The Chief Minister Clare Martin today congratulated Kate Hadden as the Territory winner of the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) Award.

Ms Martin said each state and territory winner would be provided with a bursary of up to $20,000 to assist them in achieving their vision, improving their skills and playing a greater role in the future of rural Australia.

"RIRDC will sponsor Ms Hadden’s attendance at the RIRDC national leadership seminar in Canberra, while the Territory Government would support the attendance of Ms Bev Wilson, the Territory’s runner-up”, Ms Martin said.

"Ms Hadden is the Environment and Heritage Officer for the Tiwi Land Council and is committed to facilitating and promoting the development of land as a means towards sustainable land management.

"Her personal vision for agriculture and natural resource management is to build sustainable economies around land development, without compromising cultural and natural heritage values.

"Ms Hadden aims to continue working specifically with the Tiwi people assisting them to explore development opportunities, such as plantation forestry and aquaculture, in order to gain economic independence.

"I congratulate all participants in the RIRDC Rural Women's Award 2002. The Northern Territory Government looks forward to the growth of rural industries in the Territory and will continue to recognise the contribution women make to rural Australia through awards such as these.”

The RIRDC Rural Women's Award is future oriented in that it recognises, initiative, new ideas and proposals rather than any past achievements.