Adam Giles
Chief Minister of the Northern Territory

Blueprint released for commercial camel meat industry

15 May 2016

Chief Minister Adam Giles says a feasibility study into a commercial camel meat industry for Central Australia provides a blueprint for potential investors.

The Northern Territory and South Australian Governments agreed last year at the inaugural First Ministers’ Forum in Alice Springs to commission the study.

A steering committee of representatives from both governments was formed to oversee the report’s development.

An open tender process was conducted and Agriknowledge was contracted to undertake the feasibility study, with $18,500 contributed by each jurisdiction.

The viability study analysed the:

- Scale and specific product demand of current and anticipated domestic and international marketplaces;
- Identified and analysed cost and revenue streams (ie viability of each business) for each stage along the supply chain for the supply of feral and farmed camels;
- Two different investment scenarios for an abattoir in Central Australia.

The Chief Minister and the Premier met for the second forum in Adelaide on Wednesday and received the report, which they agreed to make publicly available. It’s hoped the information will encourage informed consideration of the potential for a sustainable industry to be developed in the Northern Territory and South Australia.

“There has been a lot of discussion over many years about the viability of large-scale camel meat production in Central Australia,” Mr Giles said.

“This latest report gives up-to-date information that will inform potential investors.

“It highlights the opportunities and the challenges, providing a clear roadmap for the future.”
“A key finding of interest to the government is that harvesting wild camels is only viable for a few years, after which there must be a transition to farmed camels to maintain supply.

“We’ll work with industry representatives to develop a sustainable farming model, understanding that more work needs to be done to protect biodiversity and avoid encroachment on pastoral land.

“The report notes that for an abattoir to be commercially viable it should also process other species such as horses, donkeys and cattle.

“A potential multi-species export abattoir in Alice Springs would cost $35-40 million and employ about 30 people.

“The Government is willing to work with potential investors to undertake a more detailed market analysis, consider site options and identify markets.”

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Camel meat viability study