NT INJECTS $900,000 INTO FARMBIS #3

One of the country’s most successful rural support programs, FarmBis, has been renewed until June 2008.

The Northern Territory and Federal Governments have signed off on FarmBis 3 - the jointly funded primary industry assistance program.

Primary Industry Minister, Kon Vatskalis, says FarmBis provides financial support for primary producers and land managers to attend eligible management training activities.

“The program aims to increase management practises leading to greater resource sustainability, profitability and competitiveness in the primary industry sector, which ultimately helps keep the Territory moving ahead,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“The Martin Government is all about backing Territorians, and we will be contributing up to $300,000 every year for the next three years. This is a dollar-for-dollar arrangement with the Commonwealth, so we’re looking at a $1.8 million package over the next three years.”

FarmBis support includes -

- Course materials;
- Fees for training providers;
- Venue and equipment hire;
- Administration costs directly related to the activity, e.g. postage, telephone and advertising;
- Childcare (up to 50% with a maximum of $500 per business. Childcare is not available to family members unless by prior approval).

The newly appointed State Planning Group which administers FarmBis in the Territory will hold its first meeting on 23 May, under the Chair, Ms Anne Staines, a well known and respected Central Australian pastoralist.

Further information and application forms can be obtained from David Collinson, FarmBis Facilitator in Darwin on 8999 7317, Ian McLean in Alice Springs on 8951 8191 or Simone White in Katherine on 89739792.

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