



## **Senator Alan Eggleston**

Liberal Senator for Western Australia  
Chair of the Senate Economics References Committee

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Cattle farmers struggle under Government ban**

**June 15, 2011**

The Government's blanket ban on live cattle exports to Indonesia has led to more pain and suffering for Kimberley and Pilbara pastoralists, who are struggling to survive under mounting financial and emotional pressures.

WA cattle farmers work hard in tough conditions to produce healthy, well cared for animals and together with the Coalition, will not tolerate the mistreatment of Australian livestock.

Time is running out for farmers, who have told us that without a lift on the ban it's only days before they are unable to pay rising bills and face irreparable financial damage.

The Federal Government must allow operations to resume at Indonesian abattoirs with modern stunning and slaughter facilities. With the appropriate standards, training and monitoring put in place, the live export industry can restart facilities and continue operating in Indonesia with higher standards into the future.

There are at least 25 facilities already identified as meeting trade standards, which need to be assessed and brought into production as a matter of urgency.

I am continually disgusted by a Government whose knee-jerk reaction is shattering the lives of regional families most affected by the trade suspension – farmers, pastoralists, exporters, freight carriers, drovers and many others who are closely tied to the industry.

Furthermore, the ban has eliminated our ability to influence and change animal welfare standards for the better in Indonesia. A continued ban will just see Indonesia import live cattle from elsewhere and standards will not be improved —while North West families continue to suffer.

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