

# CATTLE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

## MEDIA RELEASE

MR 15/07

13 July 2007

### **NLIS shows its value as state traceability systems improve**

The recently released results of Cowcatcher 2 demonstrate that the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) has become an integral part of the national livestock traceability systems in all states, leading to a significant improvement in the nation's capacity to trace and track cattle says the Cattle Council of Australia.

"The state-run cattle traceability systems are showing marked improvements from the Cowcatcher 1 exercise run in 2004" says Cattle Council President Bill Bray.

In May this year almost 99% of the cattle involved in Cowcatcher 2 were traced back to their property of birth, up from 75% in the 2004 results of Cowcatcher 1.

Mr Bray says that the improvement is as a result of NLIS now being implemented in all States, and the jurisdictions having access to superior records through the NLIS database.

All states and territories in Australia have adopted the NLIS over different periods since 2004. It is a national system with a database managed by Meat and Livestock Australia.

"The States' Property Identification Code (PIC) registers, and the links between the PIC, its owner and its geographical position, are vital in tracking and tracing, as is the NLIS database," Mr Bray says.

"That is why all states and territories and the Hon Minister McGauran, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry have good reason to be proud of the results of Cowcatcher 2.

"It has confirmed the findings of Cowcatcher 1 and proves that the NLIS is streets ahead of the old tail-tag system."

This year, almost 100% of the cattle selected for the exercise were registered on the NLIS database, so there is little surprise in the improved results.

"We have a national traceability system that is the envy of many of the world's major beef producing nations, and the success of the progressive implementation of this system throughout the states is a credit to our industry."

Ends

For further information contact Bill Bray, President, Cattle Council of Australia on 0429 307 561 or Selena Jensen at Pegasus Communications on (03) 9329 7369.

**Representing Australian Cattle Producers Since 1979**

Cattle Council of Australia Inc. (A2929)

PO Box E10 KINGSTON ACT 2604 Ph: 02 6273 3688 Fax: 02 6273 2397

