



**Andrew
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for a new Queensland

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Crunch time for cattle industry

LNP Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Food and Regional Queensland, Andrew Cripps, said the AgForce meeting in Mt Isa on Thursday was crunch time for the cattle industry in Northern Australia.

“The time for talking is over. The live export industry is on its knees and everyone needs to hear a solution to this Labor created crisis and act on it urgently,” Mr Cripps said.

“The export trade to Indonesia needs to be restarted with a fully traceable supply chain before it’s too late.

“Federal Labor’s trade ban has wrecked too many lives and businesses across the north. There can be no more stalling,” he said.

Federal Agriculture Minister Joe Ludwig has told small businesses and employees affected by Labor’s export ban they would be only be eligible for a 13 week Newstart Allowance.

“That’s a joke,” said Mr Cripps.

“How do these Queenslanders pay their bills as well as leases, mortgages, and overdrafts?”

“Minister Ludwig needs to explain to cattle producers how a small compensation package will meet their financial obligations on their properties, estimated to be hundreds of thousands of dollars.

“There’s a serious economic disaster right throughout the industry’s supply chain.

“The Gillard Labor Government, held hostage by the Greens and Independents, made a knee-jerk decision to kill this important market.

“Three weeks later, all Labor has offered is a disgraceful and inadequate assistance package,” he said.

“The Bligh Labor Government has refused to stand up for cattle producers in North Queensland. The State should be demanding that Canberra provide real and sensible compensation to those affected by Federal Labor’s decision,” said Mr Cripps.

Mr Ludwig and his state counterpart Tim Mulherin will face the packed meeting in Mt Isa. Mr Cripps will also be there in support of the industry.

“Employees in the industry need to know if they should look for employment in other regions or industries,” he said.

“The CanDo LNP team will stand-up for all Queenslanders,” said Mr Cripps.

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