



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

# Note-to-File

**Subject: Meeting with Industry Representatives**

**Date:** 8 June 2011

**File Number:**

**Prepared by:** Penny Parrish

**Type of contact:** Teleconference 12:30pm

**Name of contact/s, attendee/s:**

- **PISC CEOs**
  - Bruce Turner, QLD
  - Rod Gobbey, NT
  - Rob Delane, WA
  - George Davey, NSW
  - John Skerritt, VIC
  - Geoff Knight, SA
  - Kim Evans, TAS
  - Fay Steward, ACT
- **DAFF**
  - Conall O'Connell, Secretary
  - Rona Mellor, Deputy Secretary
  - Allen Grant, Executive Manager
  - Fran Freeman, Executive Manager
  - Penny Parrish, Executive Officer

**Summary:**

- DAFF provided a walk through of the Minister's media release and intended messages regarding the suspension of live animal exports to Indonesia (excluding breeder cattle) – specifically that the assurance model needed to be verifiable and transparent
- DAFF advised that the government did want to see trade re-started but only once the new system was ready and demonstrated the ability to meet assurance requirements
- DAFF advised that the independent review was of the full supply chain (end to end) for all live animal exports not just cattle, and in all markets
- DAFF advised that the Indonesian Government had been contacted prior to the Government/Minister's announcement
- DAFF provided an update on the earlier teleconference with Industry representatives

highlighting:

- Industry keen to keep going and work together and quickly
- Keep the system design simple so that it is workable in Indonesia
- All cattle from 1 July 2011 will be tagged
- Concerned at the depth and intensity of the Minister's action – went beyond their original consideration
- DAFF advised that there were potentially 5 abattoirs (as advised by Industry) that are in a position to provide assurance that their operations are of a higher and sustainable standard
- DAFF provided an overview and clarified the scope of the different reviews – CVO Restraint Boxes and Full Supply Chain
- PISC CEOs made the following points:
  - Need to distinguish between breeder, dairy and slaughter cattle
  - Live animal exports play a food security role
  - Significant implications for pastoral and sheep operators
  - Need to consider the broad range of standards that will be applied and the supply chains to which they will be applied
  - Consider business, land and price issues – how quickly can the standards be established and then acted upon?
- DAFF agreed these are priority issues and the department will be expected to provide Minister with detail and complete plan to move forward – on this matter the department is seeking to tap into the policy capacity of domestic CVOs
- PISC CEOs agreed to provide support and were keen to be actively involved and suggested they could start with providing in-country delegations, policy development, operational and technical expertise
- PISC CEOs added that they saw a need to establish a committee or working group to consider contingency planning for issues such as 'what happens if we can't continue/re-enter the live animal market?' as well as others – DAFF agreed that there will be short and long term issues to work through
- PISC CEOs asked about the large number of cattle currently in feedlots in Indonesia (estimated 60,000) – DAFF advised that the order/s do not apply to animals that had already left our ports prior to initial restrictions. DAFF has received advice that at least one Indonesian feedlotter has confirmed their cattle will only be going to the 5 facilities that employ stunning in their slaughter operations and others have volunteered to go to the 20 facilities that have reported higher standard operations
- PISC CEOs expressed concern over the cattle currently in the domestic supply chain and asked what assistance the Commonwealth were planning – issues are that these animals are a long distance away from processing facilities – DAFF advised that the Minister was considering this matter has asked the department to work with Industry representatives to develop a position and recommend options for market/industry adjustment
- DAFF advised that the Minister intended to hold a teleconference with the state ministers on Monday 13 June 2011 and that this 'call to action' will include PISC CEOs and domestic CVOs and will continue in a collaborative manner for the foreseeable future