

Tributes flow for NT cattleman Dougal Brett, killed in helicopter crash during mustering operation

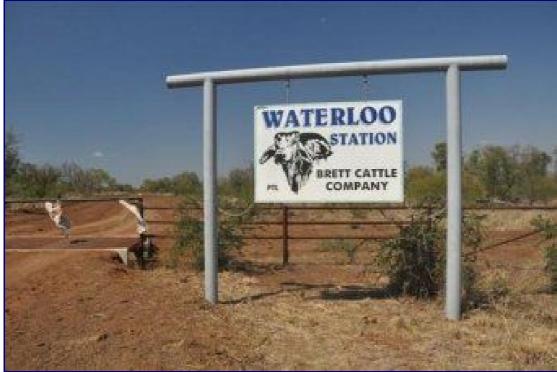


Photo: Mr Brett ran Waterloo Station, 450 kilometres south-west of Katherine. (ABC Rural)

Tributes are flowing for renowned Northern Territory cattleman Dougal Brett after he died in a helicopter crash on his property Waterloo Station, near the WA border.

Mr Brett was picked up by Careflight after emergency services were called at about midday on Sunday, but the 40-year-old died from his injuries en route to the Royal Darwin Hospital.

"Dougal Brett was a character, an industry leader and he's loved by the northern pastoral industry," Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association chief executive Tracey Hayes said.

Mr Brett ran up to 20,000 head of cattle on his property, 120 kilometres south of Kununurra.

He leaves behind his wife Emily and three children, as well as his parents, who also live on Waterloo Station.

"They're a well-known family, a terrific young family," Ms Hayes said.

"Devastating for Emily, his young family, his parents, brother, and all involved at Waterloo.

"Dougal was a much-respected industry leader, a real character, a really hard worker."

Mr Brett joined a class action against the Commonwealth after the Gillard government shut down the live export trade to Indonesia in 2011.

It is understood Mr Brett was the only person in the helicopter when it crashed.

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau and the Civil Aviation Safety Authority are investigating the cause of the crash.