MEDIA RELEASE

LIBERALS CONDEMN BEEF EXPORT BLANKET BAN

Terry Mills MLA
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The Liberal Party has done what the ALP has stubbornly refused - taken a strong stand against the blanket ban on live beef exports to Indonesia.

Opposition Leader Terry Mills said the Liberals this morning passed a motion condemning the blanket ban on live beef exports and calling for the resumption of exports to Indonesian abattoirs that meet Australian standard slaughter practices.

Mr Mills, who spoke in favor of the motion at today’s Federal Council meeting in Canberra, said Prime Minister Gillard’s decision to ban live exports to Indonesia was an attack on a key northern Australian industry.

‘Treasurer, Delia Lawrie, has admitted the decision was done without consultation with the Territory,’ Mr Mills said.

‘Federal Labor has sacrificed a key northern Australian industry to keep the Greens on side.

‘Anybody who saw the vision of animal cruelty on the Four Corners program would have been shocked, but it’s wrong to suggest inhumane practices exist in all Indonesian abattoirs.”

The Federal Council unanimously supported a motion condemning the ban.

‘The Labor Party appears split on the issue of live exports, with the Western Australian branch considering a motion opposing the ban,” Mr Mills said.

‘Unfortunately Territory Labor has not effectively opposed the blanket ban, with Paul Henderson meekly standing behind Julia Gillard and Agriculture Minister, Joe Ludwig.

‘As well as criticising Independent politicians Nick Xenophon and Andrew Wilkie, Paul Henderson also needs to send a much stronger message to the Federal Labor Government that its attack on northern Australia is wrong.”

Country Liberals President Sue Fraser-Adams was also invited to speak at the Federal Council and gave a passionate speech in defence of live exports and the thousands of Territorians directly impacted by the ban.

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