

Appendix

Information Package



AACO FOOD PROCESSING FACILITY

Australian Agricultural Company Limited (AAco) is proposing a new, state-of-the art food processing facility at Livingstone Valley in the Northern Territory.

The facility would process more than 1000 head of cattle a day at full capacity, producing export beef products, hides and rendered products for the export markets in the USA, Asia and Europe.

Stock would be sourced from the northern areas of Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory, supporting northern Australia's cattle industry where there are currently no processing facilities.

This new facility would allow cattle to be processed locally, reducing transport and freight costs, as well as carcass weight loss for northern producers who currently need to truck live cattle large distances to southern processing plants.

This would be a best-practice operation, using resources in an efficient, effective and ethical manner.

The Environment

As a state-of-the art food processing facility, it will use the latest technology and modern innovation to minimise environmental impact. Project planning is already taking into consideration environmental aspects of carbon, water, electricity, gas and waste within the site. All processing matter will be treated and contained within the site boundaries.

Location of the plant means there will be a minimum one kilometre buffer between the site and any neighbouring houses. All water used on the site will be from town supplies and will not be sourced from the local water table.

The Community

The facility would bring significant economic and social benefits to the Northern Territory, generating employment and creating opportunities for local companies. It would be the largest employer in the rural area of Darwin, employing 270 people working two shifts five days a week initially with the potential to increase to 300.

Plans for the facility also include a proposed community centre, which may include day care, medical and allied health services as well as training facilities.

For more information:

AAco Information Line on 08 8941 9161.
www.aacont.com.au



Jobs and Training

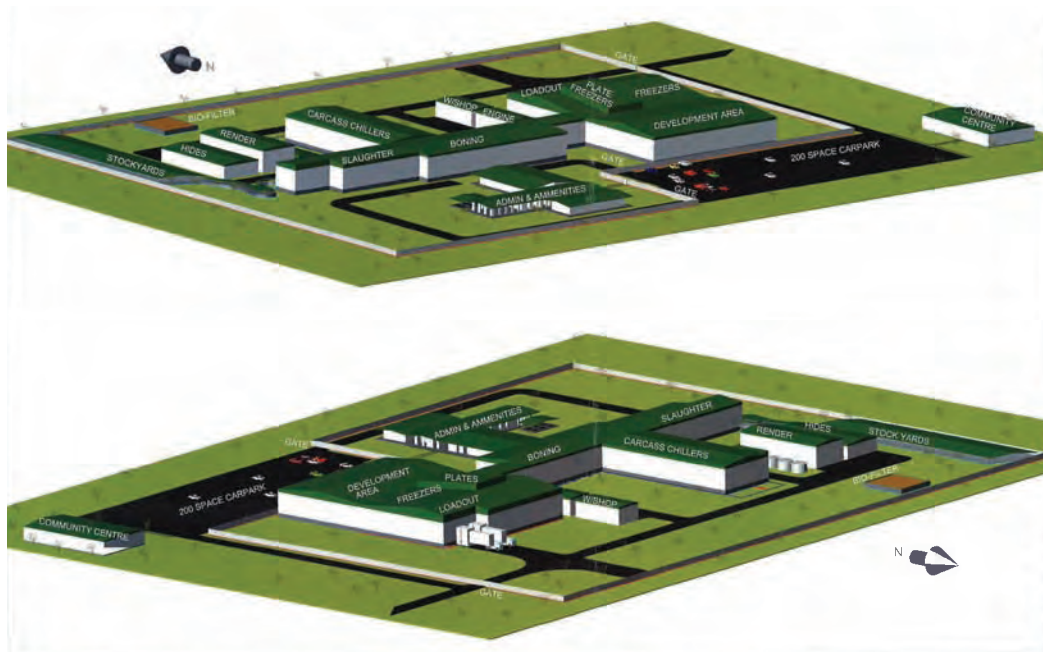
The facility will support 230 assembly jobs during construction, with up to 270 operational jobs being created as processing levels increase. This could expand if further development of the facility is undertaken.

AAco has a firm commitment to training staff with a view to employing local people to work at the facility. AAco's target is to employ at least 10 per cent Indigenous Territorians over time.

Timing

AAco is currently working with the Australian and Northern Territory Governments to establish infrastructure funding, feasibility and permit applications for this project.

Subject to government approvals and government infrastructure funding being granted, the Board will be in a position to consider the appropriate capital structure and to ultimately consider project endorsement. Construction could commence in early 2012 and commissioning by the end of next year.



For more information:

AAco Information Line on 08 8941 9161.
www.aacont.com.au



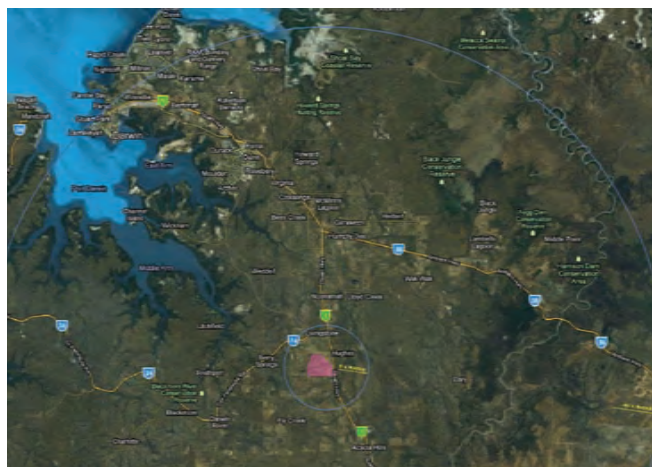
THE SITE

The AAco food processing facility would be situated at 360 Stuart Highway, Livingstone Valley, about 50km south of Darwin.

The site is an existing hay and cattle farm covering 600 hectares of which only four hectares will be used for the food processing facility and another 14 hectares for the waste recycling infrastructure. This will be 2.5 per cent of the total land area of the block.

The remainder of the site would continue to be used predominantly for irrigated feed crops with some livestock grazing. The site is also home to natural wetlands, which will remain undisturbed by the proposed development.

The location is well placed to take advantage of the nearby Port of Darwin. The railway line runs along the property border and the site is immediately adjacent to the Stuart Highway. There will be no need to use local roads or increase traffic in front of neighbouring properties.



For more information:

AAco Information Line on 08 8941 9161.
www.aacont.com.au





FUNDING AND APPROVALS

Australian Agricultural Company (AAco) is currently working through approvals, funding and feasibility processes with a view to starting construction in early 2012.

Funding

The final investment decision is contingent on governments upgrading public infrastructure to facilitate the project and service the broader community. Upgrades will be required to roads, electricity, gas and water access, rail crossings and sidings and facilities at the Port of Darwin.

There is also a need for local health facilities, with two registered nurses or paramedics and an ambulance available to the local community as part of the proposal.

Training rooms and programs are also required to ensure AAco can build a local workforce, while childcare would service the needs of both workers and surrounding parents.

A formal funding application has been made to the Australian Government and discussions are continuing with the Northern Territory Government about how these upgrades can be achieved.

Approvals Process

AAco is working through the approvals process with government and expects to lodge a development application with the Northern Territory Government at the end of September. The process includes environment and carbon management plans.

Subject to government approvals and government infrastructure funding being granted, the Board will be in a position to consider the appropriate capital structure and to ultimately consider project endorsement. Construction could commence in early 2012 and commissioning by the end of next year.

For more information:

AAco Information Line on 08 8941 9161.
www.aacont.com.au





INDUSTRY BENEFITS

The Project would contribute to and sustain regional economic growth primarily by adding an alternative source of income to the pastoral industry. As all meat is intended for export, the added production of value-added meat should strengthen regional economic growth greatly, along with associated industries such as hay and fodder production.

Quantification of benefits in the form of wages, construction work, increased consumption from utilities and the local multiplier effect of 1:4 will contribute to population growth, sustainability of incomes and new jobs at associated installations such as Port of Darwin, and in container handling and storage.

Industry benefits would include:

- Creation of new employment opportunities in construction and development during the construction period, with a preference to use Northern Territory contractors
- Creation of new employment opportunities in the facility and meat processing fields
- Creation of new employment opportunities in the stock transport, stock handling and fodder production fields
- Creation of a new vocational training facility operational in February 2013
- Enabling export of value added products, strengthening the Port of Darwin as a commercial hub and the region as a producer of a variety of beef products other than live cattle
- Opportunities for the development of associated business ventures in the local area
- Potential new housing development.

Industry would also benefit from the upgrading of public infrastructure, including:

- Road transport services
- 134 new refrigerated container points at Port of Darwin
- Telecommunications
- Electricity, water and gas services
- Community services and facilities, such as schools, playgrounds, medical and hospital services.

For more information:

AAco Information Line on 08 8941 9161.
www.aacont.com.au





COMMUNITY BENEFITS

The Australian Agricultural Company food processing facility would become one of the largest employers in the Darwin rural area, with 230 jobs during construction and up to 270 ongoing jobs.

This would provide a significant impetus to local economic development, stimulating demand for housing, community services and associated industries.

One of the key benefits to the local area will be the proposed development of health, childcare and training facilities available to the broader community.

Plans include:

- A sick bay and trauma room staffed by two registered nurses or paramedics
- A locally-based ambulance
- A training facility to Australia Skills Quality Authority standard along with a training program and apprenticeship program.

AAco has a preference to employ local people at the facility, particularly as its training and apprenticeship programs produce skilled workers and professionals.

Community Consultation

AAco is committed to working with the community to ensure there are broad benefits for the local community and other Territorians.

Community consultation is now underway to maximise the opportunities the facility will bring to the local area and explain how Territorians can benefit from the project.

Nearby residents and stakeholders will be contacted during this consultation program.

For more information:

AAco Information Line on 08 8941 9161.
www.aacont.com.au





THE ENVIRONMENT

Modern food processing facilities have well developed systems to minimise energy consumption, recycle water within the limitations of hygienic and safe food production, reclaim waste heat energy, and beneficially re-use effluent water for crop irrigation.

While the facility will have a significant consumption of water, electricity and gas, this will be minimised through efficient consumption practices, recycling and re-use. All discarded matter will be treated and contained within the site boundaries.

Carbon Footprint

A Carbon Management Plan is being developed for the project. The plan will deal comprehensively with the vital areas of water, energy and greenhouse gas. It will deal with direct and indirect emissions. The plan will comprise an entire life-cycle assessment including carbon footprint, energy use and water use.

The facility's carbon footprint will be reduced through a number of means. This includes efficient systems to lower electricity and gas usage as well as the use of solar power generation where viable. Lighting systems will be new ceramic lamp technologies which have enhanced performance with less energy consumption.

Cropping from effluent irrigation provides a carbon "sink".

Water

Water use and waste water collection and treatment systems will be assessed to provide for drinking water, cleaning and cooling, maintenance, general use, evaporation losses and fodder production.

Particular emphasis is on treatment ponds. It includes collection systems, use of green energy in circulation systems and gravity as an energy saving mechanism.

Water will be sourced from the town supply and supplemented with rainwater where possible. No ground water will be used.

Four water reticulation systems will be used to minimise consumption and heating energy.

Waste water will be recycled for re-use in non-food production applications such as yards wash, product flushing, hide transporting, landscaping and irrigation.

For more information:

AAco Information Line on 08 8941 9161.
www.aacont.com.au



Electricity

Hygienic food production for both export and domestic markets requires a boning processing room temperature of 8°C, chilled storage at 2°C and frozen storage at minus 18°C. Refrigeration is the main component of electrical consumption.

Refrigeration compressors will be controlled by variable speed drives for efficient load modulation. A high voltage supply will minimise distribution losses, while capacitive power factor correction will be installed with switchboards to minimise inductive loads on the supply network.

Low level lighting around the site will be provided by solar panels, and ventilation will be computer controlled for efficiency.

Gas

Gas will be used for thermal heating in the render process and waste heat from this will be used to supplement solar water heating for amenities and administration facilities.

Solar Energy

Consideration has been given to the best use of solar energy. The roof area of the plant offers an ideal position for solar panels. Solar power is proposed for all lighting requirements relating to the outside locations.

Solar power is ideal and cost effective for these areas, and efficiently ensures failsafe integrity in these localities, particularly during electricity grid interruptions – common in tropical areas with frequent thunderstorms and extreme weather events. Solar energy will also be used in parts of the effluent system.

Minimising Waste

Modern food processing uses very efficient systems to minimise waste. Manure and paunch content are collected, composted and used locally for agriculture and horticulture. Blood is processed in the rendering facility to a dry state with fat and bone processed to produce tallow and meal.

Salty washdown water from hides processing is recovered and evaporated for commercial re-use.

The waste effluent design uses natural bacteria controlled processes for effluent. The 'green' stream paunch, runner wash and ingestia areas will be handled separately. The blood red stream will also be kept separate. Separation screens, flotation tanks, and effluent ponds result in an effluent stream with nitrogen and phosphorus – ideal for on-site fodder crop irrigation.

An anaerobic, aerobic and holding pond treatment system is used for effluent waste. Effluent irrigation is balanced to crop uptake, and down gradient soil monitoring ensures there is no loss to waterways or groundwater. The irrigation system is designed by an environmental consultant.

Odorous non-condensable gases from the render process are passed through a bio-filter to absorb odour.

Finally, dust is minimised with sealed roads and parking areas as well as irrigation of surrounding pasture.

With a one kilometre buffer in place, operations are unlikely to be heard from neighbouring properties.

Animal Welfare

AAco is committed to the highest standards of ethical animal management. World's best practice approaches are institutionalised in the project's operational policies and procedures. Animal welfare practices will be audited as part of the project's quality management system.

Because the facility will be closer to production sources, transport times are considerably reduced. This brings significant animal welfare benefits.

For more information:

AAco Information Line on 08 8941 9161.
www.aacont.com.au





JOBS AND TRAINING

The Australian Agricultural Company food processing facility would provide significant training and employment opportunities for Territorians, beginning with construction from early 2012.

Construction Phase

Around 230 jobs would be created during construction from early 2012 through to the plant becoming operational later that year. It is expected much of the workforce would be accessed from local contractors, with some specialist skills sought from outside of the Northern Territory if required.

Operational Jobs

The facility would employ approximately 270 people during peak periods of production. As the facility grows, up to 300 jobs may be created.

The work will cross a wide variety of skills and professions including:

- Meat inspectors
- Butchers and boners
- Boning room operators
- Office administration
- Environmental and quality controllers and managers
- Tradesmen
- Transport
- Nurses or paramedics
- Childcare
- Export marketing.

There is a preference to employ local people, this includes a target of 10 per cent for Indigenous employees. Some skilled workers may be recruited from elsewhere if local people cannot meet demand.

AAco plans to structure its operations to maximise year-round employment and provide job security for workers:

- Mid-March to October – two eight-hour shifts processing 1000 cattle per day
- November to mid-January – two eight-hour shifts processing 720 cattle per day
- Mid January to mid-February – maintenance closure
- Mid February to mid-March – two eight-hour shifts processing 760 cattle per day

Training

AAco is committed to training staff. In the longer term it is expected that permanent Darwin region residents will be employed, resulting in a stable and committed workforce.

Part of AAco's funding submission to Government is for the development of a dedicated training centre for food production and associated industries.

For more information:

AAco Information Line on 08 8941 9161.
www.aacont.com.au



Appendix

Community Update 21 October 2012



Livingstone Valley Food Processing Facility

Community Update - 21 October 2011

Australian Agricultural Company Limited's (AAco) development application to build a meat processing facility at Livingstone Valley is on public display and the community and stakeholders have until Friday 4 November to make submissions to the Development Consent Authority.

If you are seeking more information about the proposal, please do not hesitate to contact us for a briefing or to ask questions. Our information line is 8941 9161.

Individual and Stakeholder Briefings

Over the past two weeks we have met with neighbours, stakeholders, Litchfield Shire Council, MPs, Indigenous groups and other people interested in hearing more about the project. In meeting some of our neighbours, we have been able to hear their suggestions on how they would like the facility to operate if approved. For example, some neighbours have asked that trees not be planted adjacent to their properties while others had suggestions about operational hours for trucks delivering cattle. These valuable suggestions will be taken on board in our forward planning.

Community Stall at Coolalinga Markets

Last weekend AAco's General Manager, Northern Australia Beef, Stewart Cruden, met local community members at the Coolalinga Markets. Many questions were asked on a range of issues including water treatment, how cattle will be managed and potential odour sources. Because of the importance of these questions, we have included additional information in this update.

Water

All waste water will be treated on site before being used for irrigation of fodder production crops. The 600 hectare property is currently used for fodder cropping and cattle grazing.

The process for treatment includes:

- All solids are removed from the waste water streams before treatment. This is a key aspect to successful effluent treatment.
- Waste water is first treated for 14 days in an anaerobic pond. The pond capacity is 15 ML and will be covered to enhance the biological process and stop odours.
- Waste water is then moved to an aerobic treatment pond with a capacity of 20 ML, for a further 20 days treatment.
- Water then moves to a large holding dam (160 ML). At this stage the water is treated to an approved standard for irrigating the land. It does contain traces of nitrogen and phosphate.
- The treated irrigation water is mixed with rain water collected in holding dams (200 ML) in concentrations (water balance) suitable for controlled irrigation for pasture production.
- The Environmental Monitoring Program which includes soils, pasture and effluent water will ensure the control of hydraulic and nutrients balance, for the crops being irrigated.

There will be careful monitoring of ground water throughout the site and beyond to measure quality. This also includes ground water coming into the site.

Cattle Management

Around 50-100 cattle will be allowed to graze on the property as a means of keeping vegetation under control in areas that cannot be cropped for fodder. Currently up to 1000 cattle are free-range grazing on the property. The wetland area on the property will be fenced off so that cattle cannot reach it as this area will be managed as a conservation zone.

Cattle for meat production will be held in holding yards (not feeding yards) immediately adjacent to the facility. The plan is to bring cattle into the yards on the day or day before they are to be processed. The cattle yards are on hard stand to reduce dust and for “dry cleaning” management practices. The manure will be collected and composted, further improving the raw waste water quality that needs to be treated. The holding capacity is up to 2000 cattle but average hold numbers will be around 1000 cattle at a time.

Halal Processing

AAco has confirmed that the plant will be Halal. There are a number of requirements to meet this standard, including the employment of two qualified Halal slaughtermen on each shift. Cattle will be electrically stunned as is best-practice animal welfare management.

Vehicle Movements

All vehicle movements to and from the proposed facility will be via the Stuart Highway. No access is required from other local roads. Truck movements will be limited to “sociable” hours – likely to be from around 6am to 8pm Monday to Saturday and 9am to 5pm on Sundays. We are discussing these times with local neighbours. All roads and driveways within the site will be sealed and speed will be controlled to limit noise.

No Plans for Worker Accommodation

There are no plans to house workers on site during either construction or operations. For the construction, we are planning to contract work to Northern Territory companies. Our preference during the operational stage is to employ local people, as this will give us a more stable and committed workforce. A training program will be necessary to help us achieve this.

Composting

Compost at the site will consist of paunch content and manure. This will be held in a compost pile at least 1km from the closest boundary. Current best practice dictates the compost heap should be 100m from the closest boundary. We will be using best-practice management to minimise odours from the pile.

The pile will be occasionally turned and this is the time when odours may occur. However, we will be undertaking this task when prevailing breezes are able to carry any smells away from nearby properties and at times that will least affect residents and recreational activity.

Jobs

A number of people have asked how they can get jobs at the facility. If the project goes ahead, we will be posting this information on our website.

Stay Up to Date

If you would like to receive regular updates on the facility as we progress through the approvals process, please join our email list by visiting our website at <http://www.aacont.com.au> or phoning our information line on 8941 9161.

Appendix

Site Map

Appendix

Example Invitation to Meeting



EXAMPLE - INVITATION TO MEETING

Name
Address 1
Address 2
Address 3

Dear Name

Australian Agricultural Company (AAco) has previously announced plans to develop a new a new, state-of-the art food processing facility in the Top End.

Today we will be announcing details of our proposal, including the fact that we have taken an option on a parcel of land at Livingstone Valley, 50 km south of Darwin.

Once fully operational the facility will have the capacity to process in excess of 1,000 head of cattle per day in peak periods, producing export beef products, hides and rendered products for the export markets in the USA, Asia and Europe.

The proposal would have considerable benefits for the area, including employment for around 230 people during construction and up to 270 ongoing jobs.

AAco is currently working with the Federal and Northern Territory Governments to establish feasibility and development approvals for this project. Should the project go ahead it is envisaged that construction could commence in early 2012 and the facility will be operational by late 2012.

I have attached to this email a package of information which I am sure will be of interest to your constituents. This information is also available on our dedicated website at www.aacont.com.au

I would be happy to brief you personally on the project or provide additional information.

If you would like to avail yourself of this opportunity, please contact our consultant Tracy Jones on 0407 727 813.

Yours sincerely

Stewart Cruden
General Manager

21 September 2011

Appendix

Website



the project

the community

industry and employment

news

a

Search this site



the facility

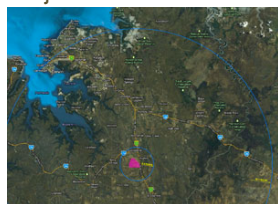
the site

funding and approvals

the environment

animal welfare

Project Location



The AAco food processing facility would be situated at 360 Stuart Highway, Livingstone Valley, about 50km south of Darwin.

AAco Food Processing Facility

Environmental assessment guidelines confirmed for NT food processing facility

13 January 2012

The Northern Territory government has confirmed the final environmental assessment guidelines for the Australian Agricultural Company's (AAco) proposed food processing facility at Livingstone Valley, near Darwin.

Australian Agricultural Company Limited (AAco) is proposing a new, state-of-the art food processing facility at Livingstone Valley in the Northern Territory.

The facility would process more than 1000 head of cattle a day at full capacity, producing export beef products, hides and rendered products for the export markets in the USA, Asia and Europe.

Stock would be sourced from the northern areas of Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory, supporting northern Australia's cattle industry where there are currently no processing facilities.

This new facility would allow cattle to be processed locally, reducing transport and freight costs, as well as carcase weight loss for northern producers who currently need to truck live cattle large distances to southern processing plants.

This would be a best-practice operation, using resources in an efficient, effective and ethical manner.

The Environment

As a state-of-the art food processing facility, it will use the latest technology and modern innovation to minimise environmental impact. Project planning is already taking into consideration environmental aspects of carbon, water, electricity, gas and waste within the site. All processing matter will be treated and contained within the site boundaries.

Location of the plant means there will be a minimum one kilometre buffer between the site and any neighbouring houses. All water used on the site will be from town supplies and will not be sourced from the local water table.

The Community

The facility would bring significant economic and social benefits to the Northern Territory, generating employment and creating opportunities for local companies. It would be the largest employer in the rural area of Darwin, employing 270 people working two shifts five days a week initially with the potential to increase to 300.

Plans for the facility also include a proposed community centre, which may include day care, medical and allied health services as well as training facilities.

Jobs and Training

The facility will support 230 assembly jobs during construction, with up to 270 operational jobs being created as processing levels increase. This could expand if further development of the facility is undertaken.

AAco has a firm commitment to training staff with a view to employing local people to work at the facility. AAco's target is to employ at least 10 per cent Indigenous Territorians over time.

Latest News

Environmental assessment guidelines confirmed for NT food processing facility

13 January 2012

The Northern Territory government has confirmed the final environmental assessment guidelines for the Australian Agricultural Company's (AAco) proposed food processing facility at Livingstone Valley, near Darwin.

Food Processing Facility moves through Environmental Process

9 December 2011

The Australian Agricultural Company (AAco) proposed food processing facility at Livingstone Valley is undergoing an environmental assessment as part of planning approval process.

Community Update

21 October 2011

Download PDF (35kb)

Public Information Stall

14 October 2011

Download PDF

AAco Food Processing Facility proposal moves to next stage

21 September 2011

Australian Agricultural Company Limited today announced it is moving to the next stage of proving the potential to build a state food processing facility at Livingstone Valley 50km south of Darwin.

Timing

AAco is currently working with the Australian and Northern Territory Governments to establish public infrastructure funding, feasibility and permit applications for this project.

Subject to government approvals and public infrastructure funding being granted, the Board should be in a position to consider the appropriate capital structure and to ultimately consider project endorsement by early 2012.

Appendix

Media Release - AAco Food Processing Facility moves to next stage



MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 21 September 2011

AAco Food Processing Facility proposal moves to next stage

Australian Agricultural Company Limited (AAco) today announced it is moving to the next stage of proving the potential to build a state-of-the art food processing facility at Livingstone Valley 50km south of Darwin.

The proposed facility would create around 230 jobs during construction and 270 ongoing jobs, with a capacity to process up to 1,000 cattle per day for export to markets in the US, Europe and Asia.

Producing manufactured boxed beef, hides and rendered products, the facility would become one of the largest employers in Darwin's rural area and generate new industries in the Top End.

Community consultation has begun today and approval applications are being prepared for submission to the Northern Territory Government by the end of the month. A final board decision to proceed is contingent on a number of factors including planning approvals, Government support, carbon farming initiatives and project viability.

AAco is seeking Australian and Northern Territory Government support in the form of upgrades to public infrastructure which would both facilitate this project and also be available to broader industry and the community.

Subject to government approvals and government infrastructure funding being granted, the Board will be in a position to consider the appropriate capital structure and to ultimately consider project endorsement. Construction could commence in early 2012 and commissioning by the end of next year.

"A project of this size and scope means upgrades to or new infrastructure such as roads, transport facilities, essential utilities and community services," AAco Northern Territory General Manager, Northern Australian Beef, Stewart Cruden said.

"AAco has calculated a need for 134 new refrigerated container points at the Port of Darwin, new railway sidings, improved rail crossings and upgrades to electricity, water, gas and telecommunications access.

"There is a need for new local community facilities including health, child care and training services.

"We are looking to further discussions on how the public infrastructure can be provided as we work through our due diligence process."

Mr Cruden said the company's intention was to create an alternate market for AAco and all Northern Australian cattle producers.

“The only markets for cattle at present are via live export or transport to southern processing facilities. Both mean long journeys for cattle and result in significant transport costs and carcase weight loss,” Mr Cruden said.

“While this facility will not completely replace these options, it will open up new opportunities and markets for cattle producers.”

As a state-of-the-art facility, the project will employ the latest in processing, compliance, traceability, data capture, animal welfare and environmental technologies, including a commitment to a low carbon footprint and to recycle virtually all waste on site.

Ends

Media Enquiries: *Tracy Jones 0407 727 813*

Appendix

Community Stall announcement



PUBLIC INFORMATION STALL

In relation to the

Proposed Australian Agricultural Company Ltd.

Food Processing Facility

Saturday 15 October

Coolalinga Market

8am until 1pm

Enquiries 08 8941 9161

www.aacont.com.au

Please come along and say hello.

Appendix

Media Release - PER Assessment



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 9 December 2011

Food Processing Facility moves through Environmental Process

The Australian Agricultural Company Limited's (AAco) proposed food processing facility at Livingstone Valley is undergoing an environmental assessment as part of the planning approval process.

Draft Guidelines published by the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport will be advertised for public and government review for two weeks from tomorrow (10 December 2011) to allow the public to comment on the scope of the Public Environmental Report.

AAco General Manager, Northern Australia Beef, Stewart Cruden said AAco welcomed the opportunity to clarify environmental aspects of the project through the process.

"We're looking forward to working together with the Government and the community to take this project forward," Stewart said.

"The PER gives us the opportunity to reassure Territorians about our commitment to the environment and our neighbours."

The proposed food processing facility at Livingstone Valley plans to process up to 1000 cattle a day at peak production with employment for around 270 people.

Construction, planned for next year, will create up to 230 jobs.

The draft guidelines can be viewed on the NT Government website at www.nt.gov.au/envirocomment

Ends

Media Enquiries: *Tracy Jones 0407 727 813*

Appendix

Media Release - Environmental Guidelines Confirmed



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 13 January 2012

Environmental Assessment Guidelines confirmed for Food Processing Facility

The Northern Territory government has confirmed the final environmental assessment guidelines for the Australian Agricultural Company's (AAco) proposed food processing facility at Livingstone Valley, near Darwin.

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport (NRETAS) has published the Final Guidelines for the project's Public Environmental Report (PER), which sets out the parameters and environmental aspects to be addressed. See link: <http://www.nretas.nt.gov.au/environment-protection/assessment/register/meat-processing-facility-abattoir>

AAco expects to complete the PER by early to mid February after which there will be a further period of public and government comment.

Media Enquiries: *Tracy Jones 0407 727 813*

Appendix

Water Quality Testing Information



Livingstone Valley Food Processing Facility

Proposed Water Quality Testing

AAco has engaged EcOz Environmental Services, a Territory environmental consultancy, to undertake water sampling and analysis in the vicinity of the proposed Meat Processing Facility site at Livingstone Valley. In order to obtain a complete picture of ground water quality in the vicinity, EcOz would like to take samples from a number of bores in the area.

What are the samples for?

The first samples taken will be used by AAco in the preparation of its Public Environmental Report on the project, which is part of the environmental approvals process. If the facility is approved, these samples will also provide baseline data for the ongoing monitoring and management of the facility. Samples will then be taken on a regular basis and compared to this baseline data.

Why do you need to sample my bore?

EcOz has recommended sampling at a number of sites on and around the proposed processing site in order to gain a complete picture of the quality of the ground water. The bore on your property is one of those recommended.

What will happen if I agree?

EcOz staff will speak directly with you to arrange a time to take the first sample. EcOz would like you to be present as they need the bore to be turned on to connect their equipment to it. The bore may need to be run for between 10 and 20 minutes so as to properly collect the samples needed, although only a few litres is actually collected.

What if I do not agree?

Your participation in the testing program is completely voluntary. Although EcOz has recommended that your bore be used, it may be possible to use another close by.

What happens to the water?

All samples will be collected and tested according to strict Australian Standards. Samples will be analysed by Australian Laboratory Services NATA accredited laboratory in Brisbane. Full details of the Quality Assurance methodology and other aspects will be explained during sampling.

Can I see the results of the testing?

Yes. All data and results, including a plain English analytical report, will be provided to you around one month after sampling. EcOz staff will also be available to answer any questions you have on the test results.

How will the data be used?

This baseline data and report will provide AACo, NRETAS and the community with a detailed understanding of the quality of your water supply bore now and into the future. This will allow all stakeholders to monitor the results so that you know exactly what is happening with your groundwater.

How often will my water be tested?

EcOz proposes to take samples twice a year – once during the Dry and once during the Wet. It is envisaged to continue testing for five years, during which time all data will be analysed. After five years information has been collated, future testing requirements will be determined

If I agree to the testing now, can I change my mind later?

It is your right to grant or deny access to your property at any time.

Who can I contact if I have more questions?

For technical information, telephone Ray Hall, Principal Environmental Scientist at EcOz on telephone 8981 1100.

For general information contact Tracy Jones on 8941 9161.