

Media Statement

For immediate release: Wednesday 26 April 2023

Statement regarding Roebuck Export Depot cattle incident

Primary Partners Proprietary Limited – subsidiary of the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC) – is aware of a matter at Roebuck Export Depot where a total of 31 cattle have unfortunately lost their lives either during or post transit from Darwin, Northern Territory.

Primary Partners takes this matter very seriously. While there are industry standards around the acceptable rate of mortalities, Primary Partners takes the view that one mortality is one too many and works to minimise the risk of mortalities occurring during the transportation of cattle.

Responsibility of the cattle took place at the point of possession on the property of the Roebuck Export Depot. However, Primary Partners is not responsible should cattle be delivered in a distressed state. Having said that, staff did all they could to ensure the comfort of the distressed cattle.

The Roebuck Export Depot management's immediate response to the situation was well informed and measured, and prioritised giving the living cattle the best chance of survival, this included:

- Working with local animal welfare experts to inspect the living cattle. A local and well-trusted vet is currently compiling an assessment report for the Roebuck Export Depot management.
- Reducing the number of cattle placed on the Roebuck paddock to ensure the cattle have additional space for movement – and to assist in minimising the potential for heat stress.
- Arranging for a local hay producer to deliver fresh new hay to encourage the cattle to feed as quickly as possible.

Primary Partners supports and commends the actions taken by the Roebuck Export Depot management team in what would have been trying and testing circumstances.

Our thoughts are also with the Export Depot workers who have witnessed this unfortunate event.

We will continue to work closely with our stakeholders to avoid these regrettable circumstances as best as possible.

The ILSC will continue to support the Roebuck Export Depot management through this matter.

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