



CATTLE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

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Beef benefits from \$20 million boost

The Australian Government's provision of \$20 million will provide a real benefit to the implementation and management of Australia's National Livestock Identification System (NLIS).

Cattle Council President Mr Bill Bray said, "The Cattle Council lobbied earnestly during the 2004 Federal Election for financial support to assist the on-the-ground implementation of the NLIS. We applauded the Coalition's announcement of \$20 million, and since their Election win have been working closely with the Howard/Anderson Government to develop a mechanism whereby these funds will be truly effective."

"The allocation of \$15 million to the cattle industry will provide a tremendous boost as the NLIS is rolled out across the nation. The announcement could not be more timely in fact, with the NLIS becoming mandatory across every state as of 1st July.

"Allocating the funds on a state-by-state basis recognises the fact that each state is at a different point in their implementation of the NLIS, and for that reason there could be no such thing as a one-size-fits-all package. Each will be able to tailor the allocation to address the avenues and strategies most necessary to drive and further enhance the NLIS in their individual state."

"A key feature of this package is the establishment of a national committee which will review all state applications and ensure they meet the criteria set by the Minister; the most important being that the funds are predominantly directed toward cattle producers and that the applications also incorporate matching funding from the state/territory governments."

"We appreciate Minister Truss's openness in working with Cattle Council on this issue. The Government has illustrated its support for the NLIS which will assist the industry in meeting domestic and international expectations regarding the safety and integrity of our products while also being an important tool to assist in the containment of exotic animal diseases", Mr Bray concluded.

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REPRESENTING AUSTRALIAN CATTLE PRODUCERS SINCE 1979

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