



Pilot Billy Hayes, centre, with beef delegates Jing Liu and Vivian Zhang on Deep Well Station. Picture: Supplied

Tragedy strikes pioneering Territory cattle family

ASHLEY MANICAROS, NT News July 13, 2016 12:30am

TRAGEDY has struck the Territory cattle industry with William ‘Billy’ Hayes, from the cattle pioneering Hayes family, dying in a light aircraft crash near the South Australian border.

Mr Hayes, owner of Deep Well Station, was the pilot and sole occupant of a Cessna 150 aircraft and died at the scene.

Emergency services were notified of the incident about 1pm yesterday.

It was initially reported a gyrocopter was involved but this was incorrect.

He is the former husband of current NT Cattlemen’s Association chief executive officer Tracey Hayes, who was last night heading to Central Australia.

Mr Hayes is survived by his four children.

He was regarded as one of the Territory’s great cattlemen.

Friends were yesterday too shocked to comment.

His father, also named Billy, died in a quad bike accident on Deep Well Station located 120km southeast of Alice Springs in 2011

The fatal crash happened on New Crown Station, about 200km north east of Marla in SA and 50km from the Territory border.

South Australian police have taken charge of the investigation.

SA major crash investigators have been notified.

Northern Territory and South Australian police were on their way to the scene late yesterday, but were being hampered by flooding.

The Hayes family arrived in Alice Springs in the late 1800s carting steel telegraph poles to replace the original wooden ones used to build the overland telegraph.

Mr Hayes’ tragic death comes just a little more than a year after Waterloo Station owner and father-of-three Dougal Brett died after crashing his helicopter in the Timber Creek region.