



NORTHERN TERRITORY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

## Media Release

# Rising grass roots madness!

May 14, 2009

While licking post budget wounds and suffering the rising impact of the world financial crisis the NT Government seems hell bent on closing down sensible land development and food production capacity with ludicrous bureaucratic process.

The very farming and pastoral industries that have carried the NT and can continue to in the future are being hamstrung by bureaucracy gone mad said NTCA President Rohan Sullivan.

"Farmers who have asked to sensibly clear less than 3% of their property have been subjected to the requirement to undertake a prohibitively expensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), something you would expect for a gas plant or major mining venture, not a farm".

Lets face it, with less than 1% of the total land area of the NT developed we are not talking about making the NT the foodbowl of Asia or making the mistakes of southern Australia but rather allow very specific and targeted land clearing to complement existing food production businesses. Contrary to popular belief there are very small areas of the NT that have any potential for development with the right mix of rainfall, soil, slope and vegetation.

It is very disappointing when an industry with a record of improved land condition evidenced by the results of land condition monitoring, membership levels and interest in Landcare groups, best practice groups and participation in large scale R&D is subjected to such bureaucracy and over regulation.

Territory cattle and food producers are increasingly using sustainable development of small and strategic areas of land as part of a diversified enterprise mix.

It's clear that the over regulation is aimed at wearing genuine farmers down, destroying their will ambition and vision for a sustainable and productive Territory. It is a death by a thousand cuts.

By demonising and obstructing sensible land clearing the government seems to be targeting what they see as the vital northern suburbs vote.

Lets look beyond politics and to the future of the Territory, not the next election said Rohan Sullivan.

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



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