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Carbon Pathway Must Create Opportunity

Australia's climate targets present significant opportunities for beef producers, which must not be overlooked by our national leaders.

CCA President Markus Rathsmann said Australia's pathway to meet its climate targets were a once in a generation opportunity to make beef part of the wider climate solution.

"The beef industry has stewardship over nearly 80% of Australia's farmland – this will be vital in any climate solution," Mr Rathsmann said.

"A successful pathway to our climate targets will be one beef producers want to engage in.

"We've already cut our emissions in half and are progressing a plan to reach net-zero by 2030.

"Any producer involvement must be voluntary – we can't be forced to carry the burden again.

"If cattle producers aren't given a choice, then the government's policies would have failed.

"Also, cattle are part of a natural cycle and don't put more carbon in the atmosphere as fossil fuels do.

"Climate policy presents too many opportunities for the beef industry, to get this wrong.

CCA Independent Director Olivia Lawson said the cattle industry had the know-how to improve environmental outcomes while boosting productivity.

"Seaweed feed additives can boost beef production by 20% while cutting emissions by 96%, Ms Lawson said.

"Soils can capture carbon, while improving pastures, and boost the number of cattle we can run.

"Smart vegetation management can create shelter for our animals and improve weaning rates.

"We need the right climate policy framework, so these initiatives benefit both producers and the environment.

"70% of Australian beef is exported and we can't afford to fall out of step with our international competitors and investors.

"The Australian beef industry underpins more regional communities than any other business. The future of regional Australia depends on a constructive dialogue between government and the beef industry."

More information: www.cattlecouncil.com.au/sustainability

MEDIA CONTACT: Robert Herrick, 0409 219 527



14-16 Brisbane Ave, BARTON ACT 2600
Locked Bag 9, KINGSTON ACT 2604
cca@cattlecouncil.com.au | 1300 653 038
ACN: 625 194 096 | ABN: 35 561 267 326