



## ***NTCA Policy***

### **2010**

<b>POLICY TOPICS</b>	<b>SUB TOPICS</b>	<b>NT CATTLEMEN'S POLICIES</b>
<b>Roads &amp; Infrastructure</b>		
	<b>Infrastructure</b>	A viable and profitable pastoral industry is underpinned by sound and quality infrastructure that meets the current and emerging needs of the pastoral industry.
	<b>Infrastructure</b>	<p>The NTCA believes all of industry should be serviced by roads capable of providing a reliable, safe means of road transport that meets the economic and social needs of all users in an equitable manner. Arterial Roads are to be sealed and at 1 in 30 year standard by 2015. Access Roads are to meet Pastoral Road Design Standards and are to be able to accommodate reasonably a 6-deck road train and allow 2wd access year round by 2012.</p> <p>Long term infrastructure requirements meet the current and emerging needs of the pastoral industry.</p>

<b>Roads</b>	<p>The NTCA believes that the upgrading of the regional road network in the Northern Territory (including gazetted pastoral access roads) is the responsibility of the Northern Territory and Federal Governments. Primary and secondary roads remain the responsibility of the NT and federal government. Local roads shall remain the responsibility of the NT Government until secured funding and competency based standards can be met by the local government authority.</p> <p>Construction and maintenance must be undertaken to meet recognized standards.</p> <p>No roads should be handed over to Local Government Councils until they meet the relevant standards and have a sufficient amount identified and provided from the NT or federal sources for maintenance.</p> <p>The NTCA believes that all members are serviced by roads capable of providing a reliable safe means of transport that meets the economic and social needs of all road users in an equitable manner. Arterial Roads are to be sealed and at 1 in 30 year standard by 2013. Access Roads are to meet Pastoral Road Design Standards and are to be able to accommodate reasonably a 6-deck road train, 2wd access year round by 2012.</p>
<b>Communication - Mail</b>	That all members have access to a regular, year-round mail service.
<b>Communication - Telecommunications</b>	<p>Members should have access to a reliable, high speed broadband network.</p> <p>All members should have access to reliable and modern telephone and data services.</p>

	<b>Port of Darwin</b>	The NTCA believes that the Northern Territory should be serviced by a port able to efficiently accommodate the expanding requirements of Live Cattle export and other resource sectors.
	<b>Yards-Export</b>	The NTCA believes that the Northern Territory should be serviced by strategically placed, high quality export yards compliant with best practice animal welfare standards with direct access to the port for loading.
	<b>Yards-Spelling/other</b>	The NTCA believes that the Northern Territory should be serviced by an efficient network of spelling yards and rest areas able to accommodate the combined requirements of driver fatigue, animal welfare and transport efficiency.
<b>Economic</b>		
	<b>Economic Sustainability</b>	The NTCA firmly believes in the right of members to engage in a pastoral business activity that allows a sustainable and profitable future. The association supports the protection and utilisation of all resources required to enable a sustainable future for pastoral operations.

<b>Levies - Associations</b>	That levies are necessary to provide the ability for industry to fund Research, Development, Marketing and Lobbying.
<b>Levies - Memberships</b>	NTCA Membership levies to be consistent with supporting offices and staff in both Darwin and Alice Springs to provide effective support to the NTCA membership.
<b>Externally funded projects</b>	NTCA recognises the value of externally funded projects in augmenting the Associations budget and services to members. NTCA will only be involved in externally funded projects that: a)do not impact on its ability to carry out core functions and services, b) provides an administration component to the association which can be used to fund core operations, and c) provide direct benefits to members and the industry.
<b>Local Government Increased Boundaries</b>	NTCA believes that any further reform of local government and introduction into unincorporated areas should only occur after full consultation with communities and landholders within those areas
<b>Local Government-Rating/Taxation</b>	The NTCA seeks changes to the Pastoral Land Act to guarantee the government commitment to offset any shire rate rises with a corresponding reduction in pastoral lease rentals. The NTCA opposes any increases in shire rates and supports a consistent government policy on rating of pastoral leases, other primary production leases, pastoral land holdings and other primary production land. The NTCA does not support rating where that rating cannot demonstrate corresponding levels of service delivery.

<b>Carbon Trading and Emissions</b>	The NTCA supports efforts to reduce world greenhouse gas and is able to make a positive contribution as part of the solution. The NTCA does not support the inclusion of agriculture in a cap and trade emissions trading scheme until such time as it can be demonstrated that there will be no detrimental impact on international competitiveness and profitability. This position acknowledges the inappropriateness of current international carbon accounting standards where they apply to agriculture. While the NTCA does not support the inclusion of agriculture it does support the establishment of off market and voluntary schemes to promote the role of farmers and pastoralists in increasing the carbon storage and capture.
<b>Carbon emissions and sequestration R&amp;D</b>	The NTCA actively seeks increased investment in R&D to reduce emissions and increase efficiency in energy use. The NTCA seeks increased R&D into carbon measurement, storage and capture including an equitable focus across the arid zone and northern savannahs.
<b>Technology</b>	The NTCA supports and promotes technologies that contribute to the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of industry and its membership.
<b>Production</b>	The NTCA believes that members should be allowed to optimise the use of their available natural resources. Members should be able to pursue all reasonable avenues to sustainably increase the production of a pastoral operation.
<b>Profitability</b>	The NTCA believes that positive environmental outcomes can only be achieved when industry is profitable It is fundamental that industry is able to maximise profits of pastoral business operations to secure their long term future

	<b>R &amp; D</b>	The NTCA supports regional advisory committees working with Government in identifying Research and Development demands associated with the pastoral industry and upholds the value of good R&D in delivering long term profitability.
	<b>Taxation</b>	The NTCA acknowledges the need for an equitable taxation system. The NTCA believes that members should stay within their legal obligation to the Federal and Territory taxation legislation
<b>Animal Welfare, QA &amp; Food Safety</b>		
	<b>Product Integrity</b>	The NTCA believes that the reputation of our industry is underpinned by the reliable supply of a safe, high quality product to consumers. NTCA supports programs that safeguard the livestock industry throughout the supply chain.
	<b>NLIS</b>	The NTCA supports and promotes the use of NLIS for traceability and recognises its potential as a management tool.

	<b>Emergency Animal Diseases</b>	The NTCA supports measures that enable a quick and effective response by government and industry to emergencies with an outcome that protects the Cattle Industry from the veterinary and economic impacts of an emergency animal disease.
	<b>Animal Health and Welfare</b>	The NTCA supports sound, science based animal welfare practices in terms of both on property and within associated industries, enabling a viable economic future. The NTCA does not condone cruelty to animals.
	<b>Exotic and Emerging Diseases</b>	The NTCA recognises the threat posed to the economic and social wellbeing of the NT and national livestock industry by exotic and emerging diseases and supports all measures to prevent or eradicate such diseases.
<b>Association Profile</b>		
	<b>Association Profile - Public Image</b>	The NTCA promotes itself as a responsible corporate entity that's primary purpose is to represent the rights and interests of its members whilst understanding the industry's position in the community and the responsibilities tied with that position.

<b>Finances</b>	That all NTCA finances must be delivered to a qualified Auditor and presented to the AGM each year. The completed financial report will be made available for any full member of the Association on written request. The NTCA seeks to improve its financial position.
<b>Affiliated Association Rep's</b>	The NTCA recognises the value of national peak bodies and commodity councils and should maintain membership of the National Farmers Federation and Cattle Council of Australia where these maintain the interests of the NTCA.
<b>Industry Related Associations</b>	The NTCA will maintain a position on those Associations that the NTCA believe are important to or relate to matters concerning the Northern Territory Pastoral Industry
<b>Market Security / Trade Delegations</b>	NTCA will accompany the appropriate Minister on all cattle-related trade delegations involving key markets throughout SE Asia. The NTCA believes that the Minister should not travel overseas without industry representatives with long term export industry experience.
<b>Other Interest Groups</b>	The NTCA should seek to accompany private delegations that may impinge on the industry.

<b>Media Protocol</b>	Members commenting outside NTCA policy will qualify that their comment is their own opinion and not that of the NTCA
<b>Communications - Media</b>	The Association should maintain a high and positive profile with regular media releases. All media contributions should clearly outline the NTCA policy relating to the subject.
<b>Strong International Relationships</b>	NTCA will continue to build strong international relationships with our key trading partners.
<b>Communications - Other Associations</b>	The NTCA should maintain regular open correspondence with the relevant state bodies around Australia.
<b>Communications - Internal</b>	NTCA will keep members informed where possible of all relevant information and developments affecting their industry and industry associations.

<b>Corporate Governance</b>	The NTCA recognises and adheres to the code of conduct as described in Corporate Governance legislation of the Northern Territory. Check legislation
<b>Corporate Governance - Training</b>	At the first executive meeting following the AGM annually, the incoming executive will undergo a formal session with a Corporate Governance expert.
<b>Membership Services and fees</b>	Members levies to be consistent with supporting a viable office and staff in both Darwin and Alice Springs with capable staff to provide effective support to the NTCA membership.
<b>Lobbying</b>	The NTCA should vigorously and effectively lobby both Federal and Territory Government and all related interest groups on issues relating to both the membership and the general pastoral industry

<b>Resource Security</b>		
	<b>Resource Utilisation</b>	The NTCA firmly believes its members have the right to engage in a pastoral Business activity that allows a sustainable and profitable future for generations to come. The association supports the protection and utilisation of all resources required to enable that a sustainable future for pastoral operations. See Luke's notes
	<b>Stock Security</b>	The NTCA believes that the members' individual stock security is a fundamental right and as such members should be entitled to due legal protection enforceable by law. The NTCA supports the use of Brands under the brands act as a system for identifying ownership of livestock.
	<b>Pastoral Land Act &amp; Review</b>	The NTCA believes that the Pastoral Lands Act underpins the existence and future of the industry and has served the industry, the environment and the wider community well since its commencement. As such the NTCA believes the Act should be retained in its current form and moved to the lands department. Furthermore the NTCA believes that the Pastoral Lands Board should remain the primary regulatory body for all issues concerning management and administration of pastoral land. See Luke's notes
	<b>Primary Industries strategy</b>	The NTCA calls for a coordinated effort across the key departments including primary Industry, environment, infrastructure, health and education, working with industry to deliver a cohesive, clear and workable plan for the long term development of the NT and national food and fibre industries.

<b>Subdivision</b>	The NTCA promotes pastoral subdivision where it can offer increasing levels of productivity and land utilisation. The NTCA believe that industry is in the best position to assess the viability of each subdivision acknowledging the increased level of diversification and non farm investment used in today's industry.
<b>Drought</b>	Under review. Preparedness & capacity development, infrastructure incentives, tax management, natural disaster.
<b>Native Title</b>	The NTCA recognises that native title may exist on pastoral leases in the Territory and that pastoralists and native title holders should deal with each other with mutual respect and due consideration to the legitimate interests of each other. The NTCA supports the determination of native title claims over pastoral leases by a process of a single consent determination for each pastoral lease with the parties to the consent determination including the native title claimants, the pastoralist and the Territory. Consent determinations must result in the identification of native title holders, the specification of the established native title rights and interests, the acknowledgement of the rights of the pastoralists and the express recognition that in the event of any inconsistency between pastoral rights and native title rights the rights of the pastoralist shall prevail.

<b>Community Living Areas</b>	That the NTCA believes that existing inhabited CLA's should be fully serviced by Government to provide and maintain access and Community infrastructure. Furthermore pastoral lessees should have no responsibility for maintaining access or services to Community Living Areas. That the Government should give priority to supporting currently existing and sustainable communities that have some prospect of achieving self sufficiency. The NTCA is of the view that no additional CLA's should now be approved unless there is a commitment by government to fully resource infrastructure, education, medical and social requirements.
<b>Stock Routes and Reserves</b>	That currently existing Stock Routes and Reserves are no longer available for claim pursuant to an agreement between the Pastoral Industry, The Northern Territory Government, The Federal Government, and the Land Councils. Any attempt to revive such a claim will be regarded by the Pastoral Industry as a clear breach of that agreement. Any offer by a Land Council to withdraw such a claim in return for some other concession, will be seen as dishonest and coercive by the Pastoral Industry and will be resisted.
<b>Aboriginal Cultural Heritage</b>	The NTCA supports the protection of aboriginal heritage and this requires an effective authority able to act quickly to clear sites for development, including the maintenance of roads and essential infrastructure. Where a pastoral lessee becomes aware of an emerging heritage issue, or where the lessee has received a heritage based request from an Aboriginal custodian or Land Council, then the matter should be referred immediately to the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority. Negotiations between the Aboriginal parties and the pastoral lessee can then be conducted under the auspices of the Authority in seeking a solution. It will be NTCA policy that no costs incurred in "protection" will be the responsibility of the lessee. Pastoralists should have provided to them the latest information to all cultural sites on their properties.

<b>Land Clearing</b>	The NTCA believes strategic land clearing and development is a vital part of a diversified and resilient food production sector while maintaining a balance between viable productivity and environmental sustainability.
<b>Water Availability/Entitlements</b>	NTCA supports the right of pastoral operations to draw water from surface or underground sources for stock and domestic purposes without the requirement for a water license.
<b>Water Management &amp; Security</b>	NTCA supports the development of water allocation plans as a means of making water available to various beneficial uses, protecting environmental values and promoting economic development.
<b>Stocking Density</b>	
<b>Mining</b>	Pastoralists interests and concerns are to be fairly considered and compensated in the event of any exploration or mining activity.

	<b>Mining - Code of Conduct for Mineral Explorers</b>	The NTCA believes that Mineral exploration companies should be made aware of, agree to, and adhere to a code of conduct for mineral exploration on pastoral leases developed in conjunction with the NT Resources Council. Roy and Luke to re-visit.
<b>People</b>		
	<b>Social Sustainability</b>	The NTCA believes that people are the most valuable resource we have for the development of our industry. The association supports all programs that enhance regional and community development and lifestyle.
	<b>OH&amp;S</b>	All industry members should maintain a safe workplace environment by employing sound workplace training and practices. . The Association supports all programs that enhance safe workplace practices, and believes that workplace health and safety is a responsibility shared by employers and employees
	<b>Training</b>	The NTCA strongly believes in the role of ongoing training in the development of all ppl involved in the pastoral industry.

	<b>Industrial Relations</b>	The NTCA supports the existing Industrial Regulation Legislation
	<b>Education</b>	Every Territorian has the right to access high quality education and learning. The NTCA believes priority should be given to the delivery of flexible and adaptive education services to support the long term development of the NT
	<b>Medical</b>	Every Territorian has the right to the highest standards of preventative, corrective and emergency medical services regardless of location and circumstance.
	<b>Women</b>	The NTCA acknowledges and promotes the role of women in the past, current and future development of the industry and seeks to advance the contribution of women at all levels of industry, community and regional development.
	<b>Indigenous development</b>	The NTCA supports the long term and successful development of the educational, social, cultural and economic foundations of indigenous families, communities and regional groups for the overall prosperity of the NT.

	<b>Youth</b>	The NTCA believes that the young people are the future of our industry and community. As such the association believes that all measures should be taken to develop the full potential and capacity of our youth.
<b>Environmental</b>		
	<b>Environmental Sustainability</b>	The NTCA believes that a diversified, profitable and strong pastoral sector drives responsible long term environmental management and supports sound, integrated environmental and production practice.
	<b>Energy and Fuel Costs</b>	The NTCA embraces and pursues all technologies that contribute to more efficient use of energy and the reduction of fuel costs for its membership.
	<b>Feral Animal Control</b>	The NTCA believes that Feral Animal control is primarily the responsibility of the Land owner, however, believes that there is a joint responsibility of Government in exceptional circumstances.

<b>Camels</b>	The NTCA advocates the removal of camels from the rangelands in order to protect the economic, environmental and cultural integrity of our land and industries.
<b>Crocodiles</b>	Under development
<b>Dog Baiting</b>	The NTCA supports the right of pastoral operations to protect their livestock and economic interests by use of strategic and targeted baiting to control wild dogs. The NTCA supports the continued availability of 1080 as the preferred method for wild dog control until such time as a more suitable economically viable alternative is developed.
<b>Environment Protection and Over-Regulation</b>	The NTCA firmly believes that environments protection and over regulation should not impinge on the rights of members to engage in a pastoral business activity that allows a sustainable and profitable future for generations to come
<b>Douglas Daly</b>	The NTCA and govt have long identified the potential of the Douglas Daly region for mixed farming systems. The NTCA supports future development in the region.

<b>Weed management</b>	The NTCA believes that Weed management is the responsibility of the Land owner in the first instance however, believes that there is a joint responsibility of Government in exceptional circumstances.
<b>Fire</b>	The NTCA believes that fire management is the responsibility of the Land owner but believes there is a responsibility of Government to provide suitable coordination and resources through the Bushfire Council NT.
<b>Native Animal Control</b>	NTCA recognises the value of native animals to the environment and Australian community. NTCA supports the right of landholders to implement control measures where an overabundance of a species is causing environmental or economic damage to a pastoral operation.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	The NTCA recognises that biodiversity is essential to sound sustainable land management practices and supports balanced programs that promote biodiversity in harmony with sustainable economic production.
<b>Landcare</b>	The NTCA believes that members should support peak landcare bodies and seek to maximise representation. The NTCA supports and encourages all members to actively participate in their local Landcare groups. The NTCA supports the wider landcare movement where it complements the objectives of industry.

	<b>EMS</b>	The NTCA believes that EMS is a proactive method of documenting sound environmental practice.
	<b>Nuclear Waste Facility</b>	If a low and intermediate radioactive waste storage facility in the NT is developed, it will be the responsibility of the appropriate Government Agencies to ensure correct environmental and regulatory procedures are followed to protect the pastoral industry of the NT.
	<b>Uranium Mining</b>	To be discussed? Market risk. Action when required
<b>Trading Company</b>		
	<b>Finances</b>	All NTCT finances will be audited and presented to the AGM each year. The completed financial report will be made available for any full member of the Association on written request.

<b>Communications</b>	The NTCT will report to the membership in writing at the AGM each year. Additionally, the NTCT will update the membership on any changing situation.
<b>Animal Welfare</b>	<p>The NTCA is committed to promote and support and advance industry best practice animal welfare along the entire production and supply chain.</p> <p>Good animal welfare delivers improved productivity, production and economic returns and the NTCA advocates increased investment in R&amp;D to address industry and community expectations for good animal welfare standards.</p> <p>The NTCA aims to maximize influence over animal welfare practices in our overseas markets even where we may not supply livestock, or control the production system.</p>
<b>Committees</b>	A sub-committee shall be formed each year to oversee the maintenance of the Bohning yard complex. This will be made up of 2 agents and 2 members and the General Manager.