

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016-17

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Indigenous Land Corporation

Outcome/Program: **Outcome 12; Indigenous**

Topic: ILC-managed cattle enterprises at Gunbalanya, NT

Senator: McCarthy

Question reference number: 103

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Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2016

Number of pages: One (1)

Question:

Are you able to provide further details on [the Gunbalanya] community and how it is going in terms of cattle? Can you tell me in terms of the programs out there?

Answer:

The agribusinesses managed by National Indigenous Pastoral Enterprises (NIPE) Pty Ltd on behalf of the ILC operate on a calendar year reporting basis. During 2015 Gunbalanya Station produced a cash operating surplus of \$1,173,794 and Gunbalanya Meats produced a cash operating surplus of \$142,228 with meat sales revenue at \$676,200. Throughout the 2015 year, 928 bodies of beef and 44 bodies of buffalo were processed.

For the year to date 1 January to 31 October 2016 Gunbalanya Station has produced a cash operating surplus of \$3,486,917 and Gunbalanya Meats a cash operating surplus of \$68,695.

Gunbalanya Station is a cattle-finishing business that receives weaner steers and culls heifers from the ILC-managed Warrigundu (Hodgson Downs) Station to fatten on the Gunbalanya floodplain prior to being sold via live export.

A total of approximately 2,200 yearling steers are transferred to the Gunbalanya floodplains each year after first and second round musters at Warrigundu Station. The cattle are transferred as weaners weighing around 160–200kg/head where they are grown to live export weights. Running these young cattle at Gunbalanya means they grow more quickly and can be sold up to six months earlier than if they were grown out on Warrigundu. Gunbalanya Station also runs the cattle and buffalo that supply Gunbalanya Meats. The ILC also sells agistment at Gunbalanya to other cattle producers during the dry season to maximise income and floodplain utilisation.

Gunbalanya Meats donates the equivalent of approximately 16 head of beef each year in support of community events, school programs and cultural activities (funerals and ceremonies) at Gunbalanya. Access to quality fresh meat has had a direct impact on the health and wellbeing of the community at Gunbalanya.