



Northern
Territory
Government



**Northern Territory Department of
Primary Industry and Fisheries**
**Industry Development
Plan 2013–2017**



Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries Industry Development Plan 2013–2017

Disclaimer: All care has been taken to prepare the *Northern Territory Primary Industry and Fisheries' Industry Development Plan* (the "Plan") with accurate information. However, changes in circumstances after publication may impact on its accuracy. The Northern Territory of Australia: (1) gives no warranty or assurance, and makes no representation about the accuracy of any information contained in the Plan, or the suitability of the Plan for your intended use; and (2) disclaims any liability or responsibility for any loss or damage whatsoever caused by the use of, or reliance on, the information contained in the Plan.

Cover: Road train over the Finke River,
photo courtesy of Steve Strike.





Our Vision

A flourishing economy underpinned by profitable and sustainable resource-based industries.

Our Mission

To work with our partners to stimulate and sustain economic development throughout the Territory.





As Chief Executive of the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries

I understand the importance that our department will play in achieving the Northern Territory Government's *Framing the Future* vision based around the establishment of a prosperous economy, balanced environment, strong society and confident culture.

To achieve this vision, the development of the Northern Territory's agriculture and fisheries industries will be vital, so it is with great pleasure that I release the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries' Industry Development Plan to position the department to support industry growth.

This Plan will ensure the department has a clear focus on addressing industry priorities as well as removing impediments to industry expansion; and that it plays a key role in the future development of northern Australia.

The value of the NT's agricultural and fisheries sectors is expected to increase from \$570 million in 2012–13 to over \$600 million by 2015; however, in the longer term there could be significantly greater opportunity if industry and government collectively work together.

Key measures contained within the Plan to support this growth include targeting a reduction in red tape, assisting to increase exports to our Asian neighbours, enabling increased flexibility for land use on pastoral leases and facilitating an increase in the availability of land for primary production.

Of course none of these goals can be achieved without the careful stewardship of environmental resources and maintaining a high level of biosecurity compliance and preparing ourselves to respond quickly to biosecurity emergencies.

Encouraging Indigenous involvement at all levels of primary production will also play a role in ensuring that the impacts of increased industry growth, including jobs, benefit all Territorians.

Our department will also be working closely with other government agencies and industry associations to develop the linkages and networks that will facilitate the delivery of the key actions contained within this Plan.

I encourage all areas of the department to regularly review how their business plans will assist in achieving these goals.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alister Trier". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alister Trier
Chief Executive
Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries

OBJECTIVE 1: Profitable and productive Primary Industries

Supporting the economic growth and viability of existing and emerging primary industries

Strategies	Key Actions	Outcomes
1.1 Provide certainty and security to encourage investment	1.1.1 Establish clear and pragmatic policies to facilitate industry development.	Increased clarity of regulatory process and more investment certainty.
	1.1.2 Review existing regulatory and compliance frameworks to ensure alignment of regulations, reduce red-tape and reduce the cost of compliance.	Primary industries statutory and business processes are streamlined and costs to producers of doing business are reduced.
	1.1.3 Influence whole-of-government actions to develop infrastructure to support the expansion of the primary production sector.	Appropriate infrastructure to cater for industry growth.
	1.1.4 Lead whole-of-government processes to identify land and sea areas for future food production.	New production areas are opened up for a range of primary production activities.
	1.1.5 Facilitate expansion of the Ord Irrigation Scheme into Northern Territory lands.	
	1.1.6 Continue to facilitate the release of new blocks for horticultural development.	
	1.1.7 Work with the Department of Land Resource Management to progress changes to the <i>Pastoral Land Act</i> .	Increased flexibility of land use options available to pastoral properties to support their economic sustainability.
	1.1.8 Develop and maintain information on Territory land and water resources to assist prospective investors in primary industries.	Up-to-date information is available to inform and encourage investment.
	1.1.9 Facilitate the development and delivery of industry assistance programs.	Adaptable and resilient primary industries with access to financial and business counselling support.
	1.1.10 Collaborate and integrate activities with NT Government investment attraction strategies.	Increased investment in primary industry sectors.



Strategies	Key Actions	Outcomes
1.2 Facilitate continuous improvement in production quantity and quality	<p>1.2.1 Targeted research, development and extension to address agreed industry priorities.</p> <p>1.2.2 Develop effective research partnerships that support innovation and efficient delivery of extension information to clients.</p> <p>1.2.3 Deliver up-to-date information to industry clients in readily accessible and appropriate formats.</p> <p>1.2.4 Support industry to understand, and adapt to, changes in climate.</p> <p>1.2.5 Deliver improved information on the relative benefits and costs of implementing research outcomes to enable producers to make informed decisions.</p>	<p>Industry embraces best practice in primary production and has early adoption of new advances in research and development.</p> <p>Research is collaborative and cost effective, delivering maximised benefit to industry.</p> <p>Client information needs are met.</p> <p>Impacts of climate change on primary production outputs are reduced.</p>
1.3 Expand market options for Territory products	<p>1.3.1 Support industry to undertake market research to select and prioritise Asian and Australian markets for horticultural products, live animal and seafood exports.</p> <p>1.3.2 Work collaboratively with industry to identify and respond to potential and actual market disruptions.</p> <p>1.3.3 Identify opportunities for primary producers to participate in the climate change and carbon economies.</p> <p>1.3.4 Facilitate the development of northern abattoirs.</p>	<p>Increased export of Territory produce.</p> <p>Establishment of a Live Animal Export Development Unit.</p> <p>New export markets developed in the Philippines and Vietnam and other potential markets identified.</p> <p>Growth of the live cattle export trade.</p> <p>Territory primary producers benefit from a carbon economy.</p> <p>Mitigation of risks for Territory pastoralists and creation of alternative markets for Territory livestock.</p>



OBJECTIVE 2: Optimal sustainable use of the Territory's natural resources

Secure community trust and increased awareness of primary production

Strategies	Key Actions	Outcomes
2.1 Develop and promote more efficient and environmentally sound production systems	2.1.1 Improve production and environmental management through innovation.	Cutting-edge primary industries engaging in best practice environmental management and animal welfare.
	2.1.2 Encourage and support industry best practice in animal welfare.	
	2.1.3 Continue work to optimise sustainable and productive use of NT rangelands.	Improved production through better utilisation of NT rangelands.
	2.1.4 Effectively communicate information on the sustainability and efficiency of the Territory's primary production systems to the community.	A positive public perception of primary industries.
2.2 Manage the Territory's aquatic resources to benefit all Territorians	2.2.1 Develop transparent resource allocation principles.	Security of access to the Territory's aquatic resources for industry and the community.
	2.2.2 Invest in the development of co-management frameworks.	Whole-of-community involvement in aquatic resource management.
	2.2.3 Negotiate for security and certainty of access to aquatic resources.	<p>A positive public perception of the seafood industry.</p> <p>Development opportunities for all user groups.</p>

OBJECTIVE 3: Biosecurity

Our biosecurity system is integrated and risk-based with strong community involvement that minimises the establishment of exotic pests and diseases

Strategies	Key Actions	Outcomes
3.1 Develop and implement an NT Biosecurity Strategy	3.1.1 Finalise and publish the <i>NT Biosecurity Strategy</i> .	An overarching strategy to guide the Territory's investment in biosecurity. Shared responsibility for biosecurity in the Territory.
3.2 Increase community involvement in biosecurity	3.2.1 Develop a plan of community biosecurity awareness targets, identifying specific exotic (and endemic) problems. 3.2.2 Develop a NT biosecurity community awareness program aimed at increasing community pest and disease surveillance and compliance. 3.2.3 Encourage Aboriginal communities to be involved in biosecurity surveillance and response preparedness.	The Territory community is actively engaged in biosecurity surveillance enabling early, cost-effective responses and increased compliance.
3.3 Protect the reputation of the Territory as a producer of quality primary produce	3.3.1 Maintain and improve controls for major pests and diseases to support industry development and protect the Territory's environment. 3.3.2 Effectively monitor and regulate the use of agricultural and veterinary chemicals.	Minimal disruption to production of Territory primary produce caused by major pests and disease. Territory products recognised as premium quality, pest, disease and chemical-free.
3.4 Respond to biosecurity incursions	3.4.1 Maintain an effective capability to respond to biosecurity emergencies. 3.4.2 Develop enhanced surveillance for exotic pests and diseases to ensure early detection of incursions.	Costs and social consequences of emergency responses are minimised by early detection and rapid response. Increased likelihood of eradication.

OBJECTIVE 4: Indigenous participation

Aboriginal people increasingly participating in primary production

Strategy	Key Actions	Outcomes
4.1 Support Aboriginal employment	4.1.1 Provide a mentoring service specifically targeted at assisting Aboriginal people to develop sustainable industries on their land and seas.	<p>Skilled and appropriately trained Aboriginal people employed in primary production industries across the Territory.</p> <p>Aboriginal knowledge is utilised to benefit all primary production industries.</p>
	4.1.2 Partner with Registered Training Organisations to deliver culturally appropriate training.	
	4.1.3 Undertake research to identify issues that constrain employment of Aboriginal people and develop strategies to overcome these constraints.	
	4.1.4 Utilise the skills and knowledge of Aboriginal Territorians in primary production research projects.	
4.2 Encourage business development	4.2.1 Encourage and support the establishment of Aboriginal-owned businesses.	<p>Profitable and culturally appropriate businesses are established and developed sustainably with sound governance.</p> <p>Successful implementation of the third tranche of the Indigenous Pastoral Program.</p>
	4.2.2 Facilitate partnerships between Aboriginal Territorians, communities, all levels of government and industry.	
	4.2.3 Encourage primary production industries to be involved in training and business opportunities in remote communities.	





Prepared by the Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries
GPO Box 3000 Darwin NT 0801
www.nt.gov.au/d