

## Minister Geoff Brock

Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Local Government

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### North West Indigenous Pastoral Project creating jobs

Indigenous lands in the state's Far North are returning to commercial production and creating employment through the State Government's \$10 million Jobs Accelerator Fund.

Regional Development Minister Geoff Brock said the \$1.4 million North West Indigenous Pastoral Project aimed to partner the State Government with local industry to create employment opportunities for indigenous workers.

"Seven people have already been employed and ongoing recruitment of another 16 is underway," Mr Brock said.

"The initiative is providing funding and skill sharing to help indigenous land owners bring land back into production and return properties to commercial grazing enterprises.

"Indigenous land owners currently hold up to three million hectares of pastoral land in the region, so there's a real chance to create job opportunities by returning some of those properties to primary production to develop viable and sustainable grazing operations.

"Currently the initiative takes in two projects aiming to boost capacity to manage cattle enterprises on the APY lands, and to get three Kokatha properties - Andamooka, Purple Downs and Roxby Downs Stations – back into livestock production," Mr Brock said.

Kokatha Chairperson Andrew Starkey said plans were also in place to invest in additional indigenous pastoral enterprise employment options in the future, including initiatives like Working on Country, Bush Blitz and Green Army and cultural tourism.

These initiatives are intended to value-add to the pastoral side of our business," Mr Starkey said.

"The role of Bush Blitz would involve mapping and recording flora and fauna that could become the blueprint for eradicating feral animals, weeds and non-native vegetation from the area.

"Green Army projects have the potential to engage Aboriginal participants in a real work situation addressing ecological management of the properties and improving the carbon footprint through propagating and planting native trees and vegetation.

"Working on Country would provide another level of caring for the environment while restoring and retaining culturally sensitive areas contained within the three pastoral leases that form part of the Kokatha Native Title Determination," Mr Starkey said.

Mr Brock said each project had the potential to bring more jobs and commercial enterprises back to indigenous communities

“This has flow-on benefits, not just for the North West Pastoral region, but for the State overall.”

Primary Industries and Regions SA is overseeing the project, working closely with the Indigenous Land Corporation which is contracted to manage the funding for Indigenous employment on behalf of the Kokatha Pastoral Development Project and the APY Pastoral Enterprise.