



## World-leading livestock DNA testing company establishing in South Australia

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Weatherbys Scientific has begun providing its leading DNA testing, genomics and bioinformatics services to livestock industries in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region, thanks to a partnership with the University of Adelaide and facilitated by the State Government.

Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment David Ridgway said the Irish-based company is implementing plans to expand into South Australia with the creation of Weatherbys Scientific Australia Pty Ltd and is investigating opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region, with a proposed laboratory at the University of Adelaide's Roseworthy campus.

"The collaborative environment at the University's Roseworthy campus presents an exciting opportunity for Weatherbys Scientific to work with world-leading researchers to further develop its technology and services for agricultural and biomedical industries," Minister Ridgway said.

"Food and agribusiness are a major employer in South Australia and we are well-known for our commitment to deliver premium food and wine from our clean environment. The establishment of Weatherbys Scientific Australia in our state can only strengthen this reputation."

"My department of Trade, Tourism and Investment worked closely with the company, holding various meetings in Adelaide throughout the last year."

Aaron Venables, General Manager of Weatherbys Scientific said the support from both the University and the Department for Trade, Tourism and Investment has been instrumental in getting the company to the point where they have begun to recruit staff and implement their plans to be in Australia

"Working with the University of Adelaide has been particularly positive given their strengths in agrigenomic research, especially in bovine and ovine species, which aligns with our core strategic focus. In addition, the University's investment into a world-leading Equine hospital provides further opportunities to work together that sits at the very heart of Weatherbys 248-year history," Mr Venables said.

The Dean of the University's Roseworthy campus, Professor Wayne Hein, said they are excited that the Weatherbys team plans to establish laboratories on the Roseworthy campus, providing Australian producers with high-quality results with a fast turnaround time.

"Businesses that establish a presence at Roseworthy will benefit from interacting with the scientific expertise in our School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences," Professor Hein said.

Director of the University's Davies Research Centre, Professor John Williams, said the presence of Weatherbys in Australia will provide breeders with a choice of genomic service providers, which is good for ensuring high quality at a competitive cost.

"In addition, the co-location of Weatherbys with the School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences will lead to cutting edge R&D to rapidly deliver technological advances to industry," Professor Williams said.



Since its establishment in 1985, Weatherbys Scientific has achieved several significant technical milestones. It is an institutional member of the scientific body of the International Society of Animal Genetics (ISAG) and it is also accredited by the International Committee for Animal Recording (ICAR).

Weatherbys Scientific is also approved with Propel certification by Illumina and has been selected as an Illumina Beta testing laboratory for new technologies.

### **Contacts**

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