

2019-2020 Year in Review

Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association

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



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**Northern Territory
Cattlemen's Association
Year in Review 2019-2020**

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President's Report

Chris Nott
NTCA PRESIDENT



There is a God

Congratulations are in order all round. Since June 2011 until June 2020 the Live export industry has lived under a cloud. First of all from the initial ban and then another six years waiting for the outcome of the class action.

There are plenty of people to thank - those at the Australian Farmers Fighting Fund, National Farmers Federation, some pretty smart cookies at Minter Ellison for putting together the defence to convince the judge what a terrible decision to ban the trade was in the first instance, Tracey Hayes as the then-NTCA CEO for coordinating the Class action with the Bretts as the lead claimant. Tracey had to get up to speed with all the legal jargon and nuances of class action speak. On a side note I hope your winning streak continues to August, Tracey.

This is also closure for those that were directly involved at the start, all those businesses that were affected directly or indirectly, and for the likes of Luke Bowen who was CEO at the time and the gruelling NTCA president Rohan Sullivan endured.

Election Policies

At the round of branch meetings last year members were asked to give the NTCA a list of issues for



the NTCA to develop into policies for the next election in August.

It will come as no surprise that once again roads made it to the list. The frustrating part about roads is not so much the lack of funds to lay down bitumen but rather the economic mismanagement by this Government to factor in adequate funding for the maintenance of the existing road infrastructure.

The Tanami fellas tell me it takes 25 hours to travel the Tanami Highway. That works out to an average speed of 28kmh. There are bull dust holes feet deep on the Plenty Highway, with one producer preferring to travel an extra 865km than subject his cattle to that road, at a cost of an extra \$40/hd. There is a trailer falling over every other day on the Buntine, and the Western Creek Road and the Tableland Highway are in dire need of some TLC.

The response from the Government is 'no money'. Well, if you didn't waste the stuff there would be adequate funding for roads.

Biosecurity also ranked highly with members.

It also ranks very high with me as well. I can remember talking about biosecurity at the branch level years ago. Since then we have had an outbreak of banana freckle that left the Top End without a banana tree, rust in wheat in WA, white spot in prawns in the east, fall army worm from the north and the list goes on.

I can't believe a committee set up by the Federal Government couldn't agree on imposing a levy of \$10/20ft container and \$1/ton on bulk sea freight to raise \$325 million over the next three years. With African Swine Flu on our door step, and FMD samples being quarantined three times in the last 12 months, I would have thought this was a no-brainer - but here we are: Ms Thomson, Chief Executive of the Cement Industry Federation, said the levy was not a good idea.

The Cement Industry Federation was part of a consortium of

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industry groups including the Minerals Council of Australia, Australasian Railway Association, Australian Chamber of Commerce, Manufacturing Australia, the Australian Logistics Council, and Gas Energy Australia, that rejected the proposed levy.

NFF was the only Agriculture representation on the committee. When you consider our industry is 70 per cent reliant on exports and our niche is clean and green, this decision beggars disbelief. What were the four main products that supermarkets got cleaned out of in Covid-19 lockdown? Red meat, rice, pasta and toilet paper all from Agriculture -so what does that tell you about the importance of agriculture. For all governments, state and federal now and in the future, food security must be a priority.

Whilst I have spoken about biosecurity at a Federal level there is also a biosecurity responsibility at an individual level as well, with early detection in identifying pest and weeds at a local level. Last year's outbreaks of Siam weed and Parthenium at this stage look to be under control. It is for this reason that wash down bays were also identified at all branch meetings as a high priority.

Land Access agreements for mining industries will also be actively pursued by the Association and there is motion for you to vote on later on.

Land Tenure

Throughout 2019 the Association was hearing loud and clear that members were concerned about security of tenure. It was going to

play a large part of the conference this year so hopefully we can bring that to you next year. In the interim, Covid-19 and with the Government soon to go into caretaker mode for the election and depending on the outcome of the election, I don't see a lot of action in this space until the new year. Suffice to say it will be high on the agenda for the conference and through 2021.

Police

Much has been made of the Territory's unique situation that those in the cities just don't get. At the NTCA we have been asking for a stock squad to be set up, given the value of cattle these days. We see it as an urgent necessity but at the very least if bush coppers could be trained to at least use a NLIS wand and be able to correlate what is read on the wand and the brand on the animal - that would be a good start.

Trespass issues have also been on the increase with property theft, damage to fences, illegal hunting and fires. And since Covid-19 there has been an increase in the taking of killers. These need to be reported but also the trespass laws need to be strengthened to protect our assets.

With regard to doing MVR work, I see this as part of the job. If police have the power to defect a vehicle for unroadworthiness then surely the department could see fit to allow police to do registration inspections as well. Doing MVR work also helps to keep the communication lines open between pastoralists and the police.

Of the 20 odd drought measures that are available, there are only two that are really applicable to the Territory industry and they are the water enhancement scheme and the ability to access loans of up to \$2 million through the RIK facility.

Drought

Dare I talk about drought.

I think it is fair to say that a lot of agencies are thinking along the lines - especially for Central Australia - that if you choose to do business in one of the driest parts of the country in one of the driest countries in the world, then you have to expect to be prepared to encounter those dry times. Of the 20 odd drought measures that are available, there are only two that are really applicable to the Territory industry and they are the water enhancement scheme and the ability to access loans of up to \$2 million through the RIK facility.

If Governments are serious about us building resilience in our businesses, then policy should reflect that. I have been a strong advocate for the expansion of the Farm Managed Deposit Scheme. Currently it is only available to sole traders with a cap of \$800,000.

A drought in this country and you can smoke that amount on freight, hay, agistment in a heartbeat. To really give the fund some grunt for this country then it needs to include all operating structures whether it be companies, trusts, partnerships or whatever your structure is and the amount needs to be ramped up to say \$5 million per lease. Another problem that Covid-19 has shown us, is that cash is king, without it, doing business is hard work.

There isn't a Government or a business in the world that doesn't wish they hadn't squirrelled some cash away for a tough time. Our industry is no different. Policy should encourage you to safe-

guard for tough times, and it is not for just drought but floods, bushfires, market disruption e.g. live export ban, or heaven forbid, a disease outbreak.

I think it is fair to say, given all the Governments are spending money like drunken sailors on Covid-19, then getting any help from them for the next 20 or 30 years is going to be a tall ask.

There are plenty of other issues on the agenda as well, including telecommunications, NAFI funding, Local Government, aeromedical services, and the list goes on.

Industrial Manslaughter

Agriculture ranks as one of the most hazardous industries. Between 2005 on 2014 there were an average of 41 fatalities per year. That has risen to 63 in 2016 and 68 in 2017. No guessing 75 per cent of the deaths were caused by tractors, quads and aircraft. Rohan mentions more on quads in his NFF report.

In 2004 the ACT introduced IM under the Crimes Act.

Queensland introduced IM under the Work Health and Safety Act.

The NT Government introduced IM under the Work Health and Safety Act 1st Feb 2020.

Maximum penalties consist of \$320,000 for individual, \$1.6 million for corporations, plus up to 20 years in jail.

In the NT the fines being considered are life imprisonment or \$10 million for a corporation.

You get less if convicted of murder and 13 years for raping a 2.5 year-old child, and yet a life sentence

for something that was not directly your fault.

It has been articulated that determining a breach of the IM laws will involve an assessment of whether there is a failure by the organisation or individual to create a "culture of compliance" in respect to safety. This negligence test is a new legal test that is different to the tests for "reasonable practicable" and "due diligence", which are the tests that most organisations' safety management system would address.

In terms of understanding what that means - good luck, because the short answer is there is a grey area between what is negligence and what is gross negligence. From what I have read there is good guidance for due diligence and reasonable practicable, but not so for gross negligence.

So in determining a breach of IM laws, safety culture will be the factor that will be assessed. That means a producer's attitude to their policies, work practices, unwritten rules or a culture of "she'll be right" will not be good if there is a problem. Investigators will be looking at whether the organisation has been trying to achieve a "culture of compliance".

Because the word "culture" is about behaviours, culture cannot be prescribed or legislated - so an organisation has to be perceived to be engaging in safety practices.

Where to from here?

Producers need to demonstrate a "culture of compliance" in relation to safety-related legal duties. The plan should address the type of behaviours/actions that demonstrate a "culture of compliance" that will be implemented. This is above and beyond your requirements of "due diligence" and "reasonable practicability".

A NTCA survey revealed that 20 per cent of businesses did not have a documented Work Health and Safety Plan.

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The question is whether you are able to master life without the constant guidance of others. Fear puts reason at risk.

This leads to another problem and that is common sense or the lack of it. It has come to the stage now were we are not responsible for any decisions.

Right now there is a full scale war on common sense, as the behaviour of some in the last couple of months can attest to.

I saw a sign the other day and it goes like this:

This a working farm

It has hazards all over It and the owner cannot be bothered identifying every one of the tens of thousands. As a result of this, we have a very good H&S policy in place. It's called common sense. If you do not possess any - do not enter. You must use your common sense when you enter.

Common sense can be defined as the sound practical judgement concerning everyday matters that are derived from our experiences, as well as the basic ability to perceive and come to an understanding that is shared by the majority of people.

You only have to look at some basic human interactions that you would experience on any given day to understand our lack of common sense - when people try to get into an elevator BEFORE the people in the elevator have an opportunity to get out, or why people have to go and buy every god damn roll of toilet paper in the country.

The question is whether you are able to master life without the constant guidance of others. Fear puts reason at risk.

Talking about common sense ... One has to wonder about the latest decision of the High Court ruling that because you are a certain race you cannot be deported. Where is the common sense in that?

Executive

The female stocks on the Executive have taken a hit with Anne Stains and Katherine Warby both finishing at the Executive level. Thank you very much ladies for your contribution to the cause.

We do welcome Nicole Hayes from the Alice Branch to keep us on the straight and narrow.

Also welcome Henry Burke and Michael Johnson both for a second go round.

Thanks also to Rohan Sullivan who is stepping down as the NTCA representative on NFF. Rohan was the go-to man for wordsmithing motions or a history lesson on what might have happened in the past on a particular issue. You will be sorely missed and it was a mighty effort to be involved for the last couple of decades.

I also want to thank the NTCA office for their efforts during the border shut down. To describe it as an energy and time sapping exercise would be an understatement. Nevertheless, thank you.



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**Territory
Natural Resource
Management**

Territory Natural Resource Management (Territory NRM) continues to invest in the pastoral industry to facilitate activities and support cattle producers to strengthen and develop their natural resource management capacity. The pastoral industry manages approximately 50% of the NT's native vegetation, and better management of this valuable resource assists sustainability of the industry, as well as environmental outcomes. The Sustainable Business Program and the Territory Conservation Agreements are two key initiatives of Territory NRM which have both continued to evolve over the last 12 months.

Get in touch with us if

- You are interested to partner with us to introduce enhanced management of sites of high natural value on your property (TCA program).
- You wish to introduce and demonstrate new or innovative practices which will improve the productive efficiency or sustainability of your property (Practice Change Partnerships).

TERRITORY CONSERVATION AGREEMENTS (TCA)

The Territory Conservation Agreement Program is approaching its 10-year anniversary, after it was established in 2011 as a partnership between landholders and Territory NRM to support best practice management at defined sites of conservation significance.

Strengthening the TCA land stewardship network

Territory NRM has been further strengthening the TCA network, visiting landholders on 12 different properties at over 20 reference sites. This included deployment of an autonomously operating UAV (drone) to undertake vegetation health and ground cover assessments, and sampling of water quality at water sources. Our quarterly newsletter 'TCA Muster' has kept the network updated on these activities.



Pastoral stewardship

We will provide special recognition and continuing support to producers maintaining stewardship of their TCA sites beyond their initial 10-year period. Territory NRM will work with current program partners as well as develop additional sites with new stakeholders who want to protect key natural assets on their property.

Visit www.territorynrm.org.au for more information



The Sustainable Pastoral Business Program and Territory Conservation Agreements are supported with funding from the Australian Government's National Landcare Program.

THE SUSTAINABLE PASTORAL BUSINESS PROGRAM



NT cattle producers are constantly seeking ways to make their business more efficient, against a background of shifting markets, climate change and seasonal variability, public perceptions and responsibility of environmental stewardship. This program has continued to strengthen our networks with the pastoral industry, exchanging information, providing tools to improve production efficiencies and resilience, and facilitating and acknowledging sustainable land management practices.

Pastoral Land values, lending practices and land condition

Territory NRM convened a symposium in Katherine that brought together experts in pastoral real estate, property valuation, agricultural finance, agri-business as well as industry leaders and experts in livestock and land management. The symposium explored the issue of pastoral property values and the implications which changing market values hold for sustainable land and business management. The event attracted representatives of over 20 pastoral businesses and stimulated animated discussion on the topic.



Good pastoral business: A business case for protecting your natural assets

Can protecting key areas of native vegetation and habitats on working pastoral properties really contribute to the bottom line of your pastoral business? Territory NRM consulted with some producers who had partnered in the long-standing Territory Conservation Agreement (TCA) program to find out. We learned that enhanced management of protected sites has enabled some producers to manage herds more efficiently, such as better water point distribution, reducing management costs including mustering and strategic fencing, and increasing revenue through the opportunity to turn off out-of-season and access better market prices.

Practice Change

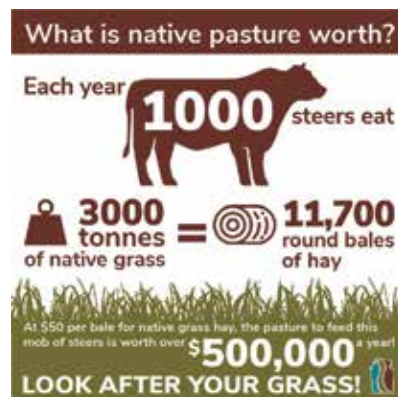
Territory NRM established a new Practice Change Partnership (PCP) encompassing approximately 11500 Ha of grazing land. We expect this initiative to teach us about best practice in prevention of wildfires across rangeland areas and look forward to sharing lessons learned from this more broadly across the pastoral industry. We are looking for more partner properties to participate in the PCP. If you would like support to introduce a new or innovative practice to improve productive efficiency or sustainability on your property, get in touch with us.

Responding to industry needs and expectations

Our team recently spoke with a number of pastoral businesses across the Territory, to listen to what producers currently do, and what they want. Most producers said they are working to build resilience, to prepare for future uncertainties with climate, markets or other risk factors that could affect their business. Territory NRM are using results from this survey to guide development of future programs to enable better pastoral industry and land management outcomes.

Informing better decisions

Territory NRM is always looking for innovative ways to interact with stakeholders. Podcasts, including from DPIR's Dionne Walsh on rangeland management, and CDU's Dr. Jenny Davis on healthy waterholes, and social media infographics, have highlighted key issues and provided information regarding sustainable grazing practices.



Benchmarking sustainability

Do you want to know what sustainable use of natural resources looks like on your property and how to measure it, and how you compared to the rest of the industry? Territory NRM will be working with industry stakeholders to develop indicators and metrics consistent with the Beef Sustainability Framework that will enable producers to simply and credibly validate the sustainability of their production systems.

CEO's Report

Ashley Manicaros

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



The full extent of the events of 2019 is going to be felt for a few seasons to come.

At the start of the year the members of the NT Cattlemen's Association faced a good deal of uncertainty around native title and non-pastoral use permits, the makeup of a future Federal Government and extreme climatic conditions entering in the case of Central Australia their third season.

By the end of 2019 we had improved the certainty, but the dry weather and the below average rainfall would go on to create problems including a significantly reduced herd – potentially up to 25 per cent less after the normal sales. This means the key driver of our primary production market, live export of cattle, may not reach the same numbers we have seen in recent years during 2020. We export 40 per cent of Australia's live cattle through the Port of Darwin.

Resilience is a major component of any producer in the agricultural sector. We know the extreme climatic conditions are to a large degree outside of our control.

And therefore, members of the NTCA were well advanced in how they manage through the climatic conditions than our southern counterparts. Many in 2019, had



already started the process of destocking. In the Barkly there was 600,000 head of cattle moved. This was compared to 200,000 in the second half of 2018.

Many producers took the opportunity to get livestock to market through the live export trade earlier and capitalise on both demand and price which stayed around the \$3 per/kg mark. The Port of Darwin had more than 400,000 head of cattle move across it during 2019, a double digit increase on the previous year.

To manage the drought conditions members also enacted other land management practises including weaning cattle earlier and supplementing feed with lick in far greater quantities than before.

Meanwhile down south the approach was different where they seemed intent on hanging on for the rains to come and many were not prepared as we were in the North for the conditions which were to hit hardest in 2019.

By the end of the year the drought conditions had not broken, and many producers were preparing for a second round of destocking in the Territory.

Near the end of 2019 the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association took a group of VIPs on a road trip, encompassing regions of Territory that have been exposed to extreme drought for a prolonged period of time.

The group, which included former NT Chief Minister Shane Stone who had just been appointed responsible for National Drought, explored what individual pastoralists had implemented to not only manage livestock during these deteriorating conditions, but also to minimise economic, social and environmental costs and losses associated with drought.

The dry landscape did not get much worse than Lake Wood on Newcastle Waters Station, located just north of Elliot on the Barkly Tablelands. Lake Wood is 350

At the start of the year the members of the NT Cattlemen's Association faced a good deal of uncertainty. By the end of 2019 we had improved the certainty, but dry weather and below average rainfall would go on to create problems .

square kilometres in size in an average year, reaching up to 1000 square kilometres in flood. Lake Wood was completely dry and it took the VIPs by surprise at its expanse.

The Northern Territory has a history of these extreme climatic fluctuations. The 2018-19 wet season saw record breaking temperatures and the dry season in 2019 was warmer than average.

In 2019 the Territory also received 48 percent less rain than the long-term average, making it one of the driest years ever recorded. The fact that the rainfall in the Northern Territory in 2019 was at its lowest in decades and the temperatures the hottest in more than 100 years paints a grim picture.

Future-proofing for droughts in a public policy debating arena which is focused primarily on climate change, often misses what is already being accomplished by both pastoralist and industry. The balance in the debate can be lost and knee jerk reactions based off ill-informed statements rarely provide any real solutions.

And while the elements of weather were being battled on the ground, the NTCA was engaged in the policy debates associated to non-pastoral use permits and native title. Native Title has long been a challenge for the industry with the goal posts seemingly being moved as court challenge after court challenge created investment uncertainty.

The "Rights to Take Resources" case and the Northern Territory Government's intent to introduce a "Territory right to negotiate" for Native Title holders during the

NPU process caused an enormous amount of investment uncertainty.

The NTCA opposed the changes to the Pastoral Land Act because it would've added another layer of bureaucracy and uncertainty which the Territory could ill afford to have in the current economic climate. We the NTCA took its case public and at every opportunity argued its position to the public.

By October of 2019, following a meeting with both land councils it was obvious the policy had no support and its impacts on investment would cause nothing but delays, potentially as long as 34 months. The Northern Territory Government decided not to proceed with its changes.

But with an election due in August of 2020 there is no guarantee that a re-elected Labor Government in the NT will not pursue the changes to the PLA again should it win office.

On the "Rights to Take Resources" there was also certainty with the position of pastoralists on a list items being confirmed. However, what the issues of the cases confirmed was that there needs to be more National leadership, rather than allowing the courts to drive decisions.

At a federal level the May election delivered a result very few pundits and polls did and that was the re-election of a Liberal Morrison Government. The re-election allowed any conjecture around the live export trade to be removed. The ALP took a policy of banning the live export of sheep and the industry concern was this would eventually extend to cattle.

I would like to personally thank the staff of the NTCA and the executive for their efforts in 2019 and the support they showed the staff at the NTCA office during what were difficult policy debates. I would also like to thank the members of the NTCA for their ongoing support and assistance when we are need of information on the ground.

This had all developed in 2018 through the Awassi sheep events. The cattle industry is still subject to evolving regulation relating to live export but the animal welfare protocols put in place and the monitoring have shown the industry is committed to ensuring the public, consumers and producers can have faith in the live export trade.

Internally at the NTCA there was a 100 per cent turnover of staff. Three of the four Darwin based staff moved interstate while office manager Jo Shearn pursued a new career path in events management.

In Alice Springs Noel Cuffe also decided to leave the NT and move interstate.

The replacements – Romy Carey (Executive Officer); Stephanie Frankham (Project Manager); Hannah Murray (Business Development), Aasta Swanson

(Office Manager) and Annie Hesse (Public Engagement Officer) who took on a newly created role through a joint MLA funding arrangement hit the ground running with their Territory knowledge.

I would like to personally thank the staff of the NTCA and the executive for their efforts in 2019 and the support they showed the staff at the NTCA office during what were difficult policy debates. I would also like to thank the members of the NTCA for their ongoing support and assistance when we are need of information on the ground.

I expect in 2020 policy debates will increase in what will be an NT election year.



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RICH HISTORY

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Max Slaughter. Care for animals is in our DNA.



Dr Richard Trivett, Company Chairman & Justin Slaughter, Chief Executive Officer.

DIVERSE LEADERSHIP

Company chairman, Dr Richard Trivett, has been a part of AUSTREX's leadership team since the beginning when it was owned by GRM International. As a respected veterinarian, Richard was integral to the growth and development of livestock export market opportunities for the North and a number of large-scale cattle operations across the Territory.

Today, AgTrade & AUSTREX Chief Executive Officer, Justin Slaughter, and the Northern Team matches a passion for livestock export with a combined 100 years' experience in the industry. This includes identifying unique customer needs to create global markets for quality Australian livestock and agrifood products.

SAFE HANDS

Animal welfare and the physical and mental wellbeing of livestock is at the heart of all AUSTREX operations, and this commitment includes the development of LiveStockOne, AUSTREX's own digital traceability system. This innovative tech platform assists with ensuring all levels of the supply chain, from grassroots producers to the end customer, have a transparent mechanism to provide peace of mind as to how animals have been well cared for.

Equally important to AUSTREX is undertaking extensive due diligence to ensure it partners only with people who share its staunch animal welfare beliefs and business values. This helps AUSTREX to ensure best practice management across the entire supply chain.



Dr Bronte Sutton, Veterinarian & AUSTREX Animal Welfare Committee Advisor.



Growing Livestock Communities

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Jake Morse, Company Director & General Manager, AUSTREX Northern.

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NFF Report

Rohan Sullivan

NATIONAL FARMERS FEDERATION REPRESENTATIVE



NFF Members Council met twice last year in May and October. I attended the May meeting but was unable to attend in October for the AGM. NTCA CEO Ashley Manicaros attended on my behalf.

The President and Vice President were not due for re-election so Fiona Simson and David Jochinke remained in their positions. As per the recently revised constitution, the two longest serving board members Derek Schoen and Robyn Bryant stepped down and stood for re-election. Robyn Bryant (Agforce) and Lisa Minogue (NSW Farmers) were elected to the board for three-year terms.

All bar one committee chair were elected unopposed.

Finances

NFF financial situation has improved with an overall surplus for 2018/19 of \$330k compared to \$173K budgeted. The NFF Congress held in October 2018 contributed substantially to the positive result. The online platform also contributed positively to the bottom line despite software amortisation costs of \$190k. The budget for 2019/20 was for a \$173k surplus (no NFF Congress).

NFF is in a similar situation to NTCA in that membership income does not cover the operational costs of



the organisation so project income is vital to the maintenance of the financial position.

Issues

Drought and the Murray Darling Basin were major issues throughout 2019. NFF continued to support the Murray Darling Basin Plan despite acknowledging its limitations and the strong criticism of the plan by farmers in the southern basin in particular. Seeing the Murray River running a “banker” during a drought but not being able to use any of the water because it is “environmental” would be enough to give anyone the shits. However abandoning the plan altogether would mean going back to a free for all between the states and undoing years of work. NFF came out strongly against a proposal in the Senate by Labor and the Greens to lift the cap on water buybacks early in 2019.

NFF continued to work with government and lobby for a long-term approach to drought. NTCA was represented by President Chris Nott and CEO Ashley Manicaros at meetings in February (Sydney) and September (Canberra) during 2019.

The National Farmers Federation was invited to outline its vision for an enhanced national policy for preparing for, managing through and recovering from drought at a meeting of Agriculture Ministers at Moree in December. In support of NFF’s policy, Ministers supported a proposal by Drought Minister David Littleproud for the establishment of a new working group to evaluate drought support measures.

The working group will be a partnership between the National Drought Agency and the NFF and will be a standing item on the agenda of every AgMin meeting.

Quad Bikes

The issue of quad bike safety and crush protection came to a head in 2019. In October Federal Parliament passed legislation

NFF financial situation has improved with an overall surplus for 2018/19 of \$330k compared to \$173K budgeted. The NFF Congress held in October 2018 contributed substantially to the positive result.

requiring all quad bikes sold after October 2021 to be fitted with Operator Protection Devices (OPD). In the eight years from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2018:

- There were 128 quad bike fatalities in Australia.
- About 11% (14 fatalities) were children aged 11 years of age or under and more than one third (43 fatalities) were adults aged 60 years and over.
- Almost half (62 fatalities) were workers.
- Over half (77 fatalities) of all fatalities were the result of a rollover and 78 fatalities occurred on a farm or property. Of the 128 fatalities at least 76 were due to unstable or uneven terrain, for example an incline, ditch, embankment, sand, mud. (Safe Work Australia)

NFF had been engaged with this issue for several years and had attempted to work with the manufacturers and various bodies to implement a stability rating system if government remained unwilling to mandate operator protection devices. Some jurisdictions (Victoria) had already made them mandatory and provided a subsidy for retro-fitting of OPDs.

Studies on the effectiveness and claimed hazards of OPDs and manufacturers recommendations were conducted by The University of NSW and found that OPDs did reduce crush injuries from quad accidents. No significant evidence of OPDs causing injury was found.

Manufacturers would not come on board at all as evidenced by this passage from the UNSW Study Report. “However, the

quad bike industry through the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries (FCAI) 9,10,11,12 has criticised and strongly oppose the fitment of OPDs claiming that there is no scientifically valid research indicating that fitment of OPDs would be effective, not harmful and not compromising the capabilities of the vehicle. Based on their commissioned research, FCAI has taken the position that OPDs pose an unacceptably high risk of creating injuries as a result of preventing separation from the quad bike during the crash event (Van Ee et al., 2012) and has instead suggested the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as helmets and training to reduce quad bike injuries (FCAI, 2012). They also promote active riding and separation (jumping clear) just prior to the crash event occurring.”

Early in 2019 the issue hit the media with Honda and Polaris announcing their intention to withdraw from the Australian market if OPDs were made mandatory and debate then descended into a slanging match with the NFF accusing manufacturers of trying to bully farmers.

Since then all major manufacturers have announced their intention to withdraw from the Australian market. The attitude of the quad bike manufacturers while unfortunate, is understandable particularly when the statistics suggest that a significant number of the accidents and injuries are occurring to people who should not be using quads (ie children, people under the influence of alcohol or other drugs) or are using them in situations or for tasks which they were not designed for. Acceding

The activities of various activist organisations and individuals has been a continuing issue for farmers as is the meagre penalties being handed down by courts on the occasions when prosecutions can be mounted against them. NFF has continued to press state governments to take action against activists where they breach trespass and biosecurity laws.

to the requirement to fit OPDs in Australia could potentially expose them in other jurisdictions which are far bigger markets.

For example, discussions with the local Honda dealer in Katherine revealed that Australia is only about 3% of their market, with potential costs in the millions to alter designs, change production lines etc, quad sales are also reducing in importance as more side by sides are being sold.

The frustration is that quad bikes are still a very useful and in places vital piece of equipment on properties. The outcome of this debacle is akin to the prevention of a disease by eradicating the host. Sport and “youth” models will not be affected by the OPD requirement, figure that one out.

I apologise to members adversely impacted by the outcome of this for my inability to alter the course of events. If nothing else, it highlights need for NTCA to be involved in the various NFF committees if we want to have more input into long running issues and policy development.

Class Action

It is now going on for 18 months since the last hearings of the Live Export Class Action (Dec 18). The decision was expected during the 2nd/3rd quarter of 2019 but has still not materialised as of the end of May 2020. One can only speculate as to what the reason for the delay is or when the judgement might actually see the light of

day. STOP PRESS. It has just been announced that the judgement will be handed down on June 2nd. By the time the AGM is held the outcome will be known.

Activists

The activities of various activist organisations and individuals has been a continuing issue for farmers as is the meagre penalties being handed down by courts on the occasions when prosecutions can be mounted against them. NFF has continued to press state governments to take action against activists where they breach trespass and biosecurity laws.

One success has been the removal of charity status from the organisation behind the AussieFarms website. The *Weekly Times* also conducted an investigation into AussieFarms revealing that Dr Julie Delforce, a commonwealth public servant and senior sector specialist for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade was part-owner of the domain names for a number of activist websites run by her son. She was stood down pending investigation and sanctioned for failing to reveal the connection as required. She has since resigned.

Telling our story

The NFF is undertaking a comprehensive strategy and is engaging corporate support to undertake a high-profile media and public relations campaign to raise the profile of farmers.

An entity, at arms’ length from the NFF, will oversee the governance structure to underpin the holding and application of funds from donors. The structure will be transparent, credible and have a high level of integrity. MLA has come on board as a foundation donor.

An Advisory Committee was formed in July and commissioned research into community attitudes which found:

- Six out of ten or two thirds had a positive view of farming but about one third feel like they have some sort of connection or affinity with agriculture.
- This is in line with the tourism industry (64%) but ahead of the food and grocery (58%), mining and resources (41%), and banking and finance (26%) industries.
- While negative opinion of the farming and agricultural industry is negligible (4%), there remains a substantial cohort of neutral (28%) and undecided (6%) Australians, potentially vulnerable to messaging against this industry.
- Most Australians claim to know at least something about Australian farming and agriculture (85%), however, this is largely superficial knowledge with 58% admitting to know only a little.
- The research identified shared values of farmers and their urban customers as family, happiness, well-being and freedom.”

Longer-term strategy development will include:

- Partnerships and across-industry collaboration
- Information resources
- Schools and education
- PR, advertising, events & multi-media

NFF have emphasised they want to complement and add value to existing initiatives such as the HERDTHAT initiative and recently ran an item on HerdThat in their weekly wrap.

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YEARS

Finally, I would like to thank the membership of NTCA for the opportunity to represent them at NFF Members Council and occasionally have some influence on discussions however minor. I have always found it interesting hearing about issues affecting other industries and farmers from around the country even if many of the issues are of only marginal relevance to the NT.

NFF House

As well as being on the members' council, I have also been on the board of trustees for NFF House. My position became due for re-election at the last AGM and I did not seek re-election.

Over the past two years, there has been a concerted effort to address a number of maintenance and upgrade issues such as air-conditioning/heating, fire safety which one expects in a building approaching 40 years old. This has required considerable expenditure.

The issue facing NFF House is staying competitive in the Canberra office rental market. NFF House has three floors, two are rented out to various other organisations mostly representative bodies. However with the continual development

of office space in Canberra, NFF House is now regarded as C class office space and at some point will require extensive upgrade or re-development.

Part of the activities of the board of trustees has been review the various options put forward by consultants for sale/upgrade. At this stage, all leases have been renegotiated to expire on a common date to make a potential sale process simpler, but no decision on a sale has been made.

Finally, I would like to thank the membership of NTCA for the opportunity to represent them at NFF Members Council and occasionally have some influence on discussions however minor. I have always found it interesting hearing about issues affecting other industries and farmers from around the country even

if many of the issues are of only marginal relevance to the NT. I will always maintain that we should be members of the National body because when there is a big issue they are able to put some horsepower behind it. An example that comes to mind is the NT Government proposals concerning Non Pastoral Uses on pastoral leases and rights to negotiate and of course the live export class action.

I would also like to thank David Connolly for agreeing to stand for the role and wish him well.



The advertisement features the Husqvarna logo on the left, a stylized blue and orange water drop icon, and the text 'PUMP AND POWER CENTRE' in large, bold letters. Below this, three images are shown: a riding lawn mower, a chainsaw, and another riding lawn mower. At the bottom, the text reads: 'Distributor for Husqvarna Forestry & Lawncare Products' and 'Pump and Power Centre 6 Whittaker Street, Alice Springs NT 0870 Phone 08 8952 5050 www.pumpandpower.com.au'.



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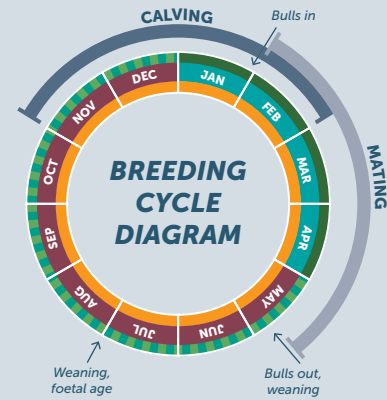


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Cattle Council of Australia Report

Markus Rathsmann

CATTLE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA REPRESENTATIVE



When the Awassi Express departed Australian shores in 2017 no one would have imagined how this voyage would soon change the live export industry.

For the past year the Cattle Council agenda has been dominated by the MISP (Meat Industry Strategic Plan), the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) for RMAC and the proposed reforms of NEWCO 1,2,3 with the associated taskforces.

More recently a little virus (COVID-19) from the Wuhan province of China has disrupted trade, our daily lives and has turned the world as we know it upside down.

In the current pandemic we should also not forget the other biosecurity threat African Swine Fever that is now present on our doorstep in Indonesia, Timor and Papua New Guinea.

Trade, Boxed and Chilled

Australia cemented its place as the highest value beef exporter in 2019.

The forced sell down of the Australian herd due to drought combined with a favorable US exchange rate of 69 cents to the Australian dollar saw Australian beef export prices rise by seventeen percent in 2019.



Australia exported 1.229 million tonnes of beef the third highest figure on record.

China became our largest customer for beef in 2019 taking 300,132 tonnes, more than 90% was frozen product. The increased demand is attributed to a protein shortage due to the outbreak of African Swine Fever.

More recent developments in China have seen our boxed beef trade stranded in the major Chinese ports. Containers are only now starting to move to customers in China as restrictions ease after the COVID-19 lockdown. Japan accounted for 287,495 tonnes of Australian beef a slight decline on previous years due to increased competition from the US.

Our third largest customer the United States imported 251,821 tonnes of Australian product.

Trade with Korea continued a slow decline with total shipments of 162,343 tonnes.

Beef Imports

Meat imports from Japan have so far totalled 66 tonnes of high value Wagyu meat. Approximately 20 plants in Japan are licensed to supply product.

Japan also has a National Livestock Traceability System for their cattle similar to Australia's NLIS system.

Meat imports from the US are expected to commence in 2020 with in-country verification by DAWR (Department Agriculture Water Resource) now largely complete.

CCA has not seen the final report of the verification visit considered the last stage before imports commence. CCA remains concerned about the lack of a National Traceability System in the United States and its ability to compete on price due to agricultural subsidies (US Farm Bill).

Biosecurity

African Swine Fever is now present in our Northern neighbours of Indonesia, Timor and Papua New

For the past year the Cattle Council agenda has been dominated by the MISP (Meat Industry Strategic Plan), the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) for RMAC and the proposed reforms of NEWCO 1,2,3 with the associated taskforces.

Guinea. The former Agriculture Minister (Bridget Mackenzie) to her credit was able to secure an additional 65 million dollars in new money to boost biosecurity services within Australia.

Sniffer dogs regarded as the most accurate detectors of illegal meat products have had their numbers increased by only six dogs.

Darwin International Airport now has one dog working 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Australia now have 44 dogs, New Zealand by comparison have over 80 dogs to deal with biosecurity threats.

In 2018 there was over 250 tonnes of illegal meat detected. Many of these seizures contained African Swine Fever some even FMD (Foot and Mouth Disease).

Trade Agreements

During 2019 there have been two trade agreements of note.

IACEPA The Indonesian Australian Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement was finally ratified by both the Australian and Indonesian Parliaments.

The agreement offers significant benefits to the imports of Australian live cattle and boxed beef.

Brexit

As part of the fallout of Brexit, Australia has entered the negotiation of a European EU Free Trade Agreement.

It is widely known that Australia has lost most of the 40,000 tonne high quality grain fed quota to the United States

Under Brexit the 7,150 tonne EU Hilton quota Australia receives will be split between the EU and Britain. Australia has objected to the quota split.

The anticipated EU Free Trade Agreement is seen by many as a 'dud deal' as Australia has little apart from the luxury car tax to negotiate with. Most products already come in from the EU tariff and quota free.

Beef has not been discussed and will only be discussed at "five minutes to midnight".

The EU also wants Geographical Indicators placed on many common product names ranging from scotch fillet to feta cheese etc. to protect and promote its exports of food products.

Geographical Indicators will be costly and have a major impact on the dairy industry. The cattle industry position is liberalised market access, no tariffs, no quota.

An unlikely outcome given the sensitive nature of agricultural subsidies and protection in the EU. The European Union text also includes animal welfare issues and sustainable trade.

It is little wonder former Trade Minister Andrew Robb would not waste time in trying to negotiate with the EU over a trade deal.

Live Exports

Australia exported nearly 1.3million cattle in 2019.

Indonesia

Indonesia was once again our biggest live export customer taking 675,894 head of cattle in 2019.

Cattle Council have consulted with all the State Farming Organisations SFOs and Cattle Council Committee members to form our White Paper Submission response to the reforms proposed by the MOU. All the SFOs have soundly rejected the proposition of NEWCO 1 and have major reservations about NEWCO 2 and 3.

Despite fierce competition from frozen Indian buffalo meat and now boxed beef imports coming from Brazil, demand for live cattle continues to grow.

How much stock we can supply in a herd rebuilding phase will be a key challenge in 2020.

Prices for cattle have reached \$3.85 live ex Darwin Port.

Fortunately for Indonesia’s importers the 5-to-1 breeder policy has been relaxed to a more practical figure of 5% breeders per issued permit cattle number.

Vietnam

The live export market in Vietnam continues to experience significant growth.

A total of 267,795 head were exported in 2019.

What is significant about the Vietnam market is that leakage from supply chains has been minor.

Despite previous compliance issues notably in 2014 and 2016 it is a credit to exporters that the integrity of their supply chains have been able to cope with the increase in cattle exported.

One must make special mention of the See Saw Program of Global Compliance implemented by the four major exporters themselves covering 80% of imports.

Breeder Exports

Breeder exports pose significant opportunity and also major risk as animals that are not subject to

ESCAS can end up on the front page of our newspapers and television sets.

This was highlighted by the Friesian dairy cattle sent to Sri Lanka in 2018 as well as the difficulties encountered by the Government sponsored smallholder breeder programs in Indonesia in 2019.

While many exporters choose not to operate in the breeder market there are always that some will.

An effective breeder protocol needs to be put in place to protect our Live Export Industry.

ALEC is in the process of developing a breeder protocol and market Risk Profile.

The CCA Marketing Committee believes the following should apply to new or at-risk markets.

1. Conduct a risk assessment of the program by the Regulator before issuing an Export Permit
2. Ensure animals are fit for purpose that is suitable for the environmental conditions of the receiving countries.
3. Ensure independent monitoring is conducted by the regulator, one year after shipment delivery.

Indonesia is planning on importing a further 15,000 breeders in 2020. Let us hope this time we have effective processes in place to reduce risk and reputational damage.

Meat Industry Strategic Plan (MISP) 2030

The MISP was signed off by the RMAC board in October 2019.

The Cattle Council board did not sign off on the plan and had numerous concerns about some of the bold targets and omissions in the plan.

- There was a high degree of concern about the ability of Industry to reach the CN 30 Target and lack of a pathway to achieve CN30.
- Our need to rebuild the National Cattle Herd post drought and the effect on emissions.
- A lack of focus on Live Export and supply chain integrity.
- A lack of innovative ways to create demand for red meat products.

The inability of the Cattle Council board to make the necessary changes to the MISP shows a fundamental problem of governance issues within the existing RMAC structure.

RMAC is a company of Limited Guarantee.

Red Meat Memorandum of Understanding

Cattle Council have consulted with all the State Farming Organisations SFOs and Cattle Council Committee members to form our White Paper Submission response to the reforms proposed by the MOU. All the SFOs have soundly rejected the proposition of NEWCO 1 and have major reservations about NEWCO 2 and 3.

The majority of the MOU signatories appear to favour the existing structure and see no reason for change. Only Sheep Producers Australia appear to be in support of the NEWCO 1 proposal.

While ALEC wish to become autonomous and merge with their RDC Livecorp, mirroring the APL Australian Pork Model.

The government has indicated it will no longer allow for the flow of levies direct to a representative board (APL model) only to a skills-based board.

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Based on the positions taken by most of the MOU signatories it would appear Option 1 proposed in the Green Paper should be the Industry choice.

Option 1: Improve the existing MOU implies the basics are right and small changes can be made.

Given the position of CCA our SFOs and other Peak Industry Councils one wonders why NEWCO 1 is still being considered or discussed.

CCA believes that oversight needs to be clearly defined between Peak Industry Councils and their respective RDC in a new MOU.

The key area of concern is that of funding for the Peak Industry Councils.

The six proposed NEWCO taskforces will cost in excess of \$250k each to run but will have no financial authority. It is proposed that MLA will fund these taskforces.

However, MLA have stated they will not fund both RMAC taskforces

and the Cattle Council Committees. Hence Cattle Council does not support the Taskforces proposed by RMAC.

An alternative model of reform has also been proposed by David Larkin of Kidman that is similar to the position taken by Cattle Council.

CCA Organisation

The CCA board has welcomed Travis Tobin as our new CEO.

Travis was the former CEO of QFF (Queensland Farmers Federation) and has extensive experience within the Department of Agriculture in Canberra.

Needless to say with the MOU, a stalled restructure process and limited financial resources the challenges for the board and our CEO are significant.

All things considered Australia faces major disruptions in the International beef market, African Swine Fever, Coronavirus (COVID-19). As well as increased

competition from our competitors the United States, Brazil and Argentina.

The Australian beef industry is now in recovery made after a significant period of drought where the national herd has reduced to 24 million head. More than ever the Australian product will need to focus on our unique quality assurance systems, freedom of disease and biosecurity that differentiate our product from our competitors.

Thank you NTCA members.



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OH WHAT A FEELING

Cattle Council of Australia

Red Meat Memorandum of Understanding Review - White Paper Submission

MoU White Paper Response

NOVEMBER 2019

Introduction

Cattle Council of Australia is the peak industry organisation representing Australia's grassfed cattle producers. It was established in July 1979, uniting beef producers from around Australia through their membership of State Farming Organisations. Cattle Council's direct reach to producers, either by SFO membership, Associate membership or direct, individual membership, equates to more than 15,000 cattle producers and accounts for the majority of Australia's beef cattle herd.

In addition to its traditional advocacy role, Cattle Council has a prescribed red meat industry function set out under the *Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry Act 1997* (AMLI Act). A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), signed by all organisations involved in the red meat industry, including the Australian Government, underpins these arrangements. Under the AMLI Act, Cattle Council has an oversight role of levy expenditure undertaken on behalf of Australian grassfed cattle producers.

Through these arrangements, Cattle Council is intrinsically linked to the levy collection and distribution process. With this in mind, Cattle Council continues to



advocate for a national Property Identification Code register, not only to strengthen Cattle Council's engagement with producers and their representative voice, but also to strengthen the industry's biosecurity frameworks.

Under the current MoU the primary role of Cattle Council and other peak councils is to provide leadership, formulate policies, set strategic imperatives and determine overall levels of levy payer expenditure, as well as providing policy advice to the relevant Minister with respect to the sector it represents.

In developing its response to the Red Meat MoU White Paper, Cattle Council consulted with its members as to how well the recommendations outlined in the MoU White Paper will deliver on the priorities outlined in the Meat Industry Strategic Plan and address the issues industry will face in the future. This feedback has informed Cattle Council's response to the White Paper.

Response to MoU White Paper Key Concepts and Recommendations

The future challenges faced by the red meat industry outlined in the White Paper are not new. Alternative proteins, activism, animal welfare, climate change and the industry's environmental footprint are all issues which, as the White Paper confirms (p 6), has been managed well by industry organisations for many years.

Cattle Council considers the case has not been made in either the Green Paper or the White Paper as to why industry *'can no longer rely on the existing institutional arrangements and architecture to deal with these and other emerging issues'*. The conclusions that *'a consensus has emerged that the future demands a new approach'* in no way reflects feedback Cattle Council has received from its members on the recommendations contained in the White Paper.

The conclusions that “a consensus has emerged that the future demands a new approach” in no way reflects feedback Cattle Council has received from its members on the recommendations contained in the White Paper.

Of note is the White Paper statement referring to peak councils; *'that policy development and advocacy have become inwardly focused on issues of industry management, rather than the high level and outward looking policies that can truly advance their industries. The inability to pursue issues to the satisfaction of all members has encouraged the formation of breakaway industry bodies, creating further division'* (pg. 26). This statement underlines the major flaw with the White Paper's proposed red meat industry structure. It is unlikely that any structure or organisation can pursue issues to the absolute satisfaction of a diverse range of members. Reducing the functions of peak councils would undermine the ability of producers to influence how their industry is operated and the consultative mechanisms the current structure provides.

In its submission to the Green Paper for the Red Meat MOU, *Towards a Better Red Meat Future*, Cattle Council outlined the benefits of industry completing the next Meat Industry Strategic Plan (Red Meat 2030) to provide the strategic direction for industry before determining its structure for the future. With the release of Red Meat 2030, industry now has clear vision and direction, and importantly, the commitment of the supply chain to deliver on recognised industry priorities.

Delivering on the priorities of Red Meat 2030 now requires a process to develop the significant programs to make Red Meat 2030 a reality. Accordingly, the red meat industry should be structured to best deliver on the agreed outcomes of the industry's strategic plan.

The goal shared by the National Farmers Federation and the Federal Government of growing Australia's farm-gate output to \$100 billion by 2030 will be guided in part by the success of Red Meat 2030 and the associated industry structures supporting the implementation of initiatives designed to achieve the key milestone-focused priorities.

Producer ownership of these initiatives will be paramount to achieving the 2030 goal. Only by having sound mechanisms which enable producers to have appropriate input into the direction of policy development and the implementation of the priorities outlined in Red Meat 2030 will industry progress towards the 2030 milestone. It is therefore critical that whatever structure is agreed under the MOU, producers have line of sight on where and how their levies are spent and provide input into the development of programs and projects used to achieve industry objectives.

Current industry structures, as acknowledged in the White Paper, have served industry well notwithstanding the fact that peak councils have largely grappled with severely restricted funding and resourcing arrangements. These industry structures provide a valuable and tested mechanism to consult with and empower producers and enable the development of sound policy. Cattle Council is committed to building on this to continue to improve representation for producers.

Therefore, suggesting that peak councils, and in turn producers, need the additional oversight of a new overarching industry body is

There is no persuasive evidence, nor specific detail, which outlines how NewCo 1 will realise better representative outcomes for beef cattle producers. Important aspects of this include funding structures and functionality in comparison to, and improving on RMAC and peak councils.

at odds with Cattle Council’s proud and proven record over 40 years of producer representation and effective stakeholder consultation.

The MOU must provide a mechanism to support adequately and sustainably funded peak councils to enable them to contribute even more than they do currently. It must address long-standing operational issues through an updated, flexible relationship statement, which also ensures that signatories have mandatory obligations to deliver against the agreed collaborative strategy, as outlined in Red Meat 2030. It must also empower producers and their representative bodies to directly manage producer affairs.

The key consideration for Cattle Council and its founding State Farming Organisation members in developing its response to the White Paper and future industry structure is to achieve the most effective representation for grass-

fed cattle producers and the best possible oversight of levies spent on their behalf.

As such, all comments on the White Paper, *A Better Red Meat Future*, are made with this imperative in mind, and based on the expectation of an adequately funded, fully autonomous body that can properly represent the grass-fed cattle sector.

These objectives have framed Cattle Council’s consideration of the structural reforms proposed in the Red Meat MoU White Paper, and reflected in the feedback provided by our state-based founding members. State Farming Organisation feedback to Cattle Council provides clear consensus that commodity-specific peak industry councils, which are directly accountable to grassroots producers, remain best placed to consult with and undertake policy and advocacy work on behalf of producers.

Response to proposed NewCo1

Based on these objectives, Cattle Council has significant concerns about the proposed NewCo1 and the role cattle producers would have in its governance, particularly given grassfed beef producers make the largest contribution to red meat industry levies.

The White Paper does not make a compelling case for change nor acknowledge the current structure which, while in need of refinement, is not fundamentally broken. The Red Meat Advisory Council, as an existing entity, has the capacity to fulfil the requirements of a body to represent the red meat sector providing it is adequately resourced, operates under a well-defined MOU, with proper governance arrangements in place.

The White Paper acknowledges the effectiveness of the current industry structure; *‘There is broad recognition that the current MoU has, by and large, provided the basis for harmonious and effective industry engagement. The MoU has provided the basis for the continuous growth of the industry and the containment of jurisdictional disputes between industry silos that typified the pre-1998 red meat industry’.* (pg. 21). Based on this, and subsequent commentary on the effectiveness of the current model, it is difficult





The key consideration for Cattle Council and its founding State Farming Organisation members in developing its response to the White Paper and future industry structure is to achieve the most effective representation for grass-fed cattle producers and the best possible oversight of levies spent on their behalf.

to see the justification for the devolvement of extraordinary powers to one overarching body.

The White Paper further considers the *“tiered RMAC, peak industry and service provider framework is seen as a logical and practical design”* (pg. 21). The fact that there are operational issues within this structure, some of which are acknowledged by Cattle Council, do not justify a restructure of the red meat industry.

The White Paper provides a recommendation that a new entity be created to take the place of RMAC. There has been no case made in the Green Paper nor the subsequent White Paper as to why this is needed, and the functions that are not currently being met by RMAC (or its peak council members) to warrant a new entity. Cattle Council contends that a refinement of the functions and purpose of RMAC is needed,

rather than an overhaul of the entire system.

Recommendation 2.8 states that one of the roles of the new entity is *“ensuring adherence to industry plans, codes of conduct, industry supply chain standards and public interest in the resolution of key issues”*. Building on this remit, it is not clear what the role of the new entity would be. Rather, it appears NewCo1 would potentially operate as a regulatory body, a mediation body and strategic think-tank for industry. This model gives considerably more power to NewCo1 than has previously existed through the comparable RMAC model, while removing much of the autonomy PICs require to properly represent their respective industries. The inadequacy of a meat industry structure reliant on an overarching organisation, as proposed in NewCo 1, to represent specific industry interests was highlighted during the

2011 live cattle export crisis and RMAC’s inability to act because of competing member interests.

The White Paper also fails to acknowledge that PICs are largely funded by producers through their membership and subsequent funding of SFOs. That this funding, should SFOs choose not to continue supporting PICs under the new model, combined with a reduction in funding from the Red Meat Industry Fund (RMIF) and with a yet to be determined *“alternate funds being identified for PICs”* (pg. 22), the ability of PICs to represent their respective industries is likely to be severely compromised.

If NewCo1 is focused on strategic future direction rather than operational matters impacting producers, it has not been made clear how NewCo1 will be able to respond effectively to changing priorities nor monitor how day to day operational detail is effectively furnishing the strategic direction.

Producers are unwilling to cede any share of industry representation, nor any say in how industry levies are spent. There is no persuasive evidence, nor specific detail, which outlines how NewCo 1 will realise better representative outcomes for beef cattle producers. Important aspects of this include funding structures and functionality in comparison to, and improving on RMAC and peak councils.



While service agreements are essential under the current arrangements, peak councils' direct access to levy funds should be legitimised and made more transparent into the future, with peak councils held to account to the same extent as RDCs.

One aspect of better processes and representation is Cattle Council's work to adopt a direct-election model, which if the structures proposed in the White Paper were adopted, would likely be superseded at the expense of more accountable and democratic producer representation. To offset these concerns, greater clarity is needed to outline how producers would be able to provide direct input into the decisions that affect them. While the red meat industry will always strive for a unified voice, this will not always be possible or realistic due to competition within the supply chain.

The identified lack of capacity and capability of peak councils identified in the White Paper is the inadequate funding arrangements where peak councils are reliant, via Service Level Agreements (SLAs), on associated Research and Development Corporations (RDCs) for their financial viability. These arrangements have become untenable given peak councils

are expected to oversee RDC operations, and their 'independent' funding from the RMIF has shrunk. The reliance on funding through service agreements compromises the independence of peak councils, exacerbated by the fact that the RMIF has not grown since 1998.

Service agreements are little more than a government-sanctioned indirect means for peak councils to access levy funds which, at the same time, compromise the independence of peak councils, making them somewhat beholden to the very service providers they are responsible for overseeing. While service agreements are essential under the current arrangements, peak councils' direct access to levy funds should be legitimised and made more transparent into the future, with peak councils held to account to the same extent as RDCs. The Australian Farm Institute recommended that policy analysis is an activity which should be funded using compulsory industry levy funds¹.

Of considerable concern to Cattle Council is the proposal to reduce the dividend from the RMIF (AR 3.2) to peak councils (alternate funds yet to be identified (3.1), while reallocating these funds to NewCo1.

Cattle Council broadly agrees with Recommendation 7.1; *'the new integrity arrangements be funded from a dedicated allocation from the statutory levies and user charges'* (pg. 13). However, Cattle Council questions the assumptions on which this statement is made given the legislative changes required to the AMLI Act for this to occur. Further, Cattle Council asks why this option hasn't been considered as a funding mechanism for peak councils, given many of the shortcomings of peak councils described in the White Paper (and used as the rationale for restructuring of the industry) are based on the resource and funding constraints faced by peak councils. While the Government says peak councils ("because of their lobbying status") shouldn't receive levy funds, the delineation between lobbying and the advocacy that peak councils undertake on behalf of their members is now well defined. There is a recognised and important need for a peak council like Cattle Council to clearly distinguish between advocacy and

¹ Improving the Sustainability of Red Meat and Livestock Industry Councils; Australian Farm Institute: November 2016

lobbying roles, which should be set out formally in relevant strategic and operational plans and reports, to assure the Government about use of levy funds.

Now the strategic direction of the industry is defined under Red Meat 2030 and high-level priorities identified, the appointment of committees/taskforces is important to drive and take carriage of these priorities and provide a mechanism for peak councils to consult and provide input. Delivering on many of the priorities will require significant policy development, especially with a 10-year timeframe in mind.

Therefore, it is critical there be a structure allowing frontline policy development across industry, including that which contributes to public policy, while enabling sector specific policy development to occur concurrently. These processes cannot occur in isolation. That NewCo1 is to *'Assign responsibility for delivering on the MISP priorities for PICs and service providers'* (pg. 33) does not correspond with the nature of policy development and its underlying processes. Having an increased layer only adds to a bureaucratic and hierarchical process, disempowering those in the industry responsible for their implementation. Peak councils need to be at the forefront and provide the conduit for consultation and development rather than demoted to a second-tier role.

Response to proposed NewCo2

Cattle Council and its SFO members have an open mind regarding NewCo2, given the scope for efficiencies which could be achieved under a single red meat research body. Any such consolidation would, however, need to embrace strong producer representation, accountable levy investment and greater efficiencies of matching funding arrangements.

Cattle Council agrees that there is scope for better governance and accountability of service providers, however, no case is presented in the White Paper that there is currently ineffective governance and accountability mechanisms to warrant a merger, or how a merger would potentially alleviate these concerns or achieve better outcomes for producers.

There are inherent risks in creating an all-in-one RDC that could see a return to mid-1990 arrangements, which were replaced by the sector-specific model that has operated successfully for 21 years. The proposed structure to provide greater accountability measures under Red Meat 2030 may overcome some of the issues that undermined previous arrangements.

Cattle Council has concerns that the interests of grass-fed levy

payers would be diluted under the proposed arrangements and seeks further clarity on how the marketing component of MLA would operate under a reformed RDC structure.

Response to proposed NewCo3

NewCo3 has Cattle Council's in-principle support, although a significant question remains regarding how any MoU-driven restructure would relate to Animal Health Australia (AHA), especially given the importance of biosecurity and emergency disease strategies to the red meat industry. That AHA is not included in any proposed structural changes needs revisiting. Furthermore, in any restructure of industry standards bodies, the integrity of AusMeat's independent auditing functions must be maintained, as does the need for the industry's integrity systems structure to take into account the entire supply chain and embrace genuine transparency.

Given the importance of ensuring provenance and food safety and the market access this provides, it is imperative that any future integrity system structure have surety of funding, preferably through an allocation of a portion of the industry levy arrangements.



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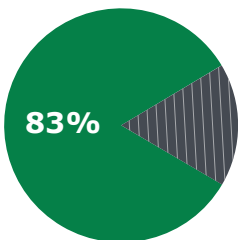
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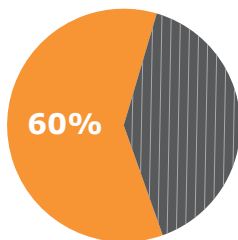
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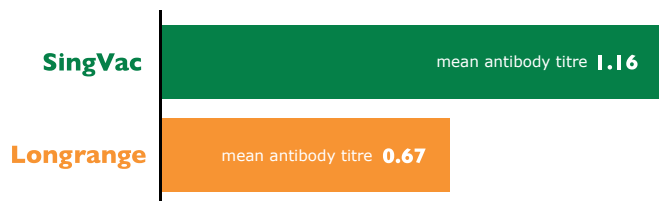


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1. Chambers, M. (2016). Study No. VASB3254 Far North Botulism Survey.

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Tony Hayne
TOP END BRANCH
CHAIR

Top End

Branch Report

Thanks again for the opportunity to present the 2020 Chairman's report for the Top End Branch of the NTCA. As chairman this year has again been far from boring, and proposed many challenges to myself, our branch members, our association and to virtually all of Australia's agricultural industry. I would like to extend my great appreciation to my fellow executive members of the NTCA, and I thank Sam, Marcus and Colin for putting up their hand to assist in representing the Top End Branch.

If 2019 in Australian agriculture was to be categorized, it would be the year of natural disasters. By far the most significant of these was the ongoing and relentless drought. This had nationwide effects, and it is interesting to see how different regions were affected.

One of the more interesting statistics was that the NT cattle herd has, proportionally, suffered more than any other state. The NT herd is traditionally two million head and has been reduced to now one million head. A loss of 50% of our total numbers will have severe consequences for the industry and also for the NTCA for many years to come.

While the direct effects of drought on our Top End members are not as profound as in other branch regions, such a nationwide disaster inevitably has an effect. The geographic advantage that we are blessed with has meant our regions numbers would be at most minimally reduced. Indeed, it has allowed many of our Top End members to purchase cattle and provide agistment for some of the

so called blue ribbon properties in Queensland, the VRD and Barkly regions. This again reinforces the value of the Top End region and its relatively reliable rainfall (even if very much reduced) to the overall NT cattle industry.

A surprising consequence of the drought has been shown in the prices received for our livestock. Never before has such a relentless devastating drought not been associated with a collapse in cattle prices. I believe our relatively buoyant prices to be solely due to the massive decrease in numbers nationwide, as well as the strength in our markets. This buoyancy would have been impossible if not for the Live Export market which has continued to provide an outlet for store conditioned animals. Coming off such a high base is incredibly exciting now that the drought may have potentially broken. With prices rising from

\$3.30 for steers to \$3.70 in a week while it's still raining down south, there is incredible positivity for our members and \$4 is only just around the corner.

Another market highlight for our branch this year was the re-opening of the Batchelor meatworks. Peter Polovinka and his team are to be congratulated on their achievements. This alternative market provides great benefits, especially to Top End members with smaller numbers of cattle and buffalo at times.

2019 was a major turning point for the NTCA in the field of politics. Due to the current Governments disastrous proposals to amend the Non-Pastoral-Use permits, and unwillingness to negotiate with our association, we were forced to enter the political sphere to protect our members' rights. This was carried out in the media, and was discussed long and hard at the Executive level, as we are traditionally an a-political association. While we had a win at the time with the dropping of the proposals, they are far from gone permanently. The next election is

probably the most significant to our association and industry in all the years I have been here, and we as an association may need to be more politically active to protect our rights. The fact we have a life member in Tracy Hayes entering the ring is incredibly positive for all cattlemen and women and we need to do all we can to help her in her quest.

2019 saw a number of new staff enter the NTCA. I would like to thank these and all others who work so tirelessly for our interests throughout the year. Ashley and his team are to be commended on the professional, diligent and hardworking manner in which they operate.

It has been an honour to be the Chairman of this branch for the last year. As I said in previous years, it is one of the most innovative branches of the NTCA, with most of our Top End members undertaking diverse and promising projects to expand and strengthen their enterprises. It is something which we should all be proud of and it has been pleasing to be the Chair of such a branch.

2020 Top End Branch AGM Elected Positions for Ratification

Branch Chair

Tony Hayne

Branch Deputy Chair

Sam McBean

Branch Alternate

Colin Deveraux

Branch Committee

Kelly White

Chris Daniell

John Stafford

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Diesel

RTV-X900 Series
Max Speed 40km/h, Payload 755kg



24.8 HP
Diesel

RTV-X1120 Series
Max Speed 46.4km/h, Payload 685kg



24.8 HP
Diesel

RTV-X1140 Series
Max Speed 40km/h, Payload 739kg



48.3 HP
Petrol

RTV-XG850 Series
Max Speed 64.4km/h, Payload 651kg



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Justin Dyer
KATHERINE BRANCH
CHAIR

Katherine

Branch Report

Good morning all and thank you for your attendance. Thank you again to Sue and Tammi for sponsoring our branch meetings again this year.

2019, well what a year that was! The season that felt like it went so fast then just dragged on for the last few months into 2020 as well. It will be one I won't forget. A serious lack of rain highlighted the importance of feed budgets and I'd say there were a few caught out, myself included. I never thought that I would have to feed hay to stock in paddocks but that was where we ended up. Hay and molasses into breeder paddocks for two months until the first rains finally came. The cost of this exercise is significant and simply having enough staffing resources over the Christmas / holiday period can be challenging.

Reflecting back to 2019 there are a few things worth considering looking ahead. How good is the Live Export trade? Even though everyone knew there would be a massive flush of cattle to hit the market early, the trade stood firm and the market held. This is a testament to our peers for recognizing the need for direct access to a growing global market and a savior for all in the north and keeps the market honest domestically, even in years of Australia wide drought.

All stock over 270kg had a destination.

Light cattle were a bit more of a challenge with big lines available coming from the West at a discount. Still most found a home, and this highlighted the importance of the North's floodplains and the pastures to take light cattle.

Obviously, there is a lot more country in the North to open up and the NTCA will be working towards a mechanism to try and make this happen.

Luckily, hay was in good supply with a lot of damaged/frosted crops down south coming on the market as hay. I'm concerned that this is not the case this year. With a serious late start to the wet and below average outlook for the remainder of the wet I would urge members to try to secure hay for the season well in advance, as it looks like it is going to be another dry one. Saying that, I am happy to report that for the Katherine region the incidences of welfare issues were minimal, all things considered. It is worth saying, however, that we must be vigilant in this space, and a fit-to-load test is a good place to start. Also making sure cattle are well fed in yards prior to loading to give them the absolute best possible chance of a successful trip, especially drafted stock.

Issues that we faced in 2019 were many and various as usual, with a few new ones popping up increasing the workload for staff and president especially. They are all handling it so far but the time required to address the issues is huge for the president especially and looking into a form of recognition of time spent is required.

Our CEO, Ashley, has - in my opinion - hit the ground running and he's performed well bringing extra vigor, rigor and not afraid to pull the trigger and face up to challenges and direction of our organisation. I know he has found some tough criticisms from certain sections of the community and even though we all know you need a thick hide for the top job I would like to make a point of thanking Ashley personally. As chair you have our full endorsement to carry on as is and keep your chin up and chest out.

In closing, I would like to thank all the members of the Katherine branch for your continued support and all the best for 2020.

2020 Katherine Branch AGM Elected Positions for Ratification

Branch Chair

Justin Dyer

Branch Deputy Chair

Des Carey

Branch Alternate

Tim Milne

Branch Committee

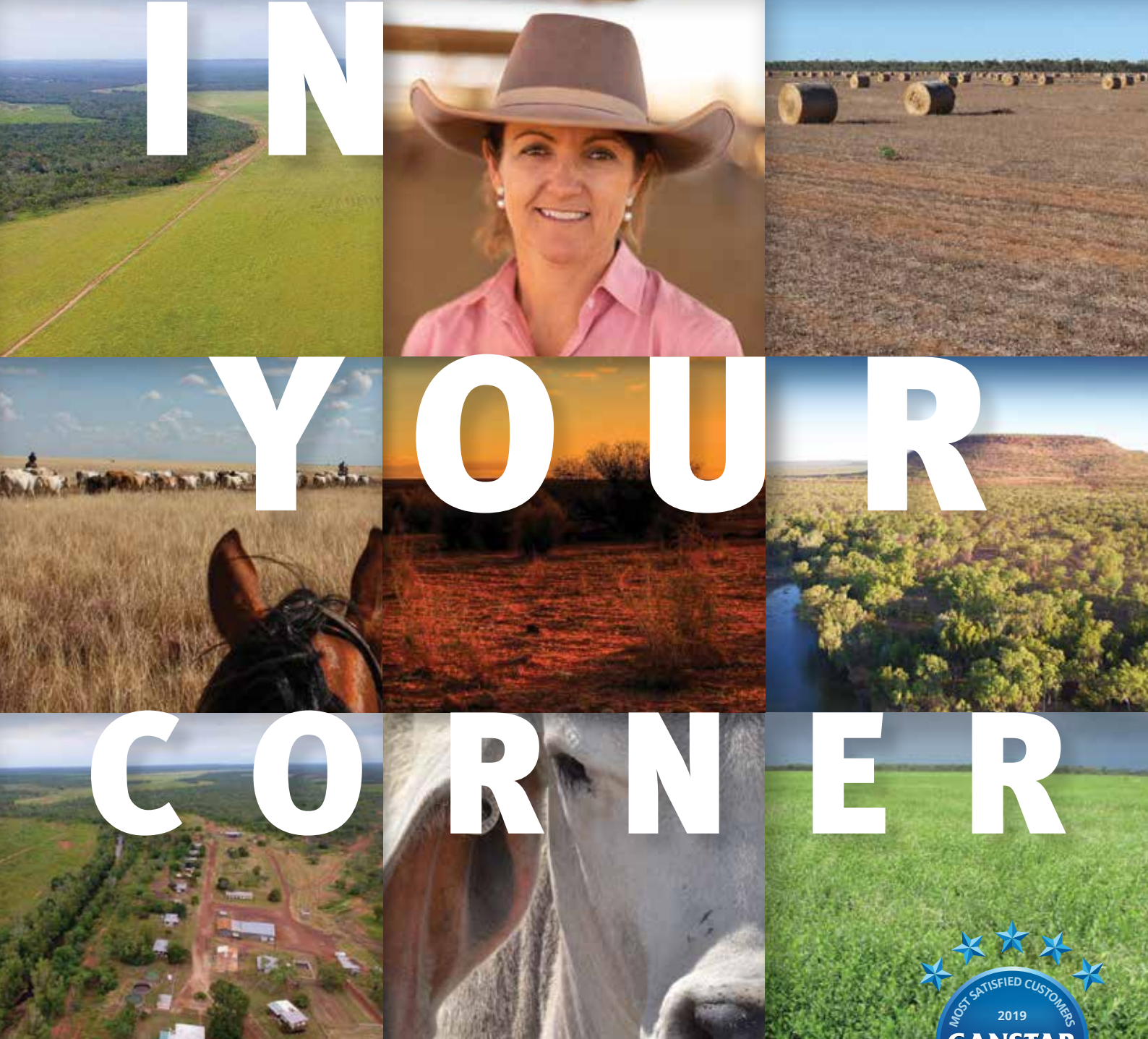
Brad Inglis

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Anthony Cox

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Marcus Doumany
BARKLY BRANCH
CHAIR

Barkly

Branch Report

The Barkly Region experienced a year of challenge with one of the driest years on record, leaving the entire region in extreme drought. On top of this pastoralists had to contend with and navigate proposed policy on diversification and land use; continued uncertainty on native title and the future of land tenure; and watch on as industry bodies restructure.

The drought was at the forefront of the issues faced by producers in the region. Trucks rolled out of the Barkly in unprecedented numbers taking cattle to market or to a limited number of areas where agistment was possible. The drought highlighted the need for the industry to continue to focus on herd and pasture management as well as capital development and to evaluate how best to maximise production and at the same time maintain sustainability through seasonal variation. The ongoing effects of the drought will be felt long into 2020 in spite of recent rain that is hopefully the start of more to come. Restocking and allowing country to recover and replenish pastures will be a balance and challenge across the region. The effects of the drought on the land highlight the importance of continuing to develop sustainable practices and business models. NTCA has aimed to support pastoral businesses through ensuring these issues remain at the forefront of the State and Federal Governments agendas. Whether that be in working with the Federal drought taskforce or ensuring State Government policy supports and does not infringe on the ability of pastoral businesses to cope with

such issues today or in the future. Diversification of the pastoral estate is a key development to help in the long term future of the Barkly Region. The NTCA fought hard to ensure that recent policy that could restrict diversification development was not brought into legislation. The drought coupled with the constant issues of how best to utilize the land asset means diversification of the pastoral estate presents opportunity to develop. These opportunities cannot be taken away from the industry or region. In securing these future opportunities, certainty around land tenure is paramount.

The NTCA continues to advocate for more certainty around pastoral land tenure, which has come under question in recent native title cases and proposed State policy. Whether corporate or privately owned, business needs a sure footing to make future plans in the NT and Barkly. The rights of the pastoralist under the pastoral lease must be recognized and upheld for continued business confidence in the region. Continued confidence in the industry is also underpinned by the continued strong performance of the live export sector and confidence in the beef industry as a whole.

2019 began with the issues surrounding the live sheep trade once again putting live export under the microscope. To the industry's credit the Live Export sector has upheld the highest standards in 2019 and maintained confidence in this key market for NT producers. The NTCA continues to work closely with the Live Export sector and enables cross cultural initiatives such as the NIAPP program. Beyond Live Export the NTCA has also begun the HerdThat campaign which advocates the importance and special nature of the beef industry in the Northern Territory. With continued industry reshuffling and no clear industry advocacy, the NTCA has taken a very positive and proactive approach to promoting

the NT beef industry. In summary the year has been one of ongoing challenge but has highlighted the resilience and determination of NT pastoralists. 2020 will hopefully break the drought but recovery will be ongoing, as will the need to seek continued improvement for the industry and its members.

2020 Barkly Branch AGM Elected Positions for Ratification

Branch Chair

Henry Burke

Branch Deputy Chair

Michael Johnson

Branch Alternate

Jane Armstrong

Branch Committee

Mary Vaughn

Branch Committee

Katherine Warby

Branch Committee

Erin Gibson

Branch Committee

Rick Morrison



Anne Stanes
ALICE SPRINGS BRANCH
CHAIR

Alice Springs

Branch Report

The NTCA has had another very busy year.

The Alice Springs District has experienced extremely poor seasons for the last three years which has had a huge impact on our businesses. The recent rainfall has provided welcome relief for some members, but unfortunately not for the whole district. In December, Shane Stone, the Coordinator General of the National Drought and Flood Response Agency, visited some of the affected properties in the NT to see the impacts and talk to pastoralists on what areas the Federal Government may be able to assist. The NTCA has been advocating for action, as there has been drought assistance flowing to other states, however, the NT Government has provided very little support.

Security of Land Tenure continues to be the number one issue for NTCA Members, and in 2019 the main policy battle was our opposition to the NT Government changes to non-pastoral use permits. After rigorous lobbying by the NTCA, the NT Government decided not to proceed with the amendments to the Pastoral Land Act. However, there is an election in 2020 and it is likely this policy will re-emerge as part of the Labor platform.

The Legislation to introduce the 24 minimum standards as per the recommendations from the Pepper Report for the Oil and Gas Industry is before the Legislative Assembly.

Subject to this Bill passing during the March sittings of Parliament, the Petroleum Regulations 1994 will be amended to require statutory land access agreements for petroleum activities on pastoral stations.

The NTCA has worked hard for the introduction of this legislative process for land access, conduct and compensation, however we need to continue to lobby for the same legislative changes to be introduced to apply to the Mining and Extractive Industry as soon as possible.

At the Bohning Yards, the Grant Heaslip Training Facility hosted the NTCA Indonesia Australia Pastoral Program and the Real Jobs program in 2019. This has assisted with income and also to diversify the uses of the yards. For biosecurity reasons and as the yards are organic accredited, a wash down facility is still urgently required. Further uses for the land such as a Truck Stop are in the pipeline.

Another issue is the immediate crucial need for the return of MVR duties to local police. This is a short-sighted cost cutting exercise and must be reinstated. Given the remote location and the number of trucks, vehicles and plant on properties it is impractical to get this equipment into town for inspections. This is an area where Government has in the past directly assisted the Industry, and now instead having put more barriers our way. The pastoral industry plays an important role in supporting the police through our knowledge of the land we live on. This recently has been demonstrated by pastoralists willingly spending their time and using their vehicles and aircraft searching and finding lost people over this last summer. Road maintenance and upgrades are also serious ongoing issues for our industry.

The NTCA has started the roll out a bold marketing branding exercise

called #HerdThat. The aim is to publicise our \$1.2 billion industry and its contribution to the NT economy and jobs, by providing positive information and images of our industry.

Finally, thank you to all of the NTCA staff for your hard work, it is very much appreciated. From my time on the Executive I have seen the dedication of the NTCA staff and board who work so tirelessly representing our industry often under duress. Thank you to the members for making time for meetings and for your valued input. I am stepping down this year and I would like to say what an honour it has been to act as the chair of the Alice Springs Branch and I thank you for your support. We can be proud of our Association and what it has achieved and the ongoing work of advancing and protecting the interests of cattle producers in the Northern Territory.

2020 Alice Springs Branch AGM Elected Positions for Ratification

Branch Chair
Stewart Weir

Branch Deputy Chair
Nicole Hayes

Branch Alternate
David Driver

Branch Committee
Amber Driver
Sarah Cook
Steve Hayes
Tanya Costello
Ross Stanes
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Growing Beef: Elders focus on sustainability for the Northern Beef Industry.



With over 181yrs in the business, Elders Rural Services now look to the future.

By Holly Macdonald | 16th July 2020

Volatility in markets, environment and consumer trends are an inevitable part of Australian beef industry. While luck might play a role in the achievements of some businesses, many leading producers instead focus on being adaptable and pragmatic; with sustainability being a driving force for long-term success.

Iconic Australian agribusiness Elders are also following this approach. For over 181 years, Elders have established valuable

relationships with communities and beef operations throughout the Northern Territory, and now they look to the future.

“Sustainability is not just the latest catchphrase. Elders know the value of supporting our rural communities in addition to providing services like production advice and livestock marketing to ensure the industry will be here in another 181 years.” - State Livestock Manager, Paul Holm.

As producers prepare for the challenges and opportunities 2021 will bring, the Elders network are prepared to meet what comes. After all, you don't stay in business this long without a bit of sustainable thinking.



working together

The oil and gas industry and pastoralists have been working side-by-side in the NT for many years.

Building and maintaining positive, mutually beneficial relationships between industry and landholders is essential.

The Territory's oil and gas industry offers jobs, local contracts and diversified incomes while upholding safety and operating responsibly to protect water and the environment.

We are committed to playing our part to ensure all Territorians benefit from the development of their natural resources.



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Delivering transformational change for our Northern industry

Jason Strong

MEAT & LIVESTOCK AUSTRALIA
MANAGING DIRECTOR



The strength and resilience of our northern industry has been on show with the recent unprecedented challenges faced over the last two years – drought, floods and in recent months the far-reaching impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Northern Australia remains as critical as ever for the future outlook of Australia's red meat industry, particularly as our national cattle herd enters a period of recovery. Despite the challenges, the way we have collectively responded has left our industry – and the in-demand, high quality Australian beef we produce – positioned strongly in the global market.

As the industry's marketing, research & development service provider, Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) continues to invest in a wide range of projects that address the here and now while also boldly looking to the future.

A continuing priority is our ongoing investment in R&D and marketing programs that enable us to effectively communicate with the customers, consumers and community, with the key message being that we are a professional and sustainable industry that consistently produces a high quality and trusted source of protein that aligns with consumer values.



Key areas of work have been around continuing to promote our industry's sustainability credentials – work that focusses on improving productivity of our industry while also promoting our existing strong credentials to consumers and the community.

Looking ahead, 2020 is a key year in outlining the future direction of MLA and our industry. The release of MLA's next five year Strategic Plan provides an important link between the industry-wide Red Meat 2030 and the programs we will deliver. It is an important document that provides producers, levy-payers and key stakeholders with MLA's strategic direction and high-level investments on how MLA will deliver the transformational change needed to double the value of red meat sales over the next decade.

Our industry faces a range of tactical and operational challenges, including extreme weather events, competing proteins and global trade reforms, amongst others. We also face increasing pressures relating to industry transparency, traceability, animal welfare and environmental impacts.

For MLA, we will continue to target major strategic challenges to ensure that higher risk but higher reward investments are not being overlooked. Our guiding principle will be 'fewer, bigger, bolder' so we can deliver transformational change and in doing so build a sustainable, more profitable, and resilient red meat industry. Our Strategic Plan reflects this principle. Ultimately, we will focus on 'less is more' - being more ambitious and achieving better outcomes that deliver value across the supply chain.

Looking at the opportunities and challenges ahead for our industry, it is about identifying a concise number of areas to invest, develop solutions and subsequent implementation.

MLA's strategy will see a significant increase in the funds allocated to

As the industry's marketing, research and development service provider, Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) continues to invest in a wide range of projects that address the here and now while also boldly looking to the future.

adoption and extension activities in order to maximise the impact from that investment. MLA programs will now have clearer adoption and extension pathways helping to ensure that red meat producers can successfully implement practical R&D solutions for their farm businesses.

There is also the opportunity to take those things we invest in and not just understand or solve the issue, but look for ways for our industry to monetise this for greater profitability. So what does this mean practically? It means big long-term investments.

MLA will continue to invest in research and adoption in the northern beef industry, with the launch the flagship Northern breeder program, which will see the development of a strategic partnership "Northern Breeding Business (NB2)" that aims to reduce calf mortality and improve breeder herd performance for northern Australia. This long-term integrated program of work will extend the current network of research and adoption capability to directly assist producers in managing practice change to improve breeder herd efficiency.

MLA will continue to investment in research around pain relief on-farm – looking to quantify the positive impact on productivity as well as bolstering our strong animal welfare credentials. Projects such as the Northern Beef Pain Relief Project) – an integrated R&D Producer Demonstration Site (PDS) project with NT DPI. The project aims to look at the production benefits from using pain relief during painful

procedures. The pilot study, which took place this year looked at four treatment groups and their effects on liveweight, infection, cortisol levels, wound healing and behaviour. The next phase will be to go out to properties and trial under commercial conditions.

Critically for our industry, and in particular our northern industry, is a viable live export sector. It is worth \$1.8 billion a year and represents 10 percent of the Australian livestock industry's export sales. The live export trade has also played a critical role in opening markets that have grown to become significant markets for Australian boxed beef. It is vital that as an industry we continue to work together to ensure its future viability, and as the industry's R&D and marketing service provider, we continue to invest heavily jointly with LiveCorp through the Livestock Export Program (LEP) in critical areas such as animal welfare and in-market training.

As we embark on this critical future phase for our industry, I ask you to join MLA in pursuing a commitment to ongoing industry collaboration. With producers and the broader supply chain at the heart of MLA's considerations and investments, we can ensure that the Australia's red meat industry becomes an even more renowned and trusted supplier of the highest quality protein worldwide.



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Cotton's by-products sustaining livestock through tough times

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In Australia, there are up to 1,500 cotton farms, and approximately 90% of those cotton businesses are family farms, producing about 80% of the crop. These families have often lived and worked in their communities for generations.

Cotton is a versatile plant that is both a fibre and food crop. While the fluffy white lint is used to make fabrics and garments, the by-products of cotton, like seed, hulls and meal, have valuable and important uses, particularly for cattle producers.

The level of cotton production in Australia is determined by seasonal conditions. If there is limited water, there is limited cotton grown, and subsequently, production of cotton by-products also varies.

Cotton is a multipurpose crop. For every kilogram of cotton lint that is grown, up to 1.7 kilograms of cottonseed is also produced.

The versatility of cotton's by-products is highlighted by how one tonne of cottonseed can produce approximately 500 kilograms of cottonseed meal, 300 kilograms of hulls and 200 kilograms of oil.

A study by Professor Emeritus R.A. Leng from the University of New England titled *Animal production and the future use of cottonseed* examined the value of cottonseed as a food source for livestock, particularly ruminants, like cattle.

The value of cotton by-products as a food source for livestock has been highlighted during the eastern Australia drought over recent years, with many graziers turning to cottonseed as a food source for their herds.

In his study, Professor Leng reported on how cottonseed, cottonseed meal and hulls were excellent feed options for cattle and sheep, particularly during drought, and were effective sources of fiber in the diets of cattle.

Similarly, the study reported cottonseed meal was an excellent source of bypass protein, because the digestion of the meal by the rumen was slowed, which

provided a higher proportion of the protein to the intestines where it was absorbed, and then supplemented the supply of amino acids from microbes found at the same site.

It was estimated in the study that 350,000 metric tonnes of cotton would produce enough feed by-product to meet the needs of 20 million cattle and 60 million sheep. Professor Leng also noted that as the global population continues to expand, alternate feed resources to sustain livestock and meet human demand would be needed, which pointed to the important role cotton can play in addressing that issue.

To learn more about the benefits of cotton by-products for livestock, including cottonseed and cottonseed meal, read the study by University of New England Professor Emeritus R.A. Leng titled *Animal production and the future use of cottonseed*.

Visit Cotton Australia's website for more information about the Australian cotton industry: cottonaustralia.com.au

Note: this advertorial was wholly paid for by Cotton Australia.



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We need to talk about native title

Raelene Webb QC

MURRAY CHAMBERS



Even before the first European, Dutch explorer Captain Willem Janszoon, set foot on the Australian continent in 1606, the land had been occupied by Aboriginal people for more than 65,000 years. It is an ancient history, predating human settlement of Europe and the Americas.

Aboriginal people lived through massive climatic changes in Australia, including an Ice age roughly 20,000 years ago. They adapted successfully to their changing physical environment. Marked changes in ecological and climatic conditions across the continent, from tropical rainforests to extremely arid deserts, led to a diversity of land use patterns suited to the particular location. While groups moved between ecological systems to exploit seasonal foods and resources, their travel patterns were also subject to various territorial rules, as well as obligations and responsibilities at sacred sites on their lands or waters. In arid parts of the country the movements of Aboriginal people were wide-ranging, travelling large distances from waterhole to waterhole in small family groups. However, in coastal and riverine areas where the largest populations of Aboriginal people lived, movements were limited, based entirely on an understanding of the seasons and the environment.



Outstanding features of traditional Aboriginal society were (and are) highly sophisticated religion, art, social organisation, an egalitarian system of justice and decision-making, complex, far-reaching trade networks, and the demonstrated ability to adapt to, and survive in, some of the world's harshest environments. Australian tribes were considered to be the intellectual aristocrats among early peoples.

Aboriginal Australians have the oldest continuing culture in the world. Integral to that culture and its legal systems is a complex relationship with their ancestral lands. It is a natural system of obligations and benefits flowing from a belief in a 'person-land-ancestral' relationship which encompasses all dimensions of life. As a Palyku woman from the Pilbara region on north-western Australia explains (Kwaymullina 2005):

For Aboriginal peoples, country is much more than a place. Rock, tree, river, hill, animal, human – all were formed of the same substance by the Ancestors who continue to live in land, water, sky. Country is filled with relations speaking language and following Law, no matter whether the shape of that relation is human, rock, crow, wattle. Country is loved, needed, and cared for, and country loves, needs, and cares for her peoples in turn. Country is family, culture, identity. Country is self.

For Aboriginal people in Australia, everything begins with the land. Prior to the arrival of the British, Aboriginal people had a rich system of kinship and well developed governance systems, with complex interlocking rights, responsibilities, privileges and entitlements to land. The Aboriginal governance systems relating to land were based on communal principles far different from European land governance systems which linked productive use of land with individual ownership.

Country is loved, needed, and cared for, and country loves, needs, and cares for her peoples in turn. Country is family, culture, identity. Country is self.

But, unlike western-style corporate governance, there is not one system of laws, traditions, rules and codes of conduct underpinning governance for all Aboriginal groups. Each group lived (and in many cases continue to live) within patterns of laws relevant to their particular group or society.

Underpinning Aboriginal culture is the inextricable connection of people to land and the natural world, providing a link between Aboriginal people and the spiritual ancestors who created and shaped the landscape and all the things in it, both living and non-living. Land was, and remains, fundamental to Aboriginal people, both individually and collectively.

As a result, concepts of Aboriginal land ownership were, and are, different from ownership under European legal systems. Under the laws and customs of the relevant locality, particular groups were, either on their own or with others, custodians of the areas of land from which they derived their sustenance and from which they often took their tribal names. Boundaries were defined and validated by creation stories of the spiritual ancestors. The special relationship between an Aboriginal group and its land was recognized by other groups in the relevant locality. The relationship between an individual and the land was mediated through group membership, that is, each individual belonged to certain territories within the family group and had spiritual connections and obligations to particular country of the tribe. Hence land was not 'owned' in the European sense, but it was the source of identity and livelihood for those inextricably linked with it. This immutable relationship with land underpins its inalienability in Aboriginal culture.

By contrast, European concepts of land and property focus on land being something owned by an individual, a commodity to be bought and sold, an asset to make a profit from, but also a means to make a living off, or simply to live upon.

These European understandings of the relationship between land and property rights have their genesis in the theories of John Locke. A deeply religious man, Locke's starting point was that God gave humans the world and its contents to have in common, but they were unable to benefit from it until they had expended their own labour on it. For a hunter-gatherer, the benefit of labour is ownership of the food obtained from the land but not the land itself. But the 'farmer' who alters the land through their labour, or fences it for their use, appropriates it to their private property. Under this theory, if land was left 'unused' or 'uncultivated' by its Indigenous inhabitants, Europeans had the right to take possession of it, and bring it into production. This developed into the doctrine of terra nullius (land without occupiers) in international law, and the notion of 'desert uninhabited' or 'desert uncultivated' which was deployed to justify colonial dispossession of Indigenous peoples from their lands.

It is no surprise then, that when the British came to Australia in 1788, they regarded it as terra nullius or an empty land. Due to the absence of European farming techniques, the land was considered unaltered by man and therefore treated as uninhabited, despite the obvious presence of Aboriginal people. This is because early explorers like Captain James Cook had painted a picture of an immense



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tract of land sparsely populated by a few primitive people who were unclothed, with rudimentary shelter who knew nothing about cultivation – and who wandered around in small parties from place to place searching for food.

As well as a different notion of property ownership, they brought with them the British legal system and automatically applied that to the new colonies, subject to some uncertainty in the early days of the colonies as to if, and how, it applied to Aboriginal people.

One of the most important judicial statements of the position of Indigenous people in Australian history was in the unreported case of *R v Ballard*, a decision of the New South Wales Supreme Court in 1829. The decision recognised a plurality of laws on the Australian continent and the obligation of English law to both recognise and protect those other laws, including to protect the property of Aboriginal people.

In this case, Ballard was committed for trial on a charge of murder of another Aboriginal person. The jurisdictional issue put before the Supreme Court was whether he could be tried by English law for the murder of one of his own countrymen.

Both Chief Justice Forbes and Justice Dowling considered that it would be unjust to apply English law to offences committed between Aboriginal people, who ‘make laws for themselves, which are preserved inviolate, and are rigidly acted upon’, and the English law had no right to intervene even if its judges found the native laws to be abhorrent. Where practicable, however, conflicts between British subjects and natives were subject to the court’s jurisdiction.

Dowling expressly commented on interracial conflict by stating that it was undoubtedly murder for a white to kill an Aboriginal person without reason or excuse, and the same applied in reverse. In his view, the same principle also applied in property disputes:

The evidence shows a subtle and elaborate system highly adapted to the country in which the people led their lives, which provided a stable order of society and which was remarkably free from the vagaries of personal whim or influence.

The same principle of protection applied to the preservation of property, although the notions of property may be very imperfect in the native. The Englishman has no right wantonly to deprive the savage of any property he possesses or assumes a dominion over.

Momentarily there was a glimpse of a different future for Australia with the acknowledgment of co-existing Aboriginal sovereignty not necessarily adverse to the Crown.

This hope was dashed just seven years later in 1836 when Justice Burton in *R v Murrell* (with whom Chief Justice Forbes and Justice Dowling agreed) held that the court did have jurisdiction when one Aboriginal person killed another. In rejecting the submission that Aboriginal people had recognisable laws, Burton concluded:

The several tribes have never owned any common superiority or any common bond of union, but have ever lived in a state of enmity with one another - their practices are only such as are consistent with a state of the grossest darkness & irrational superstition and although in some cases being a show of justice - are founded entirely upon principles particularly in their mode of vindication for personal wrongs upon the wildest most indiscriminatory notions of revenge.

In 1841, Justice Willis in the *Bonjon* case, questioned the decision of his Supreme Court colleagues, doubting that the court had jurisdiction when an Aboriginal person killed or interfered with another.

After the 1840 Coorong massacre in South Australia, Justice Cooper remained unwilling to concede that Aboriginal people should always be tried for offences under English law, arguing in 1846, in *Larry v R*, that he required a legislative direction if such cases were to be justiciable.

These continuing judicial doubts and reservations about the status of Aboriginal law were soon to be crushed by the weight of judicial and imperial authority confirmed by the Privy Council in *Cooper v Stuart*, so that in 1889 the law returned to its unitary view, that there was and only ever had been one legal system in Australia since 1788, that of England.

In *Cooper v Stuart*, the Privy Council had proceeded on the basis that Australia was practically unoccupied, without settled inhabitants or settled law, so that it could be said that the colony of New South Wales was peacefully annexed to the British dominion.

The assumption that the territory was ‘without settled inhabitants or settled law’ was clearly wrong, as was pointed out in 1971 by Justice Blackburn in *Milirrpum v Nabalco Pty Ltd*:

The evidence shows a subtle and elaborate system highly adapted to the country in which the people led their lives, which provided a stable order of society and which was remarkably free from the vagaries of personal whim or influence. If ever a system could be called a ‘government of laws, and not of men’, it is shown in the evidence before me.



While the continued existence of native title depends upon pre-existing systems of law remaining in force (through the continued acknowledgment and observance of traditional laws and customs), Mabo makes clear that the Crown's acquisition of sovereignty cannot now be questioned in an Australian court.

Nevertheless, Justice Blackburn considered himself bound by the Privy Council decision in *Cooper v Stuart* to proceed on the basis that New South Wales was 'a colony acquired by settlement or peaceful occupation' so that 'from the moment of the foundation of a settled colony English law, so far as it was applicable, applied to the whole of the colony'. His Honour went on to find that the doctrine of native title did not form part of the law of Australia.

In 1992, the High Court in *Mabo v Queensland (No 2)* came to a different result, allowing for the survival of the rights of Meriam peoples to the island of Mer in the Torres Strait, based upon a system of laws that had predated settlement, and the recognition and protection of those 'native title' rights by the common law.

Mabo does not expressly address the question of whether the pre-existing system of laws which underpin native title derives from Indigenous sovereignty, although

Justice Brennan does use the phrase 'change of sovereignty' in the context of the power of the Crown 'to create and to extinguish private rights and interests in land ... that may have been indefeasible under the old regime'.

While the continued existence of native title depends upon pre-existing systems of law remaining in force (through the continued acknowledgment and observance of traditional laws and customs), *Mabo* makes clear that the Crown's acquisition of sovereignty cannot now be questioned in an Australian court.

At this point of our history, we can only speculate about what might have happened in Australia if two judges of the New South Wales Supreme Court in 1836 had not changed their minds in *R v Murrell* and overturned *R v Ballard*, in which they had earlier recognised native laws and property rights and afforded recognition to Indigenous legal autonomy.

What if the 1829 case of *R v Ballard* in which Forbes CJ and Dowling J recognised Aboriginal legal autonomy had been reported, and not the 1836 case of *R v Murrell* which provided the foundation stone for the ‘terra nullius’ doctrine in Australia?

Might *Cooper v Stuart* have been decided differently if *R v Ballard* had not been buried in archives and newspapers and then overturned in the reported case of *R v Murrell* when two judges changed their minds? Would *Mabo* have been necessary at all?

Before Captain Cook planted the flag on Possession Island he landed at Botany Bay where he had a confrontation with two local men armed with spears who opposed the British landing. Australian history records that Cook was attacked by natives at Botany Bay.

From the perspective of the two Aboriginal men, they were carrying out their spiritual duty to the country by protecting it from the presence of persons not authorised to be there, and who had not sought their permission. Of course, Cook had no knowledge of this, and the local men had not seen anything like Cook and his party before (as far as we know).

What if, instead of seeing inferior ‘savages’, Cook had approached the two men as equals?

Making a late start is not a reason to refrain from doing something that should have happened at the outset of settlement or colonisation in 1788. In truth, Australia was taken without treaty or consent, and many Australians now view that event differently from the past understandings.

What if, instead of firing upon the local men, Cook had acknowledged that as a ‘stranger’ to the land it was likely that there was some protocol for entry?

Would there then have been a need to rely upon a fiction of ‘terra nullius’ in order for the British to establish themselves in Australia?

Or would there have been the opportunity for the two cultures to learn from each other and to be able to accommodate each other’s existence in the vast land that is Australia, without the dispossession and devastating impact on Aboriginal lives and culture that followed?

The opportunity for the British to learn from the knowledge and techniques the local Aboriginal occupants had developed over tens of thousands of years of careful observation, which allowed Aboriginal communities to live across the entire continent was squandered by the belief that

the British were superior to the ‘natives’ in all aspects.

British settlers brought with them the animals, crops and agricultural methods that had been used for thousands of years in Britain, ignoring the unique plants, animals, soils and weather patterns of a continent far removed from their experience. They also ignored the knowledge and techniques the local Aboriginal occupants had developed over tens of thousands of years of careful observation, which allowed Aboriginal communities to live across the entire continent.

Is it too late in the day to reset the relationship with Indigenous people in Australia in the way that should have occurred over 230 years ago?

Making a late start is not a reason to refrain from doing something that should have happened at the outset of settlement or colonisation in 1788. In truth,



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Australia was taken without treaty or consent, and many Australians now view that event differently from the past understandings.

The High Court has all but explicitly recognised that before the arrival of the British, sovereign authority over the continent was exercised by the separate Indigenous societies occupying it. The rights that Indigenous peoples had (and have) over the land and waters have been recognised by the High Court and by the Parliament.

Understanding these basic facts, that Indigenous societies hold land and govern their societies according to their law, strengthens the need to revisit the notion of Indigenous authority in these areas and Indigenous sovereignty that co-exists with that of the Crown, but is not adverse to it.

What can be done to advance these propositions?

In my view, the key is to build within the broader Australian community: a willingness to acknowledge the resilience of Indigenous peoples in overcoming the challenges they have faced; respect for the unique cultures, protocols, practices and traditions of Indigenous peoples;

In respect of native title, this requires that we also reconcile the concept of Crown Land with the property rights of Indigenous peoples now legally recognised in Australia.

and a reciprocity for Indigenous communities. It is fundamentally a matter of equality and mutual respect for difference.

At its heart, this approach embraces legal pluralism (as foreshadowed in *R v Ballard* in 1829) and the acceptance that Indigenous law regimes have been, and continue to be, flexible systems of local governance capable of adapting to the changing needs and realities of the societies they govern.

In respect of native title, this requires that we also reconcile the concept of Crown Land with the property rights of Indigenous peoples now legally recognised in Australia.

We can start by considering how property rights in Australia might be reframed in the absence of the Crown as the holder of the superior interest over land, and explore what this might look like.

Coming from a place of equality and mutual respect, we should ask the questions:

- Who are the custodians of the land?
- Who, if anyone, has superior ownership of the land?
- Can Indigenous and non-Indigenous concepts of land ownership work together, and if so, how?

Australian public law, and its notions of sovereignty, do not constrain the outcomes that can be reached.

The bigger challenge is the ability of Australians to imagine new ways to move forward together so that there is mutuality in the future relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Australia.



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HerdThat

HerdThat initiative launches in support of Territorians and the NT cattle industry

The NT cattle industry isn't just about a steak on a plate. It is so much more. It is a pillar of the future of the Northern Territory – and to promote the importance of the industry, the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association (NTCA) in March 2020 opened a new merchandise shop, online at www.herdthat.com.au/shop.

Aiming to highlight the significance of the NT cattle industry to the Northern Territory's economy, the online shop is part of the NTCA's new #HerdThat movement, which started in late 2019 with a new website, social media accounts and TV commercials.

"Livelihoods, especially in remote and regional parts of the Northern Territory depend on a healthy, booming cattle industry," NTCA Chief Executive Officer Ashley Manicaros said.

"HerdThat is playing a crucial role in connecting with Territorians so they understand what the cattle industry does and how our pastoralists do it.

"The Territory's \$1.2 billion cattle industry is a foundation of the Northern Territory economy – and HerdThat is quickly becoming a vital tool for primary producers and supporting organisations to generate a platform that promotes sound policy, economic growth and sustainability while directly supporting the NT cattle industry and Territory families."





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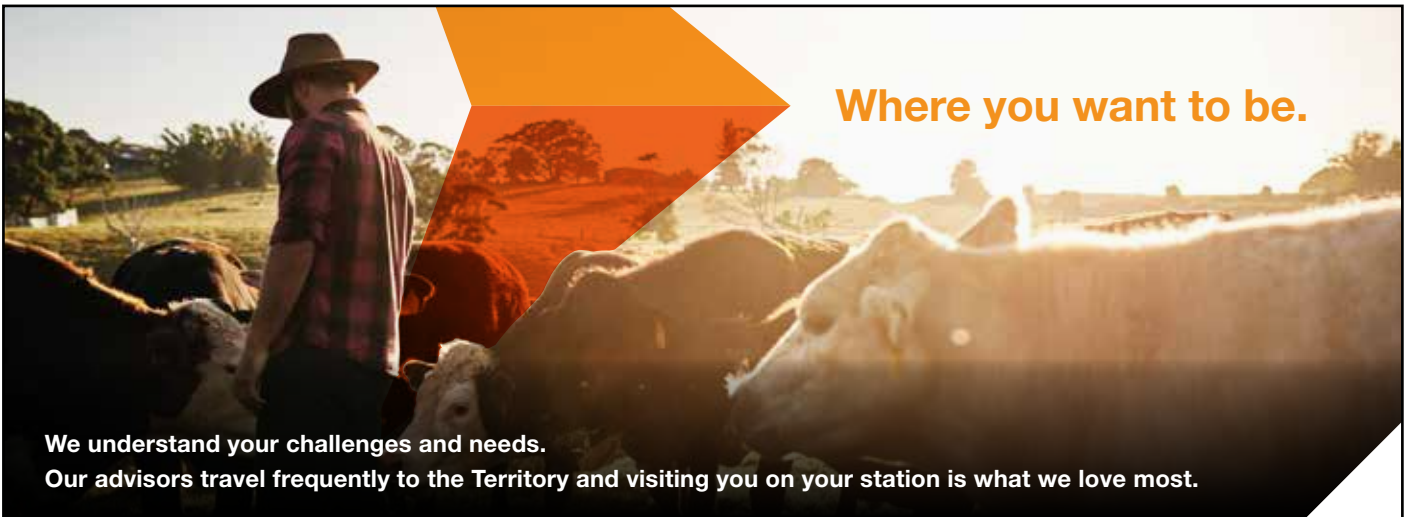
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Mr Manicaros said the industry creates more than 10,000 jobs directly and indirectly.

“I think people are surprised about the reach of the NT cattle industry when it comes to jobs - from cattle producers themselves, to station hands, truck drivers, mechanics, grader drivers, service station operators, shop assistants, butchers, to stock agents, helicopter pilots, public servants responsible for monitoring the industry, vets, environmental scientists and so many more.

“Supporting the cattle industry supports Territory jobs and livelihoods.

“By buying the HerdThat merchandise via our online shop, all Australians can show their support for an industry which has been a key performer at a national and international level. In times of economic downturn, the cattle industry continues to support local

Territory businesses – Territorians working for Territorians.”

The money associated to industries which service the pastoral sector flows directly into the NT communities and rural towns. Figures show 50 per cent of everything the NT cattle industry spends as an industry stays in the Territory.

“The NT cattle industry isn’t just about a steak on a plate. Families, businesses and the future of the Northern Territory rely on our support for the cattle industry,” Mr Manicaros said.

With a broad range of HerdThat products, including adult and kids T-shirts, trucker caps, key rings, water bottles and coffee cups, the online shop aims to promote the industry, and all money made through sales will be invested directly back into the Territory cattle industry and associated promotional activities.

T-shirts shirt prices start from \$24.90, caps from \$19.90, with national and international shipping options available.

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ADVERTORIAL

The 8 insurance essentials for cattle properties

Do you have all the insurance cover that you need for the full scope of your activities? Here's a handy checklist to help you review your risk exposures and the 8 essential policies that apply to them.

- 1. Workers' compensation cover** – along with your team of full-time employees do you have the regulation-required cover for your casuals?
- 2. Property including sheds/fencing/house/bores/tanks** – check that your sums insured will cover replacement and that new additions are included.
- 3. Aviation** – if you use aerial mustering make sure your risk management and insurance cover reflect your current activities.
- 4. Management liability** – as a manager you may be vulnerable to regulatory fines or legal costs if you are perceived to have failed in your commercial, compliance or employment obligations.
- 5. Plant and equipment, machinery/vehicles** – ensure the value and inventory of your working assets is complete and realistic for today's replacement costs.
- 6. Cyber** – protect your payroll, banking, business partner information and other valuable functions on your computer system against criminal hacking activities.
- 7. Transit/marine cargo** – whether you supply overseas or local markets you need to protect the value of your stock from despatch to arrival.
- 8. Superannuation/life Insurance** – your own retirement and your family's security are arguably the biggest essentials of all. Make sure your look after what matters most.

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Future NTCA

The Future NTCA was first established in 2014 to foster and develop leadership skills within the Northern Territory beef industry's next generation of leaders. The program has seen participation by a diverse group of young Territorians with a wide range of backgrounds and skills, all aspiring to contribute to strengthening the pastoral industry.

2019/20 Future NTCA

- Jack Littler
Brunette Downs Station
- Abro Wolnough
Mt Riddock Station
- Frances Cooper
Mt Riddock Station
- Monica Tasker
Tanumbirini Station
- Grant Keane
Camfield Station
- Isabella Britton
Top Saddlery

The Future NTCA induction was a jam packed two days, introducing our future leaders to the industry stakeholders in the Top End. One of the many highlights of the induction was the tours provided by Central Agri Group through the newly renovated Batchelor Meat Processing Facility and the Eva Valley Meats a local, ethical, grass-fed production owned and managed by Pete Cogill and Fiona McBean.

Other highlights included media training with Matt Brann from ABC's Country Hour, an Animal Health segment delivered by Sue Fitzpatrick, the Northern Territory's Chief Vet, and afternoon tea hosted at Parliament House by Agriculture Minister, the Hon. Paul Kirby.

In a program first, our future leaders travelled to Indonesia to attend





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01



02



03



04



05

the NTCA Indonesia Australia Pastoral Program reciprocal tour. The return tour to Indonesia plays an important role in increasing our understanding of the Indonesian red meat sector as well as providing a great opportunity to meet people and build relationships with key industry representatives and individuals who are actively engaged in the sector.

The tour took the group right through the Indonesian supply chain, starting at grass roots with visits to universities where students gathered and enjoyed the opportunity learn about the land mass and herd sizes in the Northern Territory. They had many questions about Australian production practices and the opportunities available in the NT.

The tour included trips to local small holder farmers and large-scale feedlots such as the CPC feedlot in Lampung as well as trips to cattle markets, abattoirs and a traditional wet market. The group visited palm plantations where cattle are grazed and the

Bali Breeding Centre, dedicated to improving their herd of traditional Balinese Banteng Cattle. A guided tour through the Borobudur Temple, the worlds largest Buddhist temple, was a spectacular history lesson diving into the culture and one of the religions of the Indonesian people.

One of the last programs on the tour was a visit to the Global Compliance headquarters in Bali, where the group learnt about the crucial work that is done to ensure transparency and the welfare of Australian cattle in the Vietnam supply chain. CEO Cristina de Leon explained the monitoring and surveillance work that includes tracking infrastructure compliant with ESCAS and improved animal welfare outcomes, how these were implemented into the supply chain and the improvements that have been made since implementation.

We wish our Future NTCA every success in their careers and we are excited to welcome the new group of Territorians eager to embark on a year of personal development.

01. Feedlot visit. **02** Rebecca Thorpe. **03.** Monica Tasker. **04.** John Holpen and Blair Gough. **05.** Jack Littler, Isabella Britten, Monica Tasker and Romy Carey.

2020/21 Group

- Alexander Rainnie
Territory Rural McPherson
- Annabelle Keith
South East Asian Livestock Services
- Charles Tapp
Bunda Station
- Bridget Fox
Brunchilly Station
- Shannon Chatfield
Bunda Station
- Hayden Schnitzerling
Brunette Downs Station
- Jeremy Scott
Newcastle Waters Station

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We are strongly focused on improving services and increasing competition for northern Australia producers, with a range of marketing options including live exports, station-to-station trading and local processing, as well as finance to assist a range of production opportunities.

We leverage our long-term relationships with exporters and processors, as well as our national network links, to achieve maximum returns for producers.



Contact our growing team

Scott Witham
Adelaide River
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0428 253 080

Gerald Wetherall
General Manager
Livestock
0409 689 625

Nick Benson
Broome
0428 653 767

Geoff Geary
Finance Manager
0437 050 402



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ADVERTORIAL

Westcoast boosts service with expanding network

AN expanding network in northern Australia is set to see Westcoast Northern Livestock ramp up its push to increase competition and improve service and support to the region's producers, including financial services.

In addition to Scott Witham at Adelaide River in the Northern Territory, the company recently welcomed highly experienced agribusiness manager and livestock specialist, Tony O'Neill, as well as enthusiastic young livestock representative, Nick Benson, at Broome in the Kimberley. They are further supported by Livestock General Manager Gerald Wetherall and Finance Manager Geoff Geary.

Scott said Westcoast Northern Livestock now had an established network from the Top End across to the Kimberley and Pilbara regions,

which would leverage the company's long-term relationships with exporters and processors, as well as its WA and national network links.

He said with a strong finance component to assist production opportunities, the company now offered a full-service package to producers, including live exporting, property-to-property trading of store and breeding stock, and local over-the-hooks sales to Rum Jungle Meat Exports at Batchelor, just north of Adelaide River. The abattoir is proving popular for cull stock and off-types.

AuctionsPlus sales are also due to come on stream and Scott said the company was looking into other dynamic technologies to further improve service to producers in the future.

Meanwhile, he said while seasonal conditions were still patchy in southern regions, northern areas were faring better and low stock numbers were placing pressure on export prices.



LEFT Westcoast's Northern Territory representative Scott Witham, who is based at Adelaide River.

RIGHT Westcoast's Kimberley and Pilbara representatives, Nick Benson and Tony O'Neill, who are based at Broome.



Pastoral Real Jobs Program

The Pastoral Real Jobs Program (RJP) is a progressive and innovative employment program that engages, trains, and supports young Indigenous people wanting to kickstart their career in the Northern Territory Pastoral Industry.

The NTCA operates the Pastoral Real Jobs Program in partnership with the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC) and our host stations, to provide participants with the opportunity to have a successful and fulfilling career within the pastoral industry.

The program began in 2008 with the aim of increasing Indigenous participation in the pastoral industry, continuing the tradition of the Indigenous stockmen and women who contributed to the pioneering of the Northern Territory pastoral sector.

Up to 20 young Indigenous people are recruited, trained and placed into positions within the Northern Territory pastoral industry annually under the Pastoral Real Jobs Program.

The last 12 months have seen the Pastoral Real Jobs Team travel across the Northern Territory to deliver pre-employment training programs, which have been designed to prepare new participants with the basic skills and confidence they will need upon commencing their employment on the host stations. Pre-employment training was held in July 2019 at Tipperary Station and in February 2020 at the Juno Centre in Tennant Creek.

From pre-employment training participants begin employment, with







The NTCA would like to thank Kerrie Cokley for her time as the Senior Field Officer coordinating this program and wish her all the best for the future. This year we are excited to welcome Casey Ellis on board as our new Project Coordinator who will oversee the program.

New Staff Profile

My name is Casey Ellis from Violet Town, Victoria. I came to the Territory over seven years ago as a gap year from my studies at university, and instead found myself in love with the NT cattle industry, and never left. My first five years in the NT I worked with Wild Contracting in a contract mustering camp where we worked and travelled all over the Northern Territory, into Western Australia and even as far south as Carnarvon on numerous cattle stations. I then based myself in Katherine, working at the Katherine cattle yards, learning the ropes of the export industry, where I got my name as the ‘weighbridge girl’.

The Northern Territory Cattle Industry has been a career pathway that I find interesting, challenging but also very rewarding. I am very grateful to be given the opportunity to work with the NTCA and I look forward to achieving many goals with the Real Jobs Program.

RJP is encouraging resilience within a new environment, guidance through personal challenges and assistance with navigating cross-cultural differences.

ongoing support and mentoring provided to all participants by dedicated staff, through scheduled station visits and communication with the host stations. Encouraging resilience within a new environment, participants are given guidance through personal challenges and assistance

with navigating cross-cultural differences to ensure participants are set up for success.

We work closely with our host stations to provide participants with on the job training and career development to aid in the development of personal capacity to work at industry level .



01. New NTCA Pastoral Real Jobs Program Coordinator Casey Ellis. 02. Shianka Talbot. 03. Brumby Vaughn and Stephanie Frankham.



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01. Skills training. 02. RJP participants on horse back. 03. Nerves of steel. 04. Marc Gallagher.



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- delivering research outcomes to support improved production and profitability
- encouraging local investment to support primary industry growth
- providing industry assistance programs.

dpir.nt.gov.au



ADVERTORIAL

Connecting northern beef producers

Supporting the beef cattle production industries is an important ongoing program of the Northern Territory (NT) Government - to drive growth and diversification of this long-standing, established sector. The NT Department of Primary Industry and Resources (DPIR) is a proud partner of FutureBeef.

FutureBeef is a collaboration between the Queensland, NT and Western Australian governments and Meat and Livestock Australia. FutureBeef shares the latest practical tools, scientific insights, and relevant, timely advice to make on farm changes to improve business performance.

FutureBeef uses a multi-channel approach including webinars, social media, newspaper features,

multimedia and its monthly eBulletin to connect with beef producers and livestock advisors. The FutureBeef website is the go-to source of information for the northern beef industry with over 1,000 pages of content and new pages, regularly updated by passionate scientists, livestock advisors and extension officers working in the northern beef industry. FutureBeef provides the latest tools and relevant research findings in:

- animal health and welfare
- animal production
- grazing land management
- people and business

To connect with FutureBeef

- check out the website futurebeef.com.au and subscribe to the

monthly eBulletin to access the latest information to help maximise kilograms of beef produced while maintaining or improving land condition and animal welfare. The eBulletin includes information on the latest events and webinars.

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- follow on Twitter twitter.com/FutureBeef/

To find out more contact NT DPIR Extension Officers

Meg Humphrys
meg.humphrys@nt.gov.au
08 8951 8144

Eleanor Fordyce
eleanor.fordyce@nt.gov.au
08 8973 9730

NTCA Indonesia Australia Pastoral Program

The 2019 NTCA Indonesia Australia Pastoral Program (NIAPP) saw more women than ever take part. Welcoming 20 participants, 11 of which were women – the most in the program’s seven-year history.

The first chapter of the 2019 NTCA Indonesia Australia Pastoral Program (NIAPP) commenced with NTCA staff travelling to Indonesia to visit partnering Universities during the month of July to conduct the student selection process. This saw over 100 students apply for the opportunity to partake in the highly regarded program; encompassing 17 universities from across 12 provinces.

The calibre of students striving for program positions continues to be very high, demonstrating the importance of this program to Indonesian Universities and the hard work students put into their presentations. NIAPP’s global reach now includes 114 Alumni, who continue to promote the benefits of this program through University channels and to the greater Indonesian beef industry through their employment and industry associations.

We were excited to welcome 20 participants to the Northern Territory in late August to learn about the industry that we are all so passionate about. From the 20 participants we welcomed, 11 were women – the most in the program’s seven-year history, demonstrating a demographic shift to an increased number of women studying Animal Husbandry within Indonesia, similar to that of Australia.





The ten-week rigorous learning journey began with participants attending a three-day pre-departure training program held by PT Pasir Tengah, a feedlot and breeding company in Cianjur, West Java, prior to travelling to Darwin to kick off their time in the NT.

Participants completed a two-and-a-half week Intensive training program from 28th August to 13th September, incorporating both accredited and non-accredited training delivered by the NTCA, St John Ambulance, Charles Darwin University and the NT Government Department of Primary Industries and Resource staff members at the Grant Heaslip Training Facility in Alice Springs.

Taking in all rural life has to offer, participants learnt skills that would assist them on their station placement such as cattle handling, fencing, horse and motorbike riding, animal welfare management practices and how to provide first aid.



The station placement component of the program allowed participants to put these new skills to good use, joining station stockcamps for the second-round muster.

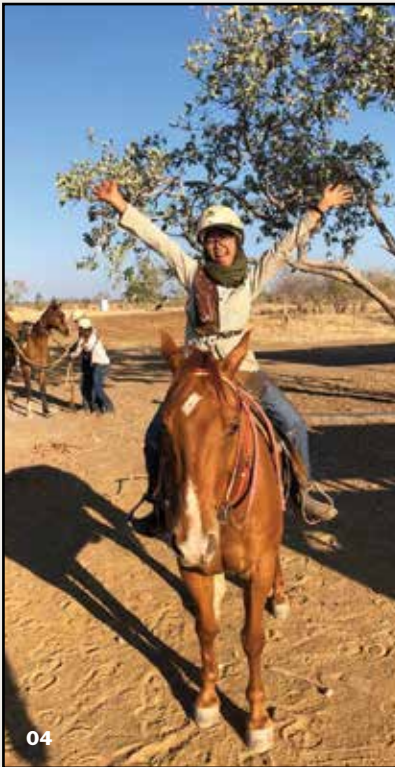
Each station offered participants a unique experience through different work activities from mustering, yard work, animal husbandry tasks, bore runs,

fire fighting and much more. In addition, participants gained practical knowledge and insight into Australian rural cultural and the hardships faced by pastoralist during one of the worst droughts Australia has seen to date.

It is evident from both past and present participants that the relationships established between



01. Rika at Tipperary Station **02.** Kezia and Ricki at Brunchilly Station. **03.** Kezia at Brunchilly Station. **04.** Hani out at camp at Killarney Station.



It is evident from both past and present participants that the relationships established between the participant group as well as between participants and their station host and the station staff is one of the most beneficial aspects of the program.

the participant group as well as between participants and their station host and station staff is one of the most beneficial aspects of the program.

The reciprocal tour allowed host station representatives to experience the Indonesian beef industry and gain a greater understanding of the symbiotic relationship between Australia and Indonesia.

Participants and alumni again had the opportunity to reconnect with host station staff, facilitating opportunities to discuss main concerns and opportunities that exist for the continued improvement of Indonesia's and Australia's red meat industries.

The NTCA would like to thank all of our host stations who partnered with us to deliver NIAPP 2019, making it one of the most successful year to date.

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1 Hormone growth promotants and beef production. A best practice guide, Meat and Livestock Australia, 2011.
 2 A report on two field trials evaluating the performance of extensively grazed beef cattle when implanted hormonal growth promotants on properties in the Northern Territory. D Pollock, 2011.
 3 Data on file. D.M. Pollock. 2012.
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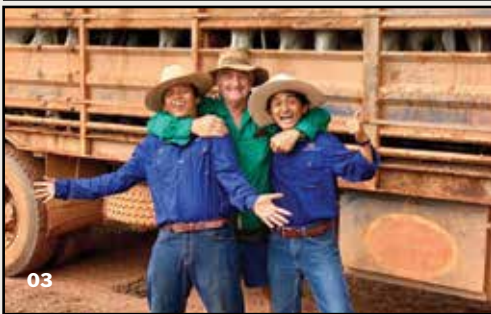




01



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04

01. Hani and the team at Killarney Station. **02.** NTCA Executive Officer Romy Carey with NIAPP participants. **03.** Widi, Gary Riggs and Wahyu at Lakefield Station. **04.** Rika at Tipperary Station.

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01



02

Justian

**Victoria River Downs Station
Heytesbury Cattle Co**

The NIAPP program has had a big impact for me. Hard work, work ethic, discipline were the important things that I got from this program. In the beginning I needed to adapt to station life. I never worked as hard as on the station before. I felt under pressure. But, day by day was passed. It made me stronger and better. I am grateful I was chosen as a NIAPP participant. It changed me a lot especially my personality. I think it is going to be very useful for my future.

Kezia

**Brunchilly Station
S. Kidman & Co**

The NIAPP program has affected my life a lot, especially as I am interested in animal science and the industry. For me to be one of the NIAPP participants is an honour because I was connected directly with the real cattle industry, including the livestock industry that correlates between my country and Australia. I learned lots about the international market. During my internship at the station in Australia, I became more knowledgeable about the industry and I became someone who was able to share another perspective of the import-export industry with my colleagues on campus.

All the new information is certainly changing my views about the business of this field. In addition to information, I made a lot of connections with animal science and industry students throughout Indonesia and the livestock industry in Indonesia, which is certainly important for my future.

The NIAPP program also made me feel proud of myself because I was able to endure a very different environment to what I face every day and now I have a more open mind to accepting the difference.



03

01. Reciprocal Tour: NT pastoralists, the NIAPP group and Future NTCA participants in Indonesia. 02. Besse at Newcastle Waters. 03. The NIAPP group at the Australian Embassy in Jakarta.

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Official Newsletter of the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association

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Flying Doctor introduces new landing procedures for remote airstrips



The Royal Flying Doctor Service is proud to serve Australia's outback communities, delivering life-saving care when and where it's needed the most.

RFDS Central Operations has announced important new changes to its standard landing procedures that impact remote airstrips across the Northern Territory and South Australia.

Coming into effect on 1 September 2020, UHF Channel 13 will become the central communications channel for RFDS aircraft to establish contact with remote airstrips.

When arriving at night or after periods of wet weather, pilots may now request an airstrip inspection

prior to landing and will make contact via UHF Channel 13 to arrange for a person to undertake that inspection at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled arrival.

These changes have been made to reduce the risk to crews and patients, particularly for night landings. Your assistance is greatly appreciated to ensure remote airstrips remain safe to access for the Flying Doctor.

The RFDS encourages all outback residents to check and update their airfield data and contact information on an annual basis by emailing flying_safety@flyingdoctor.net.

If you would like a copy of the new RFDS Airfield Inspection Procedure, please contact (08) 8238 3360.



Alward Foster Award

Alec Bidwee

Normally awarded and celebrated at the annual NTCA conference, this year's Alward Foster Memorial Emerging Indigenous Pastoral Leader Award was presented in a small ceremony at Brunette Downs Station in May.

This year's winner is Alec Bidwee.

The 23-year-old has been a stockman at Brunette Downs for AACo (Australian Agricultural Company) for two years. Brunette has a proud history of fantastic Indigenous ringers and Alec keeps this tradition alive every day. "Alec has not only been a hardworking and learning station hand but he has also become a good mate to all staff," Brunette Station Senior Operations Manager Rick Morrison said.

"Alec's 'no worries' attitude is as infectious as his big smile and his sense of humour can calm cultural differences that are bound to arise in any modern multi-cultural stock camp environment.

"Alec is a proud Indigenous man and mentor to young men and women from his community, making him an emerging leader there and on the station."

Proudly sponsored by the Warriner Family, Alec was presented with an award certificate and a brand new saddle, made by The Top Saddlery & Bush Boutique in Katherine.



FROM LEFT Michael Johnson, NTCA CEO Ashley Manicaros, Rick Morrison, Alward Foster Award winner Alec Bidwee, Jacob Baker, Hayden Schnitzerling and Will Warriner

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2020 NTCA and Elders Photography Competition

The annual NTCA & Elders Amateur Photography Competition, is now in its eleventh year. On the following pages are the entries and the winners from each of the sections.

These photographs usually provide a backdrop for the NTCA Annual Industry Conference which unfortunately had to be postponed this year. They illustrate our unique outback lifestyle and the distinctive Northern Territory people and landscape.

This year's NTCA and Elders Photography Competition was judged by Her Honour, The Administrator of the Northern Territory, Elders NT Sales Manager Paul McCormick and Alice Springs-based photographer Lisa Hatz.

Section One Portrait Person or Animal

A photograph that captures the likeness of a person or animal, or a small group of people or animals, in which the face and expression is predominant. The objective is to display the likeness, personality and even the mood of the subject/s.

Section Two NT Landscape

Intended to show different locations within the NT, showing little or no human activity, using subjects as landforms, weather or ambient light.

Section Three Industry at work or play

Pictures of the NT pastoral/beef industry, people and landscapes, showing everyday life or extraordinary situations. Pictorials must include people and may also include examples of caring for our livestock, environment and each other.

People's Choice

The People's Choice Award is the major prize of the competition and was judged in a public Facebook voting, to be the overall favourite of the competition.



2020 NTCA and Elders
Winner
Peoples
Choice
Photography Competition

Lisa Dyer
First Rain

2020 NTCA and Elders
Photography Competition
Winner
Portrait

Pam Daniell
Sam









Section One - Portrait Person or Animal **01.** Fetch - Juliane Vlach **02.** We may not have it all together, but together we have it all - Tori Burke **03.** Dusty Days with Rusty - Jess Coronos **04.** Jez - Kate Murphy **05.** Legune Kids Club - Cassie Cox **06.** The Apprentice - Susan Munday **07.** Wet Season Shine - Susan Munday **08.** The Kelly Gang - Chris Daniell **09.** Proud as Punch - Chris Daniell

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1800 836 211

www.ruralbusinesssupport.org.au
NT@ruralbusinesssupport.org.au

Peter Cottle, Rural and Small Business Financial Counsellor



01



02



03



04



05



06



07

Section One - Portrait Person or Animal 01. Licorice Allsorts - Pam Daniell 02. Lone Ranger - Sam Chisholm 03. Dad's Helpers - Laura Heaslip 04. Beauty and the Beasts - Pam Davis 05. Checking the Load - Laura Heaslip 06. Cattle Yard Princess - Rebecca Zadow 07. Black Cockatoos - Paddy Weir

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06

Section One - Portrait Person or Animal **01.** Country Aint Seen Pretty - Amy Craig **02.** Cowgirl - Rebecca Zadow **03.** Locky - Paddy Weir **04.** Jeremy - Kate Murphy **05.** New to the World - Anna Weir **06.** Mates - Pam Daniell

Onshore gas in the Northern Territory

| Category | Percentage | Count |
|-------------------|------------|-------|
| Complete | 53% | 60 |
| Commenced | 44% | 71 |
| Not yet commenced | 3% | 4 |

Progress on Implementing the Recommendations of the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing

- 60 Complete
- 71 Commenced
- 4 Not yet commenced

Implementation of the 135 recommendations from the Final Report of the Scientific Inquiry into Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northern Territory is now entering Stage Three. The Stage Three recommendations predominantly relate to larger projects that are anticipated to be delivered over the next 18 months to three years. The Framework for the Strategic Regional and Environmental Baseline Assessment (SREBA) is finalised and scopes of work are being drafted to be carried out in the Beetaloo Sub-basin. A regional reference group will be established. The Northern Territory Government aims to complete a number recommendations related to regulation and assessment reforms in 2020. These include the draft Petroleum Regulations 2020 and the commencement of the Petroleum Legislation Miscellaneous Amendments Bill 2019. For further information, or to register for regular updates visit: hydraulicfracturing.nt.gov.au. Email: hydraulic.fracturing@nt.gov.au

NT Cattle Industry Serious Work Injury Snapshot

1 May 2019 - 31 May 2020

69 Serious injury claims

25 average age

27% The main type of injury was fractures.

15% Being hit by an animal was a major cause of injury.

15% A fall from height was the other major cause.

For information to make your workplace safer:
 ☎ 1800 019 115 🌐 worksafe.nt.gov.au





09

Section One - Portrait Person or Animal **01.** Poddy - Paddy Weir **02.** Junior - Juliane Vlach **03.** Tucker Time - Anna Weir **04.** Pressure's Off, Time To Feed - Amy Craig **05.** Moving Destinations - Kate Murphy **06.** Portrait A - Hannah Nolte **07.** Portrait B - Hannah Nolte **08.** Ears to a Good Day - Susan Munda **09.** Smoko - Laura Heaslip



Country towns and communities are the heart of this nation – a healthy, viable NT agricultural industry benefits all Australians.

Led by Coordinator-General the Hon Shane L Stone AC QC, the National Drought and Flood Agency works hand-in-hand with communities, governments, industry bodies and others to support rural and regional Australians to access information and advice on Australian Government assistance.

**Meet Jane Mack
NT Regional Recovery Officer**

Jane has lived and worked on cattle stations across the Territory and is available to discuss Australian Government support in your region.

**Phone: 0419 522 811
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www.droughtandflood.gov.au

**Northern Territory
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Section Two - NT Landscape 01. New Beginnings - Rebecca Zadow **02.** Donkey's Leap - Laura Heaslip **03.** Early Morning Flight to Limestone Yards - Pam Davis **04.** Controlled Burn - Chris Daniell **05.** Bring It On - Susan Munday **06.** In The Long Grass - Kate Murphy **07.** The Milky Way - Juliane Vlach **08.** Here She Comes! - Chris Daniell



Centralian Land Management Association

www.clma.asn.au
clma@clma.asn.au
secretary@clma.asn.au

PO Box 2534 Alice Springs NT 0871
 Ph: 8956 9779

The Centralian Land Management Association (CLMA) is the pastoral industry's Landcare group in central Australia.

Formed in 1988 with support from the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Assoc, our aim is to foster sound land management practices within the local pastoral industry for a productive and sustainable future.

We assist our members by:

- providing contacts for natural resource management workshops including soil conservation, monitoring, weed management,
- applying for funding to run land management projects such as Ecosystem Management Understanding (E.M.U™) - which introduces land managers to recognise & read landscape processes, condition and change
- providing a one-stop shop to connect land managers with each other and stakeholders. As well as ongoing support of Desert Poppies women's network
- representation on committees- ASPIAC, Weeds Advisory, Landcare NT



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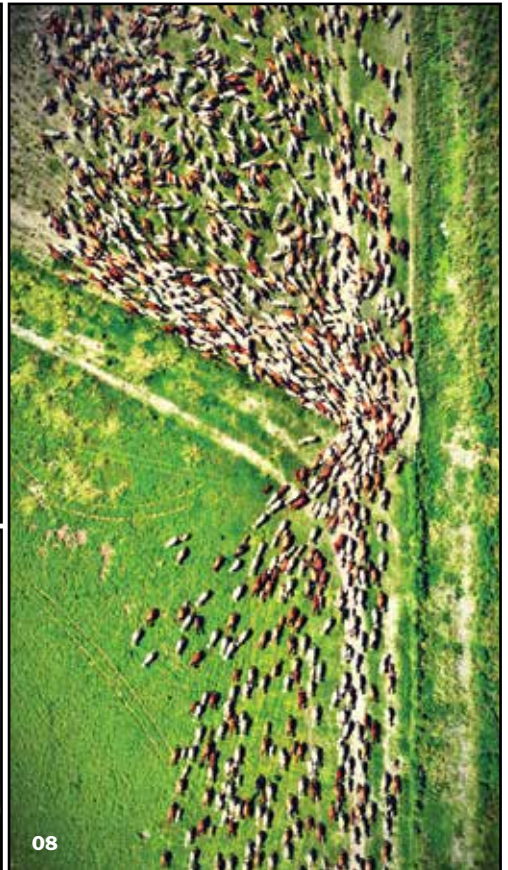
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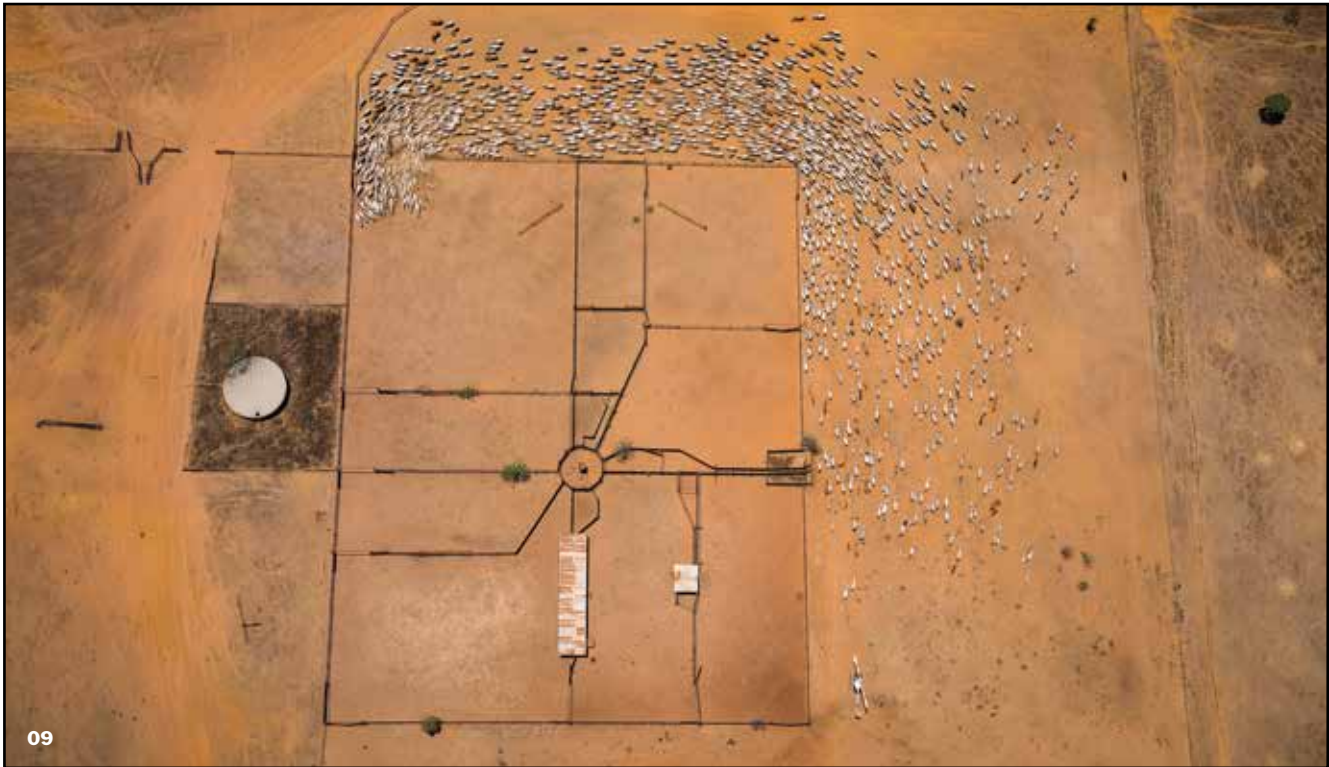
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Section Two NT Landscape





Section Two - NT Landscape **01.** Landscape B - Hannah Nolte **02.** Quartz Hill - Laura Heaslip **03.** Mt McMinn Brahman Climbing Mountain - Andrew Stubbs **04.** House Yards - Kate Murphy **05.** Hazy Sun - Laura Heaslip **06.** Mainyards - Paddy Weir **07.** Mt Chappel - Pam Davis **08.** Hourglass - Chris Daniell **09.** Last Mob Before The Wet - Sam Chisholm

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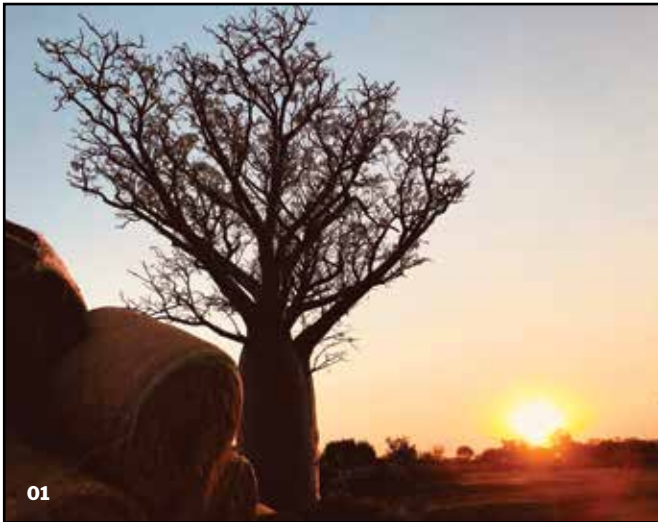
GPO Box 4247, Darwin NT 0801

Darwin - T: 08 8941 4833

e: darwin@htw.com.au

htw.com.au

Section Two NT Landscape





09

Section Two - NT Landscape **01.** Boab - Kate Murphy **02.** Landscape C - Hannah Nolte **03.** Whitehills Allambi - Paddy Weir **04.** Thunderstorm Rolling In - Rebecca Zadow **05.** Rain on the Horizon - Juliane Vlach **06.** Smoky Sunset - Paddy Weir **07.** The Big Dry - Anna Weir **08.** Start of the New Day - Amy Craig **09.** The Flood Plains - Juliane Vlach

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Angela Tomazos
Managing Partner, NT
0438 827 811

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Section Two NT Landscape





Section Two - NT Landscape 01. Outback Spectacular - Pam Daniell 02. Office Views - Susan Munday
03. Cloud Over the Hangar - Pam Davis 04. Red Rock Gates - Sam Chisholm 05. 2019 - Anna Weir 06. Landscape A - Hannah Nolte
07. From Where You'd Rather Be - Susan Munday 08. The Land Before Time - Pam Daniell



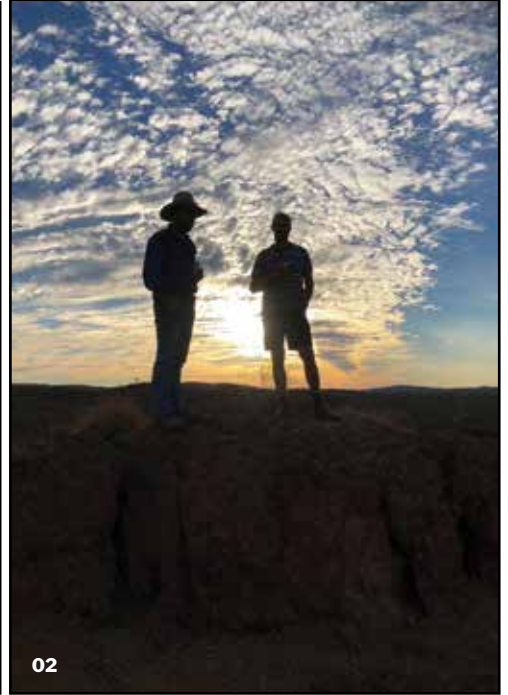


08



09

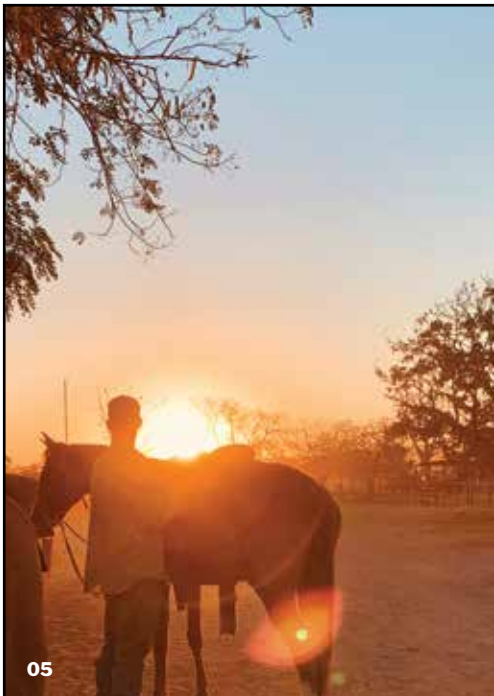
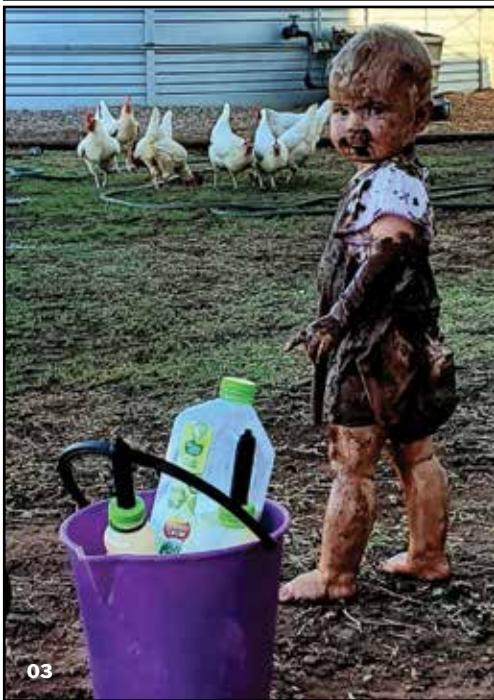
Section Two - NT Landscape 01. Ready To Work Dad - Susan Munday 02. Downtime at Ammaroo - Pam Davis
03. Walk the Mob - Juliane Vlach 04. Baby Donkey Selfie - Rebecca Zadow 05. Days End - Pam Davis 06. Grader Driver - Laura Heaslip
07. Crazy or Brave - Tori Burke 08. Caring for Country - Pam Daniell 09. The A Team - Chris Daniell





Section Two - NT Landscape 01. Boys from the Bush - Pam Daniell 02. End of Day Chats - Rebecca Zadow
03. CPC Challenge - Kate Murphy 04. The Dust Battle - Cassie Cox 05. Friends Forever - Anna Weir 06. Smoko - Juliane Vlach
07. Poddy Love - Laura Heaslip

Section Three Industry at Work or Play





09



10

Section Three - Industry at Work or Play **01.** Girls, Ammaroo - Pam Davis **02.** On the Blade - Sam Chisholm **03.** Feeding Poddies - Lisa Dyer **04.** Getting the Buck Out - Susan Munday **05.** Nose Bag Time - Kate Murphy **06.** The Night Watch - Michelle Lewis **07.** Industry B - Hannah Nolte **08.** Industry A - Hannah Nolte **09.** Job's Done - Cassie Cox **10.** A Long Day in the Saddle - Kate Murphy

Section Three Industry at Work or Play



Section Three - Industry at Work or Play **01.** Mustering Thirsty Work - Amy Craig **02.** Best Seat in the House - Jess Corones **03.** Yard Up - Juliane Vlach **04.** Come on, Move - Amy Craig **05.** Timeout - Pam Daniell **06.** The Boys - Laura Heaslip

Vale

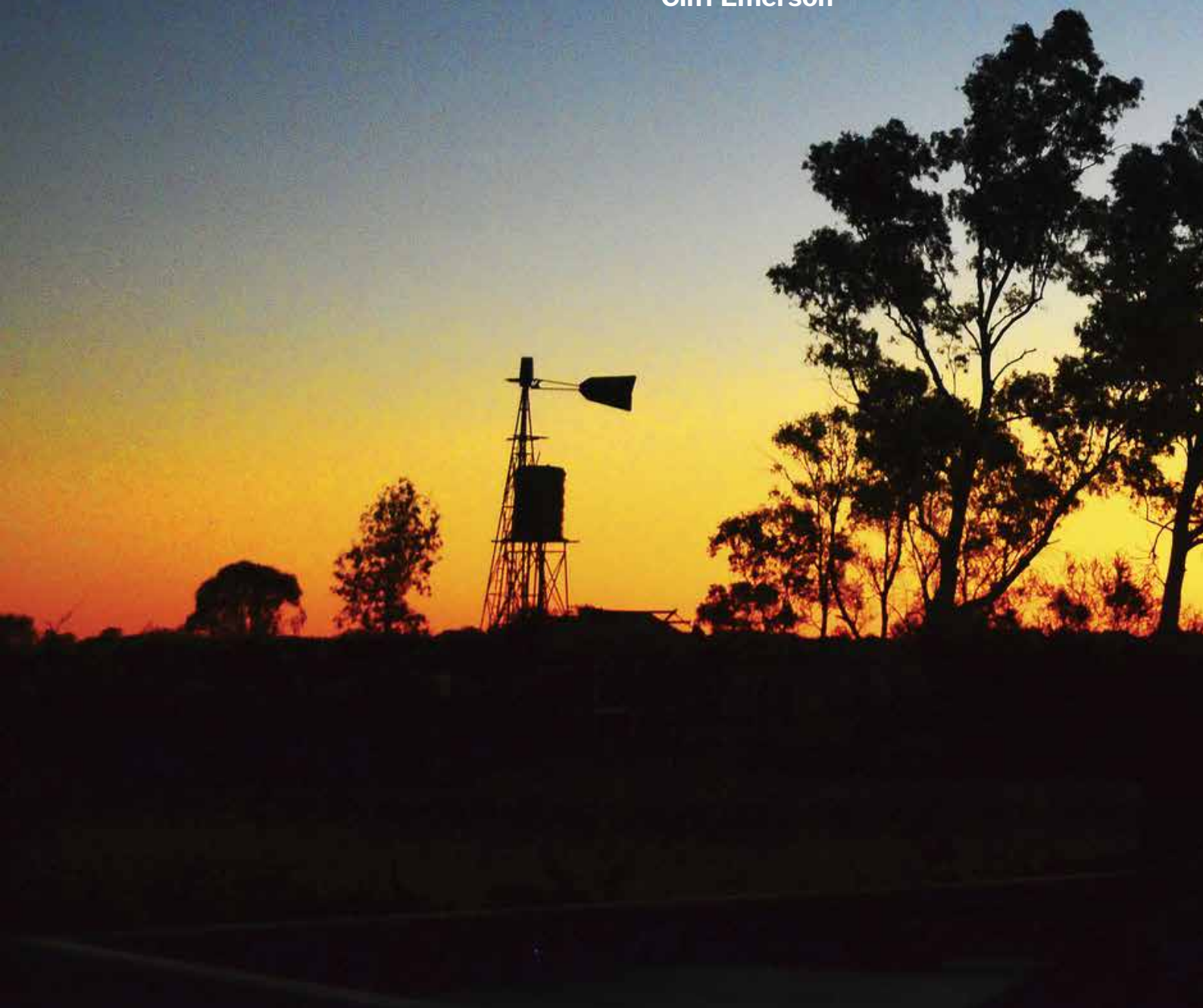
The NTCA would like to pay tribute to the immense legacy of these industry leaders across the NT and northern cattle industry and community.

Paul Zlotkowski

Peter Sherwin

Pam Waudby

Cliff Emerson



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