Primary Industries and Fisheries Ministerial Council In Melbourne

Primary Industry and Fisheries Minister Chris Natt will today fly to Melbourne to attend this week’s Ministerial Council meeting of Primary Industry and Fisheries Ministers.

“I am going to this week’s Ministerial Council meeting with the intent of doing what is best for our pastoral, seafood and horticultural industries so they continue to grow,” Mr Natt said.

“The combined total of these industries to the Territory’s economy is set to top $400 million in the 2007-08 financial year with about half of that coming from our live cattle export trade.

“Key agenda items at this week’s Ministerial Council meeting include climate change, drought preparedness and advancing Indigenous employment in primary industries.

“The Northern Territory Government is working hard to close the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous employment.

“One such initiative that continues to grow is the Indigenous Pastoral Program, which aims to increase cattle numbers on Indigenous land and increase Indigenous participation in the pastoral industry.

“So I will be keen to support any moves to create jobs for Indigenous Territorians, which will of course support the continued growth of our important pastoral, seafood and horticultural industries.”

Next year’s Ministerial Council meeting of primary industry and fisheries ministers will be held in Darwin.