



The Pastoral Industry and the Protection of the Natural Resource Base

- The Northern Territory pastoral industry encompasses almost 50% of the total land area of the NT. Pastoral managers are significant natural resource managers with the cost of managing the resource met through the economic sustainable production of beef cattle.
- Rangeland production of beef in the north provides the opportunity to maintain native vegetation with resulting benefits to biodiversity conservation.
- Access to the live trade allows this system to be profitable when producing younger feeder animal suitable for the South East Asian trade where cattle can be finished more cost effectively. This profitability is eroded if feeder cattle need to be sold into southern Australia due to freight and competition with higher quality cattle. A changeover to producing heavier slaughter cattle will be costly in terms of reduced cashflow in the interim.
- Producers have made significant investment in Grazing Land Management training over the last 10 years, with many land managers trained in sustainable grazing practices.
- Stocking rates on the rangelands are finely balanced and aim to harvest very low quantities of vegetation (max 20%) to maintain cover and soil condition. By forcing producers to retain cattle on properties due to loss of market, stocking rates over the next 12 months will be dramatically increased with resultant long term negative implications for land condition.
- Extensive pastoralism lends itself to off-reserve biodiversity conservation. A number of examples exist currently with the industry actively exploring other opportunities.
- Facilitation of the engagement of Indigenous people and communities in the NT in the pastoral industry and the broader NT economy – allowing incorporation of traditional land management techniques to be employed to manage pastoral land.
- Industry has demonstrated a rapid adoption of alternative energy systems such as solar power and remote telemetry in attempts to reduce industry carbon emissions.

Pastoral Industry Contributions to the Environment and Community at risk due to the live export suspension:

- A very high majority of members (ie >90%) of the NTCA are also members of landcare organizations.
- The control of wildfires through controlled burning practices and emergency responses has been estimated to cost between \$60,000 - \$100,000 per pastoral property through the use helicopters, graders, trucks, staff and water.
- Allocation of resources for the management of feral animals and weeds.
- Assistance to remote and local travellers – communications, airstrips, fuel, accommodation.
- Roads maintenance – which assists tourism, indigenous communities



NORTHERN TERRITORY PASTORAL INDUSTRY



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