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No excuse for ban: Ellis

Agricultural Region MLC Brian Ellis has criticised the Gillard Government for bringing the live cattle trade to its knees.

“As a farmer who has processed my own sheep for family meat, I know there is a right way and a wrong way to handle animals,” Mr Ellis said.

“However, the knee-jerk reaction of the Gillard Government has slaughtered the incomes of many cattle producers and threatened the overall operation of the live meat trade.

“I understand that, eight months before the Indonesian abattoir video was aired, Federal Agricultural Minister Joe Ludwig was warned by his own department that the issue could cause a public outcry. If this is the case, there is no excuse for his Government’s rash decision.

“Those eight months should have been used to find a humane, commonsense and diplomatic solution which protected our animals, preserved our trade relations and provided a sustained income to WA producers.”

■ Site: 56-57