



NORTHERN TERRITORY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Media Release

NT on the budget back burner!

May 14, 2009

While welcoming the Federal Government's commitment of \$1.6 million over the next three years to improve animal welfare in key livestock export markets, the cattle industry is appalled at the lack of investment in major infrastructure development in the Northern Territory.

NT Cattlemen's Association President Rohan Sullivan said with the exception of \$50 million for the Port of Darwin, announcements made in Tuesday night's budget for road funding simply mirrored the NT Government's budget announcements last week, and fell well short of the \$1.7-\$2 billion needed to bring the secondary road network up to standard.

"It is very disappointing that the Federal Government's \$26 billion nation-building program has not seen the critical infrastructure needs we have in a growing Northern Territory and particularly in the regional road network," Mr Sullivan said.

"Instead we see infrastructure projects focussed on major urban and intra-urban infrastructure.

"Research and development in agriculture, including in the area of climate change research, will be cut and there are also cuts to the Federal Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries.

"This is a major concern with existing research and development at critically low levels.

"The irony is that on the back of these cuts, it appears that \$464 million over four years will be spent on supporting food security overseas.

"Shouldn't this money be spent in Australia?"

Mr Sullivan said under the Federal budget, existing drought arrangements remained in place and there were no changes to fuel rebate arrangements.

"The budget has provided support for the Bureau of Meteorology, rural health, rural education and regional telecommunications, which are important measures," Mr Sullivan said.

Enquiries: Luke Bowen, NTCA
Ph 08 8981 5976
0427 815 990

'Advancing and protecting the interests of the cattle producers in the Northern Territory'