Pastoralists given a helping hand

25 February 2015

The Country Liberals Government is making life easier for Territorians, announcing pastoral lease rent waivers for 22 lessees affected by seasonal hardship across central NT.

Land Resource Management Minister Willem Westra van Holthe said while pastoralists aren’t interested in handouts this is a small way the NT Government can help.

“We’re announcing the waiver of $237,874 in pastoral lease rent to assist our cattle producers as they struggle with tough seasonal conditions that are out of their control,” Minister Westra van Holthe said.

“These are people who have dedicated their life to the land and the NT Government wants to ensure that families who want to stay and work on the land can do so.

“While the central region of the Territory has received some rain of late, it isn’t enough to make a difference to these pastoralists,” Minister Westra van Holthe said.

Pastoral lease rent waivers were allocated to the following regions:

- Southern Alice Springs (9)
- Plenty (5)
- Barkly (3)
- Tennant Creek (3)
- Northern Alice Springs (2)

Minister Westra van Holthe said the Country Liberals Government is working hard to restore the damage left by Labor.

“In 2011 we saw Labor slap a ban on live cattle exports - that misinformed decision devastated the cattle industry,” he said.

“Slowly we’ve restored confidence back in the industry and this is another step in that process.”
All pastoral lease rent waivers were subject to a scientific assessment of the seasonal conditions and the impacts of those conditions which had a direct impact on earning capacity.

Media Contact: Renee Miller 0407 400 446