



CATTLE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

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Cattle Council of Australia welcomes Federal Budget

The Cattle Council of Australia (CCA) has welcomed the increased funding for land transport, biosecurity and environmental stewardship announced in last night's Federal Budget.

Cattle Council Acting President Greg Brown said that the Budget has delivered funding that supports further growth of Australia's beef cattle industry.

"We are an industry that is heavily reliant on land transport and on environmental initiatives that will sustain our industry into the future", Mr Brown said.

The Federal Government's \$22.3 billion funding of Auslink II represents a 41% increase in expenditure for the program in 2009-2014.

"As Australia's number one rural exporter, the beef industry has a great deal to gain out of this investment into better roads and an enhanced national network of road and rail."

"The \$250 million commitment to strategic regional transport projects this year, with a further \$300 million allocated over the next five years recognises the importance of improved infrastructure throughout rural Australia."

Mr Brown said the Cattle Council has also welcomed the \$12.7 million funding allocated to prepare Australia for national animal disease emergency.

"This is a critical step toward protecting biosecurity of Australia's beef industry. An increase in the resources for assessing and managing risk allows us to build robust structures which ensure the rigour of Australia's quarantine system by improving the Import Risk Analysis process."

Mr Brown said that the Environmental Stewardship Program would allow farmers to be recognised and supported for going above and beyond their normal duty of care in safeguarding the environment.

"Beef producers manage 48 per cent of Australia's landmass, and this program will give farmers the recognition they deserve when it comes to delivering tangible benefits to the environment," he said.

"The beef industry is committed to appropriate natural resource management and use, and has made a tremendous contribution to environmental management. We welcome the environmental stewardship initiatives that will help us to improve that position."

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For further information contact Greg Brown on (07) 4097 1443 or Selena Jensen at Pegasus Communications on (03) 9329 7369.

REPRESENTING AUSTRALIAN CATTLE PRODUCERS SINCE 1979

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