Regional Highlights

Regional Highlights presents an overview of key items and programs in the 2014‑15 Budget. It complements the extensive information in the other Budget Papers by presenting budget details of particular relevance to the communities in each of the Territory’s seven regions.

This book details initiatives in service delivery, tailored specifically for each region classified by the Government’s *Framing the Future* priority areas of Prosperous Economy, Strong Society, Balanced Environment and Confident Culture. It also includes Territory‑wide initiatives, which apply across all regions.

Important infrastructure projects are identified for each region as well as on a Territory‑wide basis.

Where Commonwealth funding is provided from national partnership agreements and can be used flexibly, it is included under the title of the relevant agreement.

Territory Wide

Some initiatives cannot be accurately apportioned between regions, however they are important and relevant across the Territory.

Details of these initiatives are provided here, in addition to the information specific to each region in later sections.

Prosperous Economy

* $32.57M in Commonwealth financial assistance grants for general purpose and local roads
* $25.75M for grants to councils from the Northern Territory Operational Subsidy grants pool
* $24.6M to market and promote the Territory as a leisure tourism destination
* $23M in Territory and Commonwealth funding to operate and deliver vocational education and training for Territorians
* $6.7M to manage and deliver geoscience and exploration data to the minerals and petroleum exploration industry
* $5.5M for employment positions to deliver sustainable municipal and essential services in rural and remote Indigenous communities
* $5.4M for a suite of industry development grants to grow the capacity and capability of local businesses through a range of initiatives
* $3.6M to establish a new Northern Australia Development Office and implement its communications and marketing strategy
* $2.83M to ensure that active mining operations (including exploration and extractive sites) operate in a manner that supports sustainable development of the environment
* $2.7M for gambling and licensing services that provide business support and compliance monitoring to licensees
* $2.4M for land and water assessments to unlock the Territory’s agricultural potential
* $2.3M to undertake cadastral survey plans in 34 remote communities
* $2.2M to market and promote the Territory as a business event destination, building demand for convention centres in Darwin, Alice Springs and Uluru
* $1.85M to Business Centres across the Territory that provide front‑line customer services to businesses including business advice and licence information
* $0.75M to increase the intensity of exploration drilling and geophysics in greenfield areas through the Geophysics and Drilling Collaborations Program
* $0.57M to support Indigenous economic development opportunities and provide permit-free fishing access to intertidal waters overlying Indigenous land
* $0.52M for research and extension into improved pastoral industry profitability and sustainability
* $0.51M to establish a Food Industry Development Group to reshape and drive economic development activities
* $0.5M to implement procurement reforms that will improve and streamline the processes associated with procuring government contracts
* $0.5M for a tourism‑related product development grant program focused on regional and remote areas
* $0.45M to establish a Red Tape Abolition Squad that will make doing business in the Territory easier and more attractive to investors
* $0.4M for the Indigenous Pastoral Program
* $0.3M for live export market development in collaboration with industry
* $0.3M to promote the Territory’s exploration potential and attract investment into mineral and energy projects
* $0.22M to review commercial fisheries to improve investment certainty and maximise potential
* $0.16M to maintain and expand markets for Territory cattle in South East Asia

Strong Society

* $30.8M for aeromedical retrieval services including patient-assisted travel
* $28.3M for mandatory treatment alcohol reform programs including rehabilitation centres throughout the Territory
* $17.3M for secure care accommodation services for young people and adults with complex care needs
* $11M for the Cardiac Outreach and Rehabilitation services as well as the commencement of low-risk angioplasty and 400 additional elective surgery procedures per annum
* $9.13M to support various community organisations across the Territory through the multicultural, youth, seniors and community support grant programs and operational support to the NT Major Events Company
* $7.9M to subsidise eligible pensioners in the Territory to meet the increase in tariffs for utilities
* $6.7M to support the head lease rental initiative of the Real Housing for Growth Plan
* $6M for an Indigenous Matching Jobs Program for regional councils to support core local government service delivery
* $5.4M to increase the capacity of the Aboriginal Interpreter Service to alleviate language barriers
* $5M in additional funding to local authorities for the financial sustainability of regional councils
* $3.36M to establish and operate the Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal to provide independent dispute resolution relating to administrative decisions
* $3.2M to provide a clinical service system, enhance child and adolescent mental health services and implement suicide prevention programs in the Territory
* $2.2M for the Community Benefit Fund to provide community grants and gambling amelioration and research programs
* $2.1M as part of an additional $6.2 million to support the review of local government across the Territory
* $2M for road ambulance services across the Territory
* $1.5M to manage existing exceptional and complex-needs clients in the community
* $1.5M for the development of a Remote Indigenous Home Purchase Strategy
* $0.8M to establish and implement the First Circles emerging leaders consultation model
* $0.725M to support remote mobile breast screening throughout the Territory
* $0.45M for the Community Justice Centre’s Fast and Free Dispute Resolution Service
* $0.3M to strengthen the capacity of the Commissioner for Information and Public Interest Disclosures to investigate claims of serious improper conduct within public sector organisations
* $0.25M for the Family Safe Environment Fund to assist councils to improve the safety of public parks

Balanced Environment

* $8.6M to undertake asbestos removal from non‑government buildings in 34 remote communities
* $3.1M for ongoing sustainable management of the Territory’s aquatic resources and recreational fishing sector
* $2M to provide a quality-assured veterinary laboratory that supports diagnostic, regulatory and research programs for aquatic and terrestrial animal health
* $1.9M to monitor the quality of Territory water supplies through the provision of analytical testing
* $1.36M to promote animal welfare including ensuring compliance with the Animal Welfare Act
* $1.35M for rangelands monitoring of natural resources on pastoral lands
* $1.32M to support the livestock industry by protecting market access and minimising establishment of exotic pests and diseases
* $1M for wildfire suppression
* $0.89M to support plant industries by protecting market access and minimising establishment of exotic pests and diseases
* $0.45M for asbestos management on park assets
* $0.42M to assess and monitor marine mega fauna (dolphins, dugongs and turtles)
* $0.32M for the Marine Ranger Program including financial and training support to Indigenous communities, monitoring of illegal fishing activity, sacred site protection and community education

Confident Culture

* $32.2M to support homelands
* $14.7M to assist the thoroughbred racing industry to conduct race meetings and maintain facilities across the Territory
* $7.12M for the newly independent Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory
* $5.6M to support sporting peak bodies and active recreation organisations
* $5M to expand the Sports Voucher Scheme to include recreational and cultural activities
* $2.3M for remote community sport and recreation programs
* $1M in 2014-15 as part of the Territory Government’s two‑year AFL agreement with Melbourne Football Club to play two premiership matches in the Territory each season
* $1M to deliver the Territory Government’s NRL agreement for two Parramatta Eels matches and community programs in the Territory
* $0.72M to support regional and remote festivals
* $0.65M to allow sporting organisations to provide affordable and accessible sport and recreation opportunities through the development of facilities
* $0.35M to support Territory representative teams in national open-age home and away competitions
* $0.3M to support the Screen Territory grants program
* $0.25M for interstate promotion of events and festivals held across the Territory
* $0.22M for the Regional Museum Grant Support Program

Infrastructure Highlights

$45M in Territory and Commonwealth funding for the Regional Roads Productivity Package

$33.1M to construct new and upgrade existing government employee housing across the Territory

$30M for strategic economic development roads

$24.3M for public housing, including refurbishing existing unit complexes

$17M for the Commonwealth‑funded Northern Territory Road Package

$10M to provide grants for economic infrastructure in remote regions

$9.5M for strengthening and widening selected sections of the Territory rural arterial road network

$6M for the Roads to Recovery program within the Territory to upgrade local roads

$5M for new accommodation facilities to provide remote students with improved access to secondary education

$5M for road and traffic control improvements

$4M to strengthen pavement on secondary and local roads

$3M for road safety and traffic management improvements across urban roads

Central Australia

The Central Australia region occupies about 42 per cent of the Territory’s land area and is home to 18 per cent of the Territory’s population. There are about 41 600 people living in the region, of whom around 39 per cent are Indigenous. Alice Springs, the main centre in the region, has a population of about 26 100. The Central Australia region has a relatively young population, with about 38 per cent aged 24 years or under. About 5 per cent are aged over 65 years.

The main industries in the Central Australia region include pastoral, tourism, defence, Indigenous arts and culture, mining, and oil and gas exploration.

Recent oil and gas developments and exploration in the Amadeus Basin have boosted activity in the region. Central Petroleum has recently commenced production from its Surprise oilfield development, which is expected to produce 400 barrels of oil per day. This is the first time in more than 30 years that onshore petroleum licences have been issued in the Territory. A number of other companies are also exploring for oil and gas in the region.

Tourist attractions in Central Australia include Uluru, Kata Tjuta, Kings Canyon and the West MacDonnell Ranges, while the Indigenous arts and culture industry is an important source of employment.

Prosperous Economy

* $16M in Territory and Commonwealth funding to operate and deliver vocational education and training for Territorians to develop new or build on existing skills to gain employment
* $6.9M to develop and subdivide the Ilpeye Ilpeye town camp into a suburb of Alice Springs
* $1.43M to provide registration and driver licensing services
* $1.31M to provide public bus transport
* $0.77M to Tourism Central Australia for visitor information services in Alice Springs, and marketing and industry engagement activities
* $0.6M to provide new generation geoscience data to investigate shale gas and mineral potential, and promote investment
* $0.53M for NT Worksafe to increase industry awareness of obligations and rights relating to relevant legislation
* $0.19M to evaluate new table grape varieties for producers in the central arid region

Strong Society

* $230.6M for acute care services, including patient travel and aeromedical retrieval services
* $80.1M for primary school education in government and non‑government schools
* $65.2M for non‑acute health and community services
* $55.08M to provide police, fire and emergency services in the Central Australia region including nine police stations, and a further six police stations funded under Stronger Futures at Finke, Haasts Bluff, Imanpa, Mutitjulu, Nyirripi and Santa Teresa, and two fire stations and 12 volunteer groups (fire and emergency)
* $40.06M to provide safe, secure and humane care of adult inmates at Alice Springs Correctional Centre
* $32.1M for senior years education in government and non‑government schools
* $27.92M for middle years education in government and non‑government schools
* $22.62M for out-of-home care services
* $13.43M for family and parenting support services
* $11.21M for child protection services
* $7.36M for preschool education in government and non‑government schools
* $5.7M for isolated student education through the Alice Springs School of the Air and distance education
* $5.7M for the Alice Springs Hospital emergency department
* $4.36M to provide assessment, monitoring and supervision services to community‑based clients in the Alice Springs region in line with sentences and orders issued by the courts and Parole Board
* $3.88M for courts to administer justice for regional and remote communities including Papunya, Mutitjulu, Yuendumu, Ti Tree, Hermannsburg and Docker River
* $2.77M to provide safe, secure and humane care of young people at Alice Springs Youth Detention Centre
* $1.89M to provide school buses and special needs transport for students
* $1.25M to provide sex offender treatment, Indigenous family violence and elders visiting programs, and remote communities corrections officer programs in Alice Springs
* $1.2M for early childhood education
* $1M in Back to School payments
* $0.8M for services for a new   
  Child and Family Centre in Yuendumu
* $0.7M for the Northern Territory Early Childhood Services Subsidy
* $0.65M to provide improved recruitment, retention and support for foster and kinship carers
* $0.56M for Family Responsibility Centres in Alice Springs
* $0.47M for new youth services
* $0.42M to develop and implement alcohol management plans for Alice Springs, Titjikala, Laramba, Ntaria, Amoonguna and Mount Nancy, as well as undertaking a town camp-wide alcohol strategy project
* $0.39M additional Territory funding for palliative care in Alice Springs
* $0.32M to provide enhanced monitoring and surveillance of offenders in the community to enable offenders to return to community
* $0.32M to invest in post‑release support and accommodation to assist offender reintegration into the community
* $0.24M to invest in alcohol and other drug intervention programs and residential treatment programs for adult offenders
* $0.15M to enhance prison industry programs within the Alice Springs Correctional Centre

Balanced Environment

* $12.9M under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing to continue providing property and tenancy management for remote Indigenous public housing
* $5.8M for the Alice Springs Desert Park
* $0.99M to monitor surface and groundwater to enable assessment of mining impacts and requirements for ongoing management
* $0.5M to assess and monitor threatened and significant wildlife
* $0.42M to support the livestock industry by protecting market access and minimising establishment of exotic pests and diseases
* $0.42M to operate the Ti Tree research farm and the Arid Zone and Old Man Plains research stations
* $0.29M to manage and maintain Crown land including associated buildings and weeds
* $0.2M to support the Olive Pink Botanic Gardens
* $0.15M to support the horticulture industry by protecting market access and minimising the establishment of exotic pests and diseases
* $0.12M for water allocation plan implementation, regulation and compliance monitoring
* $50 000 to deliver Land for Wildlife programs

Confident Culture

* $10.24M to continue and expand the Territory and Commonwealth governments’ Alice Springs Transformation Plan, with an aim to improve life outcomes for Indigenous people in Alice Springs
* $1.27M to stage the Alice Springs Masters Games and support the delivery of the Imparja Cup
* $0.73M to support public library services
* $0.3M in additional funding for upgrades to the Alice Springs drag strip to support hosting national and regional motor sporting events
* $0.15M to deliver an A‑League pre‑season match including Adelaide United Football Club

Infrastructure Highlights

$29.9M to continue remediation works, fire protection and airconditioning upgrades at Alice Springs Hospital

$19.8M under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing and the National Partnership Agreement on Stronger Futures, to construct new and upgrade existing housing and provide associated infrastructure in remote Indigenous communities

$9.3M to progress land release in Alice Springs and Ti Tree, including Kilgariff and Larapinta Valley

$8.6M in Commonwealth funding for remote health clinics

$7.3M to upgrade Outback Way roads, including various sections of the Plenty Highway and Tjukaruru Road

$5.2M in Commonwealth funding for a multidisciplinary teaching and training facility at Alice Springs Hospital

$3M to upgrade the Larapinta and Lovegrove drives intersection to improve safety and traffic flow

$3M for a new Supreme Court facility in Alice Springs

$2.5M for tourism boardwalks in Alice Springs

$1.5M for landscaping along the Stuart Highway in Alice Springs from the Motor Vehicle Registry to the Telegraph Station

$0.5M to enhance an open sport space and new ablutions block at Ntaria School

$0.4M to upgrade ablutions at Braitling Primary School

$0.4M for a new café at the Araluen Cultural Precinct

Barkly

The Barkly region covers about 23 per cent of the land area of the Territory and extends along the Stuart Highway from Barrow Creek to Elliott and east across the Barkly Tableland to Queensland. The region has a population of about 6700, of whom 68 per cent are Indigenous. The main centre in the region is Tennant Creek, with a population of about 3600. A high proportion of people living in the region are young, with about 44 per cent aged 24 years and under, and only about 6 per cent over the age of 65. Government services, pastoral and mining‑related activities are the major contributors to the regional economy.

Manganese production from the Bootu Creek mine has added to regional economic activity and employment opportunities. The Barkly and Tennant Creek pastoral district also accounts for a substantial proportion of the Territory’s total cattle industry.

Prosperous Economy

* $4M in Territory and Commonwealth funding to operate and deliver vocational education and training for Territorians to develop new or build on existing skills to gain employment
* $0.77M to Tourism Central Australia for industry engagement activities
* $0.42M to support the livestock industry by protecting market access and minimising establishment of exotic pests and diseases
* $0.32M to provide registration and driver licensing services
* $0.25M to provide new generation geoscience data to investigate shale gas and mineral potential, and promote investment

Strong Society

* $19.7M for acute care services including patient travel
* $16.9M for primary school education in government and non‑government schools
* $11.46M to provide police, fire and emergency services including three police stations and a further three police stations funded under Stronger Futures at Alpurrurulam, Arlparra and Willowra, and one fire station and three volunteer groups (fire and emergency)
* $6.6M for non‑acute health and community services in the region
* $6.2M for middle years education in government and non‑government schools
* $5.5M for senior years education in government and non‑government schools
* $5M to provide a 50‑bed low‑security prisoner work camp in Tennant Creek
* $2.56M for out-of-home care services
* $2.4M for preschool education in government and non‑government schools
* $1.94M for child protection services
* $1.31M to provide assessment, monitoring and supervision services to community‑based clients in the Tennant Creek region in line with sentences and orders issued by the courts and Parole Board
* $1.14M for family and parenting support services
* $0.78M for early childhood education
* $0.56M for courts to administer justice for regional and remote communities, including at Elliott and Ali Curung
* $0.5M to operate a new residential care facility in Tennant Creek for children under ten years
* $0.47M for new youth services
* $0.29M for the development and implementation of alcohol management plans in Tennant Creek, Elliott and Ali Curung
* $0.22M to provide Indigenous family violence and remote communities corrections officer programs within Tennant Creek
* $0.2M for isolated student education through distance education
* $0.2M in Back to School payments
* $0.19M to expand the Elders Visiting Program, assisting offenders’ reintegration into the community
* $0.16M to invest in post-release support and accommodation to assist offender reintegration into the community
* $0.12M to invest in alcohol and other drug intervention programs and residential treatment programs for adult offenders
* $90 000 to assist offender reintegration into the community through the facilitation of guidance and mentoring by respected community elders through the Elders Visiting Program
* $80 000 to provide improved recruitment, retention and support for foster and kinship carers
* $50 000 for the Northern Territory Early Childhood Services Subsidy
* $40 000 to expand education and training programs and community work opportunities for adult offenders

Balanced Environment

* $3.3M under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing to continue providing property and tenancy management for remote Indigenous public housing
* $0.47M to monitor surface and groundwater to enable the assessment of mining impacts and requirements for ongoing management
* $0.25M to increase weed management extension   
  services to assist pastoralists in controlling weed incursions and infestations

Confident Culture

* $5.18M to oversee the Commonwealth-funded Remote Indigenous Housing Community Benefits Package and youth accommodation initiatives
* $0.17M to support public library services
* $90 000 to the Battery Hill Mining Centre for visitor information services

Infrastructure Highlights

$8.2M to replace the gas engines at Tennant Creek with larger engines to improve power system reliability and efficiency

$7.1M under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing and the National Partnership Agreement on Stronger Futures, to construct new and upgrade existing housing and provide associated infrastructure in remote Indigenous communities

$5.3M Commonwealth funding to continue works on the new remote health centre at Elliott

$4.8M Commonwealth funding to continue works on the new remote health centre at Canteen Creek

$2.5M to upgrade and seal the existing airstrip at Canteen Creek

$1.9M to continue strengthening and widening various sections of the Carpentaria Highway

$1M for a new building to support nutrition and home economic programs at Alekarenge School

$0.3M to upgrade the preschool kitchen at Tennant Creek Primary School

$0.28M for the emergency nurse call system at Tennant Creek Hospital

$0.19M to upgrade the school hall at Tennant Creek Primary School

Katherine

The Katherine region extends from the Ord Bonaparte area in the west to the Gulf of Carpentaria in the east. The town of Katherine is the main centre with a population of about 10 900. The region has a population of about 21 000 people, of whom about 55 per cent are Indigenous. About 44 per cent of the region’s population is aged 24 years and under, and about 5 per cent is aged 65 years and over. Industries in the region include tourism, horticulture, pastoral and mining.

The Xstrata-operated McArthur River mine, located near Borroloola, is one of the world’s largest providers of zinc in bulk concentrate form. The McArthur River mine is currently undergoing its third expansion to more than double the amount of zinc and lead produced on site.

The commencement of operations at Western Desert Resources’ Roper Bar iron ore project will also boost mineral production in the region.

Good quality road and rail infrastructure and a strategic location have enabled Katherine to develop as a regional freight hub, servicing industries in both the Territory and the Kimberley region. RAAF Base Tindal is also located in the region.

Tourist attractions in the Katherine region include Nitmiluk Gorge, Leliyn (Edith Falls) and Mataranka.

Prosperous Economy

* $7M in Territory and Commonwealth funding to operate and deliver vocational education and training for Territorians to develop new or build on existing skills to gain employment
* $1.1M to provide new generation geoscience data to investigate shale gas and mineral potential, and promote investment
* $0.94M to operate the Katherine and Victoria River research stations
* $0.44M to provide registration and driver licensing services
* $0.4M to lead the Ord Development Project and facilitate extension of the Ord Irrigation Scheme into the Territory
* $0.36M to increase sustainability and market opportunities for horticultural industries
* $0.27M for NT Worksafe to increase industry awareness of obligations and rights relating to relevant legislation
* $0.25M to increase the uptake of sustainable cropping practices for current and new agricultural enterprises
* $0.25M to enter into an Indigenous Land Use Agreement over the town of Kalkarindji
* $56 000 to support Indigenous economic development opportunities and provide permit‑free fishing access to intertidal waters overlying Indigenous land

Strong Society

* $48.1M for primary school education in government and non‑government schools
* $39.1M for acute care services including patient travel
* $27.57M to provide police, fire and emergency services including ten police stations and a further two police stations funded under Stronger Futures at Minyerri and Yarralin, and one fire station and 11 volunteer groups (fire and emergency)
* $18.2M for non‑acute health and community services in the region
* $16.3M for middle years education in government and non‑government schools
* $12.9M for senior years education in government and non‑government schools
* $11.37M for out-of-home care services
* $7.61M for family and parenting support services
* $6.58M for child protection services
* $5.4M for preschool education in government and non‑government schools
* $4.4M for isolated student education through the Katherine School of the Air and distance education
* $2.7M to provide assessment, monitoring and supervision services to community‑based corrections clients in the Katherine and Lajamanu regions
* $1.72M to provide school buses and special needs transport for students
* $1.5M to support new regional councils
* $1.35M for courts to administer justice for regional and remote communities, including Beswick, Ngukurr, Timber Creek, Kalkarindji, Borroloola and Lajamanu
* $0.84M for early childhood education
* $0.8M to operate the new Child and Family Centre in Ngukurr
* $0.6M in Back to School payments
* $0.47M for new youth services
* $0.41M to implement alcohol management plans in Jilkminggan, Borroloola, Binjari, Wugularr, Manyallaluk, Ngukurr, Barunga, Kalkarindji, Top Springs and Katherine
* $0.4M to provide Indigenous family violence and remote communities corrections officer programs within Katherine
* $0.36M to provide improved recruitment, retention and support for foster and kinship carers
* $0.25M for the Northern Territory Early Childhood Services Subsidy
* $0.19M to expand the Elders Visiting Program, assisting offender reintegration into the community
* $0.12M to invest in alcohol and other drug intervention programs and residential programs for adult offenders

Balanced Environment

* $12.1M under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing to continue providing property and tenancy management for remote Indigenous public housing
* $0.5M to provide assistance to pastoralists and other landholders to manage grader grass, prickly acacia and rubber bush
* $0.42M to monitor surface and groundwater to enable the assessment of mining impacts and requirements for ongoing management
* $0.42M to manage and maintain Crown land including associated buildings and weeds
* $0.24M to provide assistance to Katherine focusing on bellyache bush, in conjunction with the Commonwealth
* $0.2M for the Marine Ranger Program including financial and training support to Indigenous communities, monitoring of illegal fishing activity, sacred site protection and community education
* $0.18M to support plant industries by protecting market access and minimising establishment of exotic pests and diseases
* $0.14M for water allocation plan implementation, regulation and compliance monitoring
* $0.14M for documenting Indigenous ecological knowledge

Confident Culture

* $0.5M to support the Godinymayin Yijard Rivers Arts and Cultural Centre
* $0.4M to support public library services
* $0.29M to the Katherine Town Council for visitor information services

Infrastructure Highlights

$20.3M under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing and the National Partnership Agreement on Stronger Futures, to construct new and upgrade existing housing and provide associated infrastructure in remote Indigenous communities

$5.7M to continue works on Commonwealth-funded remote health centre in Ngukurr

$4.6M for planning work to determine corridors for heavy vehicle diversion, consistent with land use objectives in the broader Katherine area

$2.8M to upgrade Katherine rural roads to support agribusiness in the Beasley Road, Emungalan and Florina areas, and bridging at Leight Creek

$2.5M to upgrade and seal the Yarralin airstrip

$2.5M to seal selected sections of the Lajamanu access road

$2.2M to continue works on the Ngukurr Trade Training Centre

$1.9M for Katherine Hospital emergency department airconditioning

$1.2M for two flexible-use classrooms and to refurbish training and library buildings at Borroloola School

$40 000 for the completion of upgrades to the Department of Children and Families regional office, ensuring sensitive and secure premises for staff and clients

East Arnhem

The East Arnhem region covers East Arnhem Land and includes Groote Eylandt and Elcho Island. The major population centres are Nhulunbuy and Alyangula. Access for travellers and freight is mainly by air or sea as roads to the region cross very difficult terrain.

The East Arnhem region has a population of about 16 400, of whom more than 60 per cent are Indigenous. The main centre, Nhulunbuy, has a population of around 4400 people. East Arnhem’s population is relatively young and dispersed, with about 45 per cent aged 24 years and under and about 2 per cent aged 65 years and over.

Mining production is the main economic activity in the region and includes the production of manganese, bauxite and alumina. Manganese is produced by GEMCO on Groote Eylandt, which has recently undergone an expansion to increase production.

Rio Tinto has recently announced that it will be curtailing operations at its Gove alumina refinery in Nhulunbuy from 2014 and will be moving to bauxite mining only.

Other industries in East Arnhem include buffalo farming, aquaculture and fishing. Traditional Indigenous cultural experiences, Indigenous art, and the remote and natural wilderness attract many tourists to the region.

Prosperous Economy

* $7M in Territory and Commonwealth funding to operate and deliver vocational education and training for Territorians to develop new or build on existing skills to gain employment
* $2M to establish a regional economic development fund as part of the transitional support package for the East Arnhem region
* $1M to provide new generation geoscience data to investigate shale gas and mineral potential, and promote investment
* $0.7M for ongoing support to develop Indigenous commercial fishing capacity
* $0.5M for the development of a medium to large vessel pontoon at Melville Bay in Nhulunbuy
* $0.29M to provide registration and driver licensing services
* $30 000 for regional tourism marketing
* $24 000 to support Indigenous economic development opportunities and provide permit-free fishing access to intertidal waters overlying Indigenous land

Strong Society

* $47.1M for primary school education in government and non‑government schools
* $24.5M for acute care services including patient travel
* $23.6M for non-acute health and community services in the region
* $17M for middle years education in government and non‑government schools
* $15.5M for senior years education in government and non‑government schools
* $13.53M to provide police, fire and emergency services, including three police stations and a further four police stations funded under Stronger Futures at Bulman, Gapuwiyak, Numbulwar and Ramingining, and one fire station and six volunteer groups
* $5.2M for preschool education in government and non‑government schools
* $4.52M for out‑of‑home care services
* $4.21M for family and parenting support services
* $3.58M for child protection services
* $2.45M to establish a 50‑bed regional work camp at Nhulunbuy
* $1.7M for early childhood education
* $1.14M to provide assessment, monitoring and supervision services to community‑based corrections clients in the Groote Eylandt and Nhulunbuy regions, in line with sentences and orders issued by the courts and Parole Board
* $0.83M to provide school buses   
  and special needs transport for students
* $0.8M for isolated student education through distance education
* $0.6M in Back to School payments
* $0.56M for courts to administer justice for regional and remote communities, including Alyangula, Nhulunbuy, Numbulwar and Galiwin’ku
* $0.2M to continue implementing alcohol management plans in Yirrkala and Groote Eylandt
* $0.19M for the expansion of the Elders Visiting Program, assisting offender reintegration into the community
* $0.19M for the Northern Territory Early Childhood Services Subsidy
* $0.18M to provide improved recruitment, retention and support for foster and kinship carers
* $80 000 to assist offender reintegration into the community through the facilitation of guidance and mentoring by respected community elders through the Elders Visiting Program
* $50 000 in partnership with the Commonwealth, to develop an Alcohol Management Plan for Gunyangara

Balanced Environment

* $7.9M under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing to continue providing property and tenancy management for remote Indigenous public housing
* $0.4M to monitor surface and groundwater to enable the assessment of mining impacts and requirements for ongoing management
* $0.25M for the Marine Ranger Program including financial and training support to Indigenous communities, monitoring of illegal fishing activity, sacred site protection and community education

Confident Culture

* $0.24M to support public library services

Infrastructure Highlights

$12.3M to continue works on Commonwealth-funded remote health clinics in Galiwin’ku and Numbulwar

$6.95M to upgrade the Angurugu sewerage system

$5M under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing and the National Partnership Agreement on Stronger Futures, to construct new and upgrade existing housing and provide associated infrastructure in remote Indigenous communities

$4.9M to upgrade the Galiwin’ku sewerage system

$4.5M to continue works on trade training centres across the East Arnhem region

$2.8M to continue upgrades to the Central Arnhem Highway

$2.6M for stage 1 of the water storage replacement in Yirrkala and Numbulwar

$1.5M to provide passing opportunities on the Central Arnhem Highway

$0.9M for two flexible-use classrooms at Shepherdson College in Galiwin’ku

Top End Rural

The Top End Rural region encompasses many small communities and covers the area south of Palmerston and Litchfield, the Tiwi Islands, east to East Arnhem and south to the Katherine region. About 18 700 people live in the region, the majority of whom are Indigenous. The region’s population is relatively young, with about 45 per cent aged 24 years and under, and only about 4 per cent 65 years and older. Tourism, horticulture and mining contribute significantly to the region’s economic activity.

Mining in the region includes uranium oxide from the Energy Resources of Australia Ranger mine near Jabiru, gold from the Crocodile Gold mine near Pine Creek and iron ore from the Frances Creek mine.

Tourist attractions in the region include the Litchfield and Kakadu national parks, as well as the Daly River for recreational fishing. Other important industries in the region include horticulture and agriculture supported by the Coastal Plains and Douglas Daly research farms.

Prosperous Economy

* $7M in Territory and Commonwealth funding to operate and deliver vocational education and training for Territorians to develop new or build on existing skills to gain employment
* $2.53M to provide public bus transport
* $1.5M to support new regional councils
* $1.29M for the Tiwi Islands strategic land development project, which aims to facilitate the development of the Tiwi Islands through identifying land for lease to the private sector
* $1.18M for land and water suitability assessment for agricultural development on the Tiwi Islands
* $1.12M to operate the Douglas Daly and Beatrice Hill research farms
* $0.8M to continue the Tiwi Islands ferry services
* $0.4M to increase productivity, sustainability and market opportunities for the mango, tropical fruit and vegetable industries
* $0.36M to support Indigenous economic development opportunities and provide permit-free fishing access to intertidal waters overlying Indigenous land
* $0.26M to progress the design of new pontoons at Wurrumiyanga and Paru
* $0.26M to foster economic development in the Tiwi Islands including providing a range of business‑focused services through a monthly ‘pop-up’ Territory Business Centre
* $0.14M to evaluate closed‑system production techniques to improve post-harvest life for tropical flowering gingers
* $80 000 to increase the uptake of sustainable cropping practices for current and new agricultural enterprises

Strong Society

* $49.2M for non‑acute health and community services in the region
* $28.96M for primary school education in government and non‑government schools
* $11.58M to provide police, fire and emergency services including nine police stations and a further three police stations funded under Stronger Futures at Minjilang, Peppimenarti and Warruwi, and one fire station and eight volunteer groups (fire and emergency)
* $10.4M for middle years education in government and non‑government schools
* $7.4M for senior years education in government and non‑government schools
* $3.35M for family and parenting support services
* $2.5M for preschool education in government and non‑government schools
* $1.6M for services from new child and family centres in Maningrida and Gunbalanya
* $1.41M to provide school buses and special needs transport for students
* $1.17M for out-of-home care services
* $0.9M for isolated student education through distance education
* $0.65M for child protection services
* $0.47M for courts to administer justice in regional and remote communities, including Wadeye, Daly River and Jabiru
* $0.41M to provide assessment, monitoring and supervision services to community‑based corrections clients in the Wadeye, Jabiru and Tiwi Islands regions
* $0.4M in Back to School payments
* $0.4M for early childhood education
* $0.2M to implement alcohol management plans in Belyuen, the Tiwi Islands, Maningrida, Gunbalanya, Jabiru and Kakadu
* $80 000 to provide improved recruitment, retention and support for foster and kinship carers

Balanced Environment

* $9.6M under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing to continue providing property and tenancy management for remote Indigenous public housing
* $1.07M to monitor surface and groundwater to enable the assessment of mining impacts and requirements for ongoing management
* $0.7M for the Marine Ranger Program including financial and training support to Indigenous communities, monitoring of illegal fishing activity, sacred site protection and community education
* $0.51M to manage and maintain Crown land including associated buildings and weeds
* $0.44M to support the livestock industry by protecting market access and minimising establishment of exotic pests and diseases
* $0.43M for feral cat management in collaboration with Indigenous landowners
* $0.17M for the gamba grass assistance program
* $0.14M to document Indigenous ecological knowledge
* $0.14M to support plant industries by protecting market access and minimising establishment of exotic pests and diseases

Confident Culture

* $0.35M to support public library services

Infrastructure Highlights

$52.7M under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing and the National Partnership Agreement on Stronger Futures, to construct new and upgrade existing housing and provide associated infrastructure in remote Indigenous communities

$7.2M to upgrade and seal Fog Bay Road, including Leviathan Creek crossing

$3.5M to strengthen and widen targeted sections of the Arnhem Highway, including overtaking lanes

$3M for the Maningrida sewerage system upgrade

$2.5M for Mary River floodplain protection

$2M to upgrade the hardstand at Wurrumiyanga

$1.7M in Commonwealth funding for upgrades to the Maningrida Health Clinic

$1.6M for three flexible-use classrooms and ablutions at Maningrida School

$1.5M to construct freight handling facilities at the Maningrida barge landing

Palmerston and Litchfield

Around 53 000 people live in the Palmerston and Litchfield region, with about 32 000 people residing in Palmerston. About 11 per cent of Palmerston‑Litchfield’s population is Indigenous. The region has a relatively young population overall, with about 39 per cent of the population aged 24 years and under and about 5 per cent of the population aged 65 years and over.

Industries in the Palmerston and Litchfield region include aquaculture, horticulture, cattle and crocodile farming, defence, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and helium production. LNG production will increase substantially following the completion of construction of the Ichthys LNG plant at Blaydin Point in 2016.

The region has significant transport and logistics infrastructure including East Arm Wharf, Darwin Business Park and the Adelaide to Darwin railway terminal. The region will also become a services hub with the construction of the Marine Supply Base and activities associated with the Ichthys project.

The region is also home to the Australian Army 1st Brigade at Robertson Barracks.

Prosperous Economy

* $7M in Territory and Commonwealth funding to operate and deliver vocational education and training for Territorians to develop new or build on existing skills to gain employment
* $6.33M to provide public bus transport
* $1.5M to increase productivity, sustainability and market opportunities for the mango, tropical fruit and vegetable industries, as well as the amenity horticulture and lifestyle industries
* $0.3M to operate the Coastal Plains Research Farm

Strong Society

* $125.52M for the safe, secure and humane care of adult inmates
* $79.3M for primary school education in government and non‑government schools
* $31.6M for middle years education in government and non‑government schools
* $21.8M for senior years education in government and non‑government schools
* $18.72M to provide police, fire and emergency services including two police stations, two fire stations and six volunteer groups (fire and emergency)
* $15.07M for out-of-home care services
* $8.4M for preschool education in government and non‑government schools
* $6.9M to provide safe, secure and humane care of young people at Don Dale Youth Detention Centre
* $4.48M for child protection services
* $3.58M for family and parenting support services
* $3.51M to provide school buses   
  and special needs transport for students
* $3.5M for non-acute health and community services in the region
* $2.92M to provide assessment, monitoring and supervision services to community‑based corrections clients in the Palmerston region
* $2.3M to provide a secure mental health facility at the Darwin Correctional Precinct
* $2.15M to provide sex offender treatment, Indigenous family violence and elders visiting programs, and remote communities corrections officer programs
* $2.1M for early childhood education
* $2M for the Northern Territory Early Childhood Services Subsidy
* $1.4M for isolated student education through distance education
* $1.3M in Back to School payments
* $1.3M for tertiary education in government schools
* $0.31M to provide improved recruitment, retention and support for foster and kinship carers
* $0.2M for services for the new child and family centres in Palmerston
* $0.15M to enhance prison industry programs within the Darwin Correctional Precinct

Balanced Environment

* $6.1M for Territory Wildlife Park
* $1.37M to manage and maintain Crown land including associated buildings and weeds
* $0.97M to support the livestock and plant industries by protecting market access and minimising establishment of exotic pests and diseases
* $0.5M to review Darwin’s current and future water supply sources and the treatment levels required to cater for increased demand
* $0.1M to deliver Land for Wildlife programs

Confident Culture

* $2.3M to continue operation of the Palmerston Water Park
* $0.55M to support public library services

Infrastructure Highlights

$24.6M for new industrial and commercial land release projects

$23.9M for key headworks infrastructure to continue land release in Palmerston East, including the final stages of Zuccoli

$12.83M for the Channel Island power station, to extend the life by 15 years

$8.77M for the Howard East bore enhancement program to ensure security of supply within the existing extraction licence

$5.5M for the duplication of Roystonea Avenue between Temple Terrace and Gurd Street

$5M for preliminary works and planning of the Palmerston Regional Hospital

$4.8M to seal selected sections of Litchfield Park Road

$4M to facilitate the release of land at Palmerston North for residential and commercial development

$2.5M to upgrade headworks to support land development in Humpty Doo

$2M for water main upgrades to cater for growth in the Palmerston and the immediate surrounds

$2M for drainage upgrades in the rural area to support development

$1.2M to extend Rosebery Preschool

$1.2M for the Batchelor Outdoor Education Centre redevelopment

$1M to extend Durack Preschool

$0.5M to construct a new pumping station to provide sufficient capacity for the foreseeable future and provide a new power supply feed to Darwin River Dam pumping station

Darwin

Darwin is the Territory’s capital city and the main population and administrative centre. About 83 300 people live in Darwin, which represents about 35 per cent of the Territory’s population. Darwin’s population is relatively young, with about 32 per cent aged 24 years and under. Among the regions, Darwin has the highest proportion of population aged over 65 years, at about 7 per cent.

Major industries in Darwin include construction, defence, tourism, and public administration and safety. In addition to its own tourist attractions, Darwin is also the gateway to Kakadu and Litchfield national parks. Recreational fishing also contributes to overall tourism activity.

Darwin is an important centre for defence, with a number of bases and military establishments including HMAS Coonawarra Naval and Army base at Larrakeyah, RAAF Base Darwin and Defence Establishment Berrimah.

At present, the Ichthys liquefied natural gas (LNG) project is making a substantial contribution to construction activity, employment and investment in Darwin. The project involves the development of the offshore Ichthys liquids and gas field located 820 kilometres north-west of Darwin, as well as the construction of an LNG plant and other associated facilities onshore at Blaydin Point.

Prosperous Economy

* $28M in Territory and Commonwealth funding to operate and deliver vocational education and training for Territorians to develop new or build on existing skills to gain employment
* $17.68M to provide public bus transport
* $9.92M to provide registration and driver licensing services
* $2M to develop a coordinated strategy on the future development of the Darwin foreshore and additional port facilities
* $1M for the investigation and design of key Darwin City Master Plan concepts
* $0.89M to operate the Berrimah Farm Research Facility
* $0.8M to Tourism Top End for visitor information services in Darwin, marketing and industry engagement activities

Strong Society

* $526M for acute care services including patient travel, road and aeromedical retrieval services
* $346.2M for non‑acute health and community services
* $243.92M to provide police, fire and emergency services including two police stations, three fire stations, one volunteer group   
  (fire and emergency) and a police college and forensic laboratory
* $143.2M for primary school education in government and non‑government schools
* $67.3M for middle years education in government and non‑government schools
* $62.1M for senior years education in government and non‑government schools
* $22.1M for out-of-home care services
* $12.5M for preschool education in government and non‑government schools
* $10.17M to provide school buses and special needs transport for students
* $8.6M for tertiary education in government schools
* $7.3M towards cancer treatment and accommodation for cancer patients
* $6.52M to provide community‑based diversion, youth rehabilitation and residential boot camp programs
* $5.41M for child protection services
* $5.03M for family and parenting support services
* $5M for isolated student education through distance education
* $3.9M for early childhood education
* $3.77M to provide assessment, monitoring and supervision services to community‑based corrections clients
* $2.7M for the Northern Territory Early Childhood Services Subsidy
* $2.3M in Back to School payments
* $1.96M for the Youth Justice Unit
* $0.91M to provide enhanced monitoring and surveillance of offenders in the community to enable offenders to return to community
* $0.7M to provide reintegration, education and Indigenous affairs programs
* $0.69M for Family Responsibility Centres
* $0.59M to expand education and training programs and community work opportunities for adult offenders
* $0.44M to provide improved recruitment, retention and   
  support for foster and kinship   
  carers
* $0.4M for international education in government schools
* $0.33M for prisoner health services at the Darwin Correctional Precinct
* $0.32M to invest in alcohol and other drug intervention programs and residential treatment programs for adult offenders
* $0.16M to invest in post-release support and accommodation to assist offender reintegration into the community
* $60 000, in partnership with the Darwin City Council, to develop and implement a range of harm‑reduction strategies as part of the Public Intoxication and Public Wellbeing project

Balanced Environment

* $1.54M to manage and maintain Crown land including associated buildings and weeds
* $0.8M for monitoring and research activities in Darwin Harbour
* $0.5M for planning and management of treatment augmentation, outfall augmentation or increased recycling of treated wastewater
* $0.24M for water allocation plan implementation, regulation and compliance monitoring

Confident Culture

* $2.4M for the Leanyer Recreation Park
* $1.4M to support public library services
* $0.7M for the Darwin Greyhound Association to assist in industry development, conduct race meetings and maintain the facility at Winnellie

Infrastructure Highlights

$83M to upgrade and duplicate Tiger Brennan Drive from Darwin CBD to Berrimah Road, jointly funded by the Commonwealth

$22.8M for new upgrades at Royal Darwin Hospital

$11.6M for the new Northern Territory Open Education Centre, including a $3M contribution from INPEX

$11.3M for upgrades to sewerage facilities across Darwin

$9.7M for new and continued upgrades to the Hidden Valley Motor Sports Complex

$5M for the foreshore boardwalk along the base of Darwin City Esplanade from Darwin Waterfront Precinct

$4.5M for environmental and remediation work at the Darwin Waterfront including site investigation, realignment of the Naval Fuel Installation line and site decontamination

$4M to facilitate the release of land at Berrimah Farm for residential and commercial development

$3M for the refurbishment of Darwin Plaza

$2.29M to rebuild Power and Water Corporation’s Darwin city zone substation

$1.4M to increase water supply capacity and reliability to support growth in Darwin’s CBD and Stuart Park areas, and improve utilisation of existing infrastructure

$0.2M to the Darwin Waterfront Corporation to maintain social infrastructure and public use areas at the Darwin Waterfront Precinct