Willem Westra van Holthe
Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries

**New fisheries vessel gets launched**

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Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries, Willem Westra van Holthe, has today launched a new 11.9 metre fisheries vessel, the Mallarra.

The Mallarra was custom built by specialist boat builder Steber International. Weighing in at 10.5 tonnes and with twin 380 horsepower Yanmar diesel motors, the Mallarra has a range of some 400 nautical miles at a cruise speed of 18-22 knots.

Mr Westra van Holthe said that the Yolngu name “Mallarra” means Manta Ray.

“There couldn’t be a more appropriate name for this vessel as the manta ray is believed by Indigenous saltwater people to be the ‘Guardian of the Sea’,“ Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“This new vessel will play a major role in monitoring the health of our coastal reef stocks as well as enabling research in the barramundi fishery, small pelagic fishery and other scientific monitoring projects. Mallarra will be very much the guardian of the sea and our fishery.

“Adopting an Aboriginal name symbolises the close working relationship that Fisheries has forged with marine rangers and traditional owners around the Territory’s vast coastline.

“The size and fit-out of the Mallarra means that it will be able to travel further and longer than other fisheries vessels have been able to before - this will open up new areas of research and investigation.

“The commissioning of this new boat is another demonstration that this government is committed to the sustainable development of our fisheries.”

The Mallarra will be based at Cullen Bay Marina and is a welcome addition to the government’s fisheries fleet of six vessels.

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