Open Day To Showcase Advances In Arid Zone Research

The Northern Territory Government’s Arid Zone Research Institute (AZRI) will open to the public tomorrow to showcase the latest in primary industry, minerals and energy research projects.

Primary Industry Minister Chris Natt said the research institute near Alice Springs is vital to advancing regional research and development - and promoting primary industry and minerals initiatives to encourage economic growth in the region.

“AZRI is my department’s central Australian headquarters and incorporates library facilities, intensive horticultural research plots, quarantine facilities, a geological survey unit and paddocks for small cattle herds,” Mr Natt said.

“Advancing rural industries through research into biosecurity, land and resource use, and livestock management is particularly important in central Australia.

“AZRI Farm Demonstration and Extension Projects include bush food trial plantings, National Livestock Identification (NLIS) training, a water medication demonstration site and Grazing Land Management.

“Our Water Laboratory and the NT Geological Survey offices will be open; and staff will be demonstrating NLIS, Walk Over Weighing, telemetry technologies, and low stress cattle handling techniques.

“The ‘Water Reuse in the Alice Project’, a collaborative project with the Power and Water Corporation aims to use Alice Springs recycled waste water to grow horticultural produce.

“The open day is a great opportunity for families to have a free day out and learn about what happens on the research farm.

“Visitors will be able to take a train ride tour of the grounds, including the water medication unit, the sentinel cattle, sentinel chickens, kangaroos and wallabies (at the Wildcare enclosure), the horticulture block, Water Reuse in the Alice Project, and the mounted police yards.

"There will be displays by our other Desert Knowledge Precinct partners, Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre (DK-CRC) and Desert Knowledge Australia.”

AZRI is located 10 kilometres south of Alice Springs on the Stuart Highway and will be open to the public from 10am to 3pm.

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