



Senator Alan Eggleston

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

MEDIA RELEASE

Indigenous jobs threatened by cattle ban

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Aboriginal stockmen have been mustering cattle and droving herds across Australia's top end for decades, but if the Government permanently bans live exports, there will be a dramatic loss of indigenous jobs and training opportunities, WA Senator Alan Eggleston said today.

"The Federal Government must allow operations to resume at Indonesian abattoirs with modern stunning and slaughter facilities to ensure no further Australian jobs are put in jeopardy," Senator Eggleston said.

Indigenous-held pastoral properties in the North of Australia provide employment and training for hundreds of aboriginal people, with many more living on or near these pastoral properties.

"In northern WA alone, some 20 Indigenous-held properties are reliant on the live cattle export trade, which support hundreds of aboriginal jobs and families."

"Cattle droving has long provided steadfast employment for Aboriginal people in the Kimberley, who help form the backbone of our sheep and cattle industries," Senator Eggleston said.

"The Gillard Government is once again ignoring the plight of everyday Australian's, who are pleading with lawmakers to end the blanket ban and ensure the viability of a key export industry."

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