The NT Government’s continued support of the camel industry is paying real dividends with the first shipment of 120 camels into Saudi Arabia this afternoon.

Minister for Primary Industries Paul Henderson said the shipment of the young male camels is significant as it is the first order from the country the animals originated from.

Mr Henderson said if this trial shipment was successful it will be the start of an annual requirement for 5000 camels into the Middle East by 2003.

Most of the camels have come from pastoral properties bordering the Simpson Desert.

Australian camels are in demand by importing countries because of their disease free status and the high standards of veterinary and husbandry management.

Mr Henderson said the NT Government committed $165,000 to the camel industry annually.

He added that staff from the Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development took an active role in research and monitoring camel health.

"Staff are also working on developing protocols for live trade and developing sustainable systems of co-grazing cattle and camels.

"A bright future is projected for the camel industry. Projected total live camel sales for 2001-2 exceed 2500 head – a ten fold increase on the previous year, and confirmed contracts indicate that live exports will double to 5000 in 2002-3."

The NT Government’s continued support of the camel industry is paying real dividends with the first shipment of 120 camels into Saudi Arabia this afternoon.

Minister for Primary Industries Paul Henderson said the shipment of the young male camels is significant as it is the first order from the country the animals originated from.

Mr Henderson said if this trial shipment was successful it will be the start of an annual requirement for 5000 camels into the Middle East by 2003.

Most of the camels have come from pastoral properties bordering the Simpson Desert.

Australian camels are in demand by importing countries because of their disease free status and the high standards of veterinary and husbandry management.

Mr Henderson said the NT Government committed $165,000 to the camel industry annually.

He added that staff from the Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development took an active role in research and monitoring camel health.

"Staff are also working on developing protocols for live trade and developing sustainable systems of co-grazing cattle and camels.

"A bright future is projected for the camel industry. Projected total live camel sales for 2001-2 exceed 2500 head – a ten fold increase on the previous year, and confirmed contracts indicate that live exports will double to 5000 in 2002-3."