An alliance between Charles Sturt University (CSU) and NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI)
The Graham Centre for Agricultural Innovation is an alliance between Charles Sturt University (CSU) and the NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI), established in 2005 to strengthen the capacity of these organisations to undertake industry-relevant research and development.

The Centre is focused on delivering solutions for crop and livestock systems, across value chains. The 2017-2021 Strategic Plan defines our focus and intent. It aligns with the strategic plans of both the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Charles Sturt University, as well as relevant industry strategic plans and the National Science and Research priority areas of Food and Soil and Water.

Australian farm businesses generate almost $50 billion in production per year. Value adding increases this to over $150 billion. The increasing demand for premium products from our agricultural sector from a growing middle class, especially in Asia, provides significant opportunities for Australia. With increasing input costs however, unless we innovate, competitors will capture the opportunities.

In New South Wales, the Department of Primary Industries has set the target of a 30% growth in the value of primary industries by 2020. Key to achieving this will be innovation across the value chain and, more importantly, ensuring such innovation is exploited by industry. The Graham Centre has long valued partnerships with industry across agricultural value chains, and this strategic plan signals our intent to strengthen existing and develop new partnerships to drive innovation.

**Research pathways**

Our activity is focused around three key areas:
- Plant systems (crops and pastures)
- Livestock systems (sheep and beef focus)
- Grain and meat quality

**Our objectives**

We exist to provide benefits for the industries and communities we serve, our members and alliance partners.

**Objectives for our industries and communities**
- To develop knowledge and tools to increase the productivity, profitability and sustainability of the grains and red meat industries.
- To train graduates that increase the capacity of these industries to innovate.
- Through the above, contribute to thriving rural communities.

**Objectives for our members**
- To increase capability and capacity to contribute to innovation.
- To increase connectivity with industry and other partners.

**Objectives for our alliance partners**
- To increase capacity to partner in industry-relevant innovation.
- To be recognised as national leaders in agricultural research, development and graduate education.
Our Vision
To be the Australian Centre of Excellence for innovation in grain and red meat production and value adding.

Our Mission
Partner with industry to identify and realise opportunities to improve the profitability and sustainability of grain and red meat value chains for thriving regional communities.

### Strategic Priorities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support areas of research focus</th>
<th>Build capability</th>
<th>Foster partnerships</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Plant systems</td>
<td>To strengthen our research capability through:</td>
<td>Strengthen existing and develop new partnerships with relevant:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Profitable and sustainable crops and</td>
<td>- Providing research training opportunities for students and staff in focus areas</td>
<td>- Farming Systems Groups</td>
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<td>pastures through improved management</td>
<td>- Encouraging the development of multi-disciplinary teams</td>
<td>- Industry – businesses and associations</td>
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<td>2. Livestock systems</td>
<td>- Strengthening leadership in focus areas</td>
<td>- Other RD&amp;E providers, including international</td>
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<td>Profitable and sustainable sheep and</td>
<td>- With industry, identify new areas to grow research capability and co-invest in these</td>
<td>- Research funding agencies</td>
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<td>beef enterprises through improved</td>
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<td>management</td>
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<td>3. Grain and meat quality</td>
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<td>Increased value of grains and meat</td>
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<td>through improvements in processing</td>
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<td>and market-led product innovation</td>
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### Measures of success

- Evidence that our innovations have led to improvements in the profitability and sustainability of crop and livestock systems
- Evidence that our innovations have led to improved grain and meat quality and value
- Increased research income and publications in focus areas
- Increased completions of research higher degrees
- More staff involved in larger, multi-disciplinary projects
- Industry-focused new research areas developed
- Lead and participate in multi-partner RD&E projects, including international work
- Be recognised as the R&D provider of choice in focus areas

### Facilitated by

- Strengthen communication of our focus areas
- Supporting the development of areas of research focus through internal funding mechanisms
- Investment in strategic positions to strengthen focus areas
- Empower leaders for each area of research focus (Pathways)
- Funding of internships, PhD and Honours Scholarships in focus areas and industry-identified emerging areas
- Work with industry to identify research capability needs
- Strategic investment in large new initiatives
- Provide funding and mentoring for staff to develop partnerships
- Co-invest in new initiatives with industry and others
- Broaden industry representation on the Centre's Industry Advisory Panel

### Our commitment values

The Centre is committed to excellence, integrity and sustainability in research. The Centre demonstrates these values in all our activities, enabling the formation of strong partnerships to deliver innovative solutions across grain and red meat value chains.

We recognise the wisdom of the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we are located, captured in the Wiradjuri phrase ‘yindyamarra winhanga-nha’ (‘the wisdom of respectfully knowing how to live in a world worth living in’), and embrace the Charles Sturt University ethos of ‘for the public good’.
Further information

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