

Hon Geoff Brock MP

Minister for Regional Development

Wednesday, 22 November, 2017

North West Indigenous Pastoral Project celebrates ongoing success

An Indigenous pastoral project in the state's Far North has helped train and employ 67 indigenous pastoral workers and aided the return of more than 272,000 hectares back to commercial primary production.

The achievements and importance of the North West Indigenous Pastoral Project (NWIPP) will be acknowledged at the Indigenous Cattlemen's Workshop in Port Augusta today, with Minister for Regional Development Geoff Brock attending.

It's the first time South Australia has hosted the annual workshop, which is running 21-23 November.

Indigenous cattle producers from across Australia will attend to get the latest information on work, health and safety practices, mental health awareness, soil and livestock health, and gain insight into maintaining profits through the implementation of professional management models.

The NWIPP is helping deliver primary industries training, employment and long-term business outcomes for six important indigenous-owned properties: Andamooka, Purple Downs and Roxby Downs Stations (Kokatha Pastoral Pty Ltd); Emeroo Station (Bungala Aboriginal Corporation); Mabel Creek Station (AMY Nominees Pty Ltd) and parts of the APY Lands (Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara).

The NWIPP is run in partnership with the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC) who administers the program, and has provided over \$700,000 in complementary grant funding for property management planning and for plant, equipment and infrastructure development to enable land to be brought back into production.

The ILC also organises the annual Cattlemen's Workshop.

Background

The State Government has committed almost \$2.9 million to the NWIPP since its inception in 2015.

Additional support and collaboration throughout the NWIPP has been provided through the Work for the Dole Program, Natural Resources Alinytjara Wilurara, TAFE, BHP Billiton and Australian Indigenous Agribusiness Company Pty Ltd.

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Quotes attributable to Regional Development Minister Geoff Brock

The NWIPP is clearly delivering on its original intention to support Indigenous pastoral landholders to build profitable pastoral enterprises, and increase Indigenous participation in primary industries and the broader economy generally.

We celebrated National Ag Day on November 21 and this week's Cattlemen's Workshop has provided a timely opportunity to acknowledge the important role our Indigenous pastoralists have had and will have in our primary industries.

Since its inception, this program has seen the employment of 67 new pastoral workers, new agistment opportunities realised, and improved land management planning completed.

And projects like the Cattlemen's Workshop and the ongoing NWIPP will continue to ensure improved commercial outcomes for these properties, along with ongoing job and training opportunities.

Quotes attributable to ILC chair Eddie Fry

Indigenous Australians hold extensive areas of pastoral lands and have long exposure to the pastoral industry. This invaluable experience along with knowledge and skills of traditional land management practices mean that Indigenous Australians have a unique contribution to make to the pastoral industry.

Our role at the Indigenous Land Corporation is to create opportunities to unlock this potential by generating new enterprises and developing sustainable and meaningful career pathways for local Indigenous people involved with NWIPP.

One way we are doing this is by holding the Indigenous Cattlemen's Workshop, to support Indigenous Australians' aspirations to be more involved in the pastoral industry at a deeper level. This workshop brings together Indigenous cattlemen and cattlemen from northern and southern parts of Australia to share their experiences and learnings.

We are proud of our involvement in the NWIPP which has brought more than 272,000 hectares of inactive Indigenous-held land into productivity and has seen 21 of the Indigenous pastoral workers employed during program move on to independent employment in the pastoral, mining or construction sectors.