Vietnamese Live Cattle Imports a Step Closer

Northern Territory Primary Industry Minister, Kon Vatskalis, has met with Vietnam’s Minister for Agricultural and Rural Development, the Honourable Mr Cao Duc Phat, to discuss improving trade links between the Northern Territory and Vietnam.

Mr Vatskalis said the talks centred on the way forward between Australia and Vietnam in the live cattle export trade.

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

“Currently there is a significant live cattle export trade between the Territory and Indonesia.

“Today’s discussions explored the opportunities available to expand the trade into Vietnam.

“The groundwork for this expansion was set up in March when a series of seminars were held to ensure the Vietnamese cattle industry understood how the overall trade operates and the technical elements of feedlotting in Asia.”

Mr Vatskalis said Territory industry representatives and departmental officers have been involved in detailed discussions with the Khanh Hoa Trading and Investment Company which is working towards beginning live cattle imports.

“We have arranged for representatives from Khanh Hoa Trading and Investment Company to inspect operational feedlots and slaughter-house facilities in Indonesia," said Mr Vatskalis.

“It is hoped that the trading company will now move forward with its commercial negotiations in order for live cattle exports to commence in 2009.”

Contact for media queries: Nikola Lekias 0438323660