MINI BUDGET DELIVERS IMPROVED SERVICES TO PASTORAL INDUSTRY

December 4th, 2012

The Mills Government will increase funding in the 2012-13 Budget for the Pastoral Land Board and Rangeland Monitoring program by $500,000 per year.

Minister for Land Resource Management, Terry Mills, said the extra funding, which will be allocated on an annual ongoing basis, would support pastoralists by providing important land condition reports, more frequently.

“The previous Labor Government starved the Pastoral Land Board of adequate resources to fund the rangeland program and pastoralists were left to suffer,” Mr Mills said.

“With only one full-time person working in this field, the Department of Land Resource Management has been unable to deliver consistent and timely assessments of the 2250 active monitoring sites throughout the Northern Territory, impacting on pastoral infrastructure mapping such as fencing, watering points and paddock planning.

“My Government will help this important industry get back on its feet.”

The Mini Budget will see:

- $400,000 to recruit three new Rangeland Monitoring Officers
- $100,000 to support Pastoral Land Board operations

“Pastoralists use the monitoring data to assist with paddock management and as a management tool when planning new infrastructure,” Mr Mills said.

“Better access to these reports will improve future decision making with regards to the pastoral leases and rectifying potential areas of erosion and degradation.

“The funding will also allow the Pastoral Land Board to meet in person more frequently, travel to the heart of the bush to meet with lessees, allowing them the opportunity to discuss issues pertinent to leases and regions.”

Media Contact:
Lisa Andrews 0401 579 963