



CATTLE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

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Cattle Council Welcomes Quarantine Review

The Cattle Council of Australia has welcomed the announcement by Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Tony Burke, that a comprehensive and independent review into quarantine and biosecurity will be undertaken.

President of the Cattle Council of Australia, Mr Bill Bray, has welcomed this announcement, recognising that this is a key election commitment of the Rudd Government.

"Australia's export-reliant \$13 billion beef industry is well placed internationally given our freedom from the trade restrictive animal diseases that have affected other countries. Hence, robust and effective biosecurity and quarantine systems are critically important for Australian agriculture," Mr Bray said.

"It is pleasing to see that the review will be conducted by an independent panel of experts, all of whom have an excellent track-record of developing and implementing agricultural policy in Australia.

In announcing the review, the Minister has also released the Terms of Reference that the expert panel must address in their report, due 31 July 2008.

"As outlined in the terms of reference, the issues of quarantine agency resourcing, incursion response mechanisms and Australia's science-based risk policy are all of particular interest to the beef cattle industry. It is also prudent that the review team has been tasked with consulting international stakeholders.

"The Cattle Council looks forward to the opportunity to engage in this important review," Mr Bray concluded.

Ends – For further information contact Bill Bray, President, Cattle Council of Australia on 0429 307 561 or David Inall, Executive Director, Cattle Council of Australia on 0418 165 340.

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