May 31, 2011
NT Government Calls For Crackdown On Rogue Abattoirs

The NT Government has today called on a crackdown on all unregulated Indonesian abattoirs, calling on Industry and the Federal Government to cease cattle exports to these rogue establishments.

“The Federal Government has announced the complete suspension of live animal exports to the facilities identified by Animals Australia, and I am going further and calling on industry to export only to feedlots that comply with accredited standards when it comes to animal welfare,” Primary Industry Minister Kon Vatskalis said.

“I am shocked and appalled as is the community having seen this graphic footage of this gross mistreatment of cattle.

“The NT Government does not condone any mistreatment or cruelty in our livestock industry.

“I have this morning spoken to Federal Minister Joe Ludwig’s office advising that I have asked industry to withdraw Territory cattle from all Indonesian abattoirs that do not use recognised humane slaughter techniques as a matter of urgency.

“This is in the interest of animal welfare but also in the interest of our cattle industry, which the NT Government wants to see grow into the future.”

Mr Vatskalis said industry has worked with Indonesian authorities to implement Australian standards and techniques in abattoirs, however this now needed to be extended to all abattoirs across the region.

“I have met with the NT Cattlemen’s Association today and have asked for the immediate implementation of specific protocols - including training on the way animals are handled and more frequent inspections - so we make sure that livestock are handled humanely.”

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