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Broome Abattoir Set for April Opening

WA'S north needs an abattoir now more than ever. That is the view of Jack Burton, the man behind plans to have the first abattoir in the area in more than 25 years up and running. After four years Mr Burton has now marked April 2016 as the date for opening his new abattoir, which will be situated between Broome and Derby.

"It will be pretty exciting for everyone to have the first abattoir up here in 25 years," Mr Burton said.

"Twelve months ago what we probably hadn't nailed down was exactly the scale, capacity and size of the facility and the actual finished product," he said.

"Every time we looked at the plans we enhanced it, reinvested and expanded.

"But about six to eight months ago we locked in exactly what we wanted to end up with.

"We're happy to be finishing up with the facility (design) we've got and in the event of us wanting to expand or change anything we will do that retrospectively.

"We made the decision to complete it and then if something comes up in the short term, we will look at that post-completion, instead of continuing to kick the tin down the road."

Mr Burton hopes the new facility will be processing 1200 to 1300 cattle a week, first using cattle from his own company and then from other northern pastoralists.

"There is a looming supply crisis in the Eastern States and the true impact of the drought is being felt, with plant closures and reduced working days," he said.

"The lack of cattle for slaughter means the availability of beef is low and the demand is so strong.

"What that has done is cement our belief that this part of the world needs a facility and it needs to be able to process and produce its own boxed beef. Because of the eastern supply issues, the interest here is inconceivable. I am getting calls from people hunting down access to our beef products, due to that supply concern."

The opening of the abattoir will come just in time, as the shortage of supply and high demand continues to grow domestically and globally, said Mr Burton.

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