



NORTHERN TERRITORY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Media Release

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Lifting the Ban brings relief tinged with fear

The NT Cattlemen's Association applauds Minister Ludwig's decision to lift the live cattle trade suspension but cautions that the cash flow crisis facing northern producers may take more than a year to overcome.

NTCA president, Rohan Sullivan said that while the news is a great relief, the reality is that there is a great deal of work that needs to be done in Indonesia before the trade returns to some kind of normality.

Mr Sullivan has just returned from Indonesia as part of a joint NT Government and industry delegation.

"There are about 25 abattoirs that are being upgraded to meet the new standards required for us to export cattle, which is about a third of the facilities that normally take cattle," Mr Sullivan said.

"We call on both the federal and state governments to assist MLA in upgrading the rest of the facilities and train the Indonesian abattoir workers.

"We also need to be mindful that the cattle that are shipped into Indonesia will spend 90 days or more in a feedlot before they go to the abattoir, so during that period we must ramp up our investment and human effort into the upgrades and training."

Mr Sullivan said that cattle numbers leaving northern ports for Indonesia will be restricted for some time, which translates to continuing financial stress for producers waiting for cattle sales.

"There is no financial quick fix," Mr Sullivan said.

"Our best hope is for a strong and determined focus by industry and Government on getting the work done in Indonesia."

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 two 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.

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



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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.

Enquiries: Jo Brosnan 0448 656 668