



## 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

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## WA pastoralists robbed of a say at Senate hearings

July 15, 2011

More livestock is exported from Western Australia than any other state, yet Senate hearings into live exports will be held high on the hill in Canberra, robbing the most affected cattle producers of the right to have their say.

A huge 72% of the nation's sheep and 35% of cattle exports leave WA, where cattle producers have met extensively in recent weeks to discuss ramifications of the export ban to Indonesia.

"Holding Senate hearings in Canberra is an easy option for the bureaucrats, while those living and working on the land are denied a chance to attend hearings — the very people who stand to lose the most," Senator Eggleston said.

"The first hearing in Darwin will accommodate their export industry, while it seems WA has been blatantly overlooked," he said.

A recent livestock report found the live sheep and cattle trades combined contribute \$471 million to the WA economy each year, and employ 6,835 West Australians.

"I recently met with a number of these West Australian cattlemen who travelled to Canberra at significant personal cost to discuss the live export ban," Senator Eggleston said. "For them it is not as simple as putting aside a couple of hours and driving up the road; it's many, many hours away from their property, much of which is spent travelling.

"The least we can do now is to give these people a chance to be heard in WA."



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