

PRESS RELEASE 21 May 2018

Cows to be auctioned at Dalrymple – a boost for seed capital for Cattle Producers Australia

An inaugural Director of Cattle Producers Australia Ltd (CPA), Ernie Camp, grazier and Mayor of Burke Shire Council in Queensland's Gulf Country, has donated a pen of Brahman Cross cows to provide seed capital to CPA. The cows will be auctioned at the Dalrymple Saleyards, Charters Towers, on Wednesday 23rd May 2018.

In 2014, a Senate committee, following nationwide hearings and receipt of countless submissions, recognised a need for broadscale change in the [structures and systems](#) governing the grass-fed levy. Seven recommendations were made to effect that change.

Recommendation one called for a producer-owned body be established by legislation with the authority and power to collect and disseminate the R&D and marketing components of the transaction levy as well as matching government R&D funding. In response, then Minister for Agriculture, Barnaby Joyce, created the Implementation Committee(IC). The IC is now on the cusp of launching a membership drive for CPA – a democratically elected advocacy organisation to represent all grass-fed levy payers across Australia.

Mr Camp stated, "As a producer, who made a [submission](#) and spoke at a hearing, I was pleased with and relieved by the Senate recommendations. As a producer, I have long been frustrated and unhappy with the almost non-existent ability I have to determine how, and to whom, my levies are allocated and the lack of transparency around not only the funding trail but also outcomes of that expenditure. I am also frustrated by the lack of automatic voting entitlements. The current system is essentially a form of taxation without effective representation.

I am keen to see a new body created, not a revamped model which I fear, could retain the same underlying motivations and philosophies that currently exist. I want to know I am, along with my fellow producers, in charge of my industry's destiny and am able to influence the direction our industry (and advocacy on its behalf) is heading.

This is why I am donating the pen - to help nurture this new organisation in the belief that it will, in turn, nurture and grow my industry, reinvigorate faith in my industry with my fellow producers and the public and advocate unceasingly on our behalf. My industry, myself and my children, the future of my industry, need and deserve nothing less."

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