Kon Vatskalis
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES

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TAKING THE PEARLING INDUSTRY FORWARD

Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries Kon Vatskalis has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the pearling industry with his West Australian counterpart in Perth today.

Minister Vatskalis met with the West Australian Minister for Fisheries Jon Ford to discuss future management of the industry.

Under the MOU, the West Australian and Territory Governments will work closely to develop consistent standards and policies to deal with management, compliance and industry development.

Mr Vatskalis said the industries are closely linked with similar legislation, and many pearling companies farm in both jurisdictions.

“We want to see South Sea pearl production in West Australia and the Territory managed on a “whole of industry” basis to maintain industry integrity and its value to the community.

“Developing a collaborative approach to manage the industry will ensure the needs of pearlers in both jurisdictions are met.

“Joint management of the industry will also bring financial benefits to pearling companies and this means good news for a range of other sectors that provide indirect support.

“The Territory’s pearling industry is the largest employer in the aquaculture sector, providing 250 jobs and we want to ensure future growth in this area,” said Mr Vatskalis.

The MOU was developed in collaboration with members of the Northern Territory and West Australian Pearling Industry Advisory Committees.

Executive Officer of the Pearl Producers Association, Brett McCallum, said a consistent policy position across both governments will ensure production is carefully managed to meet world demand.

“This policy approach ensures confidence in the future and provides a strong incentive for industry investment in pearl quality through technological and husbandry improvements,” he said.

Members of the Territory and West Australian pearling industries will play an active role under the MOU by providing advice and information to Government on market trends and production outlooks.

Contact: Gemma Buxton 0401 110 064