



CATTLE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

COMMUNIQUE

Board meeting 26 May 2022
Policy Council meeting 25 May 2022

Cattle Council of Australia (CCA) held its latest Policy Council Board meeting in May followed by a meeting of the Board at the Vibe Hotel in Canberra. The Board reaffirmed its commitment to transition to a new peak industry council and continued its planning to ensure a strong and vibrant peak industry body.

CCA Board

Restructure

CCA reaffirmed its commitment to a legal transition pathway from the existing CCA to the new democratised peak industry structure under Cattle Australia. Board members agreed to take every step necessary to ensure the transition was successful in 2022.

The Board agreed it supported a move to a democratically elected Board and that CCA's representatives on the restructure committee should continue to seek expert advice on the best course of action to ensure the restructure goes ahead, while achieving the goals of creating a democratic, stronger, and sustainably funded peak industry council.

Rural Awareness Tour 2022

The Board heard a proposal to resume operating the CCA Rural Awareness tour towards the end of September with a tour in Far North Queensland and the Northern Territory towards end September. Cattle Council has been successful in securing Federal Government funding to sponsor a number of international participants from Southeast Asian trading partners.

Biosecurity

Following on from the Lumpy Skin Disease and Foot and Mouth Disease outbreaks in Indonesia the board heard President Markus Rathsmann, NTCA Director Anne Stanes and one staff member had joined the Lumpy Skin Disease AusVet Plan Writing Group. The AusVet Plan for Foot and Mouth Disease was also under review. CCA is now represented on five external working groups set up in response to the disease outbreaks in Indonesia and has established an internal CCA working group to feed information into external groups.

Change of Federal Government

The board noted the change of Federal Government and as an apolitical organisation, CCA worked to have a constructive relationship with all incumbent Governments. The board recognised the importance of taking steps to forge a strong and positive working relationship with the new Labor Government and engage with new Ministers once announced. It was also agreed CCA should write to all relevant members of the previous administration to thank them for their support over the past nine years.

CCA Membership during the Transition to Cattle Australia

The Board agreed that existing members should be able to renew their CCA membership as they are a valuable part of the grassfed industry with an existing relationship with CCA. Current members hold rights and benefits, including voting rights at the upcoming Special Meeting to endorse the new Constitution. All memberships will be transferred to the new peak industry body Cattle Australia once the restructure is complete, while potential new members should be directed to Cattle Australia which is set to become the Peak Industry Body for grassfed Cattle Producers within the coming weeks.



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CCA Policy Council

Policy Priorities

As the Policy Council is expected to continue until at least November 2022, the PC agreed to review its strategic priorities, noting a change in the policy landscape with an incoming Federal Labor Government. The Policy Council also considered a review necessary with significant shifts in the way MLA taskforce's function and in how the ABSF reports on industry progress as well as the work underway on industry goals.

The Policy Council noted that while the original six priority areas were still vital to industry, some now have their direction set and could be moved into ongoing work.

Biosecurity working group

The Policy Council endorsed the Terms of Reference and potential membership of the Policy Council's internal working group for Lumpy Skin Disease and Foot and Mouth Disease. The Policy Council endorsed the nominations for the working group as follows:

- David Hill (Chair)
- Bob Barwell
- Mick Sheehy
- David Stoate
- Mark Harvey-Sutton
- David Foote
- Tracy Sullivan
- John Langbridge
- Rachael O'Brien
- Markus Rathsmann
- Paul Cusack
- Bim Struss
- Mike Darby
- Corinne Dooley

As a priority, the working group is to determine decision making options if an incursion were to happen for consideration at the next Policy Council and Board meeting.

Immune Ready

The Policy Council endorsed the Australian Veterinary Association's 'Immune Ready' Guideline and recommended the guideline became part of a broader animal health training and extension mechanism.

Animal Welfare

The Policy Council agreed CCA would support the development of an Animal Welfare Management Plan as a requirement to comply with the Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) Animal Welfare Module.

It was considered that producers could demonstrate compliance or adoption of the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Cattle, including the use of pain relief through a standard template or checklist process and demonstrate crossovers with existing Biosecurity Plans and LPA Biosecurity Module.

Enquiries

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