



## David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

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# Media Statement

8 March 2017

### **Maranoa is an electorate of opportunity with agriculture booming and trade negotiations moving: Littleproud MP**

With this week's annual ABARES Outlook 2017 conference confirming our booming agricultural success, moves to strengthen Australia's agricultural trade relationship with Indonesia are welcomed by the Federal Member for Maranoa, David Littleproud.

Mr Littleproud said today, "This week it was confirmed that our farming output across Australia will increase 8.3% to a record high \$63.8 billion this financial year."

Mr Littleproud believes this is a positive omen for the agricultural sector, but stressed that the Government's work in negotiating trade agreements to facilitate Australia's access to new markets, must continue.

"The reality is that we live in a country with 24 million people, but produce enough food for 75 million people, so our country's prosperity – and the prosperity of our regions - lies in our ability to negotiate international trade deals, particularly with growing global economies, like Indonesia."

"Last week when President Widodo was in Canberra, Indonesia agreed to revised regulations for live cattle exports to Indonesia, and this will make it easier for us to get our world renowned product into Indonesia's growing market." Mr Littleproud said.

The regulation changes include:

1. An increase of the average weight for feeder cattle from 350kg to 450kg;
2. The abolition of the minimum weight requirements;
3. An increase to the age limit for feeder cattle from 30 months to 48 months; and
4. An extension of import permits from 4 months to 12 months validity.

Mr Littleproud is of the view that the opportunities brought about by these trade agreements for our agricultural producers and regional towns are vitally important, having had the tangible benefits raised on a number of occasions during Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's visit to Maranoa last weekend.

The Coalition Government is currently continuing discussions to finalise a Trade Agreement with Indonesia.

“Maranoa is a hub of agricultural and horticultural activity and I’m committed to getting the most out of any agreement with Indonesia for Maranoa, including new business and growth opportunities in our regional towns.”

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**Media Contact:** Candice Stower

E: [candice.j.stower@aph.gov.au](mailto:candice.j.stower@aph.gov.au)

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