14 August 2007

Katherine goes nuts!

The Territory could be the saviour for Australia’s peanut industry, eventually supplying enough peanuts to meet domestic demand.

The Peanut Company of Australia (PCA) today announced a new $25 million peanut operation based in Katherine.

Minister for Primary Industry, Chris Natt, said the company’s investment in the Territory will create more jobs and provide a boost to the economy.

“This is one of the biggest agricultural and irrigation ventures proposed for the Territory and I would love to see Katherine become the peanut capital of Australia.

“The establishment of a peanut operation will provide more job opportunities, particularly for farming families and rural youth.

“The Territory Government wants to see food production in the Katherine region develop into the future and I look forward to seeing the PCA expand its operations.

“The company is already Australia’s leading supplier of peanuts and processes more than 40,000 tonnes per year at a value of $65 million.

PCA Managing Director Bob Hansen said the operation would help meet Australia’s annual demand for peanuts.

“The Territory was the best location in terms of value for money and availability of water,” Mr Hansen said.

The peanuts will be grown in rotation with corn and sold through long-term contracts to snackfood manufacturers. Other crops will also be grown, including potatoes.

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