

About the National Primary Industries RD&E Framework

The *National Primary Industries RD&E Framework* provides one mechanism to address the increasing gap between the demand for, and supply of, RD&E resources. A 2005 initiative of the Primary Industries Ministerial Council (PIMC), a body comprising all state, territory and federal ministers for primary industries, the framework provides a mechanism and impetus for all agricultural RD&E agencies to work more collaboratively in collating, and delivering on, the priority RD&E needs of agricultural industries.

The framework is underpinned by a set of collaborating principles to guide agencies in the prioritisation, sharing, redistribution and succession of RD&E capability and resources, and spans a total of fourteen sector-specific and seven cross-sector strategies. It provides a formal mechanism under which the collective needs and resources of public sector RD&E agencies, Research and Development Corporations (RDCs) and industry can be aligned, assessed, prioritised and delivered to stakeholders. Importantly, the National RD&E Framework will help amalgamate the historically disparate and fragmented interests and strategic priorities of contributing agencies into a set of common goals, against which infrastructure, IP and personnel can be apportioned and shared efficiently.

The *National Beef Production RD&E Strategy* is one of the first of twenty one strategies to be completed under the RD&E Framework, and represents the first ever formal alignment of the various RD&E priorities and needs of all national and state RD&E agencies, Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) and industry groups, including Cattle Council of Australia (CCA), State Farm Organisations (SFOs), and grass roots beef producers (Figure 5).

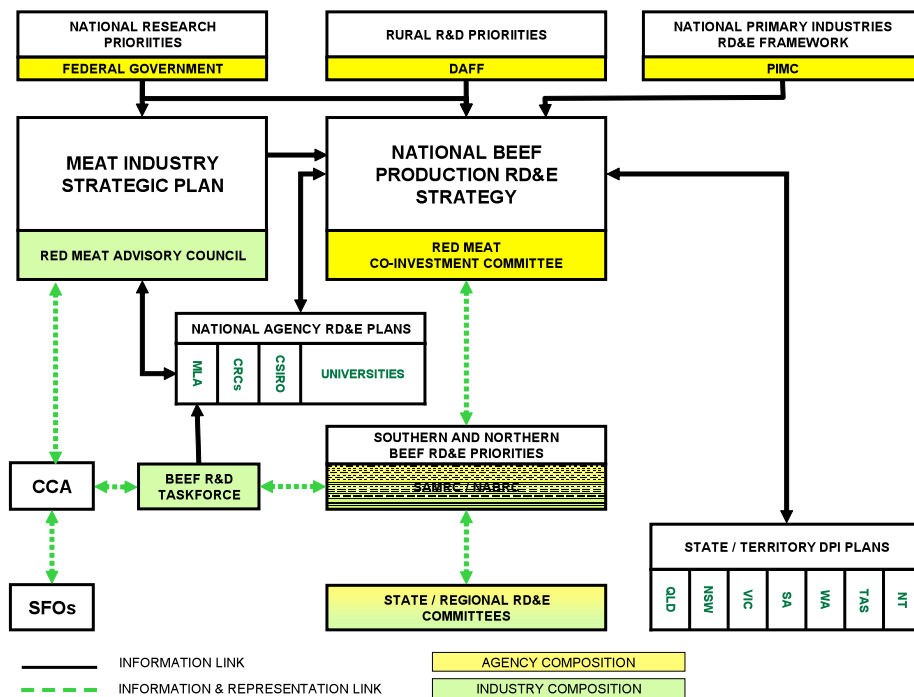


Figure 5 – The *National Beef Production RD&E Strategy* provides a central framework for combing and aligning the RD&E priorities, resource needs and capability of federal and state agencies, Meat and Livestock Australia and industry.

Implementing the National Beef Production RD&E Strategy

In implementing the *National Beef Production RD&E Strategy*, contributing agencies will be assigned roles to manage major RD&E programs, based on their capacity to co-ordinate and/or deliver research, development and extension at a national, regional and local level, respectively. Accordingly, the strategy provides mechanisms for a more collaborative approach to modelling and determining the highest priority RD&E investment areas, significantly greater sharing and alignment of resources and information, and a more standardised approach to monitoring and reporting on progress to industry.

Importantly, the National Beef Production RD&E Strategy represents a practical example of effective collaboration between government and industry. In developing the strategy and representing the strategic RD&E interests of the southern and northern beef industries respectively, the North Australia Beef Research Council (NABRC) and its recently revamped southern equivalent, the Southern Australia Meat Research Council (SAMRC), have provided a pivotal role in collating RD&E ideas from grass roots producers and facilitating linkages between the RD&E provider sector and Cattle Council of Australia (CCA). The close working relationship that NABRC and SAMRC share with CCA has also provided a relatively seamless mechanism to align CCA's RD&E imperatives under the Meat Industry Strategic Plan with those of federal and state agencies, and MLA.

The Southern Australia Meat Research Council (SAMRC)

Like its northern beef equivalent, NABRC, the newly devised dual sheepmeat/southern beef platform of the Southern Australia Meat Research Council (SAMRC) will provide an important contribution to livestock RD&E in Australia.

With a formalised role under the *National Beef and Sheepmeat Production RD&E Strategies*, SAMRC is a key industry-agency forum that assists in determining and advising on the strategic requirements for sheepmeat and southern beef RD&E, including in education and training.

Both SAMRC and NABRC act as the central consultative councils comprising all major red meat RD&E agencies and educational institutions (DPIs, CSIRO, CRCs and universities) and producer representatives from applicable states and territories.

SAMRC and NABRC liaise closely with the CCA and the Sheepmeat Council of Australia, and provide a source of independent, apolitical advice on RD&E matters to support policy development by these prescribed bodies.

While the true success of this strategy will only be revealed in the fullness of time, it is already apparent that the processes and principles that sit within it will provide a new way of doing business for all RD&E providers and a template for more effective and efficient use of RD&E funds across the beef industry.

Within and beyond the National RD&E Framework, NABRC and SAMRC look forward to working with CCA to provide the essential links between industry and RD&E agencies; this is a pivotal relationship in ensuring the collation and delivery of RD&E outputs and capability that will help deliver profitability, competitiveness and sustainability to the Australian beef industry.

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