LABOR SHOULD BACK FIGHTING FUND

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The Chief Minister should commit to push for a fighting fund to promote the northern Australia's pastoral and live cattle export industries down south.

Shadow Business Minister, David Tollner, said the pastoral and live export industries should be a source of national pride.

"Unfortunately, as a result of gutless Labor governments in Canberra and Darwin and manipulative animal welfare activists, the industry in northern Australia is on its knees," Mr Tollner said.

"The fighting fund would drive a public information campaign to talk about the high standards achieved across the live export industry, which has a lower mortality rate on its ships than P&O cruises.

"The fund is supported by the Country Liberals and the cattle industry.

"Cattle ships are sophisticated feed lots which keep animals healthy en-route to overseas markets, there are nutritionists on the ground in Indonesia and the industry supports the livelihoods of thousands of Australian businesses and families.

"Southern Australians need to understand the strengths of the industry to protect it from animal rights extremists and mercenaries with a camcorder.

"In Parliament today the Chief Minister supported the concept of a fighting fund, but stopped well short of a commitment.

"It was disappointing to hear him say the responsibility for resolution of the export crisis rests with the Federal Government and the industry, and that his own Government has no part to play.

"Once again, Paul Henderson is prepared to give up responsibility for the Territory to the Commonwealth Government."

Further comment: David Tollner 0414 690 109