PETER STYLES  MLA  I  MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT
WILLEM WESTRA VAN HOLTHE  MLA  I  MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES

Less Rattle For The Cattle

12 June 2014

The Northern Territory Government has committed more than $45 million in the 2014-15 budget towards upgrading priority cattle roads, boosting the already thriving $307 million industry.

Minister for Transport Peter Styles said strengthening capacity on these roads, especially the unsealed and single lane sealed roads, are a priority the government is focusing on due to the increase in heavy vehicles bringing cattle into port.

“The cattle industry is one of the Territory’s biggest industries and the Giles Government has committed more than $45 million to upgrade these heavily utilised roads to ensure safety and efficiency,” Mr Styles said.

“Since 2012-13, more than 23 kilometres of strengthening and widening of cattle roads has either been completed or begun.

“A further 35 kilometres of pavement strengthening and widening is planned to commence this financial year including work on the Plenty Highway, the Tanami Road, the Buntine Highway, the Carpentaria Highway, the Tablelands Highway, the Roper Highway, the Ross Highway; and the Arnhem Highway.”

Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries, Willem Westra van Holthe, welcomed the funding and said the lack of road funding from the previous Labor government had put the industry at serious risk.

“These cattle come from stations in remote areas all around the Territory, where year round access is difficult to maintain,” Mr Westra van Holthe said.

“Our roads are the veins that bind this industry together. If we allow our roads to fall in to a state of disrepair the industry will suffer.”

New projects commencing this year include:

- $7.34 million for the Outback Way to extend the seal on the Plenty Highway towards Hart's Range;
- $4.75 million to extend the seal on the Litchfield Park Road;
- $8 million for pavement strengthening and widening of selected sections of the rural arterial road network including the Carpentaria, Arnhem, Tanami, Tablelands and Lasseter Highways;
- $4 million for pavement strengthening and widening of selected sections of the secondary and local road network including the Roper and Ross Highways; and
- $10 million for pavement strengthening and widening of the Buntine Highway as part of the Regional Roads Productivity Package.

Media Contact:
Styles: Lucy Buhr 0417 977 322
Westra van Holthe: Jack Cranwell 0428 574 943