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MEDIA RELEASE
Gerry Wood MLA
INDEPENDENT MEMBER FOR NELSON

MEDICINE MAY BE WORSE THAN THE CURE

Gerry Wood, the Independent Member for Nelson, says the ban on live cattle exports will have a devastating effect not only on North Australian cattle producers but because of the flow on affect, all those industries dependent on the trade.

Gerry says no one who loves animals wants to see animals treated so inhumanly as highlighted on the Four Corners report but there has to be some common sense in the discussion so that the Territory is not permanently damaged by this ban.

He says that the Federal Government needs to make a commitment that the ban is temporary subject to inspection of abattoirs in Indonesia and then only allow export to those abattoirs that adhere to proper animal welfare standards.

He says that this has also to be handled sensitively and diplomatically because we need to appreciate that Indonesia may not take kindly to Australia telling them how to run their business.

As well it will require some effort to trace cattle to the abattoirs because some cattle are fattened on Indonesian farms before they are processed. Of course those Indonesian farmers’ livelihoods will also be affected by a permanent ban on live exports.

Gerry says Australians especially cattle producers were disgusted at what they saw but the fix must not be at the cost of wiping out a major portion of the Northern Territory economy.

The Federal Government needs to work swiftly with all sectors of the industry and get exports flowing again and the NT Government needs to show its strong support for the cattle industry by taking an immediate lead role in making sure that it happens.

Cessi foro gallinarum sed surge