



Only one acceptable solution for live export ban

Queensland peak broadacre group AgForce has thanked Federal Minister for Agriculture Joe Ludwig for speaking with beef producers in Mt Isa yesterday, but says the only real fix is to reopen the Indonesia live export trade immediately.

AgForce CEO Robert Walker said more than 300 producers came together at the AgForce live export forum yesterday with a clear message – do not waste time, do not give excuses, just reopen the trade and let us get back to work.

“AgForce hosted the forum yesterday to allow producers to air their concerns and to assist them in their search for answers, and we thank Senator Ludwig, State Minister for Agriculture Tim Mulherin, and Meat & Livestock Australia Chairman Don Heatley for attending and addressing those concerns,” Mr Walker said.

“Although AgForce welcomes the \$30 million assistance package announced by Prime Minister Gillard and Senator Ludwig yesterday, we continue to stress the package is a short term fix to a long term problem.

“This is an industry worth hundreds of millions a year, not considering the added value of connected industries such as transport and local small businesses.

“The federal government has failed to grasp the scale of its decision to suspend live exports – the longer this goes on, the harder it will get.”

The Live Exports Assistance Package aims to provide short-term help to individual primary producers and related businesses affected by the temporary suspension of live cattle exports to Indonesia by providing payment of \$5,000 for eligible businesses, with further grants of up to \$20,000 also available.

“AgForce will continue to work with Senator Ludwig, Meat & Livestock Australia and the State Minister for Agriculture Tim Mulherin to push for the immediate recommencement of the Indonesia live export trade, which is the only acceptable outcome to this ban.”

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