



NORTHERN TERRITORY CattleneNews

Official newsletter of the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association (NTCA): Vol 11 No 1 - FEBRUARY 2009

NTCA calls for priority NT Budget funding to fix 'bush roads in ruin'

The Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association has handed the NT Government a comprehensive Budget submission that calls for urgent funding to be committed to restore and improve the Territory's failing roads infrastructure. The association says Northern Territory roads are falling apart and putting the lives of Territorians at risk. It also contends that the failing road system is having far-ranging, detrimental effects on the economy, community health, animal welfare and the environment.

In particular the association has recommended that the NT Government implement a program to seal the secondary road network, and establish an industry and government working group to identify the Territory's emerging infrastructure needs to maximise long term efficiencies. "The deteriorating condition of the roads is contributing to accidents and fatalities," NTCA Executive Director Luke Bowen said. "Poor roads damage equipment, stress livestock and operators and lead to delays and economic losses. There

are increasing requirements around animal welfare and driver fatigue, demanding more rest areas and facilities for staging of livestock." Mr Bowen applauded the Government for trying to secure Infrastructure Australia funding to seal the secondary network. "But this is a tough economic climate, and there must be a Plan B should federal money not come through," he said. "Investment in quality infrastructure is a lasting stimulus for the economy and the Government's focus needs to be on it.

"Cattle production is a 365-day-a-year industry in the Territory. Poor roads and a lack of access restrict economic development and growth for the whole of the Northern Territory." The NTCA submission stressed that the Territory's future demanded immediate government investment in nine key areas including:

- Investment to secure future food production capability
- Appropriate allocation of departmental responsibility for the key disciplines of production and environment
- Roads investment for maintenance and new capital works
- Increased investment in extension and industry capacity development including value adding to Federal initiative such as the FarmReady program
- Bio-security early warning and response capability.
- Investment in renewable energy and water enhancement programs to deliver more effective and efficient energy use
- Improved health services right across the NT and improved access to medical assistance in regional and remote areas
- Dedicated investment in education services across all sections of the community
- Improved access and use of modern telecommunication technology for business, community and private benefit.

Live export signs stay positive

Meat and Livestock Australia's 2009 industry outlook forecasts continuing medium to long-term positive trade in the live export sector, especially if seasonal conditions allow herd numbers to be rebuilt in the north. MLA says this follows record demand and returns in 2008 for healthy, quality Australian cattle, with 20% increase in export numbers and an unsurpassed \$644 million contribution to the Australian economy. "Supply permitting, exports are anticipated to increase steadily from 2010 onwards, reaching 875,000 head by 2013," the MLA outlook reports. *(More on Page 7)*



Northern Territory export cattle in an Indonesian feedlot

A word from the president



Introducing Portia

Portia Peterkin has replaced Bev Seidel in the NTCA's Alice office. Portia came to the Centre with her family from Adelaide in 1983 and completed her matriculation year at Alice Springs High School. She spend time away studying, working and travelling, returned in 1990 and has lived here ever since. Portia has worked for the Transport and Works Dept, Australian Airlines/ Qantas and most recently with NTBM/Exectech, the IT, electrical and data cabling business owned by husband Brendan Peterkin and partner Andrew Davis. "I love living in Alice Springs and I feel really fortunate to be working now for the NTCA," Portia says. "I'm enjoying it a lot, and looking forward to meeting the members."

Contact Portia on
Phone: (08) 8952 5122,
Fax: 08 8953 4260 or Em:
office.alice@ntca.org.au

What a difference a few months make! At the time of our last newsletter in November, things looked grim for many Central Australian and Barkly pastoral properties which hadn't seen good replenishing rains for three years or more. The difference now is quite exceptional. Good driving rains have transformed the countryside from dust to green and the morale of our drought-stricken station owners and managers has lifted dramatically.

The stimulus package

The Federal Government's \$42 billion stimulus package took a rocky road through parliament before being passed this month by the narrowest of margins. As a rural industry body, we have expressed serious concerns about where much of this money is being directed. We argue that more money should be put into vital infrastructure such as roads and port facilities, which have a longer term impact on the ability of industries like ours to boost economic development. Our roads network is in an appalling state and urgent action is required. The stimulus package's one off payments, while understandably welcomed glee-

fully by a lot of people, are unlikely to provide a lasting drive for the economy.

Land clearing guidelines

We have had a look at the government's new draft land clearing guidelines and have provided feedback on their real potential for adverse impacts on our food and agricultural industries if left in their present state. Basically, they are all about conservation and give no consideration to primary industry output and its importance for the NT economy.

Roads & Infrastructure

We have submitted a list of recommendations for long overdue funding in the 2009 NT budget for urgent rural roadworks and other infrastructure to help the pastoral and resource industries expand in the future. We hope the government shares our view of spending priorities when divvying up the budget funds.

Lobbying in 2009

With 2009 now well underway, we are ready to tackle a range of new issues that include proposed changes to key environmental legislation and the Pastoral Land Act. Our industry will need to be strong and



united - *so make sure your membership is up to date.*

2009 annual conference

Planning is now in full swing for our 25th anniversary AGM annual conference and dinner in Alice Springs. It is going to be huge and special, celebrating our strong past record and looking to issues and challenges for the next 25 years.

Staff changes

In closing, I wish our recently retired Alice Springs office manager Bev Seidel and husband Peter all the best for their future travels and other pursuits. Thanks to Bev for her tireless support. I'd also like to welcome Portia Peterkin to the position and look forward to working with her and other staff in the future.

Roy Chisholm - President

Advertising in Cattlenews

One-third page - \$275.00 (incl GST)
One-quarter page - \$220.00 (incl GST)
One-eighth page - \$120.00 (incl GST)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

JO SHEARN (NTCA) - Ph: 08 8981 5976

Email: office.darwin@ntca.org.au

KERRY SHARP (Editor)

Phone: 08 8981 4999 / Mobile: 0419 845 714

Email: sharp@octa4.net.au

Live virus imports an unacceptable risk: NTCA

The NTCA is alarmed at the potential importation of live viruses, including FMD, into Australia. President Roy Chisholm has written to Federal Agriculture Minister Tony Burke, raising industry concerns about Recommendation 59 of the Beale Report into Australia's biosecurity system - relating to possible importation of live viruses.

"The Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association (NTCA) maintains that the importation of FMD for scientific purposes represents an unacceptable risk to our livestock industries," he said. "Alternate risk strategies should be adopted to maximise response capability, in the most disastrous event of a future outbreak."

Mr Chisholm reiterated that the NTCA spoke for more than 95% of NT pastoral operations, all of which relied almost entirely on livestock production for their livelihoods. "As we are all aware, the outbreak of a disease such as FMD would have unthinkable implications for our entire industry, the economy and regional and remote Australia. The NTCA urges you to reject recommendation 59 of the report."

NTCA calls for rework of land clearing guidelines

The NTCA has welcomed the goodwill established and progress made by the new Environment Minister Alison Anderson to free up the ban on land development in the Douglas Daly region. However, the association has expressed serious misgivings about her department's first attempt at writing guidelines and application forms. It argues that unless the guidelines are effective, sensible and workable, the livelihoods of a significant number of NT producers, the NT food production industry and the NT economy as a whole will suffer. In a letter this month to the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport, NTCA

Executive Director Luke Bowen identifies the absence of any reference in the guidelines to the need to develop land for intensive food production. "Rather, they present an extreme negative view of land development by transplanting 100 year old examples of outdated agricultural practices into our northern Australian context," he said. He described the guidelines as an environmental 'war and peace' written with no view to development, no input from the Primary Industry Department and devoid of any technical substance relating to agricultural practice. "I think they will fail to hit the mark with those that seek to produce the very food

that we are lucky enough to enjoy each day. I would be surprised if the Minister had this in mind when she visited producers in the Douglas Daly. "Your guidelines flag a process, a financial cost and a human cost which industry will not be able to sustain." The NTCA fears the guidelines in their present form will create bad will, frustration and mistrust and that producers will be forced to find other means of income and production, removing them from their land and businesses." The NTCA is actively working with the department and Minister Anderson to ensure that sanity and good sense prevail.

Cattlemen lobby for greater bio-security funding

The NTCA has lobbied the NT Government to increase funding and support for bio-security early warning, detection and response capability in the Territory. The association, in its 2009 budget submission to government, has called for an immediate increase of technical and extension staff by four and appropriate back-up resources. It has also recommended that coordination and cooperation with AQIS and other responsible agencies be maximised and funds be allocated for local and regional early warning capability in communities, many of which are located along the remote northern coastline. The NTCA estimates the measures would cost about \$1.2 million.

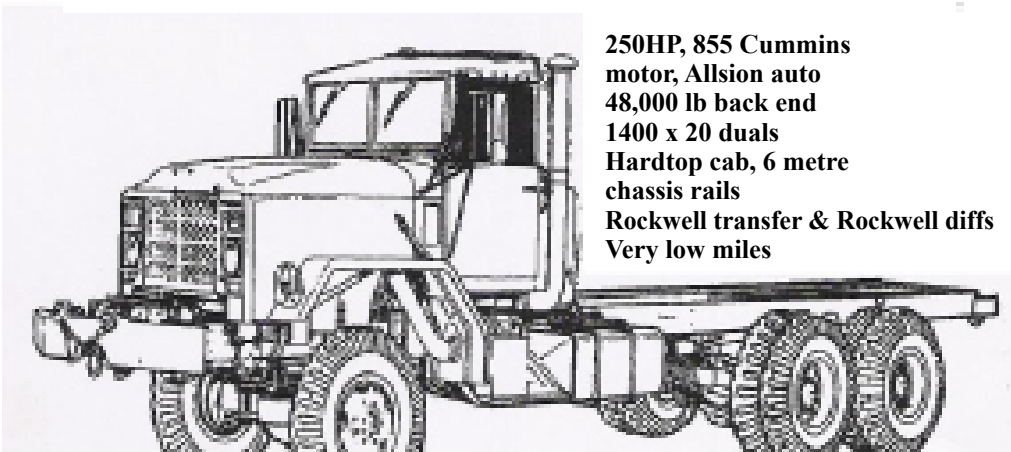
Cattlemen bouyant as soaking rains replenish tinder dry grazing land

Exceptional summer rains have caused havoc for drivers and holidaymakers on the outback highways but are being hailed by the Northern Territory's drought stricken pastoralists as the best thing to have happened to their various districts in three or more years. Across the Barkly, Central Australia, the VRD, Gulf and Katherine, happy pastoralists have reported highly significant rainfall since Christmas. Many properties have received more millimetres in a single day than they've seen in entire recent years. With parched rangelands giving way to lush green pasture and cautious optimism about a good season ahead, planning is now in train to bring back home the tens of thousands of valuable cattle trucked out of the

Barkly and Central Australia for agistment for survival when local grazing lands were too dry to feed them. "It's been quite remarkable to observe the difference in

the land now compared with 12 months ago," NTCA President Roy Chisholm said. "For many pastoralists, it's a long time since they've seen conditions like this."

NEW ALLOCATION 6X6 ALL TERRAIN VEHICLE



**250HP, 855 Cummins motor, Allison auto
48,000 lb back end
1400 x 20 duals
Hardtop cab, 6 metre chassis rails
Rockwell transfer & Rockwell diffs
Very low miles**

**\$48,000.00 + GST = \$52,800
0428 215101**



25th Annual General Meeting & Industry Conference

ALICE SPRINGS | 2009
MARCH 26 - 27



TOPICS

- The next 25 years
- Future risks and opportunities
- Food security
- Economic outlook
- Beef market trends & forecasts
- Domestic and international markets
- Climate change policy and Northern beef industry

Ausfuel photo comp to mark milestone year

The NTCA's valued long-term conference partner Ausfuel is sponsoring a photographic competition to mark the association's 25th anniversary. Entries are invited for two sections - personal images and NTCA images. Anyone registered to attend the 25th NTCA Annual Conference can join in the comp and enter up to five images for judging.

Personal Images can depict anything to do with station life, eg the muster, long-awaited rains, kids, poddies or the work team.

NTCA Images can include any 'historical and/or hysterical moments' captured over the past 25 years at beef bashes, meetings, promotional events and the like.

Entry Fantastic prizes will be awarded for the first, second and third best entries.

Contact the NTCA for entry forms

ENTRIES CLOSE 13 MARCH

Cattlenews - February 2009

Conference 2009: Celebrating 25 years of industry achievement

The NT Cattlemen's Association's 25th AGM and Annual Conference will be staged in Alice Springs on 26-27 March and the registrations are flowing thick and fast. Hundreds of cattle producers, agribusiness specialists, industry leaders and other stakeholders from across the full spectrum of Australia's beef and live cattle industries will be flying in again for the premium industry event on the NT calendar. Federal Agriculture Minister Tony Burke, who officially opened last year's successful conference in Darwin and will do the honours again this year, providing a rare opportunity for members to put questions to him, both formally and informally, on issues of importance.

A strong line-up of speakers has been mustered for the conference, the main event in a two-day program that also includes the AGM and election of president and industry body representatives, a ladies' lunch, and the sell-out gala dinner, with special celebrations lined up this year to celebrate the association's 25 years of fighting for the rights of its members throughout the Territory.

SPEAKER PROFILES & TOPICS



IAIN MARS - is the CEO of JBS Swift Australia Pty Ltd (formerly Australia Meat Holdings) and has a lifetime of experience in meat processing having worked in and managed processing operations in the UK, New Zealand, Brazil, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, Argentina & Australia. Iain will give a background on JBS Swift, Australia's and the world's largest meat processor, their operations and their plans for the future. He will also talk on current domestic and world markets for beef, how current global conditions are affecting them and how they will change in the future.



BEVERLEY HENRY - joined Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) in 2008 as the Manager for Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change. She manages MLA's R&D programs on sustainability, climate change adaptation and mitigation. Beverley's presentation will cover the science and R&D side of climate change, as it relates to pastoralists. She will discuss the information that agriculture and producers will need into the future, what the current knowledge is and what R&D is being done to benefit and equip producers.



PAUL BEIBOER - hails from Holland and has extensive corporate and commercial banking experience having worked in New York, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Bangkok, London, South America and Netherlands in diverse financial markets and commercial banking positions. He is currently based in Sydney for Rabobank Australia Group as head of Global Financial Markets Australia & New Zealand. Paul will address the conference on the current global financial crisis, why it occurred and what maybe yet to come, from a global, regional and local perspective. He will provide insights into what the longer term implications for the industry.



PROFESSOR JOHN CHUDLEIGH - spent 13 years as a farm management consultant in Cowra before entering academia at Orange Agricultural College. He rose through the ranks and retired as Principal of Orange Agricultural College in early 2000. He was awarded the Centenary Medal for services to agriculture and regional Australia in 2002. John will provide a detailed analysis of world trends and prospects for our major agricultural commodities, analysing the impact and implications of the global financial crisis, populations changes and other influences.



World experts to tackle big issues

Climate change, carbon reduction, the impacts of the global economic downturn, animal welfare and conservation! They're all big issues for pastoral industry stakeholders - and they'll be on top of the agenda as world experts in their respective fields front guests to talk to this year's conference.

The scope of topics listed on the conference program is broad and diverse - and integral to our Northern Territory industry's future. The program will provoke lively discussion among panelists and participants during the course of the day and beyond.



ABC Landline's Anne Kruger guest speaker at 2009 ladies' luncheon

The ABC's *Landline* presenter Anne Kruger will be the guest speaker at the ladies luncheon being held as part of the NTCA's 2009 conference program. Anne is a Toowoomba local and her journalism career began in the Queensland town as a cadet for a local commercial TV station and the local newspaper. She has spent nearly a decade covering international news while living and working in Singapore, Hong Kong and Australia. She spent almost four years with CNN International, based in Hong Kong, and anchored the region's daily finance updates, crossing live to Atlanta, New York and London for CNN's international bulletins.

Before joining the Landline team in last February, Anne was the morning presenter for the ABC's Australia Network, based in Melbourne, writing and presenting international news bulletins broadcast throughout Asia, the Pacific and the Indian Sub Continent. She's a classical pianist, speaks fluent Cantonese and now balances her professional commitments, family and farming with her husband on the Darling Downs in Queensland.

The Ladies' Luncheon is on 26 March and starts from 11.00am at Madison's Restaurant at the Alice Springs Desert Park. The \$40 a head luncheon is being hosted by NTCA's Alice Springs Branch ladies.

Registrations close 13 March.

SPEAKER PROFILES & TOPICS



BARNEY FORAN - is a senior analyst with the CSIRO Resource Futures Group which seeks to apply hard-nosed analysis to key issues for Australia's long term futures from 25 to 100 years away. He has degrees in agricultural science and ecology and has spent much of his career working with pastoral industries in Central Australia, Southern Africa and the mountainlands of New Zealand. Barney's presentation will look at the future issues and scenarios that will affect the industry, such as world demographics, world energy, carbon issues, consumer trends and preferences.

ROBERT FAGAN - is a human geographer researching and teaching in the areas of economic geography, urban and regional development and social theory. He has been professor of human geography at Macquarie since 1994 and deputy director of the Centre for Research on Social Inclusion since its creation as a university centre at the end of 2005. Bob will explore world food supply, population, and consumer trends as part of food security. In his address, he will detail new concepts and trends such as the push for localised production and 'food miles' and the implications and realities of these for remote food producers in extensive production systems.

CHARLES McELHONE - is NFF's Manager - Economics. Charles coordinates the NFF's Climate Change Working Group, engaging extensively with industry and government. He has played a leading role in compiling the agricultural sector's responses to both the Garnaut Review and the Government's CPRS Green and White Papers. Charles will talk on the policy framework for climate change, from the global setting to the on-farm implications of the proposed Australian emissions trading scheme. He will also outline the work that NFF, and others, are doing to ensure that the climate change mitigation policy framework is designed appropriately for agriculture, without jeopardizing the ongoing viability and sustainability of the sector.

NANDI HERHOLDT - Nandi Herholdt works with the Ryder Self Group and has more than 15 years' experience in measuring human behaviour at both a personal, team and organisational level. In particular, Nandi has been involved in measuring employee engagement, customer and stakeholder satisfaction, interpersonal and team dynamics and organisational culture. The Ryder Self group recently completed an MLA & AWI-commissioned survey of employees and employers from beef and sheep enterprises across Australia. Nandi will talk on the results of that survey and the useful insight it gives employers into how to attract, manage and retain staff.



Supporting our pastoral industry



RANGELANDS
AUSTRALIA

Done short courses and now looking for something to pull it all together?
Seeking knowledge and skills to handle current and emerging issues?
Want to study from home, and learn with others?
Then have a look at the Rangeland Management courses developed by Rangelands Australia and offered by the University of Queensland.
These courses were shaped by experienced managers, advisors and scientists, so they are different but practical, relevant and up-to-date.
Entry is possible with or without a degree and there's out-of-hours support through the Rangeland Champions.

For more information contact:

- Rangelands Australia
Phone: 07 5460 1660
rangelands@uqg.uq.edu.au or visit
www.rangelands-australia.com.au
or
- Dionne & Richard Walsh
(Rangeland Champions)
Phone: 08 8972 3316 or
rdwalsh@bigpond.com :



Road Trains of Australia (RTA) has had a long association with the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association and provides a complete haulage service to the pastoral industry.

For more information please contact

Brooke Hartley or James Murphy
Phone: 08 8947 1818
Email: brooke@rta.net.au
or
zipper@rta.net.au

Cattlenews - February 2009



For more than 150 years, Landmark has been a part of rural Australia. A leading agribusiness company, Landmark offers a diverse range of products and services across livestock, real estate, finance, insurance, merchandise, fertiliser, farm services and wool.

Like branches nationwide, Landmark's NT-wide stores provide products and services across all business activities, with a particular focus on livestock and property sales, merchandise, finance and insurance.

Backed by the financial security of dealing with a large company, the dedicated Landmark team supports clients throughout Northern Australia and the men and women of the Northern Territory cattle industry.

For more information please contact your local Landmark branch



Your Telstra Country Wide team in the Northern Territory combines the expertise of Telstra with local knowledge and experience to help local businesses grow and to expand lifestyle choices for local communities, families and individuals.

Mark Sweet, is a valuable advocate for the Northern Territory within Telstra, representing local concerns and priorities to secure a modern and reliable telecommunications infrastructure for the region's economic, social and cultural development.

For more information call 1800 687 829

Email: northern.territory@countrywide.telstra.com

or visit: www.telstra.com.au/countrywide



DESERT KNOWLEDGE
CRC

The Desert Knowledge CRC exists to:

- Provide sustainable livelihoods for desert people that are based on natural resource and service enterprise opportunities that are environmentally and socially appropriate
- Encourage sustainable remote desert settlements that support the presence of desert people, particularly remote Aboriginal communities, as a result of improved and efficient governance and access to services
- Foster thriving desert regional economies that are based on desert competitive advantages, bringing together Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, government and industry
- Apply social science insights into governance, human capacity and the design of appropriate institutions to all these outcomes.

For more information, go to <http://www.desertknowledgecrc.com.au/>

The NTCA sincerely thanks its sponsors listed here for their on-going generous support of the pastoral industry. We urge members to support these businesses when purchasing goods and services throughout the year.

MLA Outlook 2009

Overview excerpts from MLA's 'Australian Cattle and Sheep Industry Projections 2009'

The outlook for the Australian beef and cattle industry looks bright, with a much lower A\$ and an overall improvement in seasonal conditions set to form the foundations for improved export and cattle prices into 2009.

However, the spectre of the worst global financial and economic environment in many decades tempers the short term outlook, with unprecedented uncertainty surrounding beef and cattle demand in the short term.

In 2009, Australian saleyard cattle prices are forecast to average higher, as the lower A\$ and improved seasonal conditions offset the impact of the global financial crisis, slower global economic growth and the return of US beef into Korea.

After a slow start, cattle prices are expected to be higher across all categories, with the largest increase in the young cattle and cows, as producers look to rebuild drought depleted herds. Underpinned by the lower A\$, the Australian industry is forecast

to enter a period of stronger export demand and cattle prices, once the current trading and financial uncertainties recede, which is expected by the end of the first quarter of 2009. However, this A\$-led improvement will be moderated by very low co-products values, with the economic slowdown slashing prices, especially for hides and tallow. Improved farm productivity, combined with higher cattle prices should enhance farm profitability in 2009, except across regions where drought remains. The outlook for strong returns for beef producers will greatly assist herd rebuilding, with the main growth to be across the better faring regions of northern Australia. While the short term impact of herd rebuilding will be felt in 2009, with lower young cattle and female turnoff, this will forge the way for higher supplies from 2010 onwards. Beef and veal production in 2009 is forecast to increase 2% on 2008, as an increase in grown male cattle turnoff and higher carcass weights more than offsets lower turnoff in other categories.

And how live exports will fare

Cont from Page 1

"Forecasts for strong population and income growth in Indonesia over the medium term, together with recent falls in local cattle numbers and in feed costs, are expected to underpin further expansion in shipment to this market from 2010 onwards.

Competition from beef and buffalo meat across South East Asia will continue to have a large influence on demand for Australian live cattle over the medium term, especially to price sensitive markets.

In particular, the entry of substantial quantities of South American beef or Indian buffalo meat into our dominant market, Indonesia, could potentially lower live cattle exports.

Added to this, the value of the A\$ will also be crucial to all markets over the medium term. The possibility exists over the medium to longer term for expansion in exports to Russia, China, the Middle East and North Africa."

Positioning for the future

Grazing for Profit is Australia's most highly regarded business course for the pastoral industry. The programs focus on building people's knowledge, skills and capacity to help ensure profitability of agricultural businesses in conjunction with regeneration of the landscape. They provide a holistic insight into factors affecting farm business, including:

- improving livestock production
- managing for improved pasture and soil production
- learning how to improve the use of free resources of sunshine and rainfall
- strengthening family relationships

... all of which help to improve the bottom line and place you in good stead for the future (See ad below for next NT course)

Funding Available

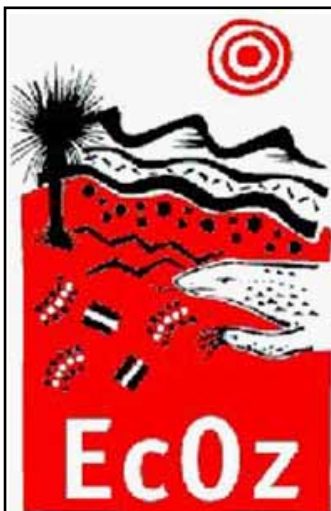
RCS
Empowering People

Grazing for Profit™

KATHERINE
15th to 21st March

To register and for further information call Toni or Sara on **1800 356 004** or visit our website **www.rcs.au.com**

Tools for Today's Climate



Territory Born & Bred

Environmental Consultants in

- Environmental assessments
- Environmental management
- Ecological and flora & fauna studies
- Development planning

****Local solutions provided by local people****

Suite 1, 3rd Floor
Winlow House,
75 Woods St
Darwin NT

GPO Box 381
Darwin, NT 0801

P: +61 8 8981 1100
F: +61 8 8981 1102
E: ecoz@ecoz.com.au
W: www.ecoz.com.au

NIMBLE solutions for station accommodation

New NT business venture, Nimble Homes, opened its Darwin factory doors in September and by 12 December, had beaten the monsoon to deliver its first homegrown product to Tony Searle at Melaleuca Station.

Tony chose the design for the aptly-named Melaleuca so it was flexible enough to use as a small family home or as independent accommodation for short term station workers. The stylish home with three generous bedrooms, two bathrooms and separate kitchen, also has adaptable breezeway and deck spaces to allow good flow-through ventilation for tropical living.

The design incorporates R&D to allow Nimble to 'flat pack' the central lift, so the homes can be delivered efficiently to very remote locations (more than 2000 km from Darwin). Nimble Homes was started by Nick Hanigan and Marilynne Paspaley who have teamed up with top class registered West Australian builders Troy Miller and Steve Suttie to bring modular and factory built techniques and technologies to the regional northwest. Their focus is on quality built homes and specialised remote building with business extending across the Territory Kimberley.

"Our approach is flexible," Nick says. "We want to be Nimble enough to respond

to our clients' needs for their site. We approach each job on a case by case basis. Cattle stations are the ideal market for us. We want to work with people who know the importance of retaining good staff by creating good living environments - building for stations makes the perfect back drop, you have beautiful back yards too".

Steve Suttie did his apprenticeship in Kakadu. "I love being back in the Territory and feel I'm back at a frontier," he says. "It's nice to do a full circle - and to be part of the Nimble team. We have the experience to resolve most design requests. It delivers me a sense of pride to work in a can-do environment, delivering what most people hadn't thought possible before."



COME AND SEE US!
Nimble Homes conducts open day inspections



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL

- Murray - Ph: 0458 403 758
- The factory direct - Ph: (08) 8932 2958
- Or Email factory@nimble.net.au

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE & EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Backing our Farmers – the Road to Recovery

Applications are now open for grants for rural communities and farmers throughout Australia. Drought, fires and floods are close to our hearts at the moment. These grants will help to ease the burden being endured by farmers affected by these and other difficulties.

Where does the money come from?

100% of the profits from sales at Woolworths and Safeway supermarkets on Friday 20 February 2009 will be donated to the Community Infrastructure and Emergency Assistance Grants program with all applications managed and processed by the Country Women's Association.

Applications are invited through two grants programs:

The Community Infrastructure Grant: Rural communities can apply for funds for community building, infrastructure and maintenance projects, further guaranteeing farming communities not merely survive, but get back on the road to recovery. Applications for Community Infrastructure Grant will close on 30 April 2009

The Emergency Assistance Grant: Individuals, farmers and families can apply for Emergency Assistance funds for every-day expenses such as pre-school fees, school uniforms, groceries, medicines. Emergency Assistance Grant applications will be processed and funds allocated after 20 February 2009

Individuals and communities wishing to apply for Grants can call 1800 237 876

For more information please go to www.woolworths.com.au

Trade reform advice for a new US President

National Farmers' Federation President David Crombie has had some advice for new US President Barack Obama on how he should be handling the thorny issue of trade reform. "With world economies in freefall and the international food crisis ever-present, leading the charge in trade reform to open up markets could be a key element to solve many of his biggest Presidential headaches," Mr Crombie commented as the new US president was being sworn into power. "President Obama has a unique opportunity to do what no other US leader has ever done - lead the way on trade reform and, in doing so, drag delinquent nations back to the

World Trade Organisation to wrap up Doha and eliminate trade distorting barriers once-and-for-all. "Breaking down the artificial barriers of tariffs, subsidies and quotas would be a fillip to economies the world over - including the floundering US economy - giving new impetus to world markets. "At the same time, it would enable farmers across the world to appropriately respond to, and meet, the global food shortage. Ironically, in the current world trade environment, farmers who can produce more food are actively prevented from doing so due to antiquated policies steeped in protectionist dogma."

NT pastoral landcare initiatives gather momentum for 2009

Significant NLP-supported pastoral landcare activity occurred across the NT in 2008. With many new initiatives starting up under the 'Caring for Our Country sustainable farming program, 2009 is shaping up to be equally busy. Important projects completed in 2008 included:

- **Applied pastoral information technology - NTCA and Matt Bolam (MB Consulting):** The project developed and demonstrated systems for improved information management on extensive cattle country on Auvergne Station. It provided information to lift the capacity of pastoralists in extensive areas to manage herd performance and grazing, particularly the balance between cattle numbers and land condition. Increased management capacity will lead to greater herd efficiency and enterprise profitability while maintaining the underlying natural resource base in a resilient condition.
- **Developing mechanical controls to manage dense, large area weed infestations - Victoria River District Conservation Assoc:** The VRDCA demonstrated cost-effective restoration of large, dense weed infested land through a program based on mechanical mulching. The mulching proved particularly effective on Bellyache Bush and Parkinsonia shrubs.
- **New technologies to expand the northern Australian native grass industry - Greening Australia NT:** constructed a seed harvester designed for northern Australian environments and grass species. The ability to harvest more effectively enabled the promotion of best practice rehabilitation and the utilisation of native pastures as a sustainable farming enterprise.
- **Sustainable development of the Wagiman cattle and plant harvesting businesses -** An integrated program of sustainable enterprise development by the traditional owners of the Wagiman country in the Upper Daly. The project improved their natural resource management skills and business practices, and consolidating a practical, 10-year plan for their cattle and plant-harvesting businesses.
- **Riparian protection in the Roper catchment - Roper River Landcare:** This project will see fencing constructed and alternative stock watering points installed in the Wallaby Wetland, Dingo Waterhole and Strangways River. This will exclude feral animals and enhance members' capacity to sustainably manage the natural resources in this catchment.
- **NRM Exchange and Future Directions Forum for pastoral landcare in the remote rangelands - Natural Resource Management Board NT:** The forum staged promoted stronger alliances among the remote rangeland pastoral landcare community. It also delivered a collective understanding of what is best practice for landscape resilience in the remote rangeland pastoral industry.

New pastoral landcare projects started up in 2008, will provide vital future information and training for pastoralists. They include:

- **Scoping Future Scenarios and Building Innovative Partnerships for NT Pastoral Lands:** NTCA will identify the major strategic issues and impacts facing future generations of pastoralists. The project will develop agreed goals and priorities in consultation with relevant stakeholders.
- **Managing Land Condition for a Profitable and Productive Pastoral Industry in Central Australia - NTCA and NT RDPIFR:** This pastoralist driven Grazing Land Management project aims to sustain central Australian grazing land, helping pastoralists apply tools and principles to manage and restore their land condition, and create opportunities for them to learn from each other.



ABOVE: Wagiman Rangers draft cattle in yards build during their landcare project. LEFT: The Applied Pastoral Technology landcare project utilised cutting edge breeder performance recording to lift the capacity of pastoralists to increase herd efficiency and enterprise profitability

- **Grazing Land Management - Demonstration, Evaluation and Continuation - NTCA & NT RDPIFR:** Via producer demonstration sites, field days, web based tools and workshops this Grazing Land Management project will increase the adoption of sustainable land management practices in the NT pastoral industry (Barkly, VRD, Roper River and Sturt Plateau).
- **Improved Pasture Condition in the Georgina River Catchment NT - Barkly Landcare & Conservation Association:** This landholder driven project will use demonstration, monitoring and promotion of land management plans to develop a coordinated catchment based approach to improving pasture conditions on land in the Georgina River headwaters.
- **Improving Land Condition and Profitability Through Sustainable Grazing Strategies in the Indigenous Pastoral Program - Central Land Council:** This project will conduct natural resources property assessments, develop sustainable grazing strategies and develop and deliver targeted Grazing Land Management resources and training for central Australian Indigenous pastoralists.
- **Empowering Pastoralists to Manage for Sustainable and Productive Landscapes - Natural Resource Management Board NT & Centralian Land Management Association:** The project will build the ecological knowledge and planning skills of local land managers in remote Australia and help them to implement sustainable land management practices on their properties.
- **Increasing the Productivity of Improved Pastures by the Sustainable Management of Native Vegetation Regrowth - NT Agriculture Assc:** This project will demonstrate best practice methodologies for sustainable improved pasture production systems on agricultural land in the Top End. Cost effective strategies for maintaining productive pasture systems, soil health and biodiversity will be delivered to land managers through a series of trials, demonstrations and workshops.

Landcare activity in 2008 ensures that national and local landcare agencies will continue to support the NT cattle industry to develop and maintain profitable, sustainable farming systems

For more information regarding pastoral landcare projects contact:
Ian Linley - Caring for our Country Facilitator - NT Sustainable Farm Practices
 Mobile: 0428 330 131 - Phone: 08 8941 4766
ianlinley@bigpond.com

CLIMATE CHANGE, KYOTO & THE CARBON REDUCTION SCHEME ... *what's it all about?*

In July 2008, the Australian Government issued its Green Paper of initial proposals for a carbon pollution reduction scheme. This sought public comment and led to the follow-up White Paper of final decisions, released in December 2008. The NTCA made a detailed submission to the government Green Paper. Legislation is likely to be put before parliament early in 2009. The details below explain some of what is behind the processes leading to government decisions about carbon reduction.

The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme

This scheme emerged through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), an international treaty, adopted in 1992 to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system

Climate change

The UNFCCC defines climate change as being attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and that is in addition to natural climate variability over comparable time periods - which lead to the Kyoto Protocol.

The Kyoto Protocol

An international treaty created under the UNFCCC in 1997. It entered into force in 2005. Among other things, the Kyoto Protocol sets binding targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by developed countries. It includes individual emission reduction targets for Annex I countries.

Which are the Annex I countries

Countries listed in Annex I to the UNFCCC, including all developed (OECD)

countries and the countries in transition in central and eastern Europe (including Russia and Ukraine). In the context of the Kyoto Protocol, 'Annex I country' is used to refer to a party included in Annex I to the UNFCCC with a commitment inscribed in Annex B to the Kyoto Protocol.

Annex B to the Kyoto Protocol

This is a list of Annex I countries, including Australia, that have committed to limit their greenhouse gas emissions in the period 2008–12.

What does Australia have to do?

Australia has to reduce its emissions of carbon (carbon is used to generally refer to the six major greenhouse gases) and has decided to use a Cap and Trade Scheme (an emissions trading regime in which a limit (or cap) is placed on the total emissions allowable from the activities or sources of emissions covered under the scheme. Tradeable emissions units are issued up to an amount equal to the cap.)

Our scheme is called the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme (CPRS) and will come into force in 2010 and will cover emissions from six sectors of the economy – stationary energy, transport, fugitive (greenhouse gases that are released in the course of oil and gas extraction and processing, through leaks from gas pipelines, and as waste methane from black coal mining), industrial processes, waste, and forestry.

How does it work?

Emitters of greenhouse gases need to acquire a Carbon Pollution Permit or emissions unit for every tonne of greenhouse gas that they emit. The quantity of emissions produced by firms will be monitored, reported and audited. At the end of each year, each liable entity will need to surrender a permit or unit for every tonne of emissions that they produced in that year. The number of permits issued by the Government in each year will be limited. Firms will compete to purchase the number of permits that they require. Firms that value the permits most highly will be prepared to pay most for them, either at auction or on a secondary trading

market. For some firms, it will be cheaper to reduce emissions than to buy permits. Certain categories of firms will receive some emissions permits for free, as a transitional assistance measure. Those firms could use the permits or sell them.

How can we reduce our carbon emissions?

Many emitters will find it cheaper to reduce emissions than buy Carbon Pollution Permits, so will change operational processes. The market cost of carbon permits will drive this.

We can also use carbon sequestration - the long-term storage of carbon dioxide in the forests, soils, oceans or underground in depleted oil and gas reservoirs, coal seams and saline aquifers. Examples include: the separation and disposal of carbon dioxide from flue gases or processing fossil fuels to produce hydrogen and carbon-rich fractions; and the direct removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere through land-use change, reforestation, ocean fertilization and agricultural practices to enhance soil carbon. Carbon sinks will be important - natural or man-made systems that absorb and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, including trees, plants and the oceans.

Will this impact on farmers?

Not immediately – agriculture is not included in the CPRS at start-up in 2010, and will not be until 2015 at the earliest. A decision will be made in 2013 whether to include agriculture, and if so, how. There will, however, be an immediate indirect impact from 2010 with an increase in all costs which contain an energy component.

Australia's emissions reduction targets

- Long-term - 60% below 2000 levels by 2050
- Medium-term - 5% below 2000 levels by 2020, or
- Up to 15% below 2000 levels if significant commitments are made by other countries.

Futures Project powering ahead

The NTCA Futures Project is gaining momentum with planning meetings being held to map out scenarios to guide the Northern Territory pastoral industry's advancement over the next 30 years. Pastoralists, government policy makers, Indigenous land councils, landcare groups and other industry stakeholders have got behind the concept of this visionary project, which was set up late last year with a \$327,000 grant from the Federal Government's \$28 million landcare-based Caring for Country initiative.

The project is about identifying the big issues the industry is likely to face in the next 20 to 30 years, and identifying what needs to be done to keep ahead of impending challenges.

Participants at meetings called by the NTCA, have begun the process of modelling financial, economic and environmental scenarios that will put the industry in good stead to respond to future possibilities.

Once finalized, the scenarios will be put to the test by a number of landowners, across all Territory pastoral zones.

NTCA Executive Director Luke Bowen says the Futures Project is about keeping ahead of the game - anticipating likely issues and impacts then working out ways to bring appropriate resources together to build the knowledge and structures to tackle them head on. Scenario builders held a productive session at the Darwin Sailing Club earlier this month, and a schedule of future meetings has been put together.

For more details go to:

www.ntca.org or contact Luke Bowen, phone 89815976 or email luke.bowen@ntca.org.au

Native title claims update

The Northern Territory law firm, Ward Keller, was appointed by the NTCA in December to handle native title claims lodged over Territory cattle stations. Ward Keller representatives are giving native title presentations and answering queries on the native title process, at all February NTCA branch meetings.

Background from Ward Keller

On 26 September 2007, the Federal Court of Australia made a Native Title Determination as to the native title rights and interests which exist in relation to the Newcastle Waters and Muranji Pastoral leases, known as the "Newcastle Waters Decision". The Federal Court is now focused on resolving all outstanding native title claims across the Northern Territory. The proposal is to have consent native title determinations for each pastoral property based on the native title rights and interests established by the claimants, and the determination achieved in the Newcastle Waters Decision.

These determinations will not create new rights for claimants but merely record already-existing rights resulting from cases such as Mabo (1992) and Wik (1996). Pastoral operations are protected by the native title determinations achieved to date and by special provisions in the Native Title Act (Cth) (inserted as part of the 10 Point Plan).

At a Directions Hearing on 26 March 2008, the Federal Court listed three groups of native title claims over NT pastoral leases to be determined by the end of 2009. These are:

- **Auvergne Group** - covering the Auvergne, Newry, Bullo River, Legune,

Spirit Hills and Rosewood pastoral leases.

- **Montejinni Group** - covering the Dungowan, Camfield, Killarney, Birrimba, Montejinni West and Montejinni East pastoral leases

- **Beetaloo/Hayfield Group** - covering the Beetaloo, Amungee Amungee, Shenandoah, Vermelha, Maryfield, Forest Hill, Kalala, Hayfield, Tanumbirini, Ucharonidge, Mungabroom and Broadmere pastoral leases.

The Federal Court has issued timeframes for the progress of the claims listed above and the NTCA has written to the pastoralists concerned regarding such timeframes. The Court will make similar programming orders for all other native title claims over Territory pastoral properties.

Extinguishment Reports

The Newcastle Waters Decision determined that certain constructed pastoral improvements together with "any adjacent land or waters, the exclusive use of which was necessary for the enjoyment of the improvements" extinguished native title on your property.

Ward Keller will prepare extinguishment tenure reports for the Court on your behalf. These reports will confirm whether you have constructed pastoral improvements determined to extinguish native title. To assist in this, the firm is seeking access to pastoral infrastructure plans held by the NT Government. Pastoralists in the Auvergne, Montejinni and Beetaloo/Hayfield group are asked to contact Tony Fowlestone at Rangelands Management on (08) 8999 4686 to authorise Ward Keller to collect a copy of the relevant plan on your behalf.

TO GET MORE INFORMATION

Anyone with queries on native title or the extinguishment reports, should contact Nicola Thompson (solicitor) on 08 8946 2960 or nicolathompson@wardkeller.com.au or Kevin Stephens (partner) on 08 8946 2921 or kevinstephens@wardkeller.com.au at Ward Keller.

For any other queries, please call NTCA Executive Director Luke Bowen, Phone. 08 89815976 or luke.bowen@ntca.org.au

Call for NT food security group

The NT Cattlemen's Association has called for a food security group to be set up in the Territory. The concept is in one of 12 recommendations the association has put to the NT Government in its recent Budget submission on behalf of the pastoral industry. The recommendation is for a food security group aimed at maximising efficiency of government policy and delivery, as well as departmental cooperation and the establishment of clear Northern Territory targets for future production and support mechanisms.

The NTCA said resources for the group would be drawn from existing government department and industry expertise and it would need new funding to support staff needed to coordinate and deliver the required services.

Kel retires to run cattle in Queensland



The Northern Territory cattle industry has farewelled long-serving government vet and the principal figure behind the Territory's NLIS implementation, Kel Small, who resigned recently to go cattle farming in Queensland. Kel worked for the NT Primary Industry Department for more than 28 years. He became the Darwin RVO in 1996, and later took over the brands and stock movements portfolio before becoming the key figure in developing and implementing NLIS within the Territory cattle industry.

Long time working partner Brian Radunz described Kel as a good communicator who, probably through his experiences as part owner of Camp Creek Station, got on well with cattle producers.

Kel and his wife Lois, who also worked for the Primary Industry Department, in the Berrimah Farm vet lab, have bought a farming property at Gunalda near Gympie.

The NTCA extends its best wishes to Kel and Lois in their new farming venture.

Cattlenews - February 2009



Above: Left to right: Damon Wagland and Bruce Hanton, both from Delta Electrics, discuss renewable energy systems with Markus Rathsmann from Mt Ringwood Station.

Top End demonstration day promotes renewable energy

Delta Electrics hosted a renewable energy demonstration day at their Winnellie premises on 20 February. NTCA project manager Ian McLean was on hand to explain the association's renewable energy work and specifically the 'Evaluation Process' he is developing to simplify the process for stations and make it easier to get the information they need to weigh up the benefits of renewable energy for their homesteads.

Ian went through examples of stations that had had systems designed and the pay-off. He mentioned that though the switch to renewable energy required significant up-front investment, the break-even point was usually in 4-6 years. Ian also stressed that the funding for renewable systems finishes in 2010, and that stations may be able to claim the 30% depreciation for systems fitted before June 30 (See Back Page). During the demonstration, Bruce Hanton of Delta Electrics and John Lucey of Ergon Energy explained the Ergon 'Station Power' systems that Delta fits and supplies throughout the Territory. They gave details of systems and positive feedback from satisfied station clients on benefits including cost savings, less reliance on diesel, and 24 hour power.



Left: Participants at the renewable energy demonstration day.
Above: Products displayed on the day.



NT's wild dog control guidelines now in place!

Northern Territory land owners can finally access prepared baits to control wild dogs and pigs.

The NTCA has worked relentlessly over the past four years to advocate for the use of dried baits which can be accessed by landholders who have undertaken accredited training and hold the appropriate permits. The existing fresh meat baiting service, which has been delivered by departmental staff, will stay in place but be transferred to a user-pays system from 1 July 2009.

"At last, landholders have some capacity to respond to the wild dog menace," NTCA Executive Director Luke Bowen said.

"However, the industry has concerns that the permit period required under the Wildlife

Act (28 days with the potential to extend for two further periods of 28 days) is grossly inadequate."

Following completion of the 1080 training course, three different applications are required - (1) authorisation to use a restricted chemical (1080), (2) application for approval to purchase 1080, and (3) a permit to take protected wildlife. Two must go to the Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources (DRDPPIFR) and the other to the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport (NRETAS). Two training providers are presently registered to run 1080 user training courses.

If you have any questions, please contact the NTCA.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

DRDPPIFR - Phone: 08 89992016 / 08 89992272 or

Visit: www.nt.gov.au/Primary_Industry

Permits (NRETAS) - Phone: 08 8999 4795 / 08 8999 4814 or

Visit: www.nt.gov.au/nreta/wildlife/permits/index.html

Parks and Wildlife (NRETAS) - Ph Darwin: 08 8995 5008 /

Katherine: 08 8973 8860 / Alice Springs: 08 8951 8283 - or

Visit: www.nt.gov.au/nreta/wildlife/index.html



1080 Training Courses

**Train Safe NT will be running
1080 courses in the NT**

We are owned and operated in the Northern Territory and have:

- Registration to offer the 1080 User Training Program
- User Accreditation last five years
- Train Safe NT is a Registered Training Organisation
- We can travel anywhere in the Territory

Please call to discuss your 1080 training needs and obtain
a free, no obligation quote

Contact James Gorrie

0435 182 042 or 8985 6829

email james.gorrie@trainsafe.net

If you use manufactured 1080 baits in the NT you are required by law to complete the 1080 User Training Course this is a requirement by the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Control of Use Act.

Record live export volumes in 2008

Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) has reported on 'record returns and surging volumes' resulting from overseas demand for Australian cattle in 2008.

The 2008 trade saw a 20% increase in live cattle export numbers and record \$644 million contribution to the Australian economy, MLA Livestock Exports Manager Michael Finucan said.

"This record revenue for Australia demonstrates the importance of the livestock export industry to our farming families and communities, and to our trading partners, particularly Indonesia, which took its largest ever volume of Australian cattle last year.

"Australian cattle are well known for being high quality, healthy and disease-free. They're well cared for on the Aussie farm, during the voyage overseas and in the in-market feedlots. This reputation for quality and commitment to animal welfare is helping drive demand and volumes."

Mr Finucan said Indonesia remained Australia's largest live export market, taking 651,196 head (75% of total exports), an increase from 516,992 head in 2007 - a 26% increase.

"Indonesia is a key industry partner and demands high quality, healthy Australian cattle to ensure its growing communities have access to affordable protein," he said.

"Australian cattle are well suited to the Indonesian climate and the Indonesian livestock industry is investing in animal welfare programs and infrastructure."

Mr Finucan said overseas demand for Australian live cattle was expected to remain strong, but Northern Territory herd rebuilding efforts were expected to constrain available supplies for the trade this year, with total exports forecast to drop back 6% on 2008 levels.

BEEF ROADS IN CRISIS

Boggy, dusty, dangerous and no better than a rough bush track - but this is typical of the bush roads that Northern Territory truckdrivers have been battling along for years while transporting our cattle to markets. Not a lot has changed and without upgrades and maintenance, increasing demand from industry, community and tourism will speed up the decline.



The \$42 Billion Economic Stimulus Package

What does it mean for farmers?

The NFF has welcomed the Australian Government's \$42 billion stimulus package, saying it is happy with its drought hardship grant measure, regional infrastructure investment and tax breaks for small businesses. The NFF has assessed the benefits as they apply to the farming sector and has highlighted the following as worthy measures:

■ Drought hardship grant measure

A one-off payment of \$950 to assist an estimated 21,500 farming families and small businesses farmers experiencing hardship due to drought conditions and others receiving Exceptional Circumstances related income support. The payment will provide immediate financial support to farmers who are most in need

and may not have sufficient taxable income to benefit from the Tax Payment.

■ Tax Bonus for Working Australians

A lump-sum bonus of between \$300 and \$900 (depending on income up to \$100,000) from April 2009 to all Australian residents who paid tax in 2007-08.

■ Small Business and General Business Tax Break

Small businesses (i.e. annual turnover of \$2 million or less) can claim an additional 30% tax deduction for eligible assets costing \$1000 or more that they acquire from 13 December 2008 to 30 June 2009, and install by 30 June 2010.

As an example, a business that buys and takes possession of a \$60,000 backhoe by the end of June 2009 can claim an additional \$18,000 deduction in its 2008-09 tax return.

Other businesses can receive the same deductions for eligible assets greater than \$10,000.

■ **Regional road repairs**
\$150 million in 2008-09 to help the States and Territories fund a backlog of maintenance projects on Australia's national highways. This funding will be conditional upon States and Territories signing up to the \$22.3 billion Nation Building Program for 2009-10 to 2013-14.

■ Community Infrastructure

An additional \$500 million over two years to expand the Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program – Strategic Projects. This program funds local government community infrastructure projects such as town halls, libraries, community centres and sport centres.

Eligible assets explained

The NTCA's accountant has offered the following opinion on what assets are classified as eligible for accelerated depreciation under the new package.

'The accelerated depreciation in the stimulus package is a one-off investment allowance for depreciating assets. If a small business entity (SBE) purchases a depreciable asset worth \$1000 or more, between 13 December 2008 and 30 June 2009, it can claim an additional deduction of 30% of the asset cost. If it buys a depreciable asset between 1 July 2009 and 31 December 2009 it can claim 10% of the cost.

A small business is one with an aggregated turnover of less than \$2 million. The same applies to all other businesses (agg turnover of \$2 million or more) except that the asset cost must be greater than \$10,000.

It is important to note that this is a relatively general description of the allowance. Any members who think they may be eligible to claim the allowance or would like more definitive information should contact their accountant.

The ATO describes 'eligible assets' as 'tangible assets used in carrying on a business, for which a deduction is available under the core provisions of Division 40 (Capital Allowances) of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (ITAA 1997).'

A more detailed explanation will be available through www.ato.gov.au

RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS INCLUDED IN NEW DEPRECIATION BONUS

The new accelerated depreciation initiative in the stimulus package also applies to any Renewable Energy Systems fitted, therefore reducing the cost even further for station families thinking of investing in a new system.

"This, coupled with the fact that the current funding finishes next year with no commitment to continue it, may make this a good time to evaluate Renewable Energy for your situation," the NTCA's Ian McLean says.

"The NTCA has developed a process to help stations get easy access to all the information they need to fully evaluate the benefits of renewable energy for their situation.

"With most systems paying themselves off and showing savings in four to six years, this timeframe will be even sooner by people being able to claim an additional 30% depreciation.

For more information contact Ian McLean, phone 0401 118 191 or email: ian.mclean@ntca.org.au

**NORTHERN
TERRITORY
CATTLEMEN'S
ASSOCIATION**



SECRETARIAT
Suite 9 1st Floor Raffles Plaza
1 Buffalo Court Darwin NT 0800
GPO Box 4845 Darwin NT 0801
Phone: (08) 8981 5976
Fax: (08) 8981 9527
Email: office.darwin@ntca.org.au

ALICE SPRINGS BRANCH
54 Hartley Street
Alice Springs NT 0870
GPO Box 2288 Alice Springs NT 0871
Phone: (08) 8952 5122
Fax: (08) 8953 4260
Email: office.alice@ntca.org.au