

## BARKLY REGION

### Regional Profile

The Barkly Region covers 283 648 square kilometres, 21% of the Northern Territory land mass. It covers the Tableland, Tennant Creek and Tennant Creek Balance statistical areas and is centred on the township of Tennant Creek.

Tennant Creek is the service and population centre for the region and is home to half the region's population.

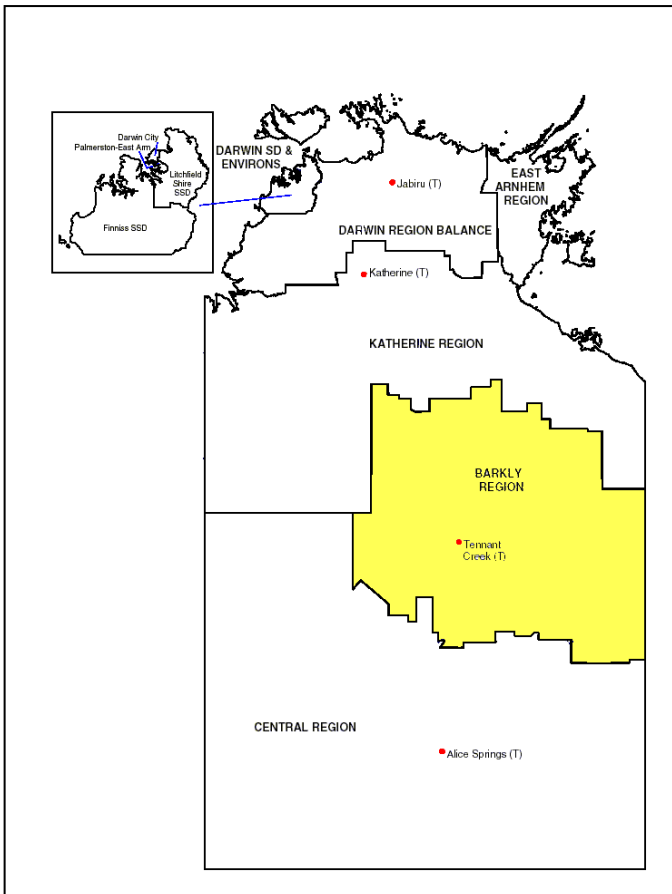
The Barkly Region is synonymous with the cattle industry. The rich grassland of the Barkly Tableland supports some of Australia's premier cattle stations and accounts for 39% of the value of the NT cattle industry. The region also supports a range of other industries including mining, tourism, retail, and government administration and defence.

### Society

#### Population

In 2004, there were 5840 people in the region, 3% of the total NT population.

Non-urban areas outside Tennant Creek were home to half the region's population.



#### Barkly Region Key Facts 2004

|                                       |                 |                        |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| Area                                  |                 | 283 648km <sup>2</sup> |
| Population                            | - Region        | 5840                   |
|                                       | - Tennant Creek | 2946                   |
| Labour force                          | - Region        | 2249                   |
|                                       | - Tennant Creek | 1285                   |
| Unemployment rate                     | - Region        | 9.2%                   |
|                                       | - Tennant Creek | 9.0%                   |
| Tourist visitor numbers:              |                 | 135 000                |
| Number of businesses:                 |                 | 315                    |
| Mining production value 2003-04:      |                 | \$13M                  |
| Agriculture production value 2003-04: |                 | \$91M                  |

In 2001, Indigenous people represented 55% of the population.

In the five years to 2004, the region's population declined by 1.3%. The Tennant Creek township population declined by 2.7% and Tennant Creek Balance was the only non-urban area to record population growth over the five year period to 2004.

The population of the region is expected to rise to more than 8000 by 2021, based on medium growth predictions by the ABS.

#### Local Government

There are three local councils in the area that administer the town of Tennant Creek and the predominantly Indigenous communities of Alpururulam and Ali Curung.

### Economy

#### Employment

In 2004, the Barkly Region had an estimated 2249 people in the labour force, with an unemployment rate of 9.2%. This does not take into account the Community Development Employment Program (CDEP) employment. In 2004, 735 people were in CDEP, representing 9.3% of total CDEP participants in the NT.

In 2004, 9% of the labour force in Tennant Creek was unemployed. A similar unemployment rate prevailed throughout non-urban areas of Barkly.

Agriculture, forestry and fishing, and government administration and defence were by far the largest employers by industry in the region. Over one-third of all jobs were in these two industries.

## Income and Prices

In 2001, the average wage and salary income for the Barkly Region (\$33 165) was 9.9% below the whole of the NT. Tennant Creek residents earned a higher share (2%) of the region's average wages and salaries.

## Number of Businesses

In 2001, the region had 315 business entities (estimated at 108 public and 185 private) that were predominantly located in Tennant Creek.

## Construction and Building

In 2003-04, the value of new residential buildings was \$5.2 million for 24 buildings approved in the region.

In 2004, the Indigenous Housing Association of the NT (IHANT) spent \$1.8M in the region, 8.7% of total NT spending.

Public construction projects in progress or expected to be completed in 2005 are currently valued at \$10.7M.

## Real Estate

The average house sale price in Tennant Creek in the June Quarter 2005 was \$70 000, down 6.7% on the previous year.

## Tourism

In 2004, the Barkly Region attracted 135 000 tourists, down slightly from two years earlier when 155 000 tourists visited the region.

In 2004, tourism directly contributed \$27M to the region, 2.3% of the NT share.

## Agriculture and Horticulture

In 2003-04, agricultural production in the Barkly Region totalled \$91.2M. This represented 19% of total primary industries production in the NT. The region had a total farm area of about 13 million ha (25.8% of the NT farm area), averaging just over 465 000 ha per farm. The number of beef cattle carried in 2003-04 was estimated at 426 468 head (28.5% of the NT herd), an average of 15 231 head per farm.

## Mining

In 2003-04, mining production in the Barkly Region was valued at \$12.8M. The major commodity produced was gold, which accounted for 99.5% of the region's mining production.

## Roads

The region has a total of 4267 km of roadways, almost 20% of the total roadways in the Northern Territory. About 1640 km (38%) of roadways within the region are sealed. In 2004 the region received 14% (\$9.8M) of NT spending on roads.

## Wellbeing

### Education

In 2004, there were 14 government schools operating in the region, with 1144 students were enrolled in primary and secondary schools in the region.

In 2004, there were 393 students enrolled in vocational education and training courses in the region, 1% of the NT total.

### Welfare

In 2003, recipients of Newstart Allowances, disability support pensions and single parenting payments all did so at a rate higher than the rest of the NT population.

In 2003, those people who received youth allowances did so at a rate below the average in the NT.

### Health

The region's public hospital is based in Tennant Creek. In 2003-04, of the 1431 public hospital separations, Indigenous people accounted for nearly 75.1%, although they comprise only 55% of the population.

Hospital separations longer than one day accounted for 66.9% of non-Indigenous separations compared to 80.8% of all Indigenous separations.

Indigenous people were over-represented in most causes of death categories, particularly in deaths caused by external causes.

### Law and Public Safety

In 2004, crime rates for acts intended to cause injury, sexual assaults and related offences, and unlawful entry with intent/burglary, break and enter were much higher than elsewhere in the NT.

Adam Lourey, Ian Hayes & Gerry McCue  
Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Development House, 76 The Esplanade  
GPO. Box 3200, Darwin 0801, NT

### November 2005

*Disclaimer: The Northern Territory of Australia gives no warranty of assurance, and makes no representation as to the accuracy of any information or advice contained in this publication, or that it is suitable for your intended use.*