

Dear Sir/Madam

**SUBMISSION TO INQUIRY INTO ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS IN AUSTRALIA'S
LIVE EXPORT MARKETS**

I write in response to the call for submissions to the above inquiry and refer particularly to the domestic economic impact of live exports.

The Local Government Association of the Northern Territory supports the continuation of the live cattle export trade largely because it is such a vital and significant part of the Northern Territory economy. With so much land in the Northern Territory devoted to beef production and much of it structured towards live cattle exports it would be disastrous for the Territory's regional economies if the trade was to be in any way further suspended or hindered.

The Association considers that the trade is integral to most of the Northern Territory's regions including the cities of Darwin and Palmerston whose infrastructure and services support the trade's operations through the port of Darwin. The widespread nature of the trade in the Northern Territory means it impacts on all regions be it in terms of employment, business servicing or overall regional development. It is a crucial industry for the Northern Territory and now that animal welfare issues in Indonesia appear to be largely resolved the Association would like to see the industry recover from its setbacks so that it can continue to support regional development in the Northern Territory.

Tony Tapsell

CEO

Local Government Association of the NT