



## CATTLE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

# MEDIA RELEASE

MR 10/06

9 May 2006

### **Cattle Council of Australia welcomes Federal Budget**

The Cattle Council of Australia (CCA) has welcomed tonight's Federal Budget, in particular the announcement of extra funding for the nation's rural roads and highways.

Rural roads received a one-off cash injection of \$307.5 million over three years under the *Roads to Recovery Project*. This forms part of the *AusLink Program*, which allocates a total of \$2.3 billion towards the upgrade of transport infrastructure.

CCA President, Bill Bray, said the Australian beef industry is a significant contributor to the Australian economy and is heavily reliant on road transport.

"Commonsense has prevailed, and the Cattle Council congratulates the Federal Government and the Federal Minister for Transport and Regional Services, Warren Truss, on this announcement," Mr Bray said.

"Beef is the number one rural export, and improving access to the national transport system will enhance the industry's export opportunities."

Mr Bray said the Cattle Council also welcomed the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Peter McGauran's foreshadowing of the Environmental Stewardship Program, which was proposed by the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) in their Pre-Budget submission.

Announced prior to the Budget, farmers would be recognised and supported for going above and beyond their normal duty of care in safeguarding the environment.

Mr Bray, who is a strong advocate of the value of environmental assurance, said the beef industry is committed to appropriate natural resource management and use, and has made a tremendous contribution to environmental management.

"Beef production is carried out over around 48 per cent of Australia's landmass, and this program will finally give farmers the recognition they deserve when it comes to looking after the environment," Mr Bray said.

Mr Bray said the allocation of an extra \$16 million over four years to continue preparing Australia for a major national animal disease emergency was good news for the beef industry.

"Protecting the disease free status of our multi billion-dollar beef industry is of paramount importance and the Government has shown tonight their continued strong commitment to this area," Mr Bray said.

**Further information:** Bill Bray, 0429 307 561.

**Released by:** Sally Brown, Pegasus Communications, (03) 9329 5169

**REPRESENTING AUSTRALIAN CATTLE PRODUCERS SINCE 1979**

Cattle Council of Australia Incorporated (A2929)

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

E-mail: [cca@cattlecouncil.com.au](mailto:cca@cattlecouncil.com.au) Web: [www.cattlecouncil.com.au](http://www.cattlecouncil.com.au)

