



**25<sup>th</sup>**

**Annual General Meeting  
& Industry Conference**

**ALICE SPRINGS | 2009  
MARCH 26 - 27**



## **Media release**

# **Environment headlines at cattle conference**

**March 20, 2009**

The environment will take centre stage at this year's Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association annual conference in Alice Springs on March 27.

President Roy Chisolm said the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the association was an appropriate time to not only reflect on where the industry had come from, but what also lay ahead for producers.

"The land and the environment are our future and the speakers we have chosen this year reflect the importance we as an industry place on caring for both," he said.

"Our members take land management and other environmental responsibilities very seriously and this conference will update them on the latest thinking and research."

Heading the speaking line-up is futurist and ecologically-sustainable development proponent Barney Foran.

Foran worked for the CSIRO for many years, leading Resources Futures Group research teams looking at population scenarios, marine fisheries and land and water use. He is now working on integrated solutions to Australia's challenges in energy security and greenhouse mitigation.

"Barney Foran will focus on issues that will affect the future of the pastoral industry, looking at how different scenarios involving world demographics, energy futures, carbon issues and consumer trends might play out," Mr Chisolm said.

"He understands the Northern Territory, having worked in ecology and pastoral management in Central Australia for 23 years."

Charles McElhone is the man the National Farmers' Federation has charged with the responsibility of keeping on top of the climate change policy debate.

As head of the federation's Climate Change Working Group, he drives efforts to ensure policy framework is designed appropriately for agriculture.

He will update members on the on-farm implications of the proposed Australian Emissions Trading Scheme.

Beverley Henry is Meat and Livestock Australia's Manager for Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change.

Ms Henry will outline MLA's latest research and development programs as they relate to the pastoral industry, and how they will benefit beef producers in the future – from research into the murky world of gut bacteria and methane emissions, to locking up carbon through new soil, pasture and crop management techniques.

"Production and land stewardship go hand in glove," Mr Chisolm said.

"The future of our industry depends on it, as it has for the past 100 years and will do for the next 100 years.

"Without a viable industry, 45 per cent of the Northern Territory would be left unmanaged so long-term prosperity of our operations will deliver long-term prosperity for the land we manage.

"The Northern Territory cattle industry is in the enviable position of being an environmentally-friendly, low-impact food production sector ideally located to supply markets to our north at a time when the world is becoming increasingly conscious about efficient energy use and emissions.

"This conference will shine a light on the work being done to find a balance between the vital role agriculture plays in maintaining food security around the world, and protecting the environment that makes this important work possible."

The Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association annual conference will be held at the Alice Springs Convention Centre, starting at 8am on Friday, March 27.

The official opening will be performed by the Hon Tony Burke, Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, with other topics to be covered to include food security (Prof Bob Fagan), economic outlook (Paul Beiboer, Rabobank), the processing sector and markets (Iain Mars, JBS Swift, Prof. John Chudleigh, Analysing Agriculture), the red meat industry (David Palmer, Meat and Livestock Australia) and attracting and retaining rural staff (Nandi Herholdt, The Ryder Self Group).

The closing address will be performed by the Hon Kon Vatskalis, NT Minister for Primary Industry Fisheries and Resources.

For more information on the conference go to [www.ntca.org.au](http://www.ntca.org.au) or phone the NTCA office in Darwin on 8981 5976.

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