to progress with the long-term goal of developing an effective management strategy for this pest in lucerne.

Individuals or organisations making a submission are required to have:

- an understanding of agricultural in-field invertebrate pest management and research.

The RFQ closes 5.00pm (ACDT) 1st November 2022.

Overview of requirements

BACKGROUND

Lucerne is an important pasture species in Australia and pest management is critical in seed crops to maximise yield. The Australian crop mirid (*Sidnia kinbergi*) is a polyphagous species endemic to Australia and NZ and recognised as pests to varying degrees of lucerne, clover, pulses, and many horticultural crops. They damage buds, flower, and growing points through feeding. Australian crop mirids have become apparent as an emerging pest in lucerne seed crops in the Upper SE of SA region. There are no pesticides currently registered for use in lucerne for this pest and there are also anecdotal reports that crop mirids are not well controlled by applications of chemicals targeted at other species. Further, whilst there is a body of published literature on green and brown mirids (*Creontiades sp.*) due to their pest status in cotton, information on Australian crop mirids is limited, particularly in a southern Australian context.

This project will undertake a comprehensive review of the current literature to expand our understanding of the Australian crop mirid. The review will provide industry with the background information needed to progress with the development of a management strategy for this pest that is effective, sustainable and integrates with the control of other important pests in lucerne. The benefit of this project will be to improve the long-term profitability and sustainability of the Australian Lucerne Seed Industry

SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

This Request for Quotation (RFQ) is seeking services of a suitably qualified individual or organisation to review the current knowledge of the Australian crop mirid (*Sidnia kinbergi*). The purpose of the review will be to provide lucerne seed producers and industry advisors with the background information needed to progress with the long-term goal of developing an effective management strategy for this pest in lucerne.

Deliverables will include:

- 1) A comprehensive, systematic and critical literature review and summary examining the biology and ecology of the Australian crop mirid (*Sidnia kinbergi*) including feeding behaviour, host plants, known lifecycle, natural predators, and any known information on migration and seasonal population dynamics particularly in the southern Australia context. The review will also examine control methods (chemical/cultural/biological) and potential laboratory rearing techniques which will be important for the development of management strategies. Relevant information from work on other key mirid pests will also be reviewed especially where the literature on the Australian crop mirid is limited.
- 2) Identification of potential candidate insecticides that can be screened for control efficacy in futures projects, and potentially progressed to a minor use permit application in lucerne for this species.
- 3) Identification of gaps in the current knowledge and recommendations on future research directions and further investments required into the control of the Australian crop mirid in lucerne seed production.
- 4) Key recommendations, including the next steps for incorporation of the information into an integrated pest management strategy for the industry.

OUTPUTS

A document addressing the project deliverables. A written interim milestone report will be required and reviewed by Lucerne Australia prior to the submission of a final report. The accepted final report will be published on the Lucerne Australia and AgriFutures Australia websites.

The successful applicant (s) may also be required to prepare and/or contribute to short articles for dissemination by Lucerne Australia to members and industry publications.

Indicative timeline

	Activity	Date
1	RFQ – applications open	Tuesday, 11 October 2022
2	Briefing – By Phone	Individuals or Organisations making submissions may contact the Project Contact Manager prior to their submission.
3	End of period for questions or requests for information	Friday, 21 October 2022
4	RFQ – applications close	Tuesday, 1 November 2022, 5pm ACDT
5	Applicants notified of outcome	Friday, 11 November 2022
6	Expected execution of contract or issue of agreement	Friday, 18 November 2022
8	Date of commencement of Project	Wednesday, 23 November 2022

Applicants must declare to Lucerne Australia any matter or issue which may be perceived to be, or may lead to, a conflict of interest regarding their proposal or participation in the supply of the services described.

Lucerne Australia believes that the project should be completed within four months. If a longer timeframe is required, the respondent should explain why that is the case.

Evaluation criteria

A respondent's response will be evaluated against:

- The evaluation criteria identified in the table below; and
- The overall proposition presented in the respondent's response.

Mandatory Requirements

Complies

Are you able to meet the timeframe

Yes/No

ABN

Yes/No

Mandatory Assessment Criteria

Assessment criteria

Weighting

(a) Project Plan

20%

(b) Capability and relevant experience

20%

(c) Cost and value for money

20%

(d) Ability to meet the requirements

40%

Desirable Requirements

Complies

Provide examples of your Organisation's ability to provide a similar service.

Yes/No

Testimonials/references

Yes/No

Submitting a response

Applications for this Request for Quote must be submitted to the designated project contact.

Respondent's will be expected to provide:

- A detailed project plan on how the review will be conducted and how this will meet the requirements of the RFQ.
- A detailed project plan on how recommendations for further research and potential candidate insecticides for control will be identified and justified.
- A detailed and fully costed budget commensurate with the key deliverables required, and a formal payment schedule including GST provisions – attachments may be included.
- Project timeline – it is expected this review should take no longer than four months to complete.
- Examples of similar work the respondent has completed.
- Capability and relevant experience.

The resultant contract is expected to commence on 23 November 2022.

It is expected that a contract will be awarded based on how well a respondent addresses the objectives of the tender. Selection will be based on the evaluation criteria. A detailed response will be beneficial.

How to make a submission

Applications for this Request for Quote must be submitted to the project contact manager. Dr Katrina Copping, 0439 538332, info@lucerneaustralia.org.au.

Terms of reference

Terms and conditions

The successful applicant (s) will be required to enter into a Service/Provider Agreement with Lucerne Australia.

The Respondent agrees that Lucerne Australia may accept or decline to accept the Respondent's Quotation in its discretion. No commitments or contract exists until a contract in the form of a Service/Provider Agreement is executed by both parties. The Respondent agrees that Lucerne Australia is not required to enter into any contract in connection with the RFQ.

The Respondent agrees that participation in any stage of the RFQ process is at the Respondent's sole risk and cost.



Acceptance of a Quotation will occur only when an Agreement is issued, or a contract is executed.

Lucerne Australia, at its discretion, may discontinue this RFQ, decline to accept any Quotation, decline to issue any contract or satisfy its requirements separately from this RFQ process.

Conflict of Interest and IP

The Respondent must disclose any actual or perceivable conflict of interest that exists at the time of lodging. The successful organisation will be required to advise Lucerne Australia in writing of any changes in conflicts of interest at the time of contracting the services with Lucerne Australia or at any time during the term of the agreement when a conflict occurs.

All data and cited references must be acknowledged appropriately in the final review document and resulting scientific articles and it is the sole responsibility of the Respondent to ensure copyright laws are not breached.

The final review document will be publicly available via the Lucerne Australia and AgriFutures Australia websites.

Contact

If you have any questions about the RFQ process or requirements, please contact:

Dr Katrina Copping

Executive Officer

0439 538 332

info@lucerneaustralia.org.au