



NORTHERN TERRITORY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Media Release

Thursday 9th June 2011

Rapid Accreditation of Live Export Chain Critical to Northern Australia

The NT Cattlemen's Association warns rapid, on ground action in Indonesia by the federal government is critical to limit the devastating impacts of the government decision to suspend live export.

"Our industry is committed to banning animal cruelty, not live export," NTCA President Rohan Sullivan said.

"After only 24 hours the suspension of live exports to Indonesia has sent a tremor through northern Australia and will cut deep and fast into the lives and businesses of producers, contractors, agents, product suppliers, exporters and their families. The music has stopped, the northern industry and its cattle are now caught in limbo with no way forward and no way back.

There are tens of thousands of cattle now along the path from property to market. This is not to mention the hundreds of thousands of head in paddocks, currently, or about to be mustered and awaiting weaning; and the sale cattle which need to be removed to preserve pasture reserves. A switch has been flicked and we are now entering dangerous and uncharted territory," said Mr Sullivan.

"A stone has been cast into the pond and the ripple effect will pervade the cattle markets of southern and eastern Australia, driving down prices paid to cattle farmers.

"While we have been focussed on the welfare of our animals we must now expand focus to the welfare and wellbeing of our families, regional communities and industry

"While the NTCA is mindful of the grounds for the government decision we must have focus on fixing the current welfare issues and getting the trade operating fast". Mr Sullivan said the industry stood firm on their cattle's welfare as a top priority and the entire supply chain must now be assessed and suitable facilities accredited by independent and credible inspectors from Australia and Indonesia so as to guarantee that each animal travels through a closed system to the final point of slaughter, using the standards that we as Australian producers and the general public find acceptable.

"We just need to be assured that the Federal Government will institute this without delay and systems which already exist are accredited," he said.

The NTCA has warned that the suspension of trade will also have a devastating effect on Indonesian families who rely on the income from working in and supplying feed and services to the feedlots and the cattle from Australia, to feed their families.

Mr Sullivan also cautioned that a strong partnership be maintained during this period between the Australian and Indonesian Governments, because agreement on the resumption of trade needs to be bilateral.

'Advancing and protecting the interests of the cattle producers in the Northern Territory'



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Before Minister Ludwig's trade suspension announcement, a number of producers in the Northern Territory had decided to adopt a 'no stun, no deal' policy for their cattle, seeking a supply chain assurance where they only supply cattle to abattoirs that guarantee the animals are rendered unconscious by stunning before they are killed.

Background information:

The Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association is the peak primary industry group in the Northern Territory representing over 90% of the Territory's cattle herd. With over 220 pastoral leases, our industry manages a landmass in excess of 620,000 square kilometres and a herd of over 2.1 million head. Annual turnoff is around 600,000 head to live-export and domestic markets.

The pastoral industry is the Northern Territory's third largest GDP earner, accounting for more than 50% of primary production in the NT and generating over \$400 million in direct income. In 2010, over 300,000 cattle were exported live through the Port of Darwin. Live cattle exports are of critical importance to the northern pastoral industry and the northern Territory economy as a whole.

The industry directly provides in excess of 1800 jobs, mainly in rural areas of the Northern Territory. By area, employment and economic contribution the pastoral industry is the dominant industry in land management in the NT, with a predominant focus on long-term sustainable production. Over 85% of all NTCA members are active participants in Conservation, Environmental and Landcare groups throughout the Northern Territory and the Association encourages members to join their local groups.

NTCA members include all of the country's largest beef producers including the Australian Agricultural Company (AACo), Consolidated Pastoral Company (CPC), S Kidman & Co, Heytesbury Beef, North Australian Pastoral Company (NAPCO), Georgina Pastoral Company, The Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) and Paraway. These companies operations extend beyond the Northern Territory to cover vast tracts of northern, eastern and western Australia.

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