

Bio-note

Val Dyer and her family have, since 1974, owned and managed Hayfield and Shenandoah Stations, situated between Daly Waters and Elliott on the border of the Katherine and Barkly regions. These stations have a combined area of 4,500 sq km and run a herd of approx 17,000 Brahman cattle. More recently members of her family have also taken over Helimuster (NT), a major helicopter company based in the VRD.

Val was originally a teacher and was at one time Deputy Principal of the Katherine Area School. She later completed an honours degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of New England.

Val has been active in industry and community organisations, notably the NT Cattlemen's Association where she is a past president, the Cattle Council of Australia, the Isolated Children and Parents Association, and more recently as a Director of the Bendigo Community Bank franchise. She received the inaugural NT Rural Woman of the year award in 1995.

Val is now engaged in ensuring a successful transfer of the management of her family company to the next generation, and remains involved in the continued success and development of the cattle industry and of its people which has been a passion for so long.

To Whom It May Concern

In response to terms of Reference

1

There has, over the past 10 years, been a widening gap in communication and direct on the ground contact between producers and exporters as exporters have left cattle buying to agents. This has reduced the market intelligence of producers and disappointingly, the knowledge of some processing standards in Indonesia.

As a service provider to the beef industry, MLA has developed relationships and assisted with the introduction of improved processing standards in another country where there is no jurisdiction. In this area, MLA has performed well; in retrospect possibly a little tardy, although each sector became somewhat complacent in such a strong market

As producers, we pride ourselves on the animal welfare management of our herd and expect others to do the same. Unfortunately, even within Australia, this is varied.

Thankfully, Animal Welfare has improved dramatically during my 37 years experience as a producer, particularly in shipping conditions

There has been an enormous improvement in the transporting of cattle over the past 10 years, particularly in the innovative R&D funded by MLA, Governments and the private sector which has lead to the excellent quality of available shipping

Stunning in Indonesia is the ultimate goal which we can accelerate with AID and ensuring good public relations

2.

It is inevitable in an open, global economy that the competitive advantage that North Australia has, in breeding tropically adaptable cattle, together with the competitive advantage that Asian countries have in terms of animal feeding costs and labour costs will lead to a huge demand for live-cattle exports.

It would be advantageous for long-term relationships between Australia and Indonesia, that either (or both)

- AID money is used to assist the Indonesians to up-grade Indonesian Government owned facilities, particularly the large ones in Jakarta

Or advantageous in long-term relationships between Indonesian processors and Australian producers

- North Australian producers form a consortium to invest in a joint venture to ensure the speedy introduction of stunning (At NTCA Conference in March 2010, Indonesian representative flagged the idea of joint ventures)

The competitive advantage issues explain why we now wear clothes made in China, shoes from Thailand and source IT from India. We live in a global economy where it is necessary to invest resources into those industries that have a comparative and competitive edge in Australia, which provides the most efficient way of growing the country's wealth through exports, particularly in relation to the growing economy in Northern Australia and the flow-on effect to the general community. This flow on to development and employment would off-set the view that processing jobs will be lost

Thank you for the opportunity to submit

Val Dyer

APN Pty Ltd

Hayfield Station