PASTORALISTS TO RECEIVE FURTHER ASSISTANCE

The granting of Exceptional Circumstances assistance to Central Australian pastoralists is great news for the industry, Minister for Primary Industry, Chris Natt, said today.

The Federal Government has today approved the Territory Government’s application for Exceptional Circumstances assistance to pastoralists in the south and east of Alice Springs.

Mr Natt said Central Australians have faced ongoing drought since 2003 and many pastoralists have been in desperate need of assistance.

“The Exceptional Circumstances program is funded by the Commonwealth and Territory Government and we will assess applications and make payment to pastoralists who qualify.

“The Territory’s application for assistance successfully demonstrated that producers had suffered a number of exception seasonal events that resulted in rare and severe financial and social hardship.

“Central Australia has a long and proud tradition in the pastoral industry dating back more than 100 years and it remains a major economic driver for the region.

“The Alice Springs Pastoral District accounts for over 20% of the Territory’s total beef industry performance.

“Pastoralists in the region can now apply for assistance in the form of interest rate subsidies to the value of $100,000 per annum for five years.

“Congratulations to the staff in my department and the Northern Territory Cattlemen’s Association who worked tirelessly on behalf of Central Australian pastoralists.”

Information on how to apply for Exceptional Circumstances is available from the Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development on 8999 5303.

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