

## **Keep Plains developer announced**

The Northern Territory's single largest land release for agricultural development has today achieved a major milestone with the announcement of AAM Investment Group Pty Ltd as the selected preferred developer.

Keep Plains Agricultural Development is a 67,500ha area of fertile land located in the Northern Territory close to the West Australian border, adjacent to the iconic Ord River agricultural development and its existing infrastructure and irrigation channels.

AAM Investment Group's vision is to contribute to the development of a thriving agricultural powerhouse along the Keep River Road, while supporting existing and new food supply chain opportunities that have a beneficial social and economic impact on local and regional communities. Their proposal does this by beginning with dry land farming on Keep Plains, while at the same pursuing options for cultivating irrigated crops such as plantations of mangoes, bananas and nut trees, including maize and a broad range of other fruit and vegetables.

Wholly Australian-owned AAM Investment Group operates a diverse range of agricultural enterprises across the supply chain: from cattle operations at the nearby Legune Station in the NT; broadacre mixed farming and livestock operations near Forbes, NSW; cattle and sheep operations near Blackall, QLD; and large-scale poultry operations in South Australia

AAM Investment Group and the Northern Territory Land Corporation will now enter into negotiations to finalise a Project Development Agreement.

Northern Territory Land Corporation General Manager, Michael Holmes, says the calibre of the short-listed proponents received through the publicly competitive process was impressive and the selection of the preferred proponent followed a rigorous assessment of detailed proposals, and capabilities and experience.

"NT Land Corporation has worked closely with Government agencies and NT Farmers Association to ensure the land for this development was ready for its release to the market, which will assist to ensure economic returns for northern Australia long into the future," said Mr Holmes.

NT Farmers Association CEO, Paul Burke, says that Agriculture is Australia's fastest growing sector, and this major agricultural development will bring significant long-term economic as well as regional development and investment outcomes. The flow on will create new jobs and training opportunities and grow northern Australia's capacity to lead with new innovation, technology and infrastructure, and environmental stewardship.

"The Northern Territory has diverse and well-established agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors, and significant opportunity for development and growth as Australia's closest capital city to Asia's key trading markets, with efficient supply chains by road, rail, air and sea" said Mr Burke.

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