Busy Port sets record for Northern Australia

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The Territory’s busy East Arm Wharf is setting new records for container efficiency and cattle exports under the Giles Government.

“Managing the volume of and efficiency of traffic over East Arm Wharf is critical to our push to develop Northern Australia,” Chief Minister Adam Giles said.

“The Darwin Port Corporation is going from strength to strength thanks to new private investment in container crane facilities and the relaxation of live cattle trade restrictions in Indonesia.”

The Port’s 30 year old container crane was decommissioned in November last year. It has since been replaced by private cranes run by Patricks and Qube Stevedores.

“Today I can report that those mobile harbour cranes are providing record productivity at the Port, more than quadrupling the loading and unloading capacity and allowing QUBE to employ around 24 new Port workers,” Mr Giles said.

“QUBE says it is now reaching rates of up to 32 containers per hour compared to the old rate of 10 per hour, which is a success story in every respect,” Mr Giles said.

“Private investment is delivering increased efficiency and productivity using new technology. This drives down operating expenses and the cost of living for Territorians because freight is cheaper.

Increased Indonesian import permits are pushing record numbers of cattle through East Arm, injecting an anticipated $1.8 million into the Port this financial year.

“Under the Country Liberals and the Federal Coalition, the Territory’s live cattle trade is back on its feet, no longer crippled by Labor’s disastrous export ban,” Mr Giles said.

“There was a record of 70,000 cattle exported from Darwin in a single month in December 2013. Brand new figures for the 2014 calendar year show 155,000 cattle have left Darwin bound for Indonesia,” Mr Giles said

“Shipments of Buffalo have also begun leaving for Vietnam under a new agreement brokered by the Territory Government. New figures confirm that 1800 buffalo have so far set sail for Vietnam.
“All of this export activity underscores the importance of developing Darwin Port as a transport gateway between Asia and Australia.”

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