

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### STATION OWNERS FINED OVER WORKPLACE DEATH

The owners of a Northern Territory Cattle Station have today pleaded guilty in the Alice Springs Magistrates Court to a charge under the Workplace Health and Safety Act in relation to the death of a worker.

Appearing before Magistrate Greg Borchers, Peter and Brenda Saint were fined \$55,000 in relation to the death of 24-year-old Canadian national John Evans on 6 September 2008.

Mr Evans suffered fatal injuries when the four wheel drive "bull catcher" he was driving rolled over and pinned him to the ground on Kurundi Station, about 140km south-east of Tennant Creek. He was working as a station hand for the Saint's at the time of his death.

A NT WorkSafe investigation into the incident found that the bull catcher was unregistered and unroadworthy.

The investigation also found inadequate maintenance of the vehicle meant the bull catcher was unsafe to operate.

"All employers have a general statutory duty of care to ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, that workers and others are not exposed to risks to their health or safety arising from the conduct of the employer's business," said Laurene Hull, Executive Director of NT WorkSafe.

"These duties include taking all reasonably practicable measures to ensure that equipment in the workplace, including vehicles, are safe.

"Proper maintenance of the bull catcher may have prevented the specific incident which caused the vehicle to roll over. Unfortunately for John Evans and his family this was not the case," Ms Hull said.

#### Media Contact

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