

Angus Australia Policy Statement

Involvement of Angus Australia in Multibreed Genetic Evaluation

1. Angus Australia recognises the desire by some individual breeders and sectors of the industry, including MLA, to implement multi-breed genetic evaluation.
2. Angus Australia wishes to be positively engaged in industry discussions regarding future genetic evaluation options and developments, including multi-breed genetic evaluation.
3. Angus Australia will only contribute resources and/or participate in R&D aimed at achieving multi-breed genetic evaluation if it is clearly shown that the associated analytical model and proposed commercialisation pipeline will:
 - a. enhance the accuracy of estimated breeding values of animals recorded with Angus Australia, and thereby the predicted future rate of genetic improvement in the Angus breed;
 - b. not compromise Angus Australia's role in providing genetic evaluation services to Angus and Angus-influenced cattle (both seedstock and commercial);
 - c. not compromise the control, security and recognition of pedigree, performance and genomic information stored on Angus Australia's database;
 - d. not compromise the ability to participate in other genetic evaluations where Australian Angus animals are benchmarked with the global Angus gene pool; and,
 - e. not increase the cost of genetic evaluation.
4. Future adoption of multi-breed genetic evaluation by Angus Australia will be contingent on satisfactory evidence of any such evaluation offering equivalent or better utility for Angus Australia members compared to the current single-breed analysis, including the capacity to interface with international Angus genetic evaluations.
5. Rather than pursuing a specific focus on achieving involvement in multi-breed genetic evaluation, priority will be given to progressing current R&D initiatives to ensure Angus Australia is well placed to (a) meet the growing competition from other providers of genetic evaluation services, and (b) provide genetic evaluation services via alternative means if access to BREEDPLAN analytical software is not available under terms acceptable to Angus Australia.
6. This policy will be reviewed over time in response to R&D outcomes and technological developments in relation to multi-breed genetic evaluation.