16 March 2008

Vietnamese Delegation Set To Visit The Territory In May

Primary Industry and Fisheries Minister Chris Natt today said live cattle exports to Vietnam are closer to becoming a reality following his recent trip to the South-East Asian nation.

“I met with a number of Vietnamese Government officials as well as private sector representatives who expressed interest in importing live Territory cattle,” Mr Natt said.

“Accompanying me were representatives from the Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association (NTCA) and the Northern Territory Livestock Exporters Association (NTLEA).

“The NTCA, NTLEA and Northern Territory Government held seminars on the live cattle trade while in Vietnam.

“This trip to Vietnam was yet another example of this Government working in partnership with industry to develop new markets for Territory producers.

“The Territory’s live cattle export industry employs more than 1000 Territorians and is worth more than $180 million to our economy.

“Importing live cattle from the Territory will provide the Vietnamese with an opportunity to value add to this industry through feedlots and cheap, locally-sourced food by-products for cattle fattening.

“In Ho Chi Minh City discussions were held with a leading corporate food company which is interested in investigating the feasibility of importing live cattle from the Territory.

“The People’s Committee of Nha Trang also expressed interest in coming to Darwin to learn more about the live cattle export trade and it is anticipated the delegation will visit in May.

“The delegation is expected to visit feedlot and transport facilities and pastoral properties during their time in the Territory.”