



## CATTLE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

# MEDIA RELEASE

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### Ongoing supply of Q-fever vaccine to satisfy critical industry needs

A state-of-the art, world's only Q-Vax® plant is to be operational in 2009, providing a long-term supply of the critically important Q-fever vaccine. The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Hon. Peter McGauran MP, launched the construction of CSL's new Q-Vax® facility today.

Cattle Council of Australia Executive Director, Mr David Inall, attended today's launch. Mr Inall says that the Federal Government's \$9 million investment into CSL's Q-Vax® plant in Melbourne demonstrates a welcome, long-term commitment to the viability of livestock industries in Australia.

"For many years the Cattle Council has been tightly engaged with the issues surrounding a decline in supply levels of Q-Vax.

"This is a very important occasion for the Australian cattle industry. An ongoing supply of this vaccine is critical to the health and safety of those employed in the meat industry, particularly those involved in handling livestock and meat processing.

"It is satisfying to see the first sod turned, as the shortage of Q-Vax over the past year or so has been of considerable concern for the industry."

CSL is the only company in the world to manufacture a vaccine, which has been available since 1989. The new facility has been designed to allow parallel production and quality control testing of the Q-Vax® and Q-Vax® Skin Test Products. Under a 10-year contract with the Government, CSL will produce vaccine and screening tests at this site.

"Prevention is the best cure for Q Fever, hence the Cattle Council urges producers and meat industry workers to be diligent, particularly while vaccine stocks are low," Mr Inall says.

"Those who are unsure as to whether they have been vaccinated should consult with their doctor or health department for further information."

Ends

For further information contact David Inall, Executive Director, Cattle Council of Australia on (02) 6273 3688 or Selena Jensen at Pegasus Communications on (03) 9239 6447.

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