On behalf of all pastoralists, the Northern Territory Government is disappointed to hear that live cattle quotas to Indonesia have been reduced significantly from this time last year, however respects the decision of the Indonesian Government.

Chief Minister Adam Giles said Indonesia is our largest and longest-term trading partner for Northern Territory live cattle.

“The trade and co-operation relationship between the Northern Territory and Indonesia spans several decades and is one that has been based on trust and friendship,” Mr Giles said.

The sudden reduction in the quota from Indonesia this quarter however, highlights the importance of having a range of diversified markets across Asia.

“There are now a number of other market destinations for Territory Cattle, including Vietnam, and the Northern Territory Government will continue its strategic and targeted approach to the development of further markets as we have over the past two and half years.

“In calendar year 2014, we saw cattle exports through the Port of Darwin to Vietnam grow to more than 140,000 head.”

Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries Willem Westra van Holthe just returned from a trip to Vietnam where he was able to further strengthen ties with Vietnamese Provincial Governments and importers of Territory cattle.

“Next month I intend on returning to the two new markets of Cambodia and Thailand which represent other live export opportunities for the Territory to further promote NT cattle live export and reinforce the NT’s disease-free status and the quality of NT cattle,” said Mr Westra van Holthe.

“As part of that trip I also intend on leading a delegation to Jakarta, where I expect to meet with the relevant Ministers for Trade, Agriculture and if possible, Minister for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries.

“I will use this opportunity to discuss the quota system, aiming to get better results for the cattlemen of the Northern Territory.”
Additionally, this visit would be timely to meet with the new Australian Ambassador to get a regional update; a report on the current status of the live cattle trade; and any Indonesian policy settings that may impact on the trade.

“A few weeks ago I visited the East Kalimantan Provincial Government to demonstrate support for the live cattle trade and Kalimantan's livestock industry development aspirations,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“The meeting was to discuss Kalimantan’s four year strategy to develop their cattle industry to be more self-sufficient and their ambitious goal to increase imports of breeding stock, which involves procuring Northern Territory cattle.

“Discussions with the East Kalimantan Provincial Government were extremely fruitful and it’s important the Northern Territory is regarded as a supplier of choice of live cattle and trade missions go a long way to achieve that.”

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