

## **Larrimah Farms developer announced**

The development of the Larrimah Agricultural Precinct has reached another milestone with the announcement of Larrimah Farms Pty Ltd as the preferred developer.

Australian-owned Larrimah Farms Pty Ltd is a consortium with extensive hands-on experience in primary production and agribusinesses, and strong industry relationship in the Northern Territory as well as South Australia and New South Wales.

Larrimah Farms' Jamie Schembri says we look forward to bringing innovation and diversification of crops to the region and to develop local capacity and capability. We expect this development, in full production, to bring up to 60 new jobs to Larrimah, contributing positively to the region's growth and prosperity.

"We will be producing a range of broadacre crops and a selection of tropical grass seeds which are best suited to the location. Initially we will be focussing on growing melons and progressively trialling new crops such as ginger, turmeric, cumin, black sesame, fennel, caraway and hemp, and expanding into new varieties of crops which have been trialled previously such as chickpeas, corn and sorghum," said Mr Schembri.

The Larrimah Agricultural Precinct is a 5712ha area of land surrounding the township of Larrimah, along the Stuart Highway. With over 1400ha suitable for a range of intensive agriculture, the Precinct offers the advantage of an extended season for crops such as melons and presents opportunities for a range of irrigated crops such as peanuts and legumes, along with the potential for pastoral activities.

NT Land Corporation General Manager, Michael Holmes, says the selection of this proponent follows a rigorous assessment process and gives confidence that a successful and innovative agricultural venture will come to life in Larrimah. It also indicates that now is the right time to realise the long-held aspiration of developing this agricultural precinct and the potential of the region.

"NT Land Corporation has worked closely with Government agencies and NT Farmers Association to ensure the land for this development was suitable and ready for release to an experienced proponent, 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 this is an exciting development for the region, which will contribute to Australia's agricultural roadmap of becoming a \$100 billion industry by 2030. The flow on will create new jobs and training opportunities and grow northern Australia's capacity to lead with new technology, infrastructure, and environmental stewardship.

"The Northern Territory has a diverse and well-established agriculture sector with efficient supply chains and offers significant opportunity for development and growth," said Mr Burke.

### Quotes from Minister Lawler (Infrastructure, Planning & Logistics, and Territory Development):

"The Larrimah Agricultural Precinct will bring an economic boost to the region, with increased jobs and opportunities for locals as well as attracting skilled professionals from other parts of the country.

“The precinct lies near the proposed infrastructure corridor between Tennant Creek and Darwin, which is being planned to support regional development and access to services across a range of industries including agribusiness.

“Continued attraction of private investment is a key factor to achieving our goal to deliver a \$40 billion economy by 2030.”

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