

CATTLE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Australian beef cattle producers encouraged by Ag's exclusion from CPRS

The Cattle Council of Australia is encouraged by Minister Wong's announcement yesterday that direct emissions from agriculture would not be covered under the proposed Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme.

"It's good to see that our Federal Government is beginning to understand that the Australian beef industry is part of the solution to Australia managing its greenhouse gas emissions," said Greg Brown, Cattle Council of Australia President.

"The announced changes begin to recognise the reality of farming systems in Australia and the positive contribution that beef producers can make to the environment.

"We are encouraged that beef producers may be able to sell offsets. However, we still need to work through the detail of how that system might work.

"Whilst this announcement is a positive step, there is still much work to be done both domestically and internationally to improve the emissions profile of the beef cattle sector whilst maintaining its productivity," said Mr Brown.

Mr Brown said that the Cattle Council will continue to remind the Government of the need to maintain Research and Development into viable abatement options for beef producers.

"We must also not forget that the international carbon accounting rules are flawed and we need to ensure agriculture is better recognised in the accounting protocol, post Copenhagen," said Mr Brown.

Cattle Council also notes that the CPRS still contains embedded costs for producers that are associated with inputs, such as fuel and fertiliser.

Cattle Council remains concerned that increased processing sector costs will flow back to beef producers, as they cannot be passed on to consumers.

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