Primary Industry and Fisheries Minister Chris Natt is confident this week’s trip to Vietnam will result in positive strides for the Territory’s live cattle export industry.

“The Territory’s live cattle export industry continues to grow and we would like to see it expand into Vietnam,” Mr Natt said.

“Vietnam’s young population and growing economy means there is plenty of potential for increased red meat consumption – and we would like to cater for that increased demand.

“Territory cattle are of the highest quality and I am sure the Vietnamese will appreciate this fact over time.

“Last year’s live cattle exports through the port of Darwin increased by more than 20 per cent to 283,000 head of cattle – most of which were from the Territory.

“And, year-to-date, the number of live cattle exports through the port of Darwin to the end of February is up almost 23,000 on the same time last year.

“Our live cattle industry already employs more than 1000 people and is worth more than $180 million to our economy and this Government is keen to improve on those figures.”

Mr Natt will meet with Vietnamese Government officials and be accompanied by representatives from the NT Cattleman’s Association and NT Livestock Exporters Association while in Vietnam.

“Seminars on the live export trade will include presentations from industry and Northern Territory Government experts,” Mr Natt said.

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

“I believe there is significant opportunity for the establishment of a live cattle trade between the Northern Territory and Vietnam that will benefit both our economies.”

Mr Natt will fly to Perth today to attend meetings before continuing on to Sabah and Vietnam.