



CATTLE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

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Farm Finance package a step in the right direction

Cattle Council of Australia president, Andrew Ogilvie, today welcomed in-principle the Australian Government's announcement of the Farm Finance package.

Mr Ogilvie acknowledged that the measures were a positive step in the right direction, but was cautious as to whether the scale of the measures was enough to have a broad impact in the sector. He also flagged that there was still plenty of work to be done in addressing some of the fundamental policy issues contributing to the current situation.

"Australia's Grassfed Beef Sector, like many other agricultural industries, is facing mounting challenges in the face of the high Australian Dollar, increasing input costs, mounting debt levels and adverse seasonal conditions."

"Cattle Council welcomes the announcement of the Farm Finance package. Any measure that offers producers greater flexibility in their businesses, as well as allowing access to assistance, will be beneficial."

"However," Mr Ogilvie hastens to add "the issues producers are facing are long-term and can only be addressed through the development of strategies and policy that allow farmers to better manage on-farm debt, as well as developing viable domestic and international markets that will help producers to work through the tough times."

"The Cattle Council will continue to work closely with the National Farmers' Federation on these issues."

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