



Livex changes welcome in Queensland

Queensland farm group AgForce congratulates Federal Agriculture minister Joe Ludwig and his government on its recommendations to ensure a sustainable future for live animal exports.

The government's response to the independent Bill Farmer review on live exports prescribes measures to improve animal welfare standards in all live cattle, sheep and goat markets by December 2012.

AgForce Cattle Policy director Andrew Simpson says AgForce is committed to implementing the reforms to ensure live cattle exports particularly, remain a viable marketing alternative for Queensland producers.

"The live cattle industry is worth \$1 billion to the Australian economy and supports not only graziers, but provides jobs and income right across Northern communities," Mr Simpson said.

"AgForce will fully co-operate with the government's plans and will actively lobby on behalf of its grassroots members to ensure improvements in animal welfare standards are achieved under the new regulatory framework."

Mr Simpson said the Federal government's approach is recognition of the live cattle industry's solid progress in shoring up supply chains into Indonesia that ensure all Australian cattle are humanely treated.

"AgForce recognises the new system is necessary to rebuild public trust in this industry and we will continue to drive changes both domestically and offshore to ensure our member's interests are protected," Mr Simpson said.

AgForce Cattle fully supports the government's recommendation that overseas supply chains must operate at or above World Organisation for Animal Health guidelines for animal welfare but that mandatory stunning, while preferable, is difficult to enforce in sovereign countries.

"We were also heartened to hear Minister Ludwig promise that, in future, entire markets will not have to be closed to address isolated animal welfare issues."

AgForce looks forward to working with government and commercial operators to create a sustainable livex trade underpinned by a robust regulatory system that puts animal welfare first.

For comment, contact AgForce media and communications: Jane Paterson 0418 733 102 or patersonj@agforceqld.org.au

Who is AgForce? AgForce represents thousands of Queensland broadacre producers who recognise the value in having a strong voice. AgForce leads the way to ensure agriculture's social, economic and environmental contribution is recognised by all levels of government. AgForce works alongside landholders, encourages and supports the next generation, builds industry partnerships and skills and promotes agriculture - for secure, sustainable, progressive and profitable food and fibre into the future.