MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES

CATTLE TALKS TO BEGIN IN INDONESIA

September 9th, 2012

Minister for Primary Industry, Willem Westra van Holthe, will today travel to Indonesia for a five-day fact-finding mission to understand the issues facing the Territory’s live cattle export industry.

Mr Westra van Holthe said resurrecting the Territory’s live export trade to Indonesia was his top priority as the incoming new Minister.

"My visit is about rebuilding bridges between Australia and Indonesia in the wake of the Labor Government's live cattle export bans," Mr Westra van Holthe said.

"I want to send a very clear message to Indonesia that we're open for business and that our election on August 25 signalled the beginning of a new era of co-operation between the Territory and Indonesian governments.

"Re-establishing this relationship is critical to the Territory’s pastoral industry."

Mr Westra van Holthe will be joined on the trip by the Northern Territory Cattleman’s Association and representatives from Australian Rural Exports and Australian Live Exporters Council.

The group will tour several feedlots, wet markets and abattoirs recently accredited under the federal government's new Export Supply Chain Assurance System guidelines to safeguard animal welfare.

“This will be an opportunity to see first-hand how the new Supply Chain system is working," Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“During the visit I will also be meeting with the Australian Ambassador to Indonesia and Austrade officials to explore potential measures to increase the number of cattle being exported from the Territory.

“The NT is a reliable supplier of good quality cattle for the live export trade, and the cattle industry is a major creator of employment opportunities in our remote and regional areas.

“The Mills Government will support this vital industry.”

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