



Your ref:

Our ref: TRA026/37050

Enquiries: C Kleiman

Attn Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Rural Affairs and Transport
P O Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Heffernan

RE: Inquiry - Animal Welfare Standards in Australia's Live Export Markets

The Broome Port Authority (BrPA) is one of two northern ports in Western Australia that regularly export live cattle, during the dry season from March to November each year. The cattle export industry is an important employer of labour and contributor to the economy of northern Australia.

BrPA's submission addresses issues related to point 2.a) *Impact on regional and remote employment especially in northern Australian* and point 3. *Other related matters* – that being the financial loss to the port with a downturn in live cattle exports.

2.a) BrPA employs 26 full-time and 45 casual employees, and the predominance of casuals reflects the seasonality of trade in northern Australia. BrPA has identified at least five employees who would lose their job as a direct result of the loss of the cattle trade. However, other casual stevedore staff, while receiving some work, would also suffer a loss in income due to less work being available. The loss of five staff employees raises the issue of the ability of BrPA to maintain our current service level in regard to ensuring safety and the ability to provide a 24/7 service to remaining clients.

3. The live cattle export trade accounted for 10 percent of BrPA's shipping revenue in 2009/10 (\$1.265M) and 13 percent in 2010/11 (\$1,395M). The loss of this percentage of trade for a port that does not enjoy a resources commodity export revenue base has a significant impact on the viability of port operations and the ability for BrPA to return a profit to the State Government.

While BrPA can only provide information on the impact on port trade, the port's employment situation and its financial viability, it is clear that losses from diminished cattle exports would have an adverse impact across the general community. The far north of Western Australia is sparsely populated with few

towns and the cattle export industry likely sustains much of the isolated regional workforce..

The ability for the pastoral industry to diversify, while also operating sustainably, brings to question whether regional pastoralists might remain profitable and if not, there arises the possibility that leasehold land would revert back to the State Government to manage.

Yours faithfully

Capt. Vic Justice
CEO

11 AUGUST 2011