



Senator Alan Eggleston

Liberal Senator for Western Australia

Chair of Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee

Deputy Chair of Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee

MEDIA RELEASE

WA cattle industry surviving against all odds

Western Australia's cattle industry has been bruised, battered and deserted by the Gillard Government, yet when WA Senator Alan Eggleston and the Hon Ken Baston MLC met with station owners yesterday, they were still managing to survive — just.

“The situation up here in the North West is extremely dire. We have met with station owners and workers who say they have been robbed of their livelihoods and are working against all odds to revive the cattle industry,” Senator Eggleston said from Fossil Downs yesterday.

Member for Mining and Pastoral Region the Hon Ken Baston said pastoralists are facing cash flow problems and compounding costs due to the additional feed and water needed for cattle which should have been shipped to Indonesia months ago.

“Indonesia has now reduced the number of Australian cattle they will accept and weight restrictions will exclude many of the cattle stuck on stations growing heavier by the day,” he said.

Senator Eggleston said the focus now must be on assisting the cattle industry strengthen and resume business— as well as repairing the damage done with our closest trade partner and ally, Indonesia.

“This was a largely avoidable mess that the government could have addressed sooner. To see families, workers and livelihoods in such crisis is truly heart wrenching.”

Australian cattle exporters remain committed to high standards of animal welfare and are now required to trace cattle from properties, onto vessels, into feedlots and into abattoirs that meet agreed international standards.

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