Holco keen to beef up its meat handling

MEAT company Holco will spend $5 million upgrading its Darwin cold storage and distribution centre to better serve Northern Territory consumers.

The expansion will help Holco become the Territory’s largest dedicated meat supplier, providing fresh beef, chicken, lamb, pork, seafood, kangaroo and crocodile to consumers throughout the NT.

Holco managing director Mike Rankin said the development would increase Holco’s cold storage capacity by 400 per cent to 500 tonnes of meat, providing customers better access to products and diversifying its range.

He said the expanded Darwin processing facility would also serve as a platform for future growth opportunities when completed in December.

“By broadening our footprint, we’re also positioning ourselves to target export markets,” he said. “There’s a burgeoning middle-class market overseas, particularly in South-East Asia, that’s driving demand for high-quality, affordable meat products.

“While our first priority is the NT market, we plan to build stronger relationships with key trading partners in the coming years.”

Reward offered as hunt for fugitive ramps up

POLICE have renewed calls for fugitive Ronald Kelly to hand himself in on the back of revelations he has been taunting police through Palmerston and the northern suburbs.

Kelly has been on the run since eluding police in a six-hour siege in Gray last month.

Police believe he may be armed after he allegedly stole a cache of weapons and ammunition from a gun safe in a home in Fannie Bay.

Detective Acting Superintendent Lee Morgan said police had “engaged” Kelly on a number of occasions, including car and foot chases.

The latest was overnight on Sunday.

Acting Supt Morgan said all sightings were at night, and police want to put Mr Kelly or police at risk of injury,” Acting Supt Morgan said. “If the situation becomes dangerous, it’s safest for everyone to terminate – whether it be a car chase or foot pursuit.

“He is running and jumping fences at night, and police are at risk of injury.”

He said all sightings had been in Palmerston or the northern suburbs.

Police believe he may have been involved in several property offences, including car thefts, in the past weeks.

Acting Supt Morgan said police were now “ramping up” efforts to find him.

“The search is tying up a lot of resources that could be used to investigate other matters; that’s why we’re now ramping up these efforts to bring the situation to an end quicker.”

Police and Crime Stoppers have offered a $1000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the 22-year-old.

Flyers with images of Kelly are being handed out around the Territory urging anyone who spots him to keep their distance and contact police or Crime Stoppers on 131 444 or 1800 133 000.

McARTHUR RIVER MINE COMMUNITY UPDATE

As McArthur River Mine celebrates 20 years of operations this month, it is timely to reflect on a unique partnership that is changing lives in the Gulf region.

The MRM Community Benefits Trust was established in 2007, and since then has committed $10.4 million to 63 separate projects.

The Trust is a partnership between McArthur River Mine, the Northern Territory Government and the local community. It commits $1.35 million a year to projects that support culture and art, enterprise and job creation, social and community development, education, health and the environment.

The money comes directly from MRM, with all administration and management costs borne by MRM and the NT Government. That means every cent put into the Trust goes to supporting the local community.

Funds committed over the life of the MRM Community Benefits Trust to date

Over the years, projects funded have been many and varied. An early project to receive grant funding was the Wunala Creche. The $1,275 grant built an isolation facility to provide an improved level of health amenity for the facility. A recent grant was approved to build and establish a new creche for Borrooloola. The new creche is able to care for double the number of children in a modern facility. Investing in youth and early education is strongly supported by the Trust Board. This grant is the largest to date being an investment of $1 million dollars.

Over the past 8 years, the Trust has funded everything from cultural activities to jobs programs.

James Cook University has undertaken an extensive dolphin and dugong monitoring program together with the Sea Ranger Unit. This program is helping us to better understand our local aquatic life and how to protect these species. The program has also provided an education program to students in Borrooloola.

Kids in local schools now have books they can take home and read with their parents.

Jobs have been created, culture saved, artists discovered, stories remembered, sports played and songs sung.

One of the features of the Trust is that it doesn’t just hand out money as applications come in. It undertakes extensive community consultation every year to develop a strategic plan to prioritise its activities.

This plan then guides the Board as it goes through its decision-making process, ensuring funds are allocated to the areas of most need.

To help the community access funds, Project Officers have been in place since the Trust was established. It is their role to guide applicants through the funding process, linking them with the agencies and people that will help turn their dream into reality.

As we look to the next 20 years at McArthur River, we can be sure the MRM Community Benefits Trust will continue to be an agent of change for those living in the Gulf region.

Sam Strohsnagy
General Manager

www.mcarthurrivermine.com.au

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Police are calling for public assistance in the search for Ronald Kelly

Picture: NT POLICE

Reward offered as hunt for fugitive ramps up

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