

# CATTLE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### TOP MARKS TO COALITION FROM AUSTRALIAN BEEF PRODUCERS

The Cattle Council of Australia has welcomed the Federal Budget as being one of the most positive on record for Australian beef producers. On top of the raft of broader economic measures designed to underpin exports and the wider economy, there were a number of announcements in the Federal Budget, which specifically underpin the future of the Australia's largest rural export commodity.

The Federal Budget included \$560 million over four years to continue the heightened state of preparedness of Australia's quarantine systems. Protecting the disease free status of our multi billion-dollar beef industry is of paramount importance and the Coalition has continued its strong commitment to this area.

Also of particular importance to the Australian beef industry was \$144 million to continue the 40% contribution to the cost of AQIS export fees. The Australian beef industry is heavily reliant on overseas markets, with over \$4 billion dollars in exports accounting for nearly 70% of Australia's total beef production. The continuation of this initiative will be of direct benefit to all Australian beef producers.

The Cattle Council is particularly delighted to see the Budget announcement of \$20 million to assist producers with the introduction of the National Livestock Identification Scheme (NLIS). This follows a commitment given by the Coalition during the Federal election, in response to a concerted campaign by the Cattle Council and its member organisations. The Cattle Council looks forward to working with the Federal Government over the coming weeks to finalise details of this important initiative.

The Cattle Council says that the Federal commitment of \$20 million for the NLIS, (including direct producer assistance) will dramatically turn up the heat on those States who have done nothing to assist producers with the introduction of the NLIS. The NLIS, by improving the traceability of Australian cattle, will not only benefit the entire beef industry, but consumers and the broader economy as well.

Tonight's Federal Budget has been a landmark for the Australian beef industry, as it contains a number of initiatives designed to safeguard vital assets. These include our disease free status, export competitiveness and the confidence of domestic and export consumers in the traceability and integrity of our beef.

Australian cattle producers have over \$120 billion invested in their industry, tonight's Federal Budget will help to safeguard this investment. The Cattle Council would like to congratulate the Minister and the Federal Government on not only delivering on their election commitments, but also continuing their commitment to the future of Australian beef producers.

**For more information – contact Bill Bray (CCA President) 0429 307 561 or Brett de Hayr (CCA Executive Director) on 0418 165 340 or 02 62 733 688**

**25  
YEARS**

**CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF REPRESENTING  
AUSTRALIAN CATTLE PRODUCERS**

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