



CATTLE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

COMMUNIQUE

Committees and Board meeting 13-14 August 2020

Cattle producers from around the country met online for Cattle Council of Australia's (CCA) committee meetings in July and August 2020 followed by a meeting of the CCA Board on 13-14 of August. Key policies were progressed on trade with the UK and EU, climate metrics, pest and disease management, industry integrity systems and participation in development of the Australian Government's Farm Biodiversity Stewardship Program. In summary:

- CCA agreed to new principles for negotiating Free Trade Agreements with the United Kingdom and European Union including the pursuit of preferential market access in both markets.
- CCA noted reviews were imminent for both the Western Australian and National Johne's Disease Management programs and would provide input to both reviews.
- CCA agreed to work with the Federal Government, researchers, local communities and other stakeholders to develop a National Feral Pig Action Plan at a roundtable of peak industry councils in September.
- CCA will continue to actively support the Australian Government's Agriculture Biodiversity Stewardship Program and will engage as a key stakeholder as beef producers care for nearly 80% of Australia's agricultural land.
- The Board agreed CCA will continue to lead the national conversation around using climate metrics that better reflect the impact of animal agriculture, including the potential use of the Global Warming Potential – Star (GWP*) model. The Board also noted CCA had experienced some success in bringing the issue to the attention of the Federal Government and other industry bodies.
- CCA agreed to the following overarching key principles for Research, Development & Adoption for the grassfed sector:
 - Increase adoption outcomes at the producer level
 - Diversify funding streams for research
 - Increase investment in research, development and adoption
 - Increase capacity, capability and leadership in industry
 - Ongoing analysis of current state of play to avoid duplication and identify RD&A gaps
 - Collaboration with other industries on cross-sectoral issues.

With COVID-19 restrictions still in place, CCA's Committees will continue to meet virtually in the lead up to the Board and Annual General Meetings on November 17-18, 2020.

Summary of outcomes

Marketing, Market Access and Trade Committee (MMAT)

EU Trade Policy Principles: Agreed

- CCA supports liberalised trade in Free Trade Agreements, with no tariffs and no quotas. Australia supplies high quality products and representing 3% of global beef production, it poses no threat to EU producers.
- CCA endorses the EU-UK Red Meat Market Access Taskforce to advise Australia on market access in FTA negotiations with the EU and UK.
- CCA supports the National Farmers' Federation's work to position agriculture for preferential market access in EU and UK FTA negotiations.

CCA Labelling Policy: Noted

The committee has formed a working group to look to assess and revise where necessary CCA's labelling policy. The group has agreed on how it will develop an overarching policy statement on the key guiding principles for CCA in labelling, and then will look to break it down into different work streams including Country of Origin labelling, raising claims, alternative proteins and domestic labelling of imported beef.

The Animal Health, Welfare and Biosecurity (AHW&B)

Management of Feral Pigs: Noted

The Federal Government is investing \$1.4m in developing a coordinated national plan for feral pig management. The National Feral Pig Action Plan will be structured along similar lines to the successful National Wild Dog Action Plan. A Roundtable of stakeholders, including CCA, is proposed for September.

Johne's disease: Noted

WA's review of its Johne's disease management program is underway now surveillance for C-strain JD is complete. Additionally, the national program will undergo a minor review when the five-year transition period is up in June 2021. The Committee formed a small working group to assist the Secretariat in preparing input to both reviews.

Pain relief guide: Noted

CCA's *Guide to the correct use of pain relief in the grass-fed beef cattle sector (5 June 2020)* has been circulated widely through its communications network and that of Meat and Livestock Australia. CCA will be working with Animal Health Australia and other organisations involved with the grass-fed cattle sector to promote the guide and encourage producers to use pain relief when conducting aversive but necessary management procedures with their cattle.

Industry Systems and Food Safety Committee (ISFS)

NLIS RFID Standards review: Noted

The committee has provided input and, with a few issues to be clarified, agreed to the draft standards.

Meat Standards: Noted

The Board noted ongoing work to further harmonise global consumer sensory data capture and sharing data in relation to eating quality standards globally. It further noted a meeting of the Meat Standards Australia Beef Taskforce in the week of Monday 17 August 2020 would discuss the matter, the outcome of which would help guide CCA policy in this area.

Environment and Sustainability Committee (ENVR)

Australian Beef Sustainability Framework (ASBF): Noted

CCA has provided feedback on the ABSF annual report which was released in June. The Committee is participating in the feedback workshops to strengthen next year's annual report. The Committee intends to work with the ABSF secretariat to ensure that CCA has significant input into the upcoming materiality review to ensure the industry's priorities are reflected through the ABSF.

Australian Government's Biodiversity Stewardship Program: Agreed

CCA is actively supporting the Australian Government's Farm Biodiversity Stewardship Fund. CCA staff have met with Minister Littleproud, and the project staff from the ANU to discuss the next steps of the project and how to ensure good outcomes for the beef industry. All parties agree the beef industry is the key stakeholder in this project, considering beef producers are stewards to almost 80 per cent of agricultural land, and that CCA must play a lead role in consultation.

The Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (GRSB): Noted

The Committee now has a representative on each of the GRSB working groups. As part of this, the Committee has led the national conversation around improving climate metrics and brought it to the GRSB for consideration.

Alternative Climate Metrics: Noted

The Committee held webinars with prominent Australian and international scientists and industry experts to help inform stakeholders of alternative climate metrics such as GWP* and their impact on the Australian beef industry. The committee received positive feedback from participants.

Research, Development and Adoption Committee (RD&A)

RD&A Policy: Agreed

The overarching key principles for RD&A for the grassfed sector:

- Increase adoption outcomes at the producer level
- Diversify funding streams for research
- Increase investment in research, development and adoption
- Increase capacity, capability and leadership in industry
- Ongoing analysis of current state of play to avoid duplication and identify RD&A gaps
- Collaboration with other industries on cross-sectoral issues.

Enquiries

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