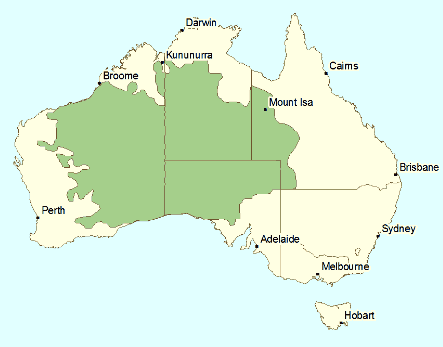
**Alien Invasion – Dromedary Camel, Australia**

Origin

The Dromedary Camel was introduced to Australia from India although it’s common name is the Arabic Camel. The Dromedary Camel was introduced to the Australian population first as being a ‘beast of burden’ (a pack animal) used for transport of goods mostly in central Australia in 1840. The prime reason for them being introduced was to open up central Australia through exploration as well as aiding in building rail and telegraph lines.



Impact

Camels are a browsing animal and are the only browsing animal in Australia. Through browsing, camels greatly damage trees and shrubs as well as doing great damage to preferred trees and shrubs as they suppress the flowering and fruiting of the plants as well as destroying juvenile plants of the preferred species. Camels also have the ability to cause the local extinction of highly preferred species like the quandong (Santalum acuminatum), plumbush (S. lanceolatum), curly pod wattle (Acacia sessiliceps), native apricot (Pittosporum augustifolium), bean tree (Erythrina vespertilio), and Lawrencia species.

The economic cost of feral camels is estimated to be around AUS$10million compromising of $5.1million in damage to infrastructure, $2.35million in direct control and management costs and $3.42million in impact to livestock costs.

Control

Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre has helped investigate ways in which the camel can be controlled. They have proposed to move over 600,000 camels over four years and 500,000 camels over the four years after to condense the population so it is not as dense as it is now.

Also, culling of camels has taken place but this has become ineffective and too much of a problem.