



AUSTRALIAN CHICKEN MEAT FEDERATION INC.

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Industry Position Statement on Genetically Modified Feed

Definitions and Scope

'Genetic modification' is a method of developing plants or animals with desired traits, usually by transferring a sequence of DNA into a plant or animal in which it does not naturally occur.

'Selective breeding' is a method of developing plants or animals with desired traits by breeding an animal that has a desirable trait with another of the same trait, so that the desired trait is reinforced. This method, sometimes called conventional breeding, has been practiced for thousands of years.

Situation Analysis and Background

All the chickens grown in Australia have been produced through selective breeding. As there are no genetically modified chickens in Australia, consumers are not eating GM food when eating chicken meat.

Some consumers are concerned that some ingredients of livestock feed may come from genetically modified plants or microbes and that they may indirectly be eating genetically modified food when eating a chicken whose feed included a GM ingredient.

As with any type of feed, the chicken's digestion process breaks these ingredients down. **Compared to feed from conventionally-bred sources, they do not affect the composition of chicken meat in any way. There is no difference in the meat.**

Livestock feed ingredients that **may** have been derived from genetically modified plants or microbes include:

- Soybean meal and maize
- Cottonseed and cottonseed meal
- Amino acids
- Feed enzymes
- Vitamins

Policy Statements on Genetically Modified Feed:

The Australian chicken meat industry endorses the findings of regulators and the broader scientific community that the use of genetically modified animal feed does not represent a safety concern for consumers.

However in recognition of the concerns of some consumers, Australia's four largest chicken meat processors, representing over 85% of chicken meat production, have **committed to using their best endeavours to source non-GM ingredients for their feed**. Feed must meet quality standards, be available in substantial quantities and be economically sustainable.