Local prisoners to produce holding yards for Top End abattoir

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Prisoners from the Darwin and Alice Springs correctional centres are making and installing holding yards for the Australian Agricultural Company’s (AACO) new Livingstone Valley Abattoir.

Minister for Correctional Services John Elferink said Northern Territory Correctional Industries (NTCI) was successful in winning the contract over an international Chinese manufacturer, allowing the benefits of the project to remain in the Territory.

“The project will create employment for around 40 prisoners for a period of at least three months,” Mr Elferink said.

“As part of the Northern Territory Government’s Working Prisons Policy, all inmates working to produce or install the holding yards will receive vocational and on the job training in all aspects of steel fabrication and yard building.

“Educating, training and work is key to bringing down the Northern Territory’s high recidivism rates.

“We are providing inmates with real skills which they can use once they are released from prison.

“A prisoner with skills is much more employable and likely to land on their feet than someone who has spent their sentence gazing at the ceiling and twiddling their thumbs.”

Mr Elferink also said all products involved with the fabrication and installation of the yards has come from Northern Territory suppliers and will be built mostly from Australian made steel.

“Additionally, all efforts have been made to involve local companies, including the use of transport and equipment hire,” he said.

“NTCI continues to look for opportunities to partner with the private sector and grow local capacity, ensuring the benefits directly flow to Territory businesses and the local economy.

“The Working Prisons Policy is allowing prisoners to play a real part in developing Northern Australia while also driving down crime in the community.”

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