



NORTHERN TERRITORY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Government Agribusiness Strategy – stage 1 submission April 2010

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Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association



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



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1. Purpose

The purpose of this submission is to respond to the NT Government (NTG) on Northern Territory Agribusiness Strategy from the perspective of the NT Cattlemen's Association (NTCA). This response is built on the combined strength of the NTCA as the leading industry body in the NT, NTCA policy and programs across industry, research and development, market access and trade, regional development, health and education. This response has also been written in close cooperation and discussion with the NT's other key peak industry bodies, being NT Horticulture and NT Ag Assoc.

2. Summary

The NTCA as the peak industry body for the cattle industry, steward of up to 50% of the landmass and the prime stakeholder in the development of agribusiness in the Northern Territory.

The NTCA is openly expressed concern relating to the manner in which this agribusiness strategy is being developed. Particularly NTCA has expressed considerable concern that there will not be effective consultation and buy-in from industry if the process is rushed remains largely top-down in focus. Having said this is the NTCA as provided in this submission answers to questions posed and raised a number of other issues thought to be critical to the development of agribusiness in the NT.

The NTCA submission has identified key areas where development of agribusiness in the Northern Territory is currently hamstrung and future development will be stymied if not addressed. These key areas include:

1. The lack of a unified, clear and well articulated vision for agribusiness in the NT from the Chief Minister . We have Eco-links, a parks master plan and a number of publically promoted and supported flagship initiatives, heralded from the very top of government. This must happen for the agribusiness sector.
2. A serious lack of government policy coordination and cooperation across key departments and ministries .
3. Infrastructure development to support current and future needs of industry, regional development and community.

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4. Dedicated and coordinated investment in a full survey of soil, water, infrastructure and other key drivers for agribusiness development across the NT and connected systems across boarder.
5. Retreating government extension, targeted research and development, at a time of diminishing returns and increasing cost of production.
6. The Northern Territory's environment department currently takes the lead role in dictating the development and maintenance of agribusiness sector. The Resources Department takes a backseat and this can be well demonstrated with analysis of assessment panels and committees on issues such as land clearing.
7. Land tenure reform to facilitate diversification, greater resilience and risk management capacity.
8. Inadequate health and education services able to support the growth of healthy communities.
9. A lack of balance in the education system with no attention of the sustainable production of food and allied industry through dedicated curriculum, teacher development and education. Rather the education system supports the propagation of more extreme environmental material into schools which build ill informed and destructive perceptions of agribusiness.
10. A local government structure unable to generate significant income outside government funding, resulting in an intention to tax the pastoral sector in a disproportionate manner to either population or service provision and in so doing destroy the regional development outcomes from industry.

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The NTCA submission is informed by a range of studies and programs which provide an insight into the challenges industry face, today and in the medium and long-term. A comprehensive study of the viability of northern beef industry undertaken by Holmes and Company in 2010 states “no region within the Northern Territory has a high level of net cash available, with a lot of stations having negative net cash available, after interest, tax and capital expenditure are taken into account”. The report goes on to add that “if a business is not economically sustainable and it will not be environmentally or socially sustainable in the long term”.

The implications of this are significant and point to the need for a range of government responses to ensure that the industry remains viable, efficient and able to deliver economic social and environmental outcomes for the Northern Territory as a whole. This requires a concerted effort across the whole of government including the primary portfolios of resources, environment, infrastructure, regional development, local government, health and education.

Currently the Territory and Federal Government have driven a number of initiatives including:

- 2030 (NT)
- NT Climate Change Strategy (NT)
- Northern Australian Land and Water Taskforce Report (Federal)
- Growth Towns (NT)
- Local government reform (NT)
- Eco-Links (NT)
- Living Rivers (NT)

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This submission has endeavored to draw important aspects from each one of these to highlight the need for closer cooperation. This submission also asks important questions of these other initiatives, such as how agribusiness will be integrated, and how government intends to back their implementation, in terms of the commitment of money and resources.

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A failure to deliver one message and vision for agribusiness, involving whole of government change and coordination will spell the death of the agribusiness strategy, and it will be added to the list of similar exercises populating the shelves of our departments, offices and homes across the NT.



3. Background

Organisation and Industry

The Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association (NTCA) Inc is the peak primary industry advocacy group in the Northern Territory, representing more than 90 per cent of the Territory's cattle herd, from small family operations to the large corporate organisations. By area, employment and economic contribution the pastoral industry is the dominant industry in land management in the NT, with a focus on long term sustainable production. With about 55 per cent of the total NT production destined for export markets in south-east Asia, the northern beef industry continues to focus on partnerships and programs to strengthen this trade.

The NTCA has a strategic approach to managing the pastoral sector in the Northern Territory which informs its leadership in pastoral land conservation, market development, and key infrastructure activities.

Land Stewardship

Our members manage a landmass of more than 620,000 square kilometres and more than 85 per cent of all NTCA members are active participants in Conservation, Environmental and Landcare groups and the NTCA 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, improved management practices have raised the percentage of turnoff to cattle population as an indicator of productivity from 11 percent to 35 percent.

Turn-off and the Markets

NT producers supply cattle to all states and territories of Australia and produce quality animals for the growing live export trade to South East Asia. A mix of family and corporate operations in the savanna country (the Victoria River, Katherine, Roper districts) and other Top End regions turn off 300,000 head annually, most of which are shipped through the port of Darwin. The corporate operations of the Barkly region turn off another 205,000, which goes into the domestic market through feedlots in Queensland; and the family operations of the Alice Springs region turn off a further 75,000 head, also for the domestic market.

Our Territory national and international links

Our approach is informed by our body of knowledge and by our active membership of national peak bodies such as Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) the National Farmers Federation (NFF) and Cattle

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Council of Australia (CCA) and through these affiliations an international network including the International Federation of Agriculture Producers. We are involved in promoting sensible and responsible policy and practice including:

- Government policies for secure land tenure systems and adequate infrastructure that allows producers to invest in long-term farming strategies related to sustainable production, conservation, soil carbon and biodiversity enhancement.
- Increased funding for the scientific research that underpins the development and sound understanding of how agricultural management interacts with biodiversity.
- Scientific knowledge and findings should be disseminated, scaled-down and be specific to the dynamics of a particular region.
- Strengthened farmers' participation in the formulation and the implementation of research projects and rural development strategies to enhance , production and conservation outcomes.
- Improved policy coordination and planning of environmental legislation affecting agricultural production. Often different government departments deal with these issues in isolation. There is also a need to increase capacity to enforce legislation in a coordinated way.
- Economic partnerships between developing and developed countries aimed at transferring and adapting stewardship programs, such as credit systems and extension services.
- Recognition of farmers' and producers knowledge of local resource management and conservation.

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Government Organisational and Policy Settings

At a time of increasing world demand for food, increasing pressures from climate variability and tightening economic conditions, the Northern Territory has demonstrated a capacity to produce food and trade that food with the rest of Australia, and the world. Despite projected changes, there is no doubt that the NT will continue to be able to capitalise on opportunities to continue to increase levels of production to supply NT, Australian and world food demand in spite of obstructionist government policy, inefficiencies on service delivery and or general apathy and indifference to the sector.

Currently the NT does not have any targets for current or future food production and there is limited cross departmental cooperation on common issues of major economic benefit to the NT. By way of example, agricultural, horticultural and pastoral production is impacted by policy and legislation from at least three departments including Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sports (NRETAS), Planning and Infrastructure (DPI) and Resources – (formerly Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources DRPIFR). It appears that in many cases, there is little cooperation across these departments or ministries directly impacting our future production capacity.

Moreover, there has also been a net withdrawal of extension staff from major departments, who in the past have provided valuable production and environmental support to the primary production sector.

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This in itself has placed increased limits on productivity and efficiency gains in the short, medium and long term. Extension is becoming increasingly essential in a complex world, where vital information, tailored to a region and industry is essential for informed investment decisions as industry strives to improve productivity, whilst meeting increasing expectations with regards to environmental sustainability, animal welfare and regulation.

4. The Future

NTCA believes that over the next decade, there is potential for the cattle herd to increase by 30 per cent 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.

The Northern Territory stands on the threshold of an exciting era of agricultural development. Changes in production systems, technology and demographics in the Northern Territory combined with changes in other parts of Australia and the world have delivered a range of opportunities and challenges to the local industry. Changes to the climate, fuel prices, local and international markets and increasing levels of globalisation have all created opportunities for NT primary producers while also bringing issues such as closer domestic and global scrutiny and risks associated with international trade which will need to be addressed. The time is appropriate to assess these opportunities and challenges and plan for a prosperous and vibrant future.

The NTCA has recently conducted a thorough consultation process aimed at developing a vision for the future of the Pastoral Industry (NTCA Futures) and strategies to ensure that the industry prospers and builds a future for the industry and the future of the Northern Territory as a whole. NTCA members and other industry stakeholders were involved in a comprehensive consultation and strategic planning exercise over a 12 month period in 2009 and early 2010.

NTCA members and other stakeholders in the Pastoral Industry see a future for the Pastoral Industry where there is continued strong demand for meat and livestock products from Australia and the NT remains a key supplier of meat and livestock both domestically and internationally. A future where technological advances, husbandry improvements and improved nutrition have increased livestock productivity and enterprise profitability.



We foresee that rising energy prices will force major changes to the way businesses operate in remote and regional areas and drive change in renewable energy options. In this future Land Tenure reform will ensure a cattle station has become a place from which a diverse range of income streams are generated including – livestock, meat and animal products from cattle and other species, horticultural products, environmental services, native plant products and timber, energy and eco-tourism. Re-investment in the land will be recognized as a priority and will be encouraged by a range of market based incentives including markets for carbon credits, for fire and grazing management and biodiversity credits. Local value adding, a focus on quality and sustainable production systems and the marketing of branded products will have developed a range of new markets throughout the region and the world. Strong productive and resilient systems will require strong educational and training support to ensure a skilled workforce and industry.

NTCA members believe the NT of the future will be characterized by an engaged and healthy community with an active regionally focused economy and a healthy environment.

Given current economic challenges, NTCA members expect to see a proportional increase in the relative importance to the NT economy of the vital food production sector due to continued demand for live cattle and domestic and export demand for beef. The Northern Territory beef industry is strategically positioned, producing an environmentally friendly, low footprint product, while sustainably managing up to 50% of the NT landmass, contributing to regional economies, employment and development.

Working alongside this is the ever increasing gross cost of production, the reducing return for agricultural commodities in real and adjusted terms, and the requirement, that to remain in business, operations need to become increasingly efficient each year. These efficiencies can only be delivered through increased revenue through increased kilograms of beef sold, and the reduction in the cost of production per kilogram.

5. Contributing factors – influencing forces

NTCA Futures - project

Funded by the Federal Government Caring for Country Program the NTCA Futures Project has recommended a strategic framework aimed at assisting industry and government policy and program development so as to deliver a prosperous and sustainable future for the Pastoral Industry in the NT. This framework encompasses three key directions which need to be integrated into the development of the Agribusiness strategy:

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- Maximise Return per beast carried – this strategic direction is aimed at continual improvement in productivity of land and livestock while also maximising profitability and local value adding opportunities and taking account of developments such as Climate Change and rising oil prices. This direction is supported by Recommendations 1, 2, 4, 8, 9 and 11 of the Land and Water Taskforce Report.
- Trade Relationships – Northern Territory Agribusiness is increasingly operating in a global marketplace - maintenance of existing and development of new trade relationships will be critical to the long term profitability and sustainability of the Pastoral industry and other NT Agricultural industries.
- A Sustainable Future – In order to prosper in the 21st Century NT Agribusiness Industries will need to implement strategies which integrate effective production systems with social and environmental responsibilities while also addressing developments affecting the resilience of agribusiness and community. Government partnerships and support in key areas such as infrastructure development will be essential. This direction is strongly supported by the Land and Water Taskforce Report specifically in Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 14 and 15.

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While the Futures Study has focussed on the Pastoral Industry the strategic directions and recommended actions will apply across the NT Agribusiness sector.

6. Partnerships for productivity – Issues paper comments

The following responses to the Issues Paper February 2010 are based on the questions proposed in the Issues Paper and draw on the Futures Report, the NTCA Executive workshop and other documents such as the Land and Water Taskforce Report and the Discussion Paper on NT Climate Change Issues.

1. *The Importance of Primary Industries in the Northern territory*

The Pastoral Industry and other Primary Industries are vital to the health of the Territory economy and due to changes in southern climates, international markets and domestic and regional populations these industries are growing at unprecedented rates. The NTCA expects cattle numbers to increase by around 30% over the next 10 years and for productivity to increase at the same time. The importance of the Pastoral Industry to the Territory economy includes a significant contribution to the economy as well as intangible benefits of land stewardship and contributions to the social fabric of Territory life.

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The importance of these industries to all aspects of Territory life means that the role of the Department of Resources in supporting these industries is critical and is vital to the future of the Northern Territory.

2. What should be the Department of Resources' role in supporting emerging primary industry sectors ?

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The Department of Resources will need to support emerging primary industry sectors as they identify opportunities and grow. Support of innovation and diversification will be essential to the growth of agribusiness. This can be achieved by –

- Investment in data collection and analysis to support the identification of diversification opportunities, land and water use planning, catchment level water planning and local decision making. (as recommended in Recommendation 1 of the Land and Water Taskforce Report and the NTCA Futures study)
- Review and reform of Property Rights legislation to allow greater diversification, security and flexibility of land use and to clarify the future of carbon rights in relation to land ownership and tenure (as recommended in Recommendations 8 & 9 of the Land and Water Taskforce Report and the NTCA Futures study)
- Ensure necessary infrastructure is in place to allow private development
- Have appropriate legislation in place that helps rather than hinders development
- Reduce the overbearing and stultifying influence of the Environment department.
- Targeted R&D based on current and future market demand
- The most important thing about any investigation or research into “new” industries is that the work is science and not advocacy, for a policy decision and results are properly analyses recorded and published in the public record.

3. What investment should be made in promoting the importance of primary industries sectors and the significant contribution they make to service industries and in driving regional growth?

Positive communication, education and public awareness is critical to the continued development and acceptance by the wider community of the agribusiness sector. As identified by the NTCA in budget submission 2010 specific resources need to be dedicated to an education officer to work with schools and other institutions to ensure curriculum is developed and delivered to schools and teachers. Expansion and development of the Alawa School model requires commitment and investment from government.

Largely due to the lack of voters in rural areas there is often no political imperative in promoting the importance of rural sector to regional development, employment, and economic development of the NT. The reality however is very different with the sector providing a constant source of economic activity throughout regional areas of the NT, providing employment for indigenous and on indigenous Australians and generating increasingly important income for the NT.



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The importance of primary industry sectors is becoming increasingly imperative in a world where scrutiny of all land based activities is increasing. The Department of Resources has an important role to play in partnership with industry in promoting the sustainability and importance of primary industries to local and global audiences, markets and communities – investment in promotion and communication in these areas is necessary to facilitate growth. Communication within and across government is also very important to ensure a positive perceptions, practical policy and program development and implementation.

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Partnerships between Government and industry will be important in the development and implementation of communication strategies. The issue is extremely important and it is an issue will require a strategic approach, collaboration and the investment of appropriate resources.

Development and diversification will be the keys to ongoing agribusiness growth in the NT. Promotion of the concept and the benefits of sustainable, managed and monitored development will require investment and effort by government and industry.

There is a role for the department to supply the Minister with facts that he/she can use to continually advocate and promote their portfolio in the urban electorate, in cabinet and government.

4. Increasing Profitability through Productivity Growth

Increased profitability through productivity growth is identified as a key strategic direction for the industry by the NTCA Futures report. Productivity growth has in the past enabled primary producers to address declining terms of trade and will be essential to assist the primary industries sectors to deal with coming challenges. The Pastoral Industry operates on narrow margins as costs increase and returns remain relatively stable. Government support in increasing profitability through increasing productivity will be vital to the future of the industry.

5. What opportunities are there to further explore joint research and development funded opportunities with relevant partners?

Ongoing research is critical in fostering productivity increases and innovation and diversification. All opportunities to further explore joint research and development must be explored

The opportunities may include -

- involvement of private enterprise in research and development
- development of relationships with research and development organizations in neighboring countries and other countries with similar environment and climatic conditions
- fostering joint venture projects on privately owned land
- maintaining a high level of communication with industry through regional research bodies, stakeholder engagement forums and consultation with industry peak bodies

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- investigate and implement opportunities for commercialisation of research results

6. How can research and development programs be better directed in partnership with industry?

Research and development is critical to the maintenance of productivity growth – efficiency of use of resources is critical and will be enhanced through –

- Formation of partnerships among research institutions and industry
- Accurate targeting of research effort through consultation with industry, regional research bodies and stakeholder engagement forums
- Ensuring research efforts are aimed at improvement in financial, environmental and social sustainability
- Partnerships and communication with research and industry organizations in neighbouring countries where issues may be more applicable than in southern Australia
- Support of private enterprise involvement in research
- A focus on profitability at industry and farm levels
- Investigation of innovative land management strategies such as carbon storage
- Maintenance of adequate departmental staffing and resource allocation

The importance of research and development in facilitating and shaping the future is such that the NTCA suggests the NTCA and other industry groups to play a formal role in developing the proposed Northern Territory Primary Industry Research Strategy.

7. What criteria should be used to allocate extension resources?

A recent study commissioned by the NTCA, "A Viability Assessment of the Northern Territory Beef Industry", (Holmes and Associates 2010) identified that "the pastoral industry of the Northern Territory is on a knife edge in terms of viability". The report also went on to identify that survival in the industry can only happen where production efficiencies continue to improve, cost per unit of production is reduced and the overall output, or turn over, is increased.

In order to deliver this, producers require increasing levels of skill across a wide range of disciplines including, animal husbandry, genetics, marketing, human resource management, production management and financial management, to name a few. This points to the obvious issues connected to research and development and extension of that research to the property and business level. Government has a major role to play and this has clearly been diminishing at an alarming rate in recent years. There will be a knock-on effect that will manifest in decreasing efficiencies and diminished future development potential for Northern Territory agribusiness if ignored.

Priority therefore needs to be placed on the major profit drivers for industry, with research and development and extension allocated accordingly. The NTCA futures project and the Holmes report

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identified improvement in returns per breeder as critical to driving long-term viability. This needs to be a priority for Northern Territory government extension as it relates to the beef industry.

More than ever the adoption of new technology, skills and knowledge is essential to the long term viability and sustainability of the primary production sector. Effective extension is critical to the adoption of research results and allocation of extension resources must be in consultation with industry and especially in the NT must make use of developments in communication and training technology.

Extension in the Territory provides many specific challenges due to the nature of the landscape and the distances involved, however, developments in communications and extension technology can and must be applied to overcome these hurdles. Leading edge extension methods will be required to support the research effort, to ensure research results are applied in the field and to deliver feedback from producers to researchers.

Emerging climate change policy at the NT and federal level will drive demand for research and development and extension. While there are many issues that require attention, clearly long-term priorities can only be set by effective industry consultation. Industry consultation must be used to set priorities for extension and extension needs. These priorities and needs can be reviewed and discussed at regional research committee and stakeholder forum level.

8. *How can the government and private sector better align research priorities and capitalise on the use of research facilities?*

Effective and ongoing engagement with industry through partnerships and communication with industry representative and research bodies / committees. The need for dedicated research facilities can only follow the identification of research priorities and the most effective method to deliver the research outcomes. There is a danger in matching research to existing facilities in order to justify the facilities existence however it also needs to be recognised that research facilities take a lot of political will and resources to establish and once lost are unlikely to never be replaced. Research priorities need to be identified through effective industry consultation and collaboration.

9. *What is an appropriate balance between research effort on government-managed research farms and privately owned land ?*

A balance is required - while research needs to have practical applicability some research requires long time frames and is more appropriate to government led research and work performed on government owned and managed research farms. Industry input and partnerships will be important in maintaining an appropriate balance.

The use of research farms as demonstration sites and tools for extension is valuable and any decision on the future use of these research facilities must be taken in consultation with industry.



10. Are there private sector opportunities for the range of tests currently undertaken by the Department of Resources. Berrimah Farm laboratory facilities ?

There are private sector opportunities for scientific testing. Private laboratories exist in other parts of Australia providing services which range from pathology to soil testing. Any change to private sector operations must be carefully evaluated by industry and government to ensure there is no loss of service or efficiency. Appropriate accreditation and monitoring will be essential.

11. What are the issues associated with the partial or full subdivision of pastoral leases for more intensive use?

As identified in the northern task force report, and the NTCA futures initiative, greater flexibility of land tenure will be critical in order to facilitate future sustainability and growth. There are a range of policy and legislative requirements, and success in developing a workable and efficient way forward will require high-level direction from government and cooperation across ministries and departments. Subdivision of pastoral leases will facilitate the development of innovative land use and management approaches to allow intensification and diversification of land use, driving greater resilience to market and environmental variability.

Issues associated with subdivision will include –

- Changes in land values
- Intensification and diversification
- A mosaic pattern of agricultural development
- Potential fragmentation of habitat
- Assessment and perceptions of viability of subdivided or remnant portions.

12. What are the key issues that need to be addressed regarding land diversification?

Land use diversification will be integral to further development of the agribusiness sector in the NT and to the ongoing development of the Pastoral Industry. Modelling and research conducted during the Futures study clearly demonstrated the benefits of diversification in terms of building resilience to variability in climate, markets and international trade relations and many land managers expressed an interest in diversification. The Land and Water Taskforce strongly supports the case for diversification and land Tenure Reform with two key recommendations.

Issues that need to be addressed include –

- The regulatory framework – the Pastoral Lands act will need to be reviewed and reformed to facilitate diversification while also providing security and flexibility. (supported by recommendations 8 & 9 in the Land and Water Taskforce report and by the NTCA Futures project)
- Any review of the Property Rights legislation and the Pastoral Lands Act must develop a policy framework for carbon property rights.



- Investigation into and documentation and analysis of current diversification and innovation initiatives throughout the NT (supported by the NTCA Futures project)
- Survey of resources and diversification opportunities and potential market opportunities (supported by recommendations 1, 2 & 3 in the Land and Water Taskforce report and by the NTCA Futures project)
- Appropriate catchment level land use planning
- Development of appropriate vegetation management approaches and legislation
- Compartmentalisation and isolation of government departments must be addressed through improved policy co-ordination and planning

13. How can current methods of establishing infrastructure programs be enhanced?

Appropriate infrastructure development is essential to not only enable the maintenance of current level of development, but importantly they will play in the development of industry in the future. Largely left to the responsible department and Treasury, infrastructure development for the rural sector has had little input from the resources Department. Identification of new and prospective areas must include consideration of infrastructure requirements, and ultimately infrastructure must lead the way for that development. Currently, obstruction of development by the environment department has slowed development resulting in less demand and attention to the need for infrastructure. A more coordinated and effective cooperation across government future development will require integration of planning, policy and budgetary processes.

Infrastructure development (roads, rail, ports, power, water and communication) is a key issue affecting the future of the pastoral industry and as the users of the infrastructure and the holders of industry knowledge the industry is well placed to provide valuable input into any infrastructure development planning. Improved and ongoing consultation will be necessary at all levels drawing upon the government's technical data and expertise.

Communication across government departments will enhance the effectiveness of infrastructure programs.

14. What actions need to be taken by the primary industries sector in partnership with government to address skills and labour shortages?

Many in the Pastoral industry nominate skills and labour shortages as a major issue and an area of considerable future concern.

Support of education, training, mentoring and employment programmes for indigenous and non-indigenous youth are critical areas where government and the primary industries sector can work in partnership.

School based education and awareness raising is critical. The inclusion of agricultural and resource management aspects in the school curriculum is a potential approach which will stimulate interest in



and enhanced understanding of the position and importance of agriculture and of the opportunities that exist within those industries.

15. How can the Northern Territory Government facilitate further industry investment in primary industries ?

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- Reform of Land Tenure legislation to facilitate subdivision and diversification
- Research into the resource base including water availability
- Research into diversification opportunities
- Identification of existing innovation and diversification
- Investment in infrastructure including road and water infrastructure
- Support of the development of local value adding opportunities
- Development of an informed, collaborative approach to vegetation management

16. What should be the Department of Resources Role in working with large corporate agribusinesses ?

- Consultation leading to an understanding of the needs of large corporate agribusiness
- Infrastructure development
- Establishment of market links and relationships at the political level and support at the industry level

17. How can the Department of Resources engage effectively with the smaller producers in each sector ?

Innovation in Primary Industries is often driven by smaller enterprises. They will no doubt continue to provide important input into the development of Agribusiness in the NT and will require effective engagement and support.

Appropriate consultation resulting in producer driven research combined with support and extension will be critical in engaging with smaller producers. Leading edge extension utilising communication technology and well trained and committed staff will facilitate effective engagement.

Responsible Management of the Resource Base

18. Do changes need to be made to the methods government agencies currently use to engage primary industries sectors regarding proposed legislative and policy changes which affect their industries?

Changes are required. More inclusive and truly participatory approaches are necessary when legislative and policy changes are being made that will directly affect the sustainability and profitability of primary industry producers. Examples include proposed native vegetation management and the current review

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of the Pastoral Lands Act. These processes are absolutely critical to the long term development of NT land based industries and landholders must be involved at all stages of reviews of this nature. Discussion with industry on these two key pieces of legislation has been utterly inadequate, dismissive of the interests of the sector, patronising and condescending. This has led to frustration, anger and mistrust of government process. Cloak and dagger development of legislation and policy will only lead to confrontation and conflict with the very sector and industry which the policy and legislation is there to underpin. Poor policy development by one department ultimately breeds distrust which infects producer sentiments and thinking when applied to other departments attempting to initiate policy and legislative change. This includes initiatives such as the agribusiness strategy being led by the Resources Department.

Effective consultation and engagement requires resources and commitment by all parties. Participatory processes must be utilised to engage primary industry sectors. This will require the establishment of good dialogue, partnerships with industry and possibly the use of innovative methods of engagement to ensure participation is meaningful and results in an effective two way flow of information, discussion and input.

Involvement of the relevant sectors with the process of legislative and policy change and development is much more likely to lead to compliance and effective implementation of these changes. Adequate investment at the development end of the process will make good economic as well as social sense.

19. What processes and activities should the Department of Resources focus on in order to assist Territory producers in understanding and/or responding to the impacts of climate change.

Climate change policy has a greater potential to impact on the lives and businesses of Northern Territory producers- than the predicted climate change itself. While there is a focus on climate change itself and much debate about the likely impacts, preparation for variability is essential to the long-term viability of the Northern Territory primary industry sector. It is therefore proposed that the focus should be with the preparation for change and variability which ultimately will assist in building resilience to a range of factors such as market variability, production and seasonal variability. This must be considered as a positive outcome and needs to drive a process of change management, rather than a singular focus on climate change. It is therefore important that government play a proactive role in forming policy at the NT level, and influencing policy at the national level to ensure that sensibility and common sense are fundamental principles and ensure equitable treatment of the NT sector.

Having said this however, some predictions anticipate that Climate Change will have a significant impact on the Pastoral Industry in the NT and dealing with these impacts will require a collaborative effort between all sectors of government, community and industry. Response to climate change will need to be integrated across the entire community. Particular activities should include –

- Support of research into possible local impacts of changes to the climate, including detailed modelling of a range of possibilities, risks and impacts
- Facilitation of the development of appropriate, practical decision-making tools
- Support of the North Australian Climate Science Initiative



- Support of research into measurement of soil carbon – evaluation, storage, monitoring
- Identification and development of carbon offset opportunities
- Clarification of carbon property rights
- Development of a framework for trading in carbon
- Support of research into greenhouse gas emissions including emissions reduction opportunities
- Support for development of renewable energy technology and other sustainability programmes
- Support for collaboration across communities in developing strategies to improve community resilience

20. How can current collaborative arrangements be improved ?

There is a strong perception across industry that the Department of resources does not stand up for the industry against inappropriate, misguided and detrimental policy developed by other government departments. While this perception may not be accurate it is an indicator of the level of frustration much of industry feels in the lack of coordination and cooperation across government. The Department must be more forceful in its position of support for industry and become a great advocate within government. The Department of Resources has an important role to play in fostering and facilitating collaboration between different industry groups, government and research and extension organisations. This can be achieved by –

- Providing resources to specifically foster and facilitate collaboration between government, community and all agricultural industries
- Identifying particular issues which will benefit from collaboration
- Consideration needs to be given to the establishment of an initiative aimed at developing cross community resilience within the Territory.

21. What principles should apply to the removal of agricultural land from food production for energy production?

The NT will become an important producer of food for Australia and the region over the next 25 years. The production of fuel, timber, other non-food commodities and conservation will continue to place pressure on food production. A major determinant of this in the past has been tax minimisation schemes which provide an artificial incentive for alternative crops. Policy needs to focus on food production as a number one priority and also ensure that fuel production is not provided with artificial incentives likely to displace food production. It is also critical that the selection and promotion of fuel crops which provide no net energy efficiencies does not occur.

The Department has an important role to play in not only the research and development of fuel crops but also the economics of alternative crop choices for producers.



However, at the same time the opportunities presented by the biofuels industry must be examined as a potential source of energy for power generation, transport and freight. This may be a critical area to develop efficiency gains and reduced cost of production for remote business.

22. What opportunities are for further investment in infrastructure related to water management in northern Australia, such as through national programs?

There are, according to the Land and Water Taskforce report opportunities for further investment in infrastructure related to water management. "All of northern Australia's major economic development and diversification opportunities rely on access to water resources"

The report has identified groundwater resources as providing the best prospects to support further agricultural development and that any development will be best developed as a mosaic of intensive areas of agriculture. Further investment in infrastructure related to water management will be required to develop these opportunities.

This development including investment in infrastructure must be conducted according to a comprehensive planning process which involves national and state wide analysis of resources and opportunities, risks and threats and effective consultation with relevant industries. Management planning needs to be undertaken in full consideration of current and future development using a commonsense approach to consultation and end the use of a scientific answer to ensure an equitable allocation of water. The Resources Department must be centrally involved in water planning.

23. What are the key issues facing the primary industries sector in managing natural resources into the future?

Natural resource management in this era of climate change, intense scrutiny of land based activities and population growth is a major issue for any community and government. Partnerships between government, industry and community will be essential to the successful future growth of the Northern Territory.

Key issues include –

- Development of land management approaches and systems which achieve a balance of production and conservation
- Communicating and demonstrating the benefits of this balance to the those involved in agribusiness and the broader Australian and global communities
- Development of collaboration and partnerships between government, pastoralists and other land owners/managers and conservation groups to ensure the integration of agricultural production and conservation and environmental management
- Developing appropriate Property Rights and Vegetation Management legislation
- Regulation and legislation are currently restricting agricultural development – there is a need for innovative approaches which involve lower transaction cost and which are more inclusive of all involved in decision making and development and production



- Need for provision of educational material to schools covering natural resource management, the role of land managers and the importance of balancing production and environmental management

Maintaining and Expanding Market Access

Maintaining and expanding market access is one of the key strategic directions identified in the NTCA Futures report. External markets are absolutely crucial to the ongoing success and development of the pastoral industry and the NTCA and members will continue to place emphasis on this direction and will expect government to do the same. Other agribusiness throughout the NT will be in a similar situation and external markets will be critical to any ongoing agribusiness development.

24. How can government, primary industries sectors and the wider community improve their working relationships to protect our primary industries?

Collaboration between government and primary industry sectors in maintaining and expanding market access remains critical through –

- Government support of trade delegations to important and developing markets
- The development and maintenance of good relationships at a political level
- The appointment of the Agriculture Minister as a senior portfolio
- Improved communication between government bodies including DFAT, ACIAR, DAFF and industry bodies such as MLA, NTCA and the respective governments.

Biosecurity and disease control are critical to the maintenance of market advantage in key markets and partnerships between government and private industry sectors will be essential. Adequate attention to and investment in Biosecurity, early warning detection and response capability will need to be maintained - examples of effective partnership outcomes have been the funding of the Biosecurity CRC and the remote monitoring partnerships. Initiatives such as these must continue to be supported.

25. What options are there for significantly expanding the range of overseas and domestic destinations for Territory produce, particularly to untapped markets like China?

Diversification of markets for NT live cattle and for meat products is a key strategic direction identified in the NTCA Futures report. Opportunities exist in a range of our Asian neighbours to expand the market for NT agricultural product. In addition to the obvious Indonesian market, Vietnam, China, Thailand and Korea may well become important destinations for NT produce. This will require the establishment and development of strong trade relationships with those countries at political and industry levels.

The growth of a discriminatory market throughout the world will deliver opportunities to market produce from the territory under specific brands highlighting and taking advantage to the clean, natural



production systems used in the Territory. Government support for the development of systems and approaches to develop these opportunities will be essential.

Historically the Northern Territory government has placed a great deal of emphasis on developing trade opportunities in Southeast Asia and building a relationship at the government to government level. There has been a fall of in the degree of attention to foreign relations from a high point in the late 1990s. Having said this, recent experience with Indonesia and Vietnam have shown a high degree of commitment by the Northern Territory government, and cooperation across the departments of Chief Minister and resources to further market opportunities. This needs to continue.

26. How can pastoral producers and allied agribusinesses continue to meet forecast demand for live cattle?

Production from the Northern Territory needs to be seen in terms of both live cattle, and cattle going into Australian markets after value adding in the territory or interstate.

Meeting forecast demand for live cattle will require –

- Development of feeding capacity in the Top End so cattle can be backgrounded to the appropriate weight in the NT before export – this will require research into pasture improvement, grazing management
- Ongoing improvements in productivity ie raising the weight and numbers of cattle turned off per hectare throughout the NT
- Ongoing improvements in land and grazing management to lift the carrying capacity wherever possible throughout the NT
- Reform of the Pastoral Lands Act to allow diversification of land use and subdivision to allow for forage crop production in appropriate areas
- Further development of indigenous land and land tenure systems to facilitate development
- Investment in infrastructure, roads rail and ports, so that cattle can be efficiently moved to markets at all times of the year
- Investigation into local value adding opportunities.

Building Resilience in Agribusiness

The Pastoral industry and all NT Agribusiness are facing a period of considerable change presenting a range of opportunities and threats. Managing the various aspects of climate change, particularly managing carbon emissions and their impact, is a matter for the widest discussion, bringing together government, industry and the community. Collaboration, consultation and effective strategic planning will be essential.

The issues are many and complex, however, there is a way through this maze and it involves negotiating a planned approach to resource use and emissions reduction with both landholders and the

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conservation lobby, building a proper research base. This will enable the Territory to continue developing pastorally and agriculturally while it maintains environmental integrity. Negotiation of a holistic, fair and defensible strategy based on cooperation would be an opportunity for the NT to take the lead and utilise its natural advantage to develop world leading sustainable production with conservation and responsible environmental management.

27. What opportunities exist to improve business and farm management systems?

Opportunities do exist to improve business and farm management systems in adapting to changing climatic conditions. These opportunities will be in the broad areas of –

- Genetic development of livestock, animal husbandry and production improvements
- Development, improvement, adaption and adoption of different land management techniques to enhance utilisation, fertility, and productivity of pastures and soils
- Technological improvement and developments to reduce demand for energy and labour, while enhancing productivity
- Research and development in the areas of modelling, forecasting and the development of effective decision making tools
- Greater sharing and networking of key business drivers
- Diversification of land use, management systems and markets
- Subdivision of leases to facilitate diversification, innovation and intensification
- Carbon and emissions trading

These changes, while possible, will require institutional support in terms of research and development, extension and education and the fostering of collaboration and partnerships between government, industry and community.

It is suggested that the NT government fund a dedicated position with the pastoral industry to work with pastoralists and coordinate research and development efforts towards workable carbon offset initiatives for the industry.

28. What barriers restrict diversification and how can these be addressed ?

The barriers that restrict diversification include –

- Current Property Rights legislation
- A lack of knowledge and understanding of the resource base including, soils, vegetation and water
- A lack of understanding of existing diversification throughout the NT and the success or otherwise of existing diversification and innovation
- Uncertainty surrounding Vegetation Management approaches
- Infrastructure in terms of transport infrastructure, social infrastructure (health and education)
- Lack of local value adding and processing infrastructure and investment
- Appropriate market research and support

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Solutions to these issues will include –

- Review and reform of Property Rights legislation – the Pastoral Lands Act – this review must be performed with thorough consultation with industry and all stakeholders and must also address the issues surrounding carbon property rights (as recommended in Recommendations 8 & 9 of the Land and Water Taskforce Report and the NTCA Futures study)
- Investment in data collection and analysis to support the identification of diversification opportunities, land and water use planning and catchment level planning. (as recommended in Recommendation 1 of the Land and Water Taskforce Report and the NTCA Futures study)
- Investment in documenting and understanding current initiatives in diversification and innovation throughout the NT
- A collaborative approach to Vegetation Management involving government, primary industry sectors and conservation interests resulting in a balanced interaction between production, conservation and biodiversity.
- An emphasis on development of transport infrastructure to support the growth of regional and state wide agribusiness
- Support for investigation into local processing and value adding opportunities
- Support for market investigation and development at political and industry levels

29. What opportunities exist to improve agricultural training opportunities throughout the Territory ?

Agricultural training opportunities in the NT are limited with a lack of flexibility in the delivery of training packages to rural and remote locations. The availability of training providers continues to be a major impediment to improving training outcomes. This includes training to cater for indigenous and non indigenous people. Charles Darwin University has demonstrated a lack of capacity which has resulted in a number of the corporate pastoral companies delivering their own training while using university facilities.

While the NTCA is involved in a comprehensive training and employment programme aimed at an indigenous target audience there are continuing challenges in finding providers and host locations.

Agricultural training at school level does occur in the Territory and an expansion of this type of training will benefit all levels of education and industry. There are several excellent agricultural education products, already mapped to curriculum outcomes, but no mechanism exists to introduce, promote and support these in NT schools. Sustainable agriculture education programs support land management policy and equip future generations of primary producers and policy makers to make informed decisions



Training opportunities for land owners and managers and business managers abound throughout Australia, however the current support mechanism through Farmbis/Farmready does have serious problems in the Territory and requires modification in consultation with Industry.

As the population in the NT grows and agribusiness diversifies demand for education will increase as will the opportunities for training and employment.

30. How can information distribution be improved?

Communications technology is constantly developing and improving and there are opportunities to use these developments to facilitate training at all levels in remote settings.

Extension services, the education of children on pastoral properties and the general wellbeing of pastoral families and communities in remote areas depend on reliable access to information and communications technology. With the available technology, there is no reason for remote families and communities throughout the Territory to be denied fast, secure and equitable access to high-speed Broadband and the latest in mobile and landline technology.

31. What are the key challenges to attracting younger generations to careers in the primary industries sector?

Key challenges include –

- Long term viability of industries
- Lack of adequate social infrastructure such as medical services and educational opportunities
- Lack of diversity of employment opportunities
- The perception of rural Australia/NT by urban Australians
- Lack of understanding in urban communities of the importance of agriculture and land management
- Lack of emphasis in school curricula on education about agriculture and sustainable land management

Securing a Future for Indigenous Territorians in Primary Industries

32. What opportunities exist to better engage Aboriginal communities and businesses in the primary industries sector ?

The NTCA is actively involved in the development of indigenous participation in the pastoral sector. Currently the NTCA employs three full-time staff within its indigenous employment program. There is considerable expertise and experience which can be applied across other sectors and needs to be part of future agribusiness planning.



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The NTCA sees indigenous engagement and industry at two levels:
involvement of indigenous land in agribusiness, and
The involvement of indigenous people through employment and a career path within the agricultural sector the sector.

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The fundamentals that underpinned the engagement of indigenous land in the agricultural sector will require continued attention to land tenure policy and the effective coordination of land councils and industry in negotiated agreements. It is further believed that a more formal land tenure system may need to be investigated across indigenous land, somewhat like the existing pastoral lease system operating on Crown land. Such a system allows long-term agreements to be established providing more security for investors and banking institutions, and the capacity for land to be transferred from one owner to another, providing an incentive for industry best land management and care of the environment. Indigenous landholders must be assisted to participate in long-term and comprehensive planning for the future of the industry. This planning needs to involve all land tenures as we believe Indigenous and non-Indigenous landholders alike need the capacity to diversify their land use.

Opportunities exist to form partnerships between Aboriginal communities and businesses in the primary industries sectors. A number of such partnerships currently exist creating mutual benefit including income, employment and training.

Partnerships between Aboriginal communities and businesses in the primary industries sector has the potential to bring benefits to all parties. Opportunities also exist to form partnerships between aboriginal communities and urban based business with local primary industries personnel acting as facilitators and mentors.



7. Conclusion

The NTCA broadly supports the NT Government's Growing our Primary Industries initiative. However, for the Strategy to be workable and effective, we contend that representatives of those primary industries need to be closely involved in its continuing development. While we acknowledge the role of scientific, technical and governmental expertise in making policy, we believe the people who own and manage the land also have a solid contribution to make and their contribution should be on an equal basis. Given that much of the Territory's formal expertise is imported and here for the short-term, on-ground knowledge that has developed over generations and continues to develop needs to be incorporated into policy development.

We are fortunate in having the combination of a small enough jurisdiction, a committed, expert and vocal industry and imported expertise to make developing policy a collaborative effort. Negotiation on an equal basis – in other words being asked to help initiate, rather than simply to respond – will be more productive and effective in the long run.

The NTCA sees the successful and inclusive development of an Agribusiness strategy as absolutely crucial to the long term successful expression of agricultural capacity in the Territory and therefore suggests that the NT government fund a two-year full-time industry position to drive industry involvement and investment in the NT Agribusiness Strategy, assist in development and roll out. The position will work across NTCA, NTHA and AT Ag. This has been supported by each of these associations.

This agribusiness strategy will live or die based on its adoption across government and will rely on the announcement and vision created by the Northern Territory Chief Minister.

End



Attachment – NTCA Recommendation for NT budget

The following is a summary of key recommendations by the NTCA for the NT Government Budget 2010/11.

Recommendations

1. Roads

Recommendation 1.1: That the NTG renew its commitment to the Remote Australia Livestock Transport Scheme (RALTS) and allocate resources and funds to support the roll out, training, accreditation process over 2010-12.

This commitment should include working closely with stakeholders from the pastoral and transport industries to work towards harmonisation of legislation and procedures across State and Territory borders, where it does not disadvantage Territory road users.

Indicative cost: \$120,000 pa

Recommendation 1.2: That the NT Government commit to the upgrade and seal of more than 4,300kms of the State Arterial and Secondary Arterial network to a cost of approximately \$1.7 billion to ensure the future development of the NT, its people, industries and their economic, social and environmental wellbeing. This does not account for local network and national Hwy. It is estimated a further \$300 million is required to upgrade the local road network.

Overall indicative cost: **\$2.0 billion**

Recommendation 1.3: That the NTG review Port of Darwin operations for their capacity, and in particular the need for high quality export yards with direct access for loading, to accommodate an expansion in the live cattle export trade in the future.

Indicative cost: \$150,000

Recommendation 1.4: That the NTG and the NTCA collaborate on planning spelling yards and rest areas for greater efficiency and safety in transporting animals through the Territory.

Indicative cost excluding capital development costs: \$150,000



2. NT Agribusiness

Recommendation 2.1: That the NT Agribusiness Strategy be an initiative of the Chief Minister of the NT, requiring multi-ministry and departmental cooperation and agreement, including environmental legislation and policy.

That the NTG invite the NTCA and other industry groups to play a formal role in developing its proposed Primary Industry Research Strategy.

Recommendation 2.2: That the NTG increase the level of funding and support for bio-security early warning, detection and response capability with the immediate increase of technical and extension staff by four and the corresponding resources.

The NTG should maximise coordination and cooperation with AQIS and other responsible agencies including support of local and regional early warning capability in communities many of which are located along our northern coastline.

Indicative cost: \$1.2 million

Recommendation 2.3: That the NTG fund training for industry liaison officers and government disease response officers.

Indicative cost: \$50,000 pa

Recommendation 2.4: That the NTG proceed with action recommended by the Primary Industries Review to establish stakeholder engagement forums. The purpose of these will be to involve industry stakeholders in setting research, development, policy and extension priorities.

Indicative cost: \$50,000 pa

Recommendation 2.5: that the NTG fund a two-year full-time industry position to drive industry involvement and investment in the NT Agribusiness Strategy. The position will work across NTCA, NTHA and AT Ag. This has been supported by each of these associations.

Indicative cost: \$150,000 pa

Recommendation 2.6: that the NTG dedicate resources to the explore opportunities for land tenure developments to enable long term primary production agreements under the NT Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1976.

Indicative cost: provided from core government operations

Recommendation 2.7: That the NTG increase the level of extension in key locations to ensure maximum uptake of new skills and knowledge. Staff number to be increase by 4 across the NT.

Indicative cost: \$600,000 pa

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3. Climate Change Policy

Recommendation 3.1: That the NTG fund a dedicated position with the pastoral industry to work with pastoralists and coordinate a research and development efforts towards workable carbon offset initiatives for the industry.

Indicative cost: \$150,000 pa

Recommendation 3.2: That the NTG invite representatives of land managers, landowners and leaseholders eg NTCA, North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAISMA), Northern and Central Land Councils (NLC; CLC) to participate in developing all aspects of new policy on carbon offsets.

Recommendation 3.3: That the NTG accept and act on the principle that land managers who are managing carbon have a right to benefits that may flow from it.

Recommendation 3.4: That the NTG involve NT land managers, landowners and leaseholders in governance structures for managing financial arrangements for a Territory carbon fund.

Recommendation 3.5: That the NTG fund additional carbon emission education programs and other associated work, notably the measurement and monitoring systems; and work with land managers to develop on-farm best practice carbon emission management.

Indicative cost: \$300,000 pa

Recommendation 3.6: That the NTG seek opportunities to maximize leverage of R&D funding from the Australian Government and other sources.

Indicative cost: funded from core operations

Recommendation 3.7: That the NTG devote appropriate and realistic levels of funding to developing offset products in partnership with the private sector, recognizing that private sector contributions, particularly from Territory landowners and land managers, may often be in-kind.

Indicative cost: from normal operations

Recommendation 3.8: That the NTG, in recognition of the important role NAFI will play in monitoring and managing carbon emissions, continues to contribute substantially to its upkeep

Recommendation 3.9: That the NTG review Target 20 and commit to adequate support and resources for control, recovery and monitoring and reporting programs for all pest species.

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Recommendation 3.10 That the NT Government match federal funding for the Central Australian Camel eradication program as new and additional funding over and above existing funding.

Indicative cost: \$3.0 million pa

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Recommendation 3.11: That the NTG reconsider this Target from its Climate Change Policy in light of the need for a holistic, fair and defensible strategy and engage with land managers and landholders, the conservation movement and the wider community to deal with:

- Carbon emissions, carbon trading and the Emissions Trading Scheme
- Sustainable integration of conservation and production – an environmental stewardship approach
- Maintaining and developing a viable agricultural sector
- Planned development
- Effective environmental management

4. Improved health services

Recommendation 4.1: That the NTG increase incentives for specialist and other services to deliver services to regional and remote areas.

Recommendation 4.2: That the NTG purchase / build and control a hanger and associated facilities suitable for the long term needs of northern air medical services at the Darwin airport in order to support a long term integrated contract.

Indicative cost: \$10 million

5. Dedicated investment in education services

Recommendation 5.1: That the NTG increase resources to support, promote and advance new technology and initiatives to improve educational outcomes outside major centres.

Indicative cost: \$400,000

Recommendation 5.2: That the NTG fund a rural coordinator to work with urban, regional and remote students in an Ag in Schools program.

Indicative cost: \$120,000 pa

Recommendation 5.3: That the NTG promote and maintain Student Assistance Schemes for those disadvantaged by distance or isolation, and re-evaluate eligibility criteria and assistance rates.

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6. Improved access and use of modern communications technology

Recommendation 6.1: That the NTG urge the Australian Government to deliver, as part of its National Broadband proposal, equitable access to high-speed broadband and a broader network of mobile phone access.

Indicative cost: Nil

7. Occupational health and safety

Recommendation 7.1: That the NTG resource NTCA to facilitate pastoral industry engagement in improving Occupational health and Safety during the Worksafe roll-out. It is suggested that this position may also work across agriculture and horticulture.

Indicative cost: \$150,000 as a fully resourced position

8. Pest management

Recommendation 8.1: That the NTG take a lead in negotiation of federal resources to manage pest species .

That the NT Government increase direct investment in pest management, coordination and cross departmental cooperation to mitigate current and emerging threats.

Indicative cost: \$150,000 for coordination.

Indicative cost: increase existing spend on programs by 25%.

9. Other industry support programs

Recommendation 9.1: That the NT Gov maintain the water enhancement scheme and retain the \$300,000 investment in industry training and capacity development formerly engaged under the farmBis program.

Recommendation 9.2: The NT Gov increase pressure on the Federal Government to provide workable off grid renewable power incentives for power generation and water.