Cattle Ships Loading Over Next Three Days

Minister for Primary Industry Kon Vatskalis has welcomed news that around 18,000 head of cattle is expected to be loaded onto cattle ships over the next three days en route to Indonesia.

The world’s largest livestock carrier *Ocean Shearer* docked at East Arm Wharf yesterday and is expected to be loading about 10,000 head of cattle today.

Mr Vatskalis said the *Devon Express* (Austrex) is expected in Darwin tomorrow and will load about 2,000 head, and on Saturday *Ocean Swagman* is planning to load about 6,000 cattle for Indonesia.

“While the resumption of the export trade to Indonesia is welcomed, there is still a long way to go before for our industry regains its full strength. These latest shipments are a good indication that we are heading in the right direction,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“The Northern Territory Government is a strong supporter of the pastoral industry and is keen to see the live cattle export trade continue to grow into the future.”

Exports have resumed to Indonesia, with exporters required to demonstrate appropriate animal welfare standards.

Mr Vatskalis said expanding the Territory’s export industries is a priority of the NT Government, with the industry and flow on effects being vital to the NT’s economy.

In a bid to continue developing the Territory’s livestock trade opportunities Mr Vatskalis – together with the NT Cattlemen’s Association and Northern Territory Livestock Exporter’s Association - will be travelling to Indonesia this weekend.

The delegation will also travel to Malaysia, Vietnam and the Philippines to meet with industry members and government officials in seeking to explore new market opportunities.

The Northern Territory Government and industry have been working with Vietnam in seeking to open up opportunities for Territory producers. Initial discussions with authorities in Vietnam made it possible for Territory cattle to be imported, with the first shipment delivered this year.

“Our existing markets are important, and Government and industry will continue to find alternate markets and diversify our export trade,’ Mr Vatskalis said.

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