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Working towards a better deal for the Territory’s drought affected pastoralists

Northern Territory Minister for Primary Industry, Kon Vatskalis, will tomorrow fly to Canberra to meet with his Federal and State counterparts to discuss drought policy reforms and biosecurity.

Mr Vatskalis said the states and territories are working together to reform the national drought policy to make it more focused on preparing farmers for future climate change and drought.

“I will be seeking assurances that the Northern Territory’s unique climatic conditions are taken into account when Exceptional Circumstances drought assistance is distributed,” said Mr Vatskalis.

“Some pastoralists in Central Australia have been affected by drought for many years and rely on funding assistance to keep their properties up and running.”

The Minister said the forum will also look at long term strategies to protect the Territory against exotic pest and disease threats.

The Beale Report recommends a strengthened partnership approach for managing biosecurity.

The Minister thanked the Opposition for agreeing to provide a ‘pair’ allowing him to be absent for tomorrow’s Parliamentary Sittings so he can attend this important event.

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