

## Record Territory live cattle exports



Yarded Gulf region cattle await export.

**NEW** figures for the pastoral industry show a record 47,000 cattle were exported from Port Darwin in June.

Two large shipments to Indonesia for feedlots preparing cattle for the Muslim Festival of Ramadan have contributed to the export boom.

One shipment carried over 18,000 cattle, the largest number ever to be sent as a single load out of the Port of Darwin.

"This required a great level of skill and organisation from all sectors of the export industry including export depots, trucking companies, government, veterinarians, stock feed companies and stevedores," said Primary Industry Minister, Chris Natt.

"The total number of cattle exported from Darwin this year stands at 123,853, an increase of 18,822 compared to the same time last year.

"This is great news because the pastoral industry is a major contributor to the Territory's economy, injecting \$300 million into it each year."

### Bulk cargo increase for Freightlink

**CHIEF MINISTER** Clare Martin has announced the contract between Oxiana's Prominent Hill Mine, Freightlink and Giacci Bros at Darwin's East Arm Wharf.

The 15 year contract, to start in July next year, will see 250,000 tonnes of copper concentrate travel from South Australia's Prominent Hill Mine to Darwin each year.

The ore will be trucked to the rail siding at Wirrida by Giacci Bros and Freightlink will then transport it to the Northern Territory on the Adelaide to Darwin rail link.

FreightLink's John Fullerton said it builds on other mineral haulage contracts with the manganese project at Bootu Creek and the Francis Creek iron ore project.

"Together, these contracts will nearly double FreightLink's annual revenue and will lift its volume of freight moved by around 2.5 million tonnes per annum," Mr Fullerton said.

### NT welcomes Abrams tanks

**THE NORTHERN TERRITORY** has welcomed a new era in defence in the Top End with the official start of operational service for the Abrams tanks.

Chief Minister Clare Martin and Defence Support Minister Kon Vatskalis attended the launch ceremony at Roberston Barracks.

Defence recently announced a \$72 million boost for Robertson Barracks, which will include infrastructure developments and support for the Abrams tanks.

"We want to get our fair share of those support contracts and we've been pushing hard to get most of that work done in the NT," said Ms Martin.

Minister Vatskalis met with the Federal Minister for Defence to argue the Territory's case and it's clear the Territory has the ability to meet the needs of Defence.

"I welcome the significant investment and call on the Department of Defence to offer tenders in separate parcels," Mr Vatskalis said.

### Matilda makes first export to China

**TIWI ISLAND** mineral sands miner Matilda Minerals has shipped its first load of ore to China.

The 7800 tonnes of ore, worth more than \$4 million, departed from the deep water port of Melville Island late last month aboard the *MV African Orchid*.

The next shipment of 5000 tonnes is scheduled to leave at the end of this month, with five shipments in total scheduled for this dry season.

The company has an offtake agreement with Chinese company Astron to take the entire eight projected years of Tiwi production.

### Chief Minister's Export and Industry Awards to be launched in Alice Springs

**THE REGIONAL** launch of the 2007 Chief Minister's Export and Industry Awards will be held in Alice Springs on Monday 16 July at the Mbantua Gallery.

Territory winners of the export awards will advance to the National Export Awards.

Businesses wishing to attend the launch should contact Kylie at the Chamber of Commerce on 8982 8140.