Breaking New Ground in the NT Pastoral Industry

An initiative aimed at increasing the participation rates of Indigenous people in the Northern Territory pastoral industry has been celebrated in a publication about the project.

Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries Kon Vatskalis today officially launched *Breaking New Ground*, a showcase of the highly successful Indigenous Pastoral Program.

The program, run by the NT Government in conjunction with the Northern and Central Land Councils and the Indigenous Land Corporation, is a unique partnership that commenced almost three years ago.

Minister Vatskalis said the program aims to increase cattle numbers on Indigenous land and introduce more Indigenous landowners into the pastoral workforce.

“This program has been about seeing more Indigenous Territorians take up employment opportunities on their own land and encouraging those people to become more involved in economic sustainability.

“This goal is being realised with significant developments including 10-year land use agreements at Amanbidj, Elsey, Balbirini, Wagaman and Kalkarindji.

“We’ve also seen seasonal stock camp positions filled by Indigenous people, two very successful cattlemen workshops held in Central Australia and numerous fencing contracts awarded to Indigenous stockmen at stations across the Territory,” he said.

Mr Vatskalis said a highlight of the program has been the number of young Indigenous men who are gaining employment through the Indigenous Pastoral Apprentice Scheme.

“The Indigenous Pastoral Program is also responsible for the Mangalawurru Cattle Project, which has seen traditional owners fence off 190 square kilometres of their land to develop stock waters.

“*Breaking New Ground* is a visual reflection of the success of the Indigenous Pastoral Program and the cooperative way in which outcomes have been achieved,” said Mr Vatskalis.

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