Improving Indigenous Participation In The Pastoral Industry

The Northern Territory’s Indigenous Pastoral Program (IPP) continues to work towards closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous employment.

Primary Industry Minister Chris Natt said the IPP focuses on developing an Indigenous pastoral industry within the Territory and could lead to other benefits for remote communities.

“Indigenous owned and operated pastoral properties generate employment and improved natural resource management through living and working on traditional land,” Mr Natt said.

“Increasing Indigenous participation in the pastoral industry and improving economic opportunities for Indigenous communities will be the focus of Mark Ford, the Northern Territory’s recently appointed IPP manager.

“Mr Ford has 20 years of experience in the area of Indigenous economic and community development and a background within the pastoral industry.

“The improved participation of Indigenous communities in the pastoral industry will compliment other initiatives in tourism, mining and land management leading to employment and economic benefits for Indigenous communities.

“During the past 12 years Mr Ford has been involved with Indigenous communities in community development, land management and enterprise development.

“I know Mr Ford is keen to work with IPP staff towards improving economic outcomes for Indigenous people in the NT.”

Mr Natt said Daryl Kantawara from Hermannsburg had also recently completed six weeks pre-employment training as part of the Indigenous Trainee Scheme (ITS) within the IPP.

"The Northern Land Council, Central Land Council, Indigenous Land Corporation and Australian Government are strongly involved with the ITS, with the Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association providing an employer mentor as part of the program," Mr Natt said.

“Through the IPP, 27 grazing licences have been issued resulting in 28,000 head of cattle grazing on Indigenous land and the ITS has been established to place Indigenous people into mainstream jobs. In 2008 alone the ITS has trained and directly employed 21 Indigenous station hands on mainstream pastoral properties in the Barkly, VRD and Daly regions. “

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