



CATTLE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

MR 12/06

25 May 2006

Australia's BSE disease free status recognised internationally

Confirmation of Australia's BSE disease free status by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) recognises the successful firewalls that have been implemented to protect Australia's \$12 billion cattle industry.

Cattle Council of Australia (CCA) President, Bill Bray, said the Council and its members has dedicated significant resources to this issue and has worked closely with Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA), Animal Health Australia (AHA), the processing sector, and Federal and State Governments to address the BSE threat.

"BSE is one of the most important issues facing the Australian cattle industry, and a priority for the Cattle Council has been to ensure that we are doing everything possible to protect the industry from potentially devastating trade impacts of BSE," Mr Bray said.

Mr Bray said Australia has remained free of BSE as a result of good management.

"The work undertaken by the Cattle Council and others has built on a pre-emptive strategy which started nearly 40 years ago with the banning of all imported meat and bone meal, except from New Zealand, in 1967," Mr Bray said.

"This combined with other firewalls, such as the National BSE Surveillance Program, the banning of feeding ruminant products, other than milk, gelatin and tallow, to ruminant animals, and ongoing research and development has maintained, and will continue to maintain, Australia's freedom from BSE."

Mr Bray said the confirmation by the OIE will continue to boost Australia's access to international markets.

"Achieving greater market access for Australia beef in export markets is no easy task, particularly when beef is one of the most sensitive commodities traded globally," Mr Bray said.

"However, the prospects for sales of Australian beef remain bright. Our broad range of checks, balances, systems and procedures, coupled with a product that is safe and delicious, provides our customers with quality and confidence."

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