Radio Frequency Identification devices in use at Territory Cattle Sale

The first sale of cattle fitted with individual Radio Frequency Identification Devices (RFID) will take place in Alice Springs today.

Primary Industry Minister, Kon Vatskalis, said in some states the use of RFID’s is mandatory as part of the National Livestock Identification System (NLIS). In the Northern Territory, waybills and branding allow for the tracing of cattle. The use of RFID’s by the NT cattle industry is voluntary and driven by market forces.

“The sale will be at the Bohning Yards in Alice Springs where over 3000 head will go under the hammer,” he said.

“The yards have recently had an RFID reader installed to allow the cattle to be tracked electronically, and the sale will be the first time the reader has been used under real sale conditions.

“At the sale over 500 cattle from Mt Riddock and The Garden Stations have been fitted with RFID’s with others expected to be delivered prior to the sale commencing.”

Mr Vatskalis said the sale demonstrates that the NLIS implementation plan for the Northern Territory is fully compatible with the market demands of the other states. Within the NT cattle are traced by the mandatory use of waybills, property identification codes and brands.

NLIS allows for tracing of cattle movements throughout their entire life.

Cattle from sales in Central Australia can travel to South Australia or the Eastern States for finishing.