

June 1 2011

Cattle Council statements.

Private members Bill (Andrew Wilkie and Nick Xenophon)

Cattle Council does not support banning the trade to Indonesia as we believe this would only lead to worse outcomes overall both in Indonesia and Australia. It is clear that we must invest more to improve the welfare outcomes for our cattle and additional involvement from the Government is welcomed. Cattle Council is supportive of a consolidation of facilities in Indonesia that are processing Australian cattle. There are abattoirs in Indonesia that are meeting high standards and now we must accelerate the adoption of stunning of cattle prior to slaughter. It is important that Government works with industry to carefully consider all options that are in the best interests of the animals and the people of this nation, particularly those living in rural and remote Australia.

Minister's announcement

Cattle Council supports the Minister's announcement that Australian cattle should be banned from those abattoirs shown to be abusing cattle. While we have not seen all of the footage and we are unclear as to all of the facilities involved, we respect his decision. We welcome the independent review as announced by the Government and we look forward to constructively engaging in this process as soon as possible. The industry-initiated restraining box program in Indonesia expanded as the export trade to Indonesia grew. We must now significantly upgrade the welfare support program that is delivered in Indonesia to ensure the safety of the Cattle that we send them.