



STATE CONFERENCE

Todmorden wins Ibis

The Lillecrapp family, which runs Todmorden, a 7167 square kilometre cattle station in the Far North West Pastoral region, has won South Australia's major environmental award for commercial landowners – the Commonwealth Bank Ibis Award.

Announced at the SA Farmers Federation annual conference in Adelaide yesterday, the management of the giant station was lavishly praised by the judges.

The judging team, comprising members of the Commonwealth Bank, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Primary Industries SA and SAFF said they were particularly impressed by the sensitive relationship between cattle management and the highly dynamic and fragile ecosystem on the property.

Judges also noted excellent improvements, including 110 watering points for cattle, so spreading the grazing impact on the natural pastures; periodically spelling land from grazing; culling feral pests including camels, brumbies and donkeys; and the widespread regenera-

tion of perennial bush.

"We noted several aspects of cattle management conducive to preservation of native vegetation and consequently wildlife habitat," the judges said.

Depending on seasonal conditions, the Lillecrapps run from 3000 to 4000 breeding cows and heifers on Todmorden, which is managed by Douglas Lillecrapp.

"The aim is turn off all the steer calves every year, plus cast-for-age cows and cull heifers," Mr Lillecrapp said.

He was presented with a \$4000 cheque at yesterday's announcement by Environment and Natural Resources Minister David Wotton.

As the pastoral regional winner, Mr Lillecrapp received another \$1000 from Commonwealth Bank business banking general manager Neville Cox.

Mr Cox also presented other regional award prizes to the Holman family, Cockaleechie on Eyre Peninsula; the Jaeschke family, Hart, near Clare; Tim and Sue Thorn, Hope Forest; Rob and Jan Smyth, Cooke Plains; and Pat and Des Castine, Penola.



Commonwealth Bank Ibis Awards State judge Mike Gaden from the SA Farmers Federation, left, with the the Pastoral region winner, Douglas Lillecrapp, inspecting the native vegetation on Todmorden Station.