



CATTLE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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MEDIA ALERT

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Fighting for a fair outcome for beef producers in the climate change debate

The Cattle Council of Australia and the National Farmers' Federation will attend the International Federation of Agricultural Producers meeting on climate change in Copenhagen this week to discuss the issues surrounding an appropriate international response to climate change for Agriculture.

"Given the Australian Federal Government has ratified the Kyoto agreement, Australia has agreed to meet targets in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

"It's therefore critical that the Cattle Council is at the table fighting for a fair outcome for beef producers that demonstrates their positive contribution on-farm," said Jed Matz, Policy Director for the Cattle Council of Australia.

Farmer groups from around the world including Denmark, Netherlands, Sweden, Germany, United States, Canada and United Kingdom will attend the meeting on climate change.

"It is essential to understand how agricultural groups in other countries are approaching the climate change debate so globally we can work together to ensure agriculture is not disadvantaged by the International Carbon Accounting rules," said Mr Matz.

Gaining the support from other countries in lobbying for changes to the International Accounting rules is an important agenda item for the Cattle Council and is working along side the National Farmers' Federation in achieving this goal.

"Changes to the International Accounting rules that govern Australia's actions will assist to determine appropriate policy options for beef producers to reduce their emissions whilst sustaining or improving upon current productivity levels.

"Beef producers are not part of the problem, they are part of the solution.

"Recognition of the full carbon cycle and agriculture's ability to sequester carbon in the International Accounting rules is critical to Australia meeting its emissions targets whilst sustaining its position as the world's most efficient producer and second largest exporter of beef," said Mr Matz.

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