

Le industry pact

By GAVIN KING

RAZIERS and Aboriginal land councils have ended more than 30 years of bickering in an historic agreement to boost the cattle industry.

In spite of being at loggerheads over the introduction of land councils more than 30 years ago, a new alliance was brokered in a bid to develop more land.

The NT Cattlemen's Association and the land councils will release a five-year memorandum of understanding tomorrow.

The Indigenous Pastoral Program aims to boost jobs for

Land councils and graziers mend rift

Aboriginal stockmen and streamline the process for grazing licenses.

A two-day celebration of the 1966 Wave Hill walk off, led by Aboriginal stockmen Vincent Lingiari, will begin today.

Central Land Council director David Ross said the MOU will help foster Aboriginal economic development.

Mr Ross said: "It is significant that the NT Cattlemen's Association has joined the partnership.

"I think this is the first time we've stood together in a spirit of cooperation and equity with the other significant stakeholders in land in the Territory - the pastoralists.

"The CLC has moved to a focus on land management and

the NTCA, who were often our most trenchant and hardened foes, have now recognised that land rights are here to stay.

"This is a great step forward and I warmly welcome the involvement of the NTCA."

The NTCA was not part of the first IPP agreement signed in 2003.

Mr Ross said: "The first MOU in 2003 was an unqualified success, it laid some solid foundations, and under that agreement we granted grazing licences on Aboriginal land to a number of pastoralists in exchange for employment, infrastructure and support for Aboriginal cattle men."