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Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport  
GPO Box 6100  
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Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary

**Examination of the Foreign Investment Review Board National Interest Test**

An invitation was extended to the Northern Territory Government to address the Senate Committee public hearing in Kununurra on 11 April 2013.

It was not possible for a Northern Territory Government representative to be present at the public hearing; however this submission outlines the policy position of the Northern Territory Government in relation to foreign ownership of agricultural land in the Territory.

The Northern Territory Government has committed to facilitating extension of the Ord Irrigation Scheme channels from Western Australia into the Northern Territory in the Keep River and Knox Plain areas. This project has received Major Project status and is the first agricultural development to achieve this status in the Northern Territory's history. It is anticipated that this development opportunity may attract interest from foreign investors.

The Northern Territory Government welcomes foreign investment in agricultural land. Furthermore, the Northern Territory Government is satisfied that the current Foreign Investment Review Board tests are sufficient to ensure protection of the national interest.

Yours sincerely

**ALISTER TRIER**  
Chief Executive

30 April 2013