

From: [ChiefExecutive CMC](#)
To: [Kennedy, Steven](#)
Cc: [ChiefExecutive CMC](#); [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#); [Luccio Cercarelli](#)
Subject: Letter - Northern Territory Administrator appointment
Date: Monday, 22 September 2025 12:25:35 PM
Attachments: [CEO letter to Mr Steven Kennedy \(003\).pdf](#)
Importance: High

Dear Dr Kennedy

Please find attached letter.

Kind regards

[s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

Executive Officer

Office of the Chief Executive

Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Level 14 NT House, 22 Mitchell Street Darwin

GPO Box 4396, Darwin NT 0801

t. [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)

w. cmc.nt.gov.au

The Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet acknowledges the Aboriginal people and cultures of the land and country on which we work and live. We acknowledge the ongoing connection to culture, land, sea and community and pay our respects to Elders past and present and to emerging leaders.

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s 47B(b)

s 47B(b)

s 34(1)(c)

S 34(1)(c)

s 34(1)(a)

PROTECTED CABINET

PROTECTED CABINET

PROTECTED CABINET



The Hon Kristy McBain MP

Minister for Emergency Management
Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories
Member for Eden-Monaro

Ref: MS25-002356

The Hon Anthony Albanese MP
Prime Minister
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister

I am writing to you concerning the appointment of the next Administrator of the Northern Territory.

The term of the current Administrator of the Northern Territory, His Honour, Professor Hugh Heggie AO PSM, will expire on 31 January 2026. The Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, the Hon Lia Finocchiaro MLA, wrote to you on 12 June 2025 nominating Mr David Connolly to fill the position.

s 47C

As requested in the letter from Acting Prime Minister, Hon Richard Marles MP, the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts, has undertaken appropriate due diligence for the proposed appointment.

Mr Connolly has a background in agribusiness and pastoral management. Since 2015, he has served as General Manager of the Tipperary Group of Stations.

Mr Connolly has been assessed by my Department as being appropriately qualified for the role of the Administrator for the Northern Territory. s 47B(a), s 47C

s 47B(a), s 47C

PROTECTED CABINET

I confirm the appointment conforms with applicable legislation and any real or perceived conflict of interest with the proposed nominee has been considered and addressed.

To ensure that the appointment proceeds smoothly, approval is required no later than 25 November 2025. This timeline will allow for all the necessary administrative processes to be completed in advance of the Executive Council meeting before the current Administrator of the Northern Territory appointment terms expiry.

I have attached with this letter the Appointment **s 47C** form, a copy of Mr Connolly's Curriculum Vitae and a signed Private Interests Declaration. **s 47C**
s 47C Mr Connolly's appointment will then be considered by the Federal Executive Council.

Yours sincerely

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Kristy McBain MP

30 Nov 2025

Enc

cc The Hon Catherine King MP, Minister for Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Local Government

PROTECTED CABINET

APPOINTMENT DETAILS PRO-FORMA

Proposing Minister/s	The Hon Kristy McBain MP Minister for Emergency Management Minister for Regional Development, Local Government and Territories. Member for Eden-Monaro
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Organisation	N/A
Proposed Position	Administrator of the Northern Territory
Is this a New Appointment or a Reappointment?	New Appointment

Proposed Appointee	Mr David Robert Connolly						
Nominee's Current Position and / or Relevant Credentials	General Manager, Tipperary Group of Stations						
DOB	s 47F	Gender	M	State of Residence	NT	EEO Category*	N/A

Proposed Term	From 31 January 2026 for 3 years.	Full time (FT)
Remuneration	\$376,640 (total remuneration per year)	Set by Remuneration Tribunal (Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Full-time Public Office Determination 2025)

Has the APSC Merit and Transparency policy for Agency Heads and Statutory Offices been followed?	N/A	Is the Private Interests Declaration attached?	Yes
		Is a current CV attached?	Yes
For all <u>other</u> vacancies, has the Minister addressed appointment options?	N/A	Is the current membership list of the body attached?	N/A

What is the legislative authority?	Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978
Have all legislative requirements been met?	Yes
Who appoints?	Governor-General

Departmental Contact Officer	s 22(1)(a)(ii)	Phone	s 22(1)(a)(ii)
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CURRICULUM VITAE

Name:	Mr David Robert Connolly
Former name (s):	NA
Residential address:	s 47F
Date of birth:	s 47F
Present position:	General Manager, Tipperary Group of Stations
Educational and professional qualifications:	<p>2005 – 2007: Graduate Diploma Agribusiness University of Queensland, Gatton Campus.</p> <p>1984 – 1986: Associate Diploma Stock and Meat Inspection, University of Queensland, Gatton Campus.</p> <p>1981 – 1983: Senior School Certificate - The Southport School.</p>
Relevant experience:	<p>2015 - Current: General Manager, Tipperary Group of stations</p> <p>2011 - 2015: Head of Livestock Investments, Insight Global Farmland Fund (IGFF), Australian General Manager, Thames Pastoral Company.</p> <p>2009 - 2010: Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Farmworks Pty Ltd.</p> <p>2003-2009: Chief Operating Officer, Australian Agricultural Company (AAco).</p> <p>1987-2003: Regional Livestock and Stud Stock Manager, Dalgety / Wesfarmers Landmark</p>
Current board memberships:	2023 – 2025: Director, National Farmers Federation (NFF)
Former board memberships:	<p>2021 - 2024: President, Northern Territory Cattleman's Association (NTCA)</p> <p>2022 - 2024: Director Northern Cotton / WANT Cotton</p> <p>2011 – 2015: Non-Executive Director, Insight Global Farmland Fund (IGFF)</p>
EEO categories: (if available):	

PRIVATE INTERESTS DECLARATION

PROPOSED POSITION & ORGANISATION	The Administrator of the Northern Territory
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Please answer the following questions by circling the reply that applies to your personal circumstances. **If you answer "yes" to any question, please provide details in the provided attachment to this form, signed and dated.** Please note that answering "yes" to any question does not necessarily preclude you from being appointed. Your response will be treated as confidential and will only be used for purposes connected with this proposed appointment.

1. Do you have any disclosable criminal convictions, i.e. convictions as an adult that form part of your criminal history other than those protected by the Spent Convictions Scheme (see Part VIIC of the <i>Crimes Act 1914</i>)?	s 47F
2. Are you, or have you been, the respondent or defendant in any civil or criminal court action (including as a company director or other office holder)?	
3. (a) Have you ever been declared bankrupt, entered into a debt agreement under Part IX of the Bankruptcy Act 1996 (the Bankruptcy Act) or entered into a personal insolvency agreement under Part X of the Bankruptcy Act? (b) If you are in a partnership, have any of your partners ever been declared bankrupt, entered into a debt agreement under Part IX of the Bankruptcy Act or entered into a personal insolvency agreement under Part X of the Bankruptcy Act?	
4. Has any business or commercial enterprise for which you, or if applicable your partner(s), have had responsibility ever gone into receivership or a similar scheme or arrangement?	
5. During the last 10 years have you, or if applicable your partner(s), been the subject of a court order in connection with monies owing to another party?	
6. Have you ever been summonsed or charged concerning non-payment of tax or outstanding tax debts, investigated for tax evasion or defaults, or negotiated with the Australian Taxation Office over outstanding tax debts?	
7. Have you ever been the subject of a complaint to a professional body which has been substantiated, or is currently under investigation? Have you been subject to a formal conduct investigation? (if yes, please provide details).	
8. Have you ever been dismissed from employment because of a discipline or misconduct issue?	
9. Are you the director of a company, sit on a board of any organisation, or hold any other professional roles or other Commonwealth roles (including advisory roles)? <u>If yes, please provide details on the following page(s) on how this conflict of interest would be managed (please include all bodies, including not-for-profit).</u>	Yes / X
10. Do you or your immediate family have any financial interest in any company or business, or are you or your immediate family employed or engaged by any company or business, which might have dealings with, or an interest in the decisions of, the office to which you may be appointed? <u>If yes, include advice in the attachment on how this conflict of interest would be managed.</u>	s 47F
11. Are you a lobbyist registered on the Australian Government's Lobbyists Register or the register of a state or territory? <u>If yes, please provide details in the attachment.</u>	
12. Are you currently employed by the Commonwealth, the Administration of a Territory, or a public statutory corporation or incorporated company owned by the Commonwealth on a full-time/part-time basis? <u>If yes, please provide details.</u>	
13. Is there any other information which could be relevant to your suitability for the appointment, or other information that should be disclosed to the Government prior to appointment (if yes, please provide details).	

ASSURANCE

<p>I advise that to the best of my knowledge my private, business and financial interests, including taxation affairs, would not conflict with my public duties or otherwise cause embarrassment to myself or to the Government during my term of appointment. I also undertake to advise the responsible minister and recuse myself from any relevant matters should a situation arise in the future which might cause a conflict of interest with my responsibilities under, or otherwise impact on, this appointment.</p>		
DAVID ROBERT CONNOLLY	s 47F	7.8.2025
Name	Signature	Date

PRIVATE INTERESTS DECLARATION - ATTACHMENT

<p>PROPOSED POSITION & ORGANISATION</p>	<p>The Administrator of the Northern Territory</p>
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Please provide details for all 'yes' answers to any question on the Private Interests Declaration form. Please detail how any conflict(s), actual or perceived, will be managed if appointed. Please note that responses to Q12 may be relevant to remuneration payable for part-time appointments with reference to section 7(11) of the *Remuneration Act 1973*. The Act provides that a person is not entitled to remuneration for part-time appointments when holding certain full-time employment, engagement or appointment. Your responses will be treated as confidential and will only be used for purposes connected with the proposed appointment.

Please provide conflict mitigation strategy(ies) for all current directorships, board and professional roles, as well as any matters noted under Question 13 on the previous page.

QUESTION	DETAILS <u>WITH</u> CONFLICT MITIGATION STRATEGY
<p>9</p>	<p>I am currently a Director of the National Farmers Federation which will terminate at the NFF AGM on 20th October 2025 as my term will end and I will not be re-standing for election as Director. The Directorship will not renew.</p> <div data-bbox="352 1003 1428 1272" style="background-color: #cccccc; text-align: center; padding: 20px;"> <p>S 47F</p> </div>

ASSURANCE

I declare that to the best of my knowledge, the information provided above is true and correct.

DAVID ROBERT CONNOLLY

S 47F

7.8.2025

.....
Name

Signature

.....
Date

s 47B(a)

s 47B(a)

s 47B(a)

s 47B(a)

s 47B(b)

s 47B(b)