



Calls for compo, Indon training and easing of trade ban WA appeals to Ludwig

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WA politicians have condemned the Federal Government's ban on live cattle trade to Indonesia, as producers lose up to \$70,000 a day.

WA Agriculture Minister Terry Redman is seeking compensation for WA's affected cattle producers.

Mr Redman wrote to his Federal counterpart Joe Ludwig last week, asking Canberra to assist WA's ailing producers.

He criticised the Federal Government's approach to the issue.

"The Federal Labor Government has not put an iota of thought into the financial implications, the human implications or the long-term animal welfare implications of this decision," he said.

He called on Mr Ludwig to extend Centrelink support to producers affected by the ban, similar to that used under the drought pilot program.

Agricultural Region MLC Brian Ellis called on the Canberra to hastily restart the trade.

"I understand there are some abattoirs in Indonesia which already use stun guns and satisfy Australian handling standards," he said.

"For the sake of producers whose incomes are at risk, I implore the Federal Government to consider a compromise to at least allow export to those approved facilities while a broader solution is implemented."

Reports suggest five abattoirs in Indonesia are currently using stun guns and another 20 Indonesian abattoirs work to international welfare standards.

New Norcia farmer and Pastoralist and Graziers Association's representative on the National Cattle Council David Lovelock called for a better solution.

"The problem is if we only export to those 25, that will reduce export to Indonesia quite drastically," he said.

"If we are not there, it will put pressure on the Indonesian government to import live cattle from elsewhere."

Mr Lovelock said the only way for Australia to improve animal welfare standards in Indonesian abattoirs was to have a presence in Indonesia.

He said Meat and Livestock Australia funds should go towards providing training to Indonesian beef processors.

Early this week Mr Ludwig appealed to MLA to use its funds to support the thousands of cattle held in Australian shipping yards.

MLA rejected the minister's request, on the basis their money should go towards revitalising the trade.



Urgent solution: Agricultural Region MLC Brian Ellis