RURAL WOMEN’S AWARD OPENS

Minister for Primary Industry, Kon Vatskalis has urged Territorians to nominate candidates for the 2007 Northern Territory Rural Women’s Award.

The award recognises the vital contribution women make to rural Australia and is open to all women involved in agriculture, including forestry, fisheries, natural resource management and related service industries.

Minister for Primary Industry, Kon Vatskalis said the award promotes initiative, new ideas and proposals aimed at advancing women in rural Australia.

“We want women to play a much greater role in the future of rural Australia and I encourage people to nominate a woman who you believe has made a wonderful contribution to industry.

“This award is clearly focused on supporting women with strong leadership skills, a positive vision for the future of agriculture and rural regions and the potential to make a difference in their chosen field,” said Mr Vatskalis.

The winner from each State and Territory will receive a bursary of $10,000 towards a project, or to improve skills in a particular area. All winners and runners-up will also have the opportunity to attend the Australian Institute of Company Directors’ course.

Major sponsors of the award are the Australian Women’s Weekly, ABC Radio and Rural Press Limited. Support is also provided by the Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines.

The 2006 Northern Territory award winner was Vice President of the Northern Territory Horticultural Association, Jan Hintze. Ms Hintze was instrumental in forming the Cut Flower Group and is also a board member of the Heliconia Society International.

Other Territory winners of the Rural Women’s Award have included crocodile farm manager, Ann Palmer and bamboo and dragon fruit grower, Lee Berryman.

Nominations open today, August 1 and close on October 15 2006 and the winner will be announced early in 2007. For more information visit www.ruralwomensaward.gov.au.

Contact: Gemma Buxton 0401 110 064