



Karl Hampton

MINISTER FOR SPORT AND RECREATION

30 July 2009

North Queensland Cowboys To Play In Darwin And Alice

Sports Minister Karl Hampton today announced popular NRL team the North Queensland Cowboys will play pre-season games at Darwin and Alice Springs as part of an \$890,000 deal.

Mr Hampton said a key feature of the three-year deal would be community engagement by Cowboys players several times a year for each of the next three years.

“Rugby League is one of the Territory’s most loved sports and that’s why this Government has worked hard to get more NRL teams playing in Darwin and Alice Springs,” Mr Hampton said.

“The \$890,000 deal will see the North Queensland Cowboys play two games in Darwin and one game in Alice Springs during the next three NRL pre-seasons.

“I look forward to seeing the Cowboys in action and hopefully Alice Springs recruit Quinton Pomare-Anderson will put on a show for Territory fans.

“The Cowboys will also conduct week long camps in Darwin and Alice Springs to culminate with their trial games as part of their community engagement program, which includes two additional visits by two Cowboys players throughout the year.

“The Cowboys have developed a strong reputation for community engagement, particularly with children, and the Territory Government will be working towards linking some of our initiatives to their *Adopt-a-School* program to improve school attendance.

“The *Adopt-a-School* program gives schools in a community to utilise its ‘adopted’ Cowboy as a role model for its students.

“Since the program’s inception in 2002, the Cowboys have collectively made more than 650 visits each year to schools in the local community and have been involved in curriculum activities, sporting clinics, presentation nights, and other school community activities.

“It is also envisaged that the Cowboys will invite three players from the Northern Territory Institute of Sport rugby league program, aged 15 or 16 years old, to attend the Cowboys annual Elite Camp held in December each year, providing further opportunities for our young, elite Territory athletes.

“And for players aged 17-20 years old, the Cowboys will facilitate with the NTIS and Northern Territory Rugby League to invite a player or players to train with the Cowboys NYC squad for one-week during the pre-season.”

Contact: *Edwin Edlund 0401 119 563*

