



## MLA survives wind up call

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**Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) has survived a push to abolish it and says it is now focused on creating new opportunities for producers.**

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The MLA annual general meeting (AGM) was held yesterday in Longreach in western Queensland, to discuss the way forward after a tumultuous year.

The MLA has been under pressure over its handling of live cattle exports to Indonesia and how producer funds are being spent.

However, a motion for MLA to be wound up gained little support.

New South Wales producer Sam Gunn says the organisation is doing a good job.

"I just don't see anything positive to come out of winding it up," he said.

Australian Beef Association (ABA) spokesman Brad Bellinger says the failed wind-up push was no surprise.

"If there was anything positive to come out it was the admission that a change needs to be initiated," he said.

Australian Meat Producers Group spokesman Cameron McIntyre says the sentiment was overwhelming.

"It's the most cooperative and constructive mood that I've seen at an AGM and it's certainly a positive outcome," he said.

He says abolishing MLA was too extreme but the cattle council has agreed to a review of its operation.

"Our industry has changed so much ... I hope that rather than rush it, they'd be better to take a bit of time and get the right result," he said.

MLA managing director Scott Hansen says the organisation is now focused on the future.

"Over the last couple of months it's been really important for us to refocus the company on what we see is the core business and to do that we have reshaped our mission statement," he said.

"It is about creating opportunities and opportunities for cattle, sheep and goat producers by optimising the investment of their socialised levy funds into marketing and R and D [research and development]."

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