



NORTHERN TERRITORY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Media Release

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PETERSEN DOESN'T DESERVE ABUSE

NT Cattleman's Association Executive Director Luke Bowen today applauded live export critic Dr Patricia Petersen's decision to travel to the Northern Territory early this week to learn more about the trade but was appalled at the subsequent abuse she has received from animal rights activists.

Dr Petersen, who is an independent candidate in Queensland had organised a protest rally in June against the trade, spent the last few days meeting with Northern Territory cattle producers and discussing the trade.

Dr Petersen said that she has received a death threat via a text message and intimidating emails from animal rights activists after she told an ABC radio journalist that she would consider changing her view of the trade based on what she had learned from her visit this week.

"I think Dr Petersen did the right thing by personally investigating an industry that she had previously tried to destroy, and she should not be subject to this type of threatening behaviour," Mr Bowen said.

"She travelled to the Territory and met with industry members, including myself, completely under her own steam and at her own expense; because she believed it was the right thing to do. Regardless of her views now or in the future we respect her for her decision to visit".

"Unfortunately for our producers, very few activists and politicians that have taken a stand against live export have never set foot in Northern Australia or the Territory and have limited to no knowledge of the trade".

"it's quite astounding and concerning to see the high degree of control animal rights organisations and activists are applying to the hearts and minds of people within their own ranks. If this was really about a balanced view then it would be sensible take a leaf out of Dr Petersen's book rather than attack her," Mr Bowen said.

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

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 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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