



Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association

Member of the National Farmers' Federation and Cattle Council of Australia

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From roads to ruin

NT Cattlemen want transport network on Budget agenda

Northern Territory roads are falling apart and putting the lives of Territorians at risk, the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association's Chief Executive, Luke Bowen, said today.

Mr Bowen says the NT's failing road system is also having far-ranging, detrimental effects on the economy, community health, animal welfare and the environment.

In a Budget submission presented to the NT Government this morning, the NTCA calls for funds to be committed to the restoration and improvement of road infrastructure, and in particular, recommends:

- The NT Government implement a program to seal the secondary road network; and
- The NT Government establish an industry and government working group to identify the emerging infrastructure and policy needs of the NT to maximise long term efficiencies and in consideration of new legislation and standards for animal welfare and driver fatigue.

"The deteriorating condition of the roads is contributing to accidents and fatalities," Mr Bowen said.

"Poor roads damage equipment, stress livestock and operators and lead to delays and economic losses. There are increasing requirements for rest areas and facilities for the staging of livestock, drivers and equipment."

Mr Bowen congratulated the Government on its work in trying to secure Infrastructure Australia funding to seal the secondary network but says in this tough economic climate, there must be a plan B, should federal infrastructure funding not come through.

"Investment in quality infrastructure is a lasting stimulus for the economy and the Government's focus needs to be on it," he said.

"In the NT, cattle production is a 365-day-a-year industry. Poor roads and a lack of access restrict economic development and growth for the whole of the NT.

For further comment: Luke Bowen, phone (08) 8981 5976 or 0427 815 990.