MINISTER SUPPORTS INDUSTRY CODE OF CONDUCT

Minister for Primary Industry Chris Natt has today welcomed the Federal Government’s plan to implement a mandatory code of conduct for the horticulture industry.

The code of conduct aims to clarify and strengthen the trading arrangements between producers and marketers and improve quality for the consumer by removing the rights of wholesalers to “price average”.

Mr Natt said the Territory Government, along with the Northern Territory Horticultural Association, lobbied hard for a new system.

“The Territory’s horticulture industry is worth more than $90 million each year and I’m pleased the Federal Government has decided to back industry with a code of conduct that forces an improvement in transparency.

“A mandatory code of conduct will ensure an even playing field for growers, wholesalers and agents. It will require a change to the present system which allows marketers to pay producers what they assert to be the “market price” without revealing either the buyer or the exact sale price.

“This will have far reaching ramifications for the horticulture industry. At the moment growers are left in the dark by wholesalers who have the power to sell the grower’s product without revealing any feedback.

“The efforts of industry and the Territory Government have paid off and growers can feel confident about future investment in the industry. A mandatory code of conduct is good for horticulture and good for consumers,” he said.

The Northern Territory Horticultural Association’s Tracey Leo says the mandatory code will provide greater clarity for growers and traders.

“This will greatly benefit Territory growers who are distanced from the central market place. The Territory Government has supported our efforts in lobbying for the code which will play a big part in boosting our local economy,” she said.

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