

NORTHERN TERRITORY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION INC.

Member - National Farmers' Federation & Cattle Council of Australia



Media Release

Friday 5 September 2003

Landmark meeting on Barkly Tablelands a success

The Northern Territory Cattlemen Association (NTCA) is the peak primary industry lobby group in the Northern Territory (NT). The NTCA represent over 92% of the NT cattle herd from small family operations to the large corporate organisations.

For the first time, the three groups responsible for the wellbeing of the pastoral industries on the Northern Territory's Barkly Tablelands – the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association (NTCA), the Barkly Region Landcare Group and the Barkly Region Bushfires Council – held a joint meeting recently to discuss the critical issues facing one of Australia's most remote areas.

The meeting was held on Thursday 4 September, at Brunette Downs Station, with around 65 people attending.

NTCA Executive Director, Stuart Kenny deemed the meeting a success.

"Not only were a number of critical issues effecting the pastoralists of the region identified, but the Minister for Primary Industry, Chris Burns, attended and gave an undertaking to investigate and report back on these issues," said Mr Kenny.

"The main three issues were roads, health and communications.

"We identified a greater need for more resources to address the health and well being of Barkly residents, the roads in the area need to be upgraded and maintained on a more regular basis, and communications should be upgraded.

"It was also a terrific opportunity for Minister Burns to experience first hand how the many families and staff living in this remote corner of Australia cope with these conditions.

"The NTCA, Landcare Group, Bushfires Council and local pastoralists agreed that this forum will meet on a more regular basis.

Secretariat

Suite 9 / 1st Floor, Raffles Plaza
1 Buffalo Crt, Darwin NT 0800
GPO Box 4845
DARWIN NT 0801
Tel: (08) 89 815 976
Fax: (08) 89 819 527

Alice Springs Branch
54 Hartley St
PO Box 2288,
ALICE SPRINGS NT 0871
Tel: (08) 8952 5122
Fax: (08) 8953 4260

E-mail: ntcaasp@bigpond.com

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

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"We hope Minister Burns will get back to us soon, after liaising with his Ministerial counterparts on the critical issues raised at this meeting."

END

See Attached Photo: Left to Right ' Minister Chris Burns, Mr. Henry Burke (Manager Brunette Downs) and Mr. Stuart Kenny (NTCA Executive Director)

Contact: Stuart Kenny Executive Director, 08 8981 5976 or 0427 815 990

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**Suite 9 / 1st Floor, Raffles Plaza
1 Buffalo Crt, Darwin NT 0800
GPO Box 4845
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Tel: (08) 89 815 976
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