

DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES

AFFORDABLE AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SUPPLY TO TERRITORY GROWTH TOWNS**ANSWER**

In relation to the delivery of affordable and sustainable food supplies in Northern Territory Growth Towns:

For each of the identified growth towns (20 listed):

- 1. What planning has been put in place to answer the affordable and sustainable food supply needs of the proposed growth towns.**

The lead Minister for coordination of Northern Territory Government activity in relation to Territory Growth Towns is my colleague the Hon Malarndirri McCarthy MLA, Minister for both Regional Development and Local Government. As your question is broad ranging, my response relates to my portfolio responsibilities in the areas of primary industries and fisheries and cover the key collaborative work between my Department of Resources and related agencies.

In the context of my primary industries portfolio, planning for food supply starts with the identification of where suitable land and water supplies might co-exist. My department is working closely with the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport (NRETAS) in the area of land identification.

In terms of my fisheries portfolio, there has been work undertaken on several communities to identify and commence establishment of food supplies through fishing and aquaculture ventures; and to identify the key factors required for establishment of Indigenous aquaculture businesses. The range of species being assessed includes traditional foods such as giant clams, barramundi, tropical lobsters, mud crabs, prawns and oysters. The nature and scope of Aboriginal Coastal Licences are also being investigated with consideration being given to broadening the scope of licences to encourage more fishing activity and the provision of seafood within communities.

- 2. For each town could you please advise:
(a) what are the key agricultural and pastoral pursuits currently in progress or identified for development?**

Agricultural and pastoral pursuits for each Territory Growth Town currently in progress are dealt with in turn below:

1. Maningrida

Maningrida has an existing Aboriginal Coastal Licence and a full commercial Mud Crab Licence.

2. Wadeye

Wadeye has an Aboriginal Coastal Licence application pending.

3. Borrooloola

There are small independent family-owned pastoral operations for local community consumption. Borrooloola also holds a Barramundi Fishery Licence.

4. Galiwinku

There are no known established agricultural ventures for food supply.

5. Nguiu – Bathurst Island

The Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport is developing a water resources strategy for the Tiwi Islands. The pilot trial of edible oysters at Pirlamgimpi on Melville Island may be extended to a site near Nguiu if the trial proves viable and training of community operators is successful. The aim of this pilot is to supply this traditional food to local stores. Nguiu has an Aboriginal Coastal Licence application pending.

6. Gunbalunya

There is a small cattle production and meatworks venture leased to the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC), which meat for local consumption. There is some agistment of animals.

7. Milingimbi

There are no known established agricultural ventures for food supply.

8. Ngukurr

There is some harvesting of wild cattle for local consumption.

9. Numbulwar

There is some harvesting of wild cattle and buffalo for local consumption. Numbulwar has an existing Aboriginal Coastal Licence.

10. Angurugu/Umbakumba

Groote Eylandt has an existing Aboriginal Coastal Licence. Umbakumba has a Development Coastal Net Licence.

11. Gapuwiyak

There are no known established agricultural ventures for food supply.

12. Yuendumu

There are small independent family-owned pastoral operations for local community consumption.

13. Yirrkala

There are small independent family-owned pastoral operations for local community consumption. Yirrkala has an existing Aboriginal Coastal Licence.

14. Lajamanu

Leases for pastoral purposes between traditional owners and pastoralists facilitated through the ILC and Central Land Council (CLC).

15. Daguragu/Kalkarindji

Leases for pastoral purposes between traditional owners and pastoralists facilitated through ILC and the CLC. There is a small meatworks supplying meat for local consumption.

16. Ramingining

There are no known established agricultural ventures for food supply.

17. Hermannsburg

There are small independent family-owned pastoral operations for local community consumption.

18. Papunya

Leases for pastoral purposes between traditional owners and pastoralists facilitated through ILC and CLC.

19. Elliott

There are small independent family-owned pastoral operations for local community consumption.

20. Ali Curung

There are various horticultural projects and a small independent family-owned pastoral operation.