

## Foreword

Publication of this Special Issue, 'Genetics to Improve Cow Reproductive Performance in Tropical Beef Cattle,' represents the culmination of a large, long-term beef cattle genetics research project in northern Australia which was a key initiative of the Beef Cooperative Research Centre (Beef CRC) over two terms. It represented a very significant commitment of scientific and industry resources. The publication continues the close association between *Animal Production Science* (CSIRO PUBLISHING) and the Beef CRC in disseminating scientific knowledge of the highest quality to domestic and international audiences.

The papers presented report various aspects of lifetime female reproductive performance in tropical beef genotypes. This follows the previous Special Issue, 'Genetics and Management to Improve Productivity in Australian Beef Herds' (<http://www.publish.csiro.au/nid/73/issue/5223.htm>), which included five papers from the early years of this project that described the genetics of steer production, heifer growth, adaptation and puberty. The increased understanding achieved across this spectrum of traits is likely to be fundamental to improvements in productivity and whole herd profitability of northern Australian beef cattle production systems.

The passing of two luminaries closely associated with project is recognised and is a huge loss to the Australian beef industry. Dr John Vercoe was a passionate scientist for tropical Australia, a CRC board and Advisory Committee member, and a key early supporter for the establishment of this research. Mr Zanda McDonald was an enthusiastic and innovative northern cattleman, an Industry Advisory Committee member, and was a keen supporter and cooperator in this project.

On behalf of researchers, technicians, students, project leaders, industry cooperators and the Beef CRC, I am proud and pleased to commend these unique and comprehensive research results to you. They provide a wealth of new knowledge on the genetics of female reproduction and selection implications for breeders to use to describe and quantify genetic differences in our tropical breed breeds. This will ultimately drive genetic improvement, enabling improved reproduction rates in commercial beef production systems in northern Australia.

David Johnston  
(Project Leader and Guest Editor)  
Animal Genetics and Breeding Unit  
University of New England  
Armidale, NSW 2351, Australia



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### Participants

Department of Primary Industries, NSW  
Department of Primary Industries, Victoria  
Meat and Livestock Australia  
Beef and Lamb New Zealand  
Queensland Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
Department for Primary Industries and Resources South Australia  
University of Adelaide  
University of New England  
University of Queensland

### Supporting Participants

Australian Lot Feeders' Association  
CSIRO Livestock Industries  
Cattle Council of Australia  
Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia  
Murdoch University  
National Livestock Research Institute, Korea  
Northern Pastoral Group of Companies  
The Ohio State University, USA

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