GOVERNMENT WELCOMES NEWS ON CATTLE TRADE

Chief Minister Paul Henderson today welcomed the announcement by the Federal Government to lift the suspension on live cattle exports to Indonesia.

Mr Henderson said the decision was a relief to the industry and pastoralists.

“This is a welcome relief to those families that have faced almost a month of uncertainty about the future of their industry and the trade to Indonesia,” Mr Henderson said.

“Now our efforts and focus must shift to immediately hammering out the logistics around the practicality of how the resumption will take place on the ground following this week’s coordinated trip to Indonesia by Mr Vatskalis, NTCA and NTLEA.

“We are going to face some serious challenges getting from where we are now to an industry operating at normal capacity and I want to make sure my Government continues to support the industry wherever possible in minimizing further impacts.”

Mr Henderson said Primary Industry Minister Kon Vatskalis would be talking with officials and industry about:

- Assisting the transition back to exports
- Supporting Territory families affected to understand how the resumption will work
- Identifying after-effects including managing oversupply of cattle
- Exploring new potential markets in Asia

“We estimate there will be an extra 100,000 head of cattle left on country that would otherwise have been exported to Indonesia,” Mr Vatskalis said.

“As the cattle trade resumes it is important that the necessary assistance is provided to Territory pastoralists to help manage their excess cattle.

“The Northern Territory Government will also provide funding to host and train Indonesians involved in the industry so that animal welfare standards are adhered to.

“I look forward to further working with the NTCA, NTLEA, MLA, Australian federal and state Governments and the Indonesian Government so that the cattle industry can once again start...