



NORTHERN TERRITORY GOVERNMENT MEDIA RELEASE

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CLARE MARTIN MLA Chief Minister

CHIEF MINISTER WELCOMES NEW CSIRO FACILITY AND SIGNALS TERRITORY TROPICAL KNOWLEDGE STRATEGY

Chief Minister, Clare Martin, and CSIRO chief executive officer, Geoff Garrett, today welcomed the opening of the CSIRO's new Horticultural Laboratories at Berrimah.

"The Laboratories will be the focus of a collaborative effort to research and develop tropical crops. The facility aims to be a world leader in tropical horticultural research," Ms Martin and Dr Garrett said.

The NT Government has contributed \$1 million to the new \$2.5 million Tropical Horticulture laboratory and site redevelopment at the CSIRO's Berrimah facility.

The CSIRO is working in partnership with the Territory's Department of Business, Industry, and Resource Development, the NT University, and the Territory Horticultural Association on this project.

Speaking at the official opening Ms Martin said:

"We would like to see Darwin win international recognition as a centre of Tropical Knowledge excellence, I am sure this new laboratory will contribute to that aim.

"There is an abundance of Tropical Knowledge being created here in the Territory – much of it by the CSIRO, but also by private industry, the University and our Government agencies.

"We need to capitalise on the wealth of tropically-focused research and development for the social, economic and environmental benefit of the Territory.

"This facility will play a major part in developing a Tropical Knowledge Strategy for the Territory."

The CSIRO has had a long and productive relationship with the Territory since the 1940s, and plays a very important part in research and development throughout the Territory.

The organisation has worked in partnership with the Territory in weed and pest control, dryland cropping and grazing research, fire management, tropical and desert research, and in many other areas of biodiversity and scientific training.

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