

Australian Agricultural Company Limited ABN 15 010 892 270

Government lifts live cattle export suspension

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On the 6th July 2011 the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator Joe Ludwig issued revised export control orders that open the way for trade in live feeder cattle with Indonesia. In his statement the Minister said

"These new orders allow the export of live cattle only where animals can be managed through supply chains that meet international standards.

"These strict new conditions have been written into all export permits,"

"They require exporters to trace cattle from properties, onto vessels, into feedlots and into abattoirs that meet agreed international standards.

"Permits will only be issued to those exporters who can demonstrate that this will be the case."

Minister Ludwig said the appropriate standards to apply to the trade were those contained in the World Animal Health guidelines (OIE).

"Exporters will have to collect and make public data on the consignments they take to market, including where animals are fattened, how they are transported and where they are slaughtered.

"Supply chains will be verified by commercial independent auditors with the entire process to be independently audited on a regular basis. These audit reports will be made public.

"The Government understands that producers and other businesses participating in the industry have been doing it tough.

"These reforms will provide the industry with a sustainable long term future.

"We will continue to work closely with industry to ensure the welfare of Australian cattle remains at the heart of this trade – a trade that has a strong future."

The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has issued an order setting out the conditions that will need to be complied with (Order 2011 (No.2)) before an export license will be granted.

The Australian Agricultural Company Limited welcomed the Federal Government's announcement that live cattle exports to Indonesia can be resumed, and the Company is considering the announcement and the order from the Secretary to determine the potential impact on the operations of the industry and the Company.

Once the Company has been able to adequately assess the ability of the logistic chains to remobilise, the issuance of import licenses by the Government of Indonesia in the light of the Minister's announcement, the processes necessary to receive an export license, and other associated matters then a further update will be provided.

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