Media Release

Adam Giles
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

More certainty for NT cattle producers

5 January 2016

The Northern Territory Government has today welcomed the Indonesian Government’s decision to recommend up to 200,000 head of cattle be imported from Australia in the first trimester of 2016.

Chief Minister Adam Giles applauded the decision and said it provides welcome certainty to Northern Territory cattle producers.

“Indonesia is the Northern Territory’s longest and largest live cattle export trading partner; it’s important our cattle producers have ample time and notice to be able to meet the supply demand,” Mr Giles said.

“I’m extremely pleased the Indonesian Government looks to have moved from quarterly permits to a trimester system, giving industry clarity around future export requirements.

“This is certainly a step in the right direction, however the Northern Territory Government will continue its discussions with the Indonesia Government around a potential move to an annual quota system.

“The Country Liberals Government has worked hard to strengthen trade ties with Indonesia and ensure the Northern Territory cattle industry is regarded as the supplier of choice when it comes to clean, wholesome produce,” Mr Giles said.

The cattle industry is worth up to $320 million annually to the Northern Territory economy.

Mr Giles said with the recent increase in prices for cattle in the Northern Territory and the Indonesian Government signalling its intention to import two million breeding head by 2018, that figure is expected to expand dramatically over the next three years.

“Indonesia has been a growing live export market for the Territory since the Country Liberals Government came to power in 2012,” Mr Giles said.

“We have worked closely with industry to bring trade back from the brink of despair following the dark days of Labor’s catastrophic live export ban.

“Today’s announcement is testament to the hard work that has been put in by government and industry.”

Official permits are expected to be issued in coming days.

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