



# **Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association**

## **Industry Brief**

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



## **Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association- Industry Brief**

### **Representation and Solidarity**

The Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association (NTCA) Inc is the peak primary industry lobby group in the Northern Territory.

The NTCA is strong, vibrant and vocal in lobbying for the rights of its members and it also maintains its unique position of having over 90% of the Territory's cattle herd represented through its membership books, from small family operations to the large corporate organisations.

Our members manage a landmass in excess of 620,000 square kilometres producing 580,000 high quality cattle per year. NTCA is strong, vibrant and vocal in lobbying for the rights of its members

The NTCA has a strategic approach to managing the pastoral sector in the Northern Territory. This is the basis for NTCA leadership in pastoral land conservation, market development, and key infrastructure activities.

### **Economic Contribution**

The pastoral industry is the Northern Territory's third largest GDP earner, equating to more than 60% of primary production in the NT generating over \$370 million directly and \$800 million indirectly into the Northern Territory's economy.

The industry directly provides in excess of 1600 jobs, mainly in rural areas of the Northern Territory. The industry believes that total employment in the industry is 2000 to 3000 jobs, including part-time and seasonal workers.

The industry has contributed to the growth of the Territory for over 150 years. It continues to increase in size, productivity and efficiency.

### **Land Stewardship**

By area, employment and economic contribution the pastoral industry is the dominate industry in land management in the NT, with a predominate focus on long term sustainable production.

Over 85% of all NTCA members are active participants in Conservation, Environmental and Landcare groups throughout the Northern Territory and the Association continues to encourage members to join local groups in all corners of the Northern Territory

### **The Herd**

Cattle numbers have increased from 1.4 million in 1974-75 to 1.7 million in 2000-01, and are currently over 2 million head. Over the same period, the percentage of turnoff to cattle population, as an indicator of productivity, has increased from 11 percent to 35 percent as a consequence of adopting improved management practices.

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### **Markets**

NT producers supply cattle to all states and territories of Australia and produce quality animals suited for the growing live export trade to South East Asia.

In 2008 over 290,000 head of Northern Territory cattle were shipped through Darwin, with 55% of the total NT production destined for the export trade in Asia, the northern beef industry continues to focus on partnerships and programs to strengthen this trade.

Domestic turn-off goes to markets throughout Australia, directly into or value-added through backgrounding operations, feedlots, saleyards or abattoirs.

### **Regions**

Region	Alice Springs	Tennant Creek/ Barkly Tableland	Victoria River District, Roper, Katherine and Top End
Approx turn off (hd)	75,000	205,000	300,000
Production	\$50,000,000	\$143,000,000	\$180,000,000
Predominant Enterprises	Family operations	Corporate operations	Family and Corporate operations
Breeds	Herefords / Santa cattle	Composite cattle	Brahman cattle suitable for the live trade
Markets	All states and Territories of Australia	Value added through back grounding and feedlots in QLD	South East Asia

### **Future Prospects**

NTCA believes that over the next decade, there is potential for the cattle herd to increase by 30% and for productivity, measured by the percentage of turnoff to population, to also increase significantly. This increase in the total herd can be achieved through more efficient use of rangelands and improved productivity from continued adoption of improved management practices including mineral supplementation, early weaning and continued learning programs.

This ongoing growth is due largely to the industry reinvesting in itself to the extent of \$30 million per year. Our members are optimistic as they position themselves for predicted future expansion in both our domestic and export markets.

### **Conclusion**

There is overwhelming evidence of an industry achieving economic growth based on productive use of its land and water resources.

Looking to the future, the Industry remains clearly focused on developing and maintaining profitable markets for NT cattle whilst improving production efficiencies.

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