



# ORGANISER'S REPORT

JUSTIN SMITH

G'day everyone.

I hope everyone is safe and well with this wild weather we have experienced over the last few months like the floods back in March in the Bellingen, Coffs Harbour and Kempsey areas.

Members at Norco and Fonterra Raleigh site worked through the night to keep an eye on the flood waters and saved company property and stock by doing so. Many of our members are involved with their local emergency services and they have proved their worth during these floods.

To more recently, dust storms like I have never seen and in fact I was at Northern Co-operative Meat (Casino) when the storm engulfed the site and nearly stopped production.

The beef and sheep processing industry has been mostly affected by the weather with years of drought then fires followed by floods that have had a devastating effect on stock numbers. And now the Aussie dollar reaching record highs which are slowing down exports.

All these factors are outside of our control.

One area that we can have an impact on is **Live Exports** the Union Federally has joined with Animal Welfare Groups and Meat Processors to lobby the Government to restrict or abolish Live Exports of cattle and sheep out of Australia.

There are millions of animals exported each year and in fact one ship can carry up to 75,000 sheep or 14,000 cattle out of Australia each trip.

Jump on our Federal web site and join the fight to stop live exports and help our local industry.

While we are on the subject of locals, two of our members at Banora Point BI-LO won a competition held by Coles on Australia day to see which store could sell the most lamb for the week. It was a nation wide competition and congratulations go to Adam and David on their win.

Also at an other Coles/Bi-LO ready retail site the meat manger was being paid a meat packers wage. This was an under payment. The member sought help from the Union and the issue was handled. The member received back pay and is now being paid as per the agreement.

It just goes to prove that it is wise to be a member of the UNION.

*Until next time, Justin Smith*

**"(belated) congratulations go to Adam and David (Banora Point BI-LO)"**

**"join the fight to stop live exports"**  
**<<http://amieu.net>>**

**"it is wise to be a member"**

*Photos of flooding at Norco and Fonterra Raleigh site by AMIEU members.*

