



CATTLE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

MR 11/06

12 May 2006

Extra funding boost to secure disease free reputation

Extra funding for pest and disease preparedness has been welcomed by Australia's peak producer organisation representing beef cattle producers.

Announced by Federal Minister for Agriculture, The Hon. Peter McGauran, in this week's Federal Budget, Cattle Council of Australia (CCA) President, Bill Bray, said the \$16 million over four years would continue to assist Australian beef producers in maintaining their disease free reputation.

"The allocation of \$10 million towards the Enhancing Animal Health Infrastructure Program will assist in capacity building for the early detection of an emergency animal disease," Mr Bray said.

"Funding will also assist in educating industry in what to do in the case of an outbreak.

"If people know what to do in the instance of an outbreak, disruption to the trade of Australian livestock and products will be kept to a minimum."

Mr Bray said the allocation within the package of \$6 million over four years for Biosecurity Australia to undertake more on-the-ground quarantine import risk assessments, and verify a greater number of import proposals and processes, was a step in the right direction for the Australian beef industry.

"The Cattle Council supports the current science-based approach to imports," Mr Bray said.

"Any country that seeks to export beef to Australia must be required to demonstrate that it has systems and measures in place to ensure its beef is safe and free of any diseases which may threaten our industry."

Mr Bray thanked the Federal Government, in particular Minister McGauran, for their continued support of the Australian beef industry, and their assistance with animal health and biosecurity issues.

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

Further information: Bill Bray, 0429 307 561.

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

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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 Web: www.cattlecouncil.com.au

