



# CATTLE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

MR 17/07

26 September 2007

### **Cattle Council of Australia welcomes the extension of drought support**

The beef cattle industry has welcomed the Australian Government's additional \$714 million in drought assistance. The additional assistance will not only increase the volume of resources available but also widen the door to producers who have previously not been able to meet the criteria to access the resources, said Cattle Council President Mr Bill Bray.

"It is pleasing to see that programs and initiatives have been extended to rural communities that are in distress," Mr Bray said. "We cannot underestimate the toll that this drought is having on the wellbeing of our producers and their families."

Mr Bray has acknowledged the Government's assistance, saying that while the beef industry is resilient and has dealt with drought in the past, the industry is suffering. "Cattle producers in every state are affected by this relentless drought. As an industry, we are determined to ensure that we support these producers in what has been the greatest test of resilience that remains unprecedented."

Cattle Council has held discussions with key industry groups to ensure a coordinated approach to communicating with both government and producers. The Cattle Council will continue to liaise with Government to ensure that producers and rural communities remain at top of mind in the ensuing weeks and months as the drought persists.

Cattle Council has real concerns about fodder and water supplies and consequently, suspects that it's likely that breeding stock will be placed under increasing pressure. Banks, agents and regulators need to understand this difficult situation and the emerging consequences.

"Unfortunately Cattle Council cannot make it rain. We will, however, be ensuring that producers have access to information and services that will assist in managing their situation, especially with regard to drought feeding and managing their stock, fodder and water resources," Mr Bray stated.

Mr Bray encourages producers to seek all of the assistance that is available. "There are resources out there to assist all beef producers in surviving this drought and I encourage everybody to examine what is available to assist their situation. There is a significant amount of drought-related extension information already prepared and we will make sure that beef producers can access this important management material," Mr Bray concluded.

Ends - For further information contact Mr Bill Bray, President, Cattle Council of Australia on 0429 307 561 or Mr David Inall, Executive Director, Cattle Council of Australia on 0418 165 340.

**REPRESENTING AUSTRALIAN CATTLE PRODUCERS SINCE 1979**

Cattle Council of Australia Incorporated (A2929)  
PO Box E10 KINGSTON ACT 2604 Ph: 02 6273 3688 Fax: 02 6273 2397  
E-mail: [cca@cattlecouncil.com.au](mailto:cca@cattlecouncil.com.au) Web: [www.cattlecouncil.com.au](http://www.cattlecouncil.com.au)

