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Live Cattle Export Trade Promoted In Indonesia

Primary Industry and Fisheries Minister Chris Natt today said he would take a keen interest in the naming of his new federal counterpart.

"I congratulate the Rudd Labor Government on its stunning election victory at the weekend," Mr Natt said.

"I have a particular interest in this week's naming of a new federal counterpart as I would like to develop a strong working relationship that will benefit the Territory as soon as possible.

"The Territory's live cattle export trade is worth more than $180 million to the Territory's economy and employs more than 1000 people, so its future is something I am keen to protect.

"I recently travelled with representatives from the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association (NTCA) and the Northern Territory Livestock Exporters Association (NTLEA) to promote the Territory's live cattle export industry.

"During my time there I also met with and assured members of the Indonesian Feedlotters Association (APFINDO) of our strong support of the live cattle export trade.

"I inspected an Indonesian feedlot during my time in Jakarta and what I saw was a professional operation demonstrating great pride and care in the way Northern Territory cattle was looked after.

"Obviously, for cultural reasons, the preferred option among Indonesians is the transport of live cattle and the journey between our shores - between similar climates - takes only a few days with an accredited stockman accompanying the cattle throughout the journey.

"I am a strong supporter of the Territory's live cattle export trade and I am keen to convey this to my future federal counterpart as soon as I can."

Northern Territory cattle exports have topped 206,000 so far this year, up 19,000 on the same time last year, driven largely by increased demand in Indonesia.

The number of cattle exported via the Port of Darwin is up more than 47,000 on the same time last year.
* Attached photo is of Mr Natt at an Indonesian feedlot in Jakarta earlier this month. The person with Mr Natt in the second photo is rural livestock and feedlot management specialist Nurendro Trikesowo

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Related files:

- Minister Natt at Indonesian feedlot.jpg (301.71 kb)
- Minister Natt with Nurendro Trikesowo.jpg (404.83 kb)

Moving the Territory Ahead