



two ways :: one outcome

Central Desert Shire Council

Phone 1300 360 605

Fax 08 89589501

Email info@centraldesert.nt.gov.au

Location 1 Bagot Street Alice Springs

Post PO Box 2257 Alice Springs NT 0871

Web www.centraldesert.nt.gov.au

22 July 2011

Ms. Jeanette Radcliffe

Committee Secretary
Senate standing Committee on Rural
Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Jeannette,

Re: Australia's Live Export Markets

Council at a Special Meeting held on 24 June 2011 discussed at length the serious situation that has arisen over live cattle exports to Indonesia.

Council resolved to write to Senator Joe Ludwig Minister for Agriculture, The Hon Warren Snowdown Member for Lingiari, The Hon John Cobb Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Senator Nigel Scullion, The Hon Paul Henderson Northern Territory Chief Minister, Allison Anderson Member for MacDonnell and Karl Hampton Member for Stuart:

1. Raising Council's concerns that the blanket live cattle export ban to Indonesia is adversely impacting on the financial position of pastoralists, and
2. Seeking immediate resumption of live cattle exports to complying abattoirs in Indonesia.

Council also has written to all pastoralists within the Shire advising them of Council's Rates Hardship Policy.

Whilst some action has been taken to overcome the pastoralists' plight it is happening far too slowly.

Council recognises that inhumane practices to cattle are unacceptable,

however, is genuinely concerned that the economic value of the cattle industry is being ignored by the Federal Government and members of the public whose opposition appears to be emotive.

Many of the pastoralists in the Shire have conducted their businesses for several generations and have made a considerable contribution to regional economies, particularly in providing "real jobs" for Council's indigenous constituents.

Council is appalled that pastoralists are being treated in such an unfair manner and strongly believes that their plight needs to be overcome urgently and they need to receive strong support.

Unfortunately, it appears to Council that the Federal Government is too busy listening to the emotive "do gooders" and not showing anywhere near the required support for an extremely important industry.

On the other hand, Council also supports any measures to improve animal welfare in the destination countries.

Yours Faithfully,

Roydon Robertson
Chief Executive Officer