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 leaders, industry cooperators and the Beef CRC, I am proud and pleased to commend these unique and comprehensive research 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 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.

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Participants

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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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