



NORTHERN TERRITORY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Media Release

Decision to continue Landcare jobs 'good news for NT'

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The Federal Government's decision to continue funding the national network of Landcare co-ordinators has been applauded by the Northern Territory cattle industry.

The President of the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association, Rohan Sullivan, said the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Tony Burke, should be congratulated for his foresight in supporting such an important program.

"As custodians of more than 46 per cent of the Northern Territory land mass, our members are world leaders in the development and implementation of sustainable farming practices and Landcare has played a vital role in helping them achieve that," Mr Sullivan said.

"Landcare is also an important network in rural communities and has many positive benefits beyond its practical applications."

Mr Burke's decision to provide \$33 million over four years under *Caring for Our Country* follows extensive talks with Landcare groups and MPs after uncertainty over the future of the community-based positions arose.

"It's good to see we have a Federal Agriculture Minister who is prepared to get out there and spend time with producers and listen to what they have to say," Mr Sullivan said.

A total of 56 Landcare co-ordinator positions across Australia will be funded from next year, with transitional funding available immediately for current co-ordinators to continue in their existing jobs until then.

"This is good news for the Northern Territory if it translates to industry-based positions," Mr Sullivan said.

"We have one of the lowest-impact, clean and green food production systems in the world but are increasingly being called on to find new ways of improving efficiency while enhancing soil and environmental health – for generations to come."

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