

Australian livestock export industry welcomes Federal Government's \$1.6 million animal welfare investment

For immediate release

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Australia's livestock export industry has welcomed the Federal Government and Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries & Forestry, the Hon. Tony Burke's commitment of \$1.6 million over the next three years to improve animal welfare in key livestock export markets, announced in last night's Budget.

The Government's new *Live Trade Animal Welfare Partnership* will further strengthen industry and Government's commitment to delivering in-market improvements.

Speaking on behalf of industry, CEO, Australian Livestock Exporters' Council (ALEC), Lach MacKinnon said the Government's commitment to industry was groundbreaking.

"Minster Burke and the Federal Government are taking the partnership between Government and the livestock export industry to a higher level than ever before. This is a positive step for our farmers, for our industry and for animal welfare in Australia and overseas.

"This funding is critical in delivering greater change in overseas marketplaces including infrastructure improvements, training and education. Industry invests significantly in animal welfare, and the combined impact of industry investment and Government funding means bigger, better and faster improvements in overseas markets," he said.

"Industry is delighted at this unique opportunity to work in partnership with the Federal Government to further improve animal welfare."

On behalf of their members, Sheepmeat Council of Australia and Cattle Council of Australia have voiced appreciation for the Federal Government's support and confidence in Australia's livestock export industry.

The Australian Government's previously named *Keniry* funding* has been used by the livestock export industry to deliver significant animal welfare improvements in overseas markets in three key areas:

- Infrastructure upgrades to improve the discharge process at ports, ensuring animals are moved from port to feedlot as quickly as possible
- Developing training and educational materials, handling techniques and management strategies and implementing training programs for staff at feedlot facilities
- Facilitating improved slaughter practices through delivery of appropriate infrastructure and training

These joint improvements are delivered via Government investment and matching funds from industry through its existing Livestock Export Program animal welfare budget. Industry also independently funds and delivers a range of animal welfare programs in market to complement the improvements achieved with joint industry and Government funding.

For further information: visit www.liveexportcare.com or email livestockexports@mla.com.au for a copy of industry's 2008 Year in Review.

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*Government investment in animal welfare improvements in overseas markets, matched by industry investment