



# Note-to-File

<b>Subject: Meeting with Industry Representatives</b>	
<b>Date: 8 June 2011</b>	<b>File Number:</b>
<b>Prepared by: Penny Parrish</b>	
<b>Type of contact: Teleconference 11:15am</b>	
<b>Name of contact/s, attendee/s:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>INDUSTRY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Lach MacKinnon, ALEC</li> <li>○ Peter Kane, ALEC</li> <li>○ Cam Hall, Livecorp</li> <li>○ Ron Cullen, Sheepmeat Council of Australia (SCA)</li> <li>○ Matt Linniger, NFF</li> <li>○ Paul Fry, Cattle Council</li> <li>○ Luke Bowen, NT Cattle Council</li> <li>○ Phillip Halton, ALTA</li> <li>○ Don Heatley, MLA</li> <li>○ David Palmer, MLA</li> <li>○ Laurie Robinson, MLA</li> <li>○ Peter Barnard, MLA</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ <b>DAFF</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Phillip Glyde, Deputy Secretary</li> <li>○ Rona Mellor, Deputy Secretary</li> <li>○ Allen Grant, Executive Manager</li> <li>○ Lee Cale, General Manager</li> <li>○ Tom Black, Manager</li> <li>○ Simon Murnane, General Manager</li> <li>○ Jim Paradice, Manager</li> <li>○ Penny Parrish, Executive Officer</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

## Summary

- Purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Minister's announcement the previous night to suspend all live animal exports to Indonesia
- DAFF apologised to the stakeholders for the 'silence' over the past 24-48 hours but the department was not in a position to discuss or provide information during that period
- DAFF provided a summary of the announcement and clarified that the suspension was up to 6 months during which time the supply chain assurance model would be developed and agreed with input from the Indonesian Government, the Industry members and operators as well as the Australian Government – to the satisfaction of the Australian citizens
- DAFF noted that this model was not about the restraint boxes rather about building a rigorous system that can be assured end to end
- The Government will be looking at the independent review covering the whole trade not just Indonesia
- ALEC noted that whatever standards are applied, they will need to be acceptable as judged by the RSPCA and Animals Australia
- DAFF agreed that the animal welfare organisations will be watching and judging but noted that the OIE standards provide a baseline from which to operate and that it is not necessarily viable to apply Australia Standards as there is a lot of work to do to develop standards to which we will be measured and operationalise them
- MLA noted concerns that no matter what the industry and to a certain extent, government, do with the Australian community, RSPCA and AA as the judges, we will never get there – this means the industry is done – and it is actually the government that needs to accept the outcome and not run from the community
- DAFF stated that the standards need to be set and then collectively work toward providing the assurance that government can stand behind
- MLA advised that as far as the supply chain goes, the component from Australia to overseas feedlot is close to complete. The government does not need to get involved in the supply chain within Australia as it is world class – the work to be done is in the last component, the overseas abattoir facilities
- DAFF noted that the Government of Australia does not have the legal/regulatory reach into Indonesia or other countries and agreed that this is definitely where the focus of the effort needs to go for the trade with Indonesia

**s. 33(1)(a)(ii)**

- SCA suggested that it would be wise to take a roll-out approach and also noted that whilst the traceability issue was fairly clear for cattle, it was quite different for sheep and this would be an impact to live sheep exports to the Middle-East
- Livecorp suggested that the delivery of regulation, audit, assurance etc not necessarily be the explicit role of government or industry, rather there are a number of organisations that operate internationally that provide these services eg. Audit – additionally, there is benefit in looking at whatever is already in place that can be leveraged to apply to Indonesia - DAFF agreed that this is worth consideration in

developing the supply chain assurance model – the attendees were all encouraged to put forward all options for consideration

- MLA advised that one of the most simple (and almost complete) controls that can be put in place first is NLIS where the cattle walk through the reader at the Indonesian port, at the feedlot and then finally at the abattoir and that this could be done at the 25 facilities that are included in MLA's class A and B facilities – as a key part of the supply chain this control can be repeatable and auditable – not just Indonesia – Livecorp added this is already in place Egypt, Russia, Turkey and Israel
- MLA noted that currently exporters of live cattle are tagging all cattle to all destinations
- Industry representatives advised that the feedback on the suspension from commercial partners was that they are appalled as they are already struggling, they don't want Australian Government dictating – especially not unilaterally rather with them collectively, mostly understand why the decision had to be made but the importers and exporters are upset
- DAFF advised that the Minister was in the process of considering the recommended names for independent reviewer and terms of reference for the supply chain review and that the announcement was expected to be quite soon – Industry representatives added that it would be wise, if possible, to ensure the reviewer had experience in developing countries/markets
- Livecorp advised that they expected RSPCA and AA to continue to push and release footage from Indonesia and other markets – have advised all other market operators about the affect of the Government of Australia decision and expect it to move to a more global application
- DAFF advised that there was a team of officers/vets travelling to Indonesia on Saturday/Sunday to commence CVO review of the restraint boxes, all DAFF international posts had been notified and that there were currently four boats/ships on the water that were being actively managed
- DAFF advised that the animals already in Indonesia (feedlots) prior to orders being put in place were outside the Australian Government's reach – but Industry are expected to do whatever they can to ensure the welfare of these animals