



CATTLE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

COMMUNIQUE Committee and Board meetings 4-6 March 2020

Cattle producers from around the country came together again for the Cattle Council of Australia's (CCA) committee and board meetings in Canberra 4-6 March 2020. Key policy discussions and industry positioning on market access and trade, industry systems and integrity, environment and sustainability, animal health and welfare, biosecurity and research and development were progressed.

- There will be a coordinated push by CCA and members for a 'Most Favoured Nation' clause for Australian beef as part of free trade negotiations with the European Union.
- Following an assessment of NewCo3 – a new red meat industry body to oversee integrity systems – and its impact on the industry, it was agreed NewCo3 would need to be properly structured and resourced to operate freely without structural impediments. Government certification would still be needed to ensure importing country requirements for food safety.
- After discussing progress on the Australian Beef Sustainability Framework and the new goal setting that will occur during 2020, CCA will help identify shortfalls in the framework to guide research and development to ensure the framework has the best tools to achieve the goals.
- The multi-committee session with the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment on levies mutually enhanced understanding on a complex and critical area of work for the industry. Consolidated industry views and formal submissions will follow.
- Industry's leadership role on animal welfare was progressed, and the CCA Board endorsed a new Animal Welfare Statement.
- Initial industry positioning and focus under Red Meat 2030 was determined following the prioritisation of the 6 Priorities, 23 Initiatives and 28 Indicators that constitute the broader red meat industry's next 10-year plan.

A full summary of outcomes across all committee meetings follows. CCA's board and committees will next meet in May 2020.

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Summary of outcomes

Marketing, Market Access and Trade Committee

EU FTA – The NFF will provide a single list of requirements for agriculture to Government.

Agreed: CCA advise the NFF and the Red Meat Market Access Taskforce on non-negotiables members want, including a solid most favoured nations clause for Australia.

Indonesian Breeder Cattle – Ongoing: Working with ALEC as members of the Breeder Policy Working Group to look resolve anomalies breeders pose to the Exporter Supply Chain Assurance System.

Industry Systems and Food Safety Committee

Effluent Code of Practice – Ongoing: Working through on a number of issues with the code, including the implications for producers in relation to the chain of responsibility, animal welfare and eating quality.

Traceability – Ongoing: Continued support for developing consistent legislation between jurisdictions and across species to ensure the entire red meat industry can meet the National Livestock Traceability Performance Standards.

Saleyard NVD Audit Program – Ongoing: Developing a project with the National Residue Survey that identifies poorly completed NVDs so offenders can be audited which will target 15 saleyards across Australia.

NewCo3 – Agreed: NewCo3 must be adequately funded and have the proper autonomy free of the structural impediments under which it's integrity roles currently operate.

Agreed – Government certification to facilitate market access is also critical to ensure all product is independently verified.

Environment and Sustainability Committee

Australian Beef Sustainability Framework – Noted: This year's priority will be setting goals and the framework will be looking to industry for input.

Agreed: The committee will help identify shortfalls and bring them to the attention of the framework.

Agreed: The committee will also help guide research and development to advance the tools and information available to the framework.

Noted: The committee also needs a new structure to enable them to strategically coordinate work in environment and sustainability across the beef sector.

Noted: A small core membership could be selected using a knowledge matrix to cover necessary skills to meet the technical requirements.

Animal Health and Welfare and Biosecurity Committee

Pain Relief – Noted: It is timely to consider the use of pain relief across the red meat industry.

Agreed: Cattle Council will put together a framework of issues to consult with members.

Agreed: The Board also endorsed an Animal Welfare Statement including, recognition cattle can feel and perceive the world around them; and a need for action when standards aren't met.

Red Witchweed – Ongoing: The Committee supports eradicating this weed as it has caused significant damage to industry where it's become established overseas.

Research, Development and Adoption Committee

Levies – Agreed: Cattle Council will be Coordinating a submission to the federal 'Streamlining and modernising agricultural levies legislation review' on behalf of the grass-fed beef industry.

Red Meat 2030 – Agreed: The committee confirmed the following overarching principles to help industry meet its goals over the next 10 years including:

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