



CATTLE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Emissions research must deliver practical outcome

Cattle Council of Australia welcomes the Federal Government's recent commitment to explore the options available to agriculture to reduce its methane emissions and investigate the benefits of soil carbon storage, contributing \$28.8 million and \$32 million respectively into shared research funding.

"Both research initiatives serve to feed into the design of appropriate policies for beef producers in accounting for their greenhouse gas emissions while improving productivity and profitability," said Greg Brown President of the Cattle Council of Australia.

The government has recognised the importance of the beef sector in being part of the solution to managing the global affects of greenhouse gas emissions without compromising the sector's productivity.

"The government cannot forget the importance of productivity to Australia's beef industry and the world's food security. Australia is one of the world's most efficient producers of cattle and the world's second largest exporter of beef," said Mr Brown.

The direct and indirect cost of a Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) to producers is the number one concern Cattle Council has regarding the government's policy to reduce carbon pollution. Recent research undertaken by the Australian Farm Institute warned losses to the farming sector would balloon to \$10.9 billion by 2030, driven by production declines of more than 25 per cent in the beef and wool industries. Furthermore, the issue of 'leakage' remains a concern for the beef industry as production capacity will potentially move toward those countries that have not mandated a CPRS.

Only last month, Cattle Council convened a meeting with stakeholders and research specialists to determine the key areas for further research in developing a viable climate change policy for beef producers.

"We are hopeful that the government's research will address the key areas that were identified at the Cattle Council meeting which included the accurate measurement, verification and mitigation of methane emissions; carbon mitigation policies that sustain international competitiveness; complementary policies that account for the whole carbon cycle and issues surrounding the point of obligation in the supply chain.

Cattle Council is lobbying for changes to the international accounting rules leading up to a global agreement on emission targets in Copenhagen at the end of this year. This will potentially deliver a framework that recognises producers' positive contribution on-farm. Recognising that the government has ratified an international agreement on climate change and hence is committed to introducing carbon pollution reduction policy, it is best that the beef industry, through Cattle Council is at the table fighting for producers.

"We will work towards ensuring the Federal Government remains vigilant when it comes to putting the research findings into a practical application for producers' to further advance their productivity," Mr Brown concluded.

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