MEDIA RELEASE

LUDWIG SHOULD HAVE BEEN DUMPED

December 12th, 2011

The Prime Minister should have used today’s Cabinet reshuffle to dump Agriculture Minister, Joe Ludwig.

Opposition Leader, Terry Mills, said Senator Ludwig should have been sacked for his appalling mismanagement of the live cattle export industry.

“Joe Ludwig behaved appallingly in response to revelations of animal cruelty on ABC’s Four Corners program,” Mr Mills said.

“He buckled under pressure from the Greens and Labor’s left faction and banned live beef exports to Indonesia.

“This knee-jerk reaction has cost the Territory economy tens-of-millions of dollars and caused considerable hardship among business operators and households.

“He should have worked to develop solutions to the problems raised by Four Corners – instead he took the easiest option that had the worst possible outcomes for the Territory.

“The live export ban also did serious damage to Australian-Indonesian relations. His dumping would have gone some way towards relieving diplomatic tensions the blanket ban created between the two countries.

“In October the Northern Territory Parliament instructed the Chief Minister to tell Julia Gillard to sack Senator Ludwig over the live-cattle debacle.

“If the Chief Minister did pass the Parliament’s concern about Senator Ludwig onto the Prime Minister, she doesn’t appear to have listened.”

Further comment: Terry Mills 0418 833 594