

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CAMEL INDUSTRY IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA CAMELS CAN PAY FOR THEIR OWN MANAGEMENT



NGAANYATJARRA

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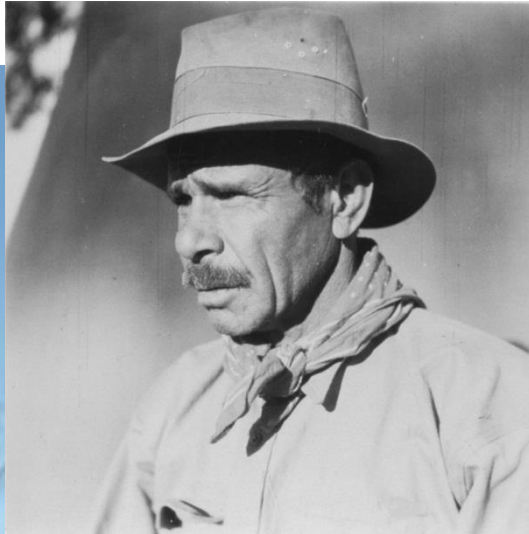
In the late 1800's Dromedary camels and their Afghan cameleers were brought to make transport viable in arid Central Australia.

1800-ngka Camela tjuta munu camelaku walytja tjuta ini Afghan tjutangku ngalya katingu Australiala ngururpa kutjupa kutjupa tjuta katinytjaku



Many cameleers married into Aboriginal families and shared their skills in handling camels.

Camelaku walytja tjutangu altingi anangu maru tjuta munu tjana nintiningi walytja tjuta Camelaku ara.



Camels were the best available transport for the vast deserts

Camela wiru ngarangi anangu tjuta tjanangka katipayi munu kutjupa kutjupa tjuta kulu



Camels were rapidly adopted by remote Aboriginal peoples.

Ka anangu tjutangku nintiringkula walytjangku palyaningi



With the introduction of motor vehicles camels were no longer required for transport and were released in the Australian Desert where the population grew

Motor car tjutaringu ka anangu tjutangku walatjunu camela tjuta puti kutu





camela tjuta tjarpangu Community panya ailurungka kapi wiyangka

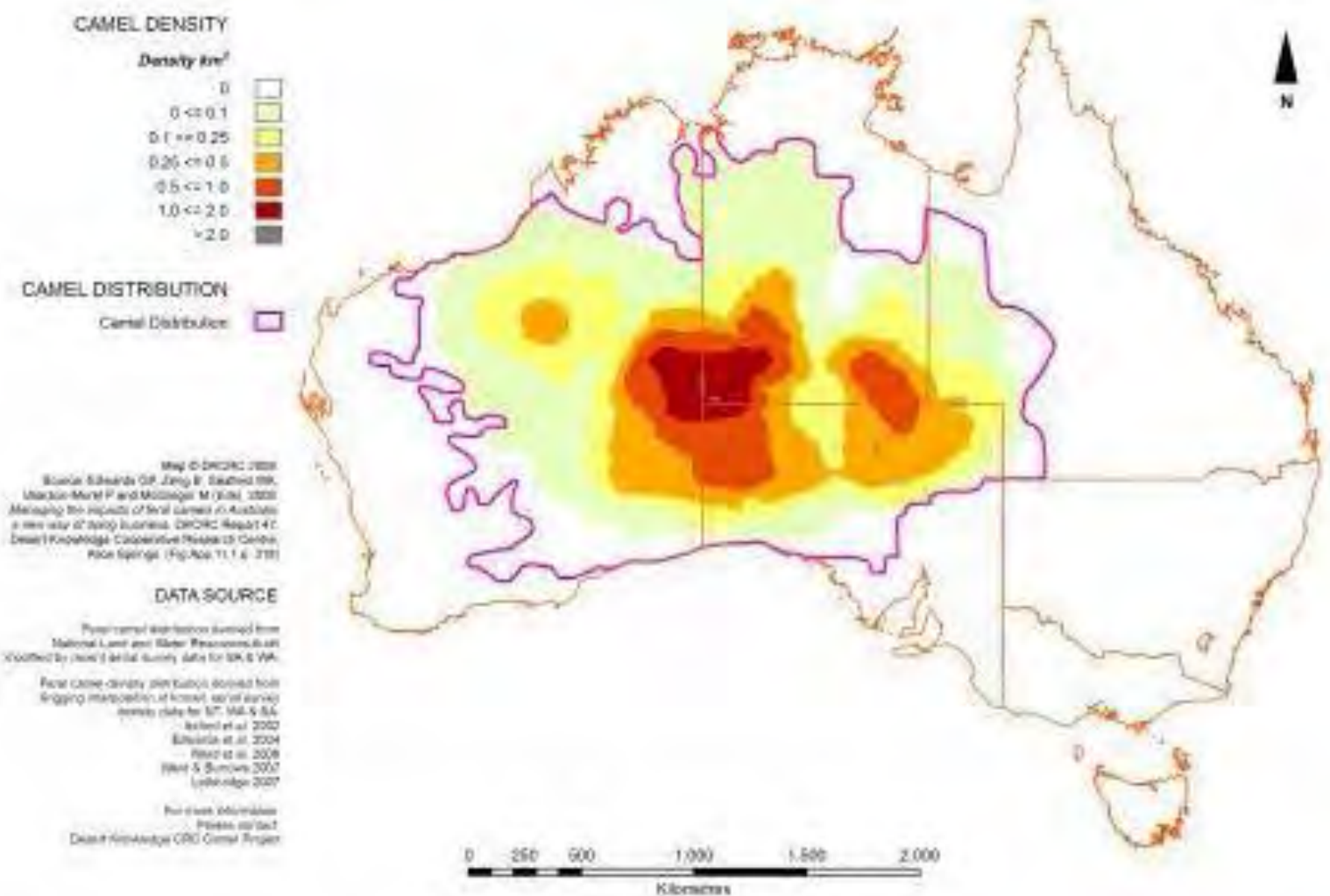
Camels congregated around Aboriginal communities and neighbouring cattle producers water points seeking water particularly during drought. Thirsty camels broke community infrastructure, fences and troughs and prevented graziers cattle from getting to water.

Camels drank natural waters dry reducing water available for native species and occasionally perished in large numbers around dried up waterholes.



In 2008 the Desert Knowledge CRC reported that “the population of Camels in Australia as approximately 1,000,000 with the population doubling every 8-10 years.” Managing the impacts of feral camels in Australia

Report 47 Desert Knowledge CRC. Edwards G.P. et al (2008)



However the **population most likely peaked at around 430,000** and is currently around 300,000 with a current growth rate of 4.6%. Prediction of Camel Population in Australia. Poster Presentation 4th Conference of ISOCARD June 2015 Rafat Al Jassim and Alison Leslie, School of Agricultural and Food Sciences, The University of Queensland

In response the Australian Government provided AUS\$19,000,000 to bring the feral camel populations under control.



In the period 2009-2013 the Australian Government funded camel control, 135,000 camels with culled from the air



while 25,000 were removed for commercial purposes

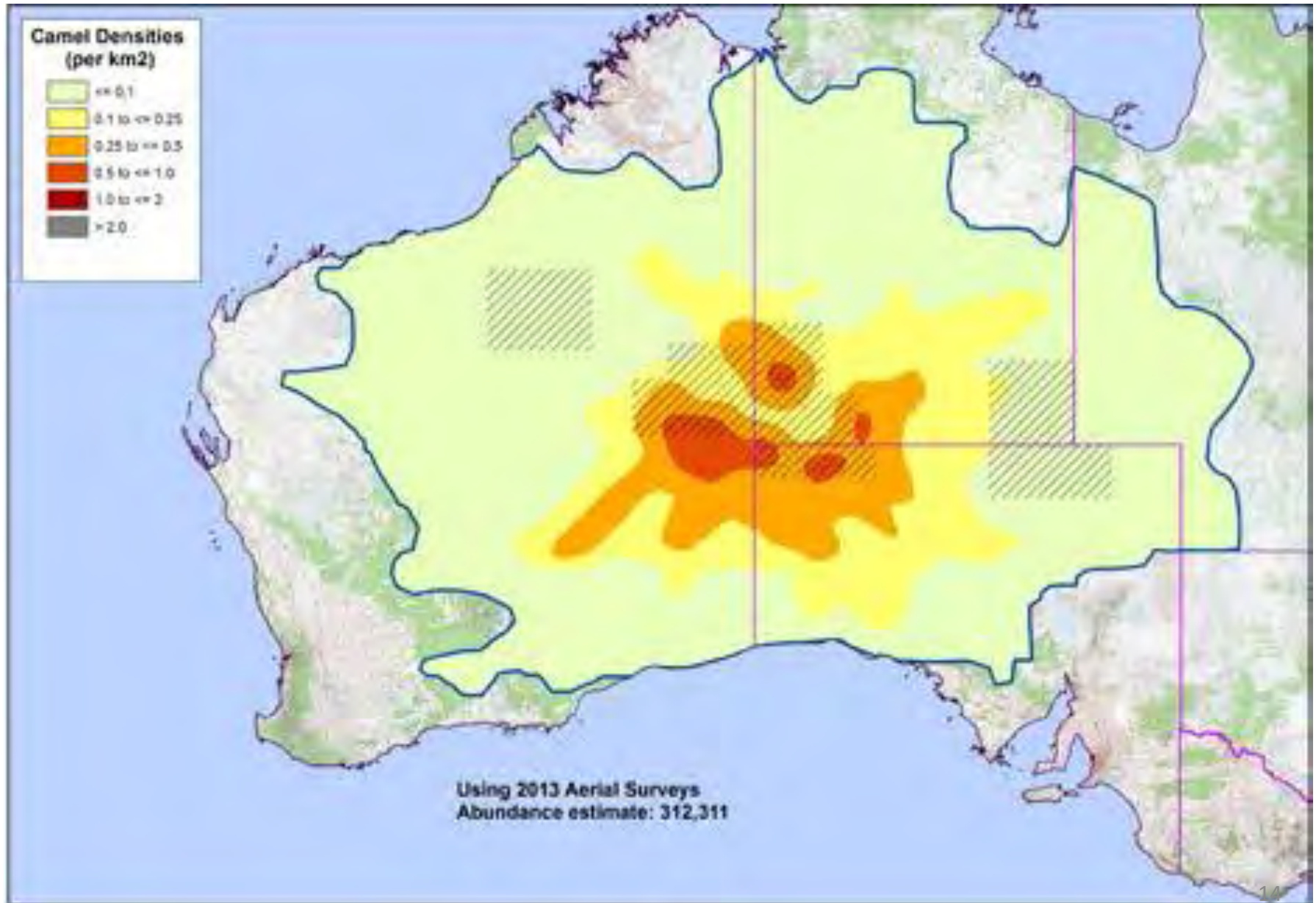




The shoot to waste policy was unpopular with many land managers who recognised that they would still need to manage camels after the government money ran out.

The final report of the Australian Feral Camel Management Project Sharply revised down the actual camel numbers and reported the current camel population at approximately 300,000.

Managing the impact of Feral Camels across remote Australia- Final Report of the Australian Feral Camel Management Project. McGregor etal Ninti One Ltd.



“Fortunately due to the rejection of the shoot to waste policy, the capacity to commercially manage feral camels was already being developed on the Ngaanyatjarra and Pitjantjatjara Lands and was able to be put in place.”

The development of the camel industry on Aboriginal Lands in Central Australia and its parallels with ISOCARDS global mission. 4th Conference of ISOCARD June 2015 [Knight A, Young F.](#) *Ngaanyatjarra Council (Aboriginal Corporation)*



The Ngaanyatjarra Camel Company formed in August 2012 and in its first 3 years of operation has sold 18,000 camels.



The company continues to sell between 150 and 250 camels per week and is developing a local Aboriginal workforce in the region, which has chronic underemployment.



Of the approximately 300,000 feral camels in Australia some 200,000 are located in and around the vast Ngaanyatjarra lands in the central ranges region of Western Australia. Much of this land is held for the use and benefit of Aboriginal People by Ngaanyatjarra Land Council.

The Ngaanyatjarra Lands
Approximately 170,000 km²



Water points and yards have been developed across our region to efficiently muster camels



and the supply chain has been developed with our major client for meat the South Australia Meat Export Company SAMEX.



“Having seen the potential from a pilot sale of camels in 2009 from APY lands SAMEX in 2012 offered to take up to 20,000 camels per year.

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BONEIN FROZEN CAMEL BUTT-SHANK
PRODUCT OF AUSTRALIA
18.80kg^{NET} 41.45lb^{WEIGHT}

FREEZING DATE 06 JUN 2012
PKD ON 06 JUN 2012 KEEP FROZEN
EXPIRY DATE 06 JUN 2013
PREPARED BY SAMEX
ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, AUSTRALIA

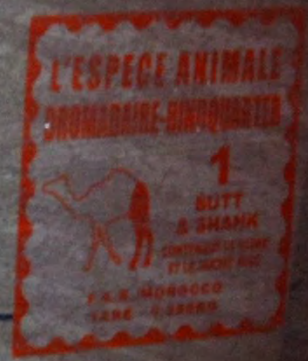
(Dromadaire)

La date d'abattage	05.06.12
La date de production	06.06.12
La date de congelation	06.06.12
Mieux Avant	06.06.13
La classification	2
Le sexe - A	



PRODUCT OF AUSTRALIA
PREPARED FOR:
SAMEX AUSTRALIAN MEAT CO. PTY. LTD.
ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA.
www.samex.com.au

BY EST. No.:



Central Livestock Management worked with SAMEX to solve supply chain and logistical issues.



The next phase of development is to build holding paddocks to grow out small camels to saleable size and to improve supply chain reliability especially when weather conditions such as torrential rains make feral camels difficult to muster.





The long term goal is to bring the feral herd under management using the sale of camels to pay for their management and to supply and develop a growing domestic milk industry. There is emerging demand for camel meat in Australia especially amongst the growing Middle Eastern and North African community. Camel meat is also sought after by the restaurant and tourism trade.



Alex knight Frank Young Ngaanyatjarra Council





Ngaanyatjarra Camel Company is developing its capacity to supply the domestic market.

The Ngaanyatjarra lands have the potential to produce high quality camel meat to supply the camel meat.



Australian Camels are free of the major disease concerns that are issues in other areas. Australia has no foot and mouth disease. Preliminary studies suggest that feral Australian dromedaries may be free of MERS-CoV but larger confirmatory studies are needed.

Seroepidemiology of Middle East respiratory syndrome(MERS) coronavirus in Saudi Arabia (1993) and Australia (2014) and characterisation of assay specificity Hermida MG etal Euro Serveill. 2014;19(23):pii=20828.Available online:http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=20828



The management of camels in Australia has undergone rapid transformation in recent years with emphasis moving from seeing camels as an expensive problem to be solved by culling to now being seen as an opportunity for economic development of one of the most economically marginal regions in the country.



Many people in the industry international camel industry were distressed to learn of camels being culled in Australia over the past few years and were relieved that this wasteful practice has mostly stopped.



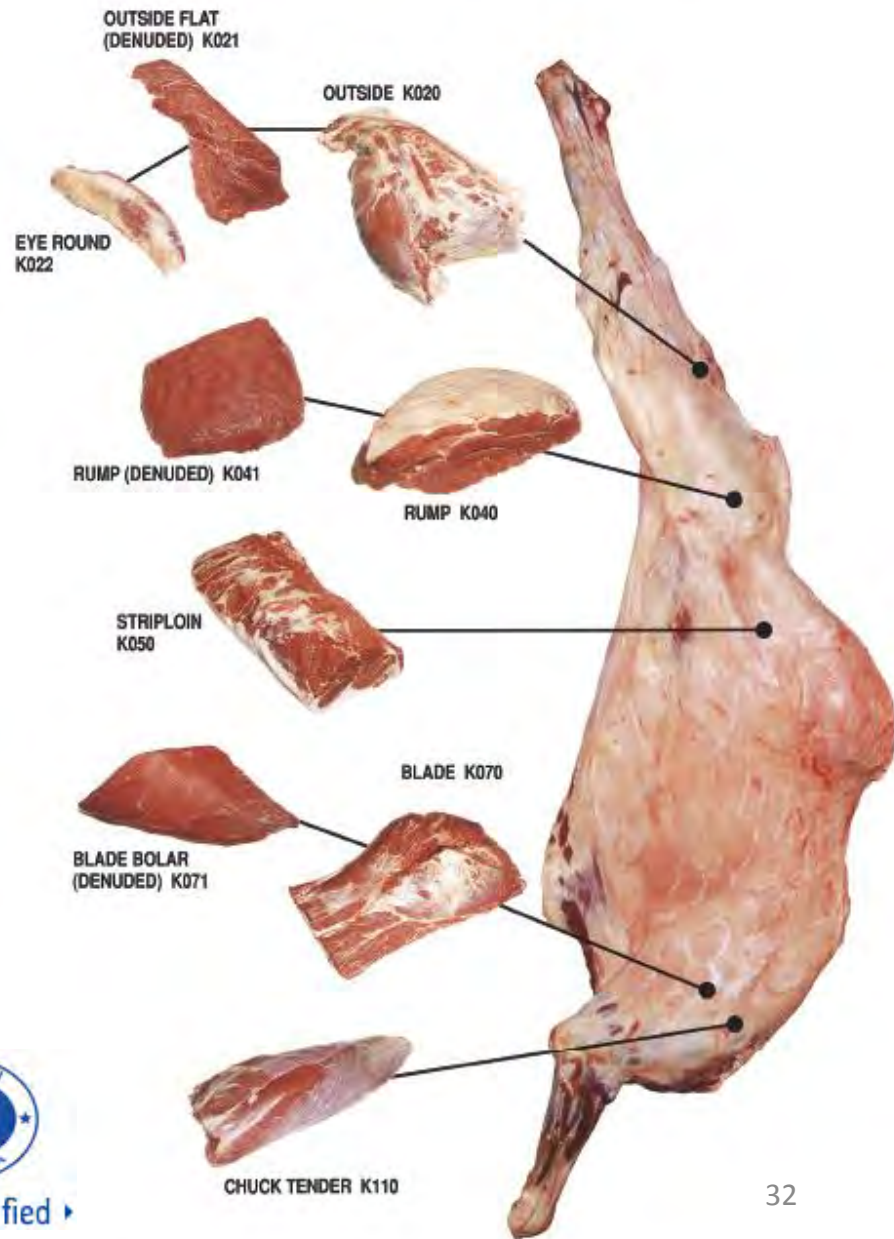
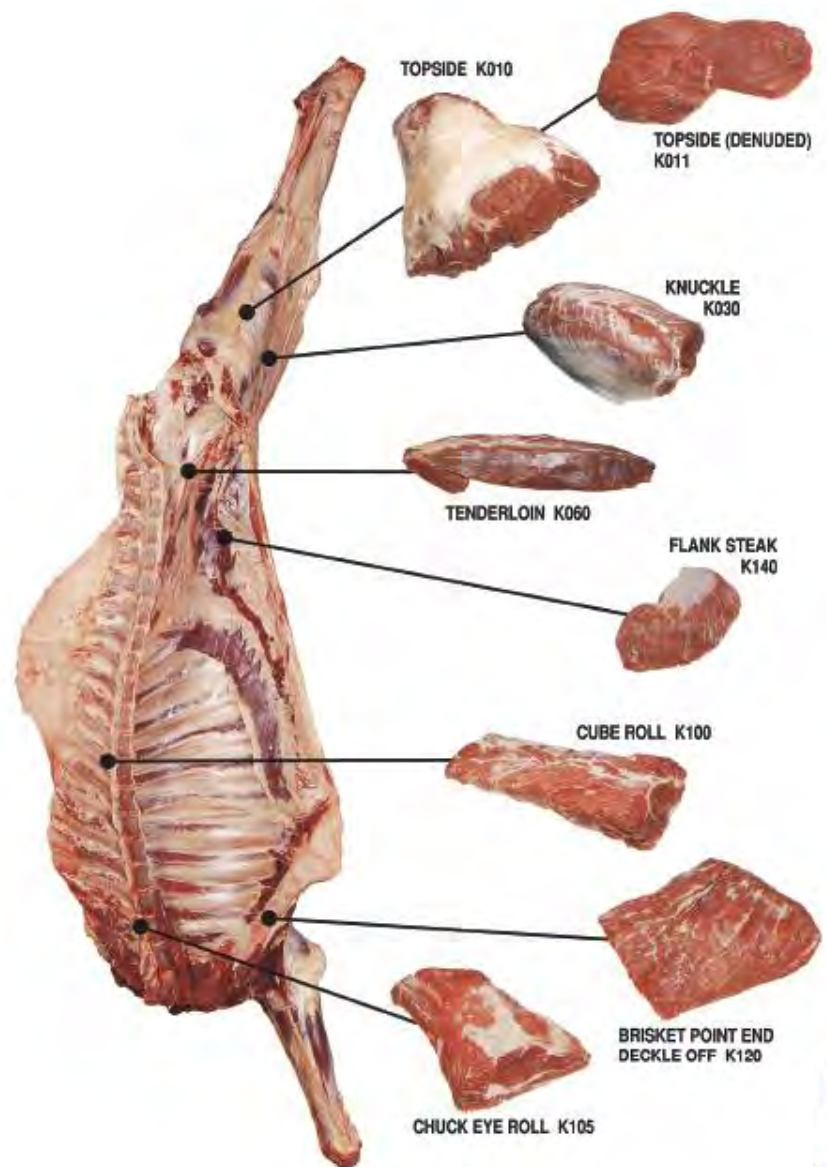


The culling program was expensive, largely ineffective and very unpopular with remote aboriginal people.

Ngaanyatjarra Camel Company has developed a supply chain that other groups with feral camels, and pastoralists can supply into.



Ngaanyatjarra Camel Company has developed a supply chain that other groups with feral camels, and pastoralists can supply into. Currently exports of camel meat are to North Africa and the USA where it is very popular especially amongst the Muslim communities.



The improvement of waters and the development of paddocks to domesticate the herd will rapidly improve meat quality as the camels are no longer subject to periods of drought stress. The capacity to supply meat should improve as infrastructure investment including yards, water points and holding paddocks comes into production and as the company develops its capacity to finish off animals to a high standard.



The huge disease free herd has great potential to supply improved genetics to the camel racing industry and other parts of the international camel industry including the increasingly sophisticated milk and meat sectors.



Camels are well adapted to central Australia and were pivotal in the opening up of Central Australia.



We need to bring the wild herd under management. The Australian Government are now supportive as they want to help develop jobs land and economy on Aboriginal Lands. Many environmentalists also now agree with the Aboriginal landholders that the ongoing cost for managing camels can only effectively be borne by selling the camels.



Ngaanyatjarra Council



The camel problem could become a solution to the food security for the people of Central Australia especially with uncertainty over other production systems due to climate change.

