



Cattle exports to Indonesia: WA industry update

13 September 2011

Western Australian cattle exports to Indonesia have recommenced since the lifting of the suspension, with shipments from Broome and Wyndham ports.

Department of Agriculture and Food staff have spoken with many Pilbara and Kimberley pastoralists since mid-August regarding their current situation, intent to export to Indonesia and other markets, and intent to apply for assistance measures under the Australian Government's Live Exports Assistance Package. The feedback received was that while most businesses have carried out mustering programs, there have been some significant delays in mustering as a result of the Indonesian market situation. Some cattle are now too heavy for the Indonesian market, exceeding the 350kg weight restrictions and will have to go to alternative markets. A number of Kimberley and Pilbara businesses have applied for financial assistance and others have indicated they are in the process of applying. Many producers raised concerns about the long term future of the live export trade.

Agriculture and Food Minister Terry Redman is currently in Indonesia. The visit includes meetings with senior members of the Indonesian Government and industry leaders, and inspection of supply chain facilities. The delegation includes a representative from the Department of Agriculture and Food, and WA Livestock Exporters' Association.

Assistance available for businesses

A reminder that Australian Government assistance for businesses directly affected by the recent suspension of live animal exports to Indonesia is available but applications for some components close on 30 September 2011. This includes:

1. Business Assistance Payment of \$5000,
2. Business Hardship Payment of \$20 000.

Payments can be used to cover any normal business expense.

More information is available from the Australian Government Assistance Line on **1800 808 869** or www.liveexports.gov.au/assistance

Transport

Special livestock transport permit arrangements due to expire at the end of August have been extended by the State Government to allow a continuation of cattle movement from WA's north to southern destinations. The special permit enables pastoralists to move their cattle on triple road trains as far south as Regans Ford for agistment and processing. The permit has been extended to 30 November 2011 when any further need for it will be reassessed.

Senate Inquiry in Broome

Hearings as part of the Senate Inquiry into animal welfare standards in Australia's live export markets took place in Broome recently. The Senate Standing Committee on Rural Affairs and Transport heard from Agriculture and Food Minister Terry Redman, industry groups, pastoralists, exporters, and others. The reporting date is 21 September 2011. More information is available from the following link http://www.apf.gov.au/senate/committee/rat_ctte/live_exports_2011