



CATTLE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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Burke's visit strengthens ties with Australia's largest cattle export market

Australia's Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, The Hon. Tony Burke, visited Indonesia last week and met with his ministerial counterparts, other government officials and the trade.

Minister Burke was accompanied on his visit by a trade delegation including; Cattle Council of Australia President Bill Bray, Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) Chairman Don Heatley and Australian Livestock Exporters' Council CEO Lach MacKinnon.

Minister Burke visited a 22,000 head cattle feedlot as well as meeting other members of the Indonesian feedlot industry.

"Australia's partnership with Indonesia is vital to our northern cattle industry", said Cattle Council President Bill Bray. "This trip has given Minister Burke the opportunity to see the complementary nature of the trade where Australian cattle are delivered to Indonesia, value added through further feeding and the creation of jobs in local communities.

Bill Bray said he was greatly encouraged by Minister Burke's support and comments about the significance of the live export trade for both the Australian and Indonesian economies and communities. He also noted that there is a great deal of enthusiasm among live cattle importers with many undertaking feedlot expansion to accommodate increasing consumer demand for beef.

"Indonesia is importing 72% of our export cattle into local feedlots, providing a valuable market for our livestock and contributing \$341 million in export dollars to our economy."

In 2007 Indonesia imported 520,000 Australian cattle, a 34% increase on 2006.

"2007 was a record year for live cattle exports to Indonesia," Mr Bray added. "Our cattle exports to Indonesia continue to strengthen, and for the first half of 2008 we have seen a further 10% increase in volume to Indonesia."

This increase is attributed to Indonesia's GDP growth of 6.3% from high global commodity prices and the continued expansion of the Indonesian feedlot sector into regional areas of Sumatra.

The Australian livestock export industry invests \$1.6 million annually into research and development to improve animal welfare. In Indonesia, Australian industry provides in-market assistance including animal handling workshops, retailer programs in local markets, infrastructure improvements and nutrition and livestock management advice.

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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