



NORTHERN TERRITORY CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION INC.

Advancing and protecting the interests of cattle producers in the Northern Territory

Member - National Farmers' Federation

Secretary

Legislative Scrutiny Committee

Via email: LSC@nt.gov.au

Regarding the Northern Territory Heritage Amendment Bill 2026

Dear Committee Members,

The Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association (NTCA) appreciates the opportunity to contribute to the Legislative Scrutiny Committee's inquiry into the Heritage Amendment Bill 2026.

As the peak industry body representing over 90% of the Northern Territory's pastoral industry, the NTCA represents a broad and diverse membership, including small family-owned operations, Indigenous enterprises, and large corporate pastoral businesses. The pastoral industry is a cornerstone of the Northern Territory economy, contributing significantly to regional development, employment, and economic activity, particularly in remote communities.

The Northern Territory pastoral industry operates under approximately 90 separate legislative instruments, with multiple laws often applying to the same activity concurrently. In practice, this creates a complex regulatory environment where Commonwealth environmental, biosecurity, transport, and foreign investment frameworks intersect with Territory-based land tenure, planning, and operational controls.

While the intent of these frameworks is often aligned, the cumulative effect is a system characterised by overlapping approvals, inconsistent thresholds and duplicated reporting requirements. At least four to five separate laws can apply to a single land use decision, particularly where pastoral lease conditions, planning and environment frameworks and native title processes intersect.

Stacked regulation and parallel approval systems are creating a material barrier to productivity, investment and regional development. These challenges are particularly acute in remote and regional areas where regulatory complexity can significantly impact operational efficiency.

The NTCA is broadly supportive of the Amendment Bill and commends the intent to improve regulatory certainty and decision-making efficiency.

The NTCA supports reforms that improve efficiency, clarity and certainty within the heritage framework. Broadly, the amendments represent positive steps toward a more practical and balanced system.

However, we maintain that it is critical that these reforms, and future reforms, are considered within the broader regulatory environment, where cumulative compliance burden remains a significant issue



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for the pastoral industry. The NTCA is supportive of these reforms so far as they are applied and operated to the intent.

The NTCA looks forward to continued engagement with government to ensure that heritage protection frameworks are both effective and workable in practice.

Kind regards



Romy Carey

Chief Executive Officer
Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association