

THE CENTRAL PILLARS

The central pillars of democratic representation for grass-fed cattle levypayers as members of Cattle Australia

Issue	Cattle Australia Policy Council
Cattle Australia Policy Council background	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 15-region elected Policy Council concept was agreed to by the Cattle Council of Australia and the other grass-fed cattle producer organisational bodies in 2014 and again agreed to by CCA and Cattle Producers Australia in the Federal Government facilitated roundtable conferences at the end of 2020 and beginning of 2021. It is an accepted model that has been presented to Minister Littleproud, published in the rural press and aired on ABC rural radio. • There is a need for both the elected Cattle Australia Board members and Policy Advisory Councillors to be people that the grass-fed cattle producers trust and respect, irrespective of any academic or tertiary skills qualifications they may or may not have. The basic concept behind the elected Policy Council is that the policy advisors should understand the policy needs of the grass-fed cattle producer business models in their regions and be able to communicate with and be trusted and respected by those grass-fed cattle producers. Skills-based Policy Council candidates approved by a selection committee would be contrary to the structure previously agreed and would compromise grassroots levypayer engagement. • The 15 Policy Council regional electorates provide a solid base for the proposed Cattle Australia members' services business and to enhance direct local engagement with producers. This Cattle Australia members' services capacity would be linked to and complement existing State Farm Organisations' member services and would greatly expand the potential of these.
Cattle Australia Policy Council role	The Cattle Australia Policy Council role is to develop policy advice and guidance for the Cattle Australia Board. Policy would reflect the needs of Australia's diverse regional grass-fed cattle producing businesses, recommended to be adopted in their interest. The Policy Council would provide this policy advice to the CA Board for implementation. In the event of a dispute over policy between the Policy Council and the CA Board, the matter would be decided by a plebiscite of all levypayers. The Policy Council would have the capacity to engage persons with appropriate qualifications and experience to advise it on particular matters under its consideration.
Cattle Australia Policy Council structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Cattle Australia Policy Council would be national. It would have a total of 23 members - 15 representatives elected from the 15 Regions delineated (see map) plus 8 grass-fed levypayers appointed by State Farm Organisations. - The CA Policy Council would be elected by grass-fed levypayers, one Councillor from each of the 15 Regions. All levypayer members would have an equal vote in elections of their Policy Councillor representatives, excepting the additional 8 Policy Councillors appointed by State Farm Organisations.
Issue	Cattle Australia Board
Cattle Australia Board background	The CA Board structure outlined reflects the need for Cattle Australia to engage with and represent large and small grass-fed cattle producers in every business model and region in Australia. Consider that around 20% of grass-fed cattle businesses contribute some 80% of levies collected. Consider also that engagement of the vast majority of grass-fed cattle producers as members can provide Cattle Australia with the influence necessary for successful representation. The combination of the Dual Register voting system for the Board and the geographic distribution of the 15 Policy Council electorates addresses the north/south variance between producers' herd sizes and amounts of levies paid. Essentially, the Dual Register for CA Board elections is designed to address this potentially divisive variance and provide advantageous representation for smaller businesses while allowing beneficial membership to Cattle Australia for large grass-fed producing cattle family businesses and Corporates. This democratic duality would be the basis for strong, harmonious, and ongoing representation for all.
Cattle Australia Board role	The Cattle Australia Board provides the democratic representational leadership for the grass-fed cattle levypayer sector, a Board which would oversee expenditure of their levies. The CA Board would focus on organisational performance and industry strategy and responses. It would be guided by the elected Policy Council. Any dispute between the CA Policy Council and the CA Board would be put to a vote of all levypayers.
Cattle Australia Board structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There would be 7 elected levypayer Directors elected from nominating candidates on a national basis free of other geographic constraints. The 7 elected Board members may appoint 2 additional skills-based Directors. The Board will elect one of their number as Chairperson of the Board. • There would be a Dual Register for voting to elect Directors: Register A would be every levy payer with 1 vote per levy payer member; Register B would be based on the amount of levies paid by each grass-fed cattle transaction levy payer. • The 7 Directors would be elected on this basis: 3 candidates with the most votes on Register A would be appointed; 3 candidates with the most votes on Register B would be appointed; 1 candidate with the highest total of votes from both Register A and Register B would be the initial appointment.

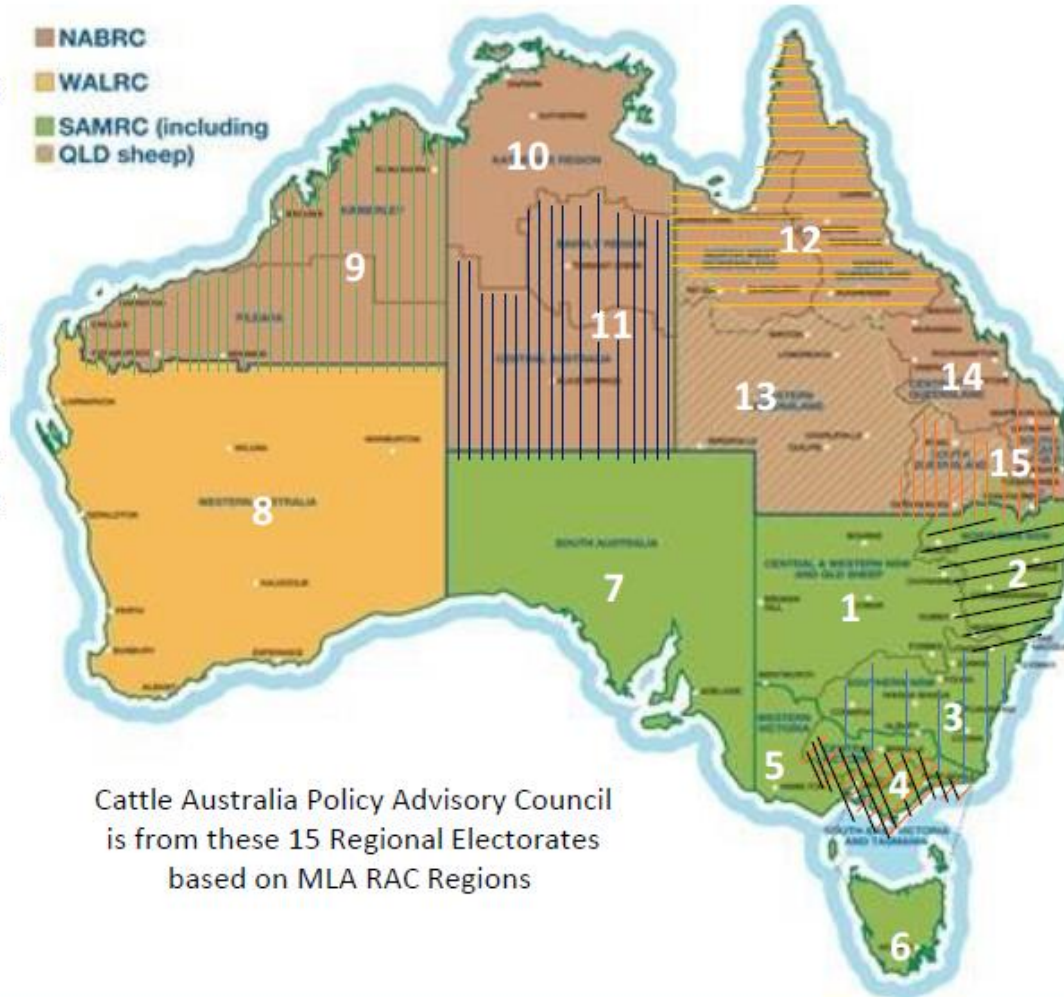
Dual register voting for Cattle Australia

Cattle Australia Policy Advisory Council

The Cattle Australia Policy Advisory Council would initially have 23 members comprising 15 directly elected cattle levy paying producer Councillors and 8 cattle levy producer Councillors appointed by State Farm Organisations (i.e. one from each SFO).

The 15 directly elected cattle levy-paying Policy Advisory Council producers would be elected from each of the 15 RAC regional electorates in the first instance to ensure a truly national organisation. These Councillors would be elected through the levy payer 'Register A' (i.e. one levy payer - one vote).

- NABRC
- WALRC
- SAMRC (including QLD sheep)
- QLD sheep



Cattle Australia Policy Advisory Council is from these 15 Regional Electorates based on MLA RAC Regions

Cattle Australia Board

To provide representational leadership for all levy-payer cattle producers. The Cattle Australia Board would be guided by the Policy Advisory Council and focus on organisational fiduciary performance and industry strategy. Any dispute between the Policy Council and the Board over industry policy would be determined by a plebiscite vote of all levy payers.

The Cattle Australia Board structure would be elected through a:

Dual Voting Register to provide equality for and engagement with both: # the fewer but larger businesses and corporates with big herds, and # the many cattle producers with smaller herds.

The 9 Director Board would constitute:

- 1 Director who receives the most votes in both A and B Registers
- 3 Directors who receive the next most votes in Register A after the election of the 1st Director
- 3 Directors who receive the next most votes after the election of the 1st Director from Register B
- 2 Special Qualification Directors appointed by the 7 elected Directors Board. Voting will be one seat one vote and the 7 elected levy-payers
- * Directors appoint the Chair from within who would have a casting vote.

A Register: every levy payer – 1 vote per levy-payer member

B Register: based on the amount of levies paid by each levy-payer member