

**Jan Ferguson, Managing Director
Ninti One Limited**

ABN: 28 106 610 833
PO Box 3971
Alice Springs, NT, 0871
ph: 0401 719 882, +61 8 8959 6039
email: jan.ferguson@nintione.com.au, info@feralcamels.com.au

Australian Feral Camel Management Project

Head Office:
Desert Knowledge Precinct
South Stuart Highway Australia
ALICE SPRINGS, NT 0871
Australia

Adelaide office:

7 Hackney Road
HACKNEY, SA 5089
PO Box 154, Kent Town SA 5071
Australia
ph: +61 8 8959 6000
email: info@nintione.com.au

**Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population
and Communities**

GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2601
Australia
switchboard: +61 2 6274 1111

Hon. Tony Burke MP

Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and
Communities
email: Tony.Burke.MP@environment.gov.au

Standing Council on Primary Industries (SCoPI)

SCoPI Secretariat
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601
Australia
ph: +61 2 6272 4995
email: scopi@daff.gov.au

Standing Council on Environment and Water

Executive Officer
Secretariat
GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2601
ph: (02) 6274 1819
fax: (02) 6274 2505
email: SCEW.Secretariat@environment.gov.au

Hon. Paul Raymond Henderson MLA, Chief Minister

GPO Box 3146
Darwin NT 0801
ph: 08 8901 4000, fax: 08 8901 4099
email: Chief.Minister@nt.gov.au

Hon. Delia Phoebe Lawrie MLA, Deputy Chief Minister

GPO Box 3146
Darwin NT 0801
ph: 08 8901 4047, fax: 08 8901 4169
email: minister.lawrie@nt.gov.au

Hon. Konstantine Vatskalis MLA

Minister for Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources
GPO Box 3146
Darwin NT 0801
ph: 08 8901 4118, fax: 08 8901 4119
email: minister.vatskalis@nt.gov.au

Hon. Malarndirri Barbara Anne McCarthy MLA

Minister for Local Government / Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Indigenous Development / Minister for Tourism
GPO Box 3146
Darwin NT 0801
ph: 08 8901 4072, fax: 08 8901 4080
email: minister.mccarthy@nt.gov.au

Honourable Karl Hampton MLA

Minister for Natural Resources, Environment and Heritage
Minister for Parks and Wildlife / Minister for Climate Change
Minister for Central Australia
GPO Box 3146
Darwin NT 0801
ph: 08 8901 4053, fax: 08 8901 4060
email: minister.hampton@nt.gov.au

**Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport
NRETAS Northern Territory**

Goyder Building
25 Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston
POSTAL:
PO Box 496
Palmerston NT 0831
ph: 08 8999 5511

Mr. James Grant, Chief Executive Officer

Parks and Wildlife Service of the Northern Territory, Dept. of
Natural Resources, Environment, Arts and Sport
PO Box 496
Palmerston, NT 0831
Australia
ph: +61 (8) 8999-3499
email: jim.grant@nt.gov.au

NRETAS Northern Territory

Parks and Wildlife - Conservation and Wildlife

Darwin region, headquarters
564 Vanderlin Drive
Berrimah, NT 0828, AUSTRALIA
ph: +61 08 8995 5008, mobile: 0401 110 205
fax: +61 08 8995 5099
POSTAL: PO Box 496
Palmerston, NT 0831, AUSTRALIA

NRETAS Northern Territory

Environment, Heritage and the Arts Division

PO Box 496
Palmerston, NT 0831

2nd Floor

Darwin Plaza Building
41 Smith Street
Darwin, NT 0800
Australia
email: environment.nreta@nt.gov.au

Dear Director Jan Ferguson, Honorable Ministers and Officials of Australia:

The Australian Feral Camel Management Project (AFCMP) lists aerial and ground culls among other lethal means to “manage feral camels and mitigate their impacts.” Initiated in 2009 to kill some 650,000 camels over four years, AFCMP aerial shoots are underway to wipeout 50,000 camels from the Northern Territory in 2012. Press reports indicate 25,000 camels have already been gunned down.

AFCMP authors are concerned about “Community Perceptions.” Please register my perception, shared by others in the global community: The Australian government’s apparent policy with regard to animals is “*If it gets in our way, we shoot it.*”

No other conclusion can be drawn from the escalated use of aerial slaughter, a profoundly cruel practice. Animals are harassed to exhaustion. Killers then fire from low-flying aircraft, often merely wounding them. Most injured camels go undetected and die painfully from blood loss and shock. Young or weak animals orphaned by the culls succumb to starvation and dehydration. Aerial hunts are so ruthless, people worldwide advocate bans against them.

In recent years, the world has questioned Australia’s brutal style of wildlife stewardship — particularly the kangaroo cull that claims millions each year, along with sweeping eradication of camels. Ultimately, mass bloodshed across high-visibility areas can alienate tourists and cut revenue from Australia’s tourism industry. I personally will not spend my vacation dollars in a country with so little respect for its wild animals.

I implore authorities to replace aerial hunts with exclusion and deterrent systems. Nonviolent strategies endure for the long haul. Conversely, wholesale slaughter is a synthetic response that actually boosts herd growth. Survivors rebound due to ample food stocks and space. With territorial issues reduced, mating is a prime focus and reproduction rates rise. Indeed, studies show that seasonally hunted populations eventually bounce back in greater numbers.

Please stop aerial hunts now. I respectfully ask officials to tackle wildlife conflicts with a more ethical mindset and deference to natural cycles that balance ecosystems.

Thank you,