Focus on Northern Australia Development and Defence

4 July 2014

Former Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association boss Luke Bowen begins work on Monday as the head of the government’s new Northern Australia Development Office.

“I am delighted that Luke Bowen is taking on this new position and I’m sure his extensive contacts in the South East Asian live cattle trade will be invaluable as he works to engage with the region,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

“I know he is passionate about promoting the Territory and the benefits Northern Australia Development can bring through better transport links, improved infrastructure and the creation of real jobs for our children.

“I’m proud we’re leading this national conversation about the possibilities for the North and Luke is the man to drive this effort.”

The Office provides a central base for peak industry bodies to coordinate their plans for the Territory of tomorrow and has been warmly received by stakeholders.

Mr Bowen said he is looking forward to playing a part in shaping the future the North.

“The White paper for Developing the North is a unique opportunity for the Territory, it is one that we must use wisely and strategically,” Mr Bowen said.

“A key priority of mine will be to work with Government, Business, Industry and the people of the Northern Territory to ensure we have a solid and sensible message to take to Canberra on our priorities for social and economic development.”

Mr Bowen’s predecessor, Peter Carew, will be taking up a new position as Director-General of Strategic Defence within the Department of Chief Minister

“Peter Carew has been tasked with establishing a new Strategic Defence Committee and will provide leadership across government on strategic defence issues and projects,” Mr Giles said.

“The role will ensure the Territory’s position is front and centre as the Australian Government develops its Defence White Paper.
“As part of our Northern Australia Development agenda, the Territory Government wants to encourage continued growth of the Defence presence in the NT in recognition of our strategic geographic location.

“We also want to promote investment in joint-user infrastructure, such as our airports, which supports Defence operations at the same time as providing opportunity for industry.

“The ongoing presence of US Marines in the Top End presents significant economic opportunities for Northern Australia and part of Peter Carew’s role will be ensuring that we maximise the involvement of local companies in supporting these rotations into the future.

“I thank him for establishing the Northern Australia Development Office and look forward to working with him in his new defence role.”

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