

## Regional Profile

Groote Eylandt is situated in the Gulf of Carpentaria, 630km from Darwin by air. The island belongs to the Anindilyakwa people, and is part of the Arnhem Land Indigenous Reserve. It is the largest island in the Gulf, with an area of 2 687 square kilometres. The island is approximately 50 km from east to west and 60 km from north to south. It is low-lying with an average height above sea level of only 15 metres.

The island has a pleasant tropical climate, with an average maximum temperature of 31.5C and average rainfall of 1177mm. The vegetation is typical of the tropical savannah woodland of Northern Australia. There are four major communities on Groote Eylandt

## Society

### Population

The population of the East Arnhem region is 13,942 persons with 1,539\* persons residing on Groote Eylandt.

Indigenous persons make up 42% (656\*) of the Groote Eylandt total population.

### Median Age

The median age for the East Arnhem region is 27 years while the median age for Groote Eylandt is 28 years.



## Working Age

69% (1,068) of the Groote Eylandt population is of working age (between 15-64 yrs).

## Average Number of Household Occupants

The average number of occupants for East Arnhem region is 4.6 while households on Groote Eylandt have on average 3.4 occupants.

## Median Weekly Household Income

The median weekly household income for the East Arnhem region is \$1,546 and \$1,747 for Groote Eylandt. The Australian median weekly household income is \$1,027.

## Economy

### Employment

Groote Eylandt has estimated labour force of 1,014 persons. Mining and government are the major industries on the island

Employment by industry on Groote Eylandt is dominated by Mining (50%), Public administration & safety (13%), Health care & social assistance (10%), Accommodation & food services (5%), and Construction (3%), Education & training (3%) and Transport, Postal & Warehousing (3%).

The major occupation profiles on Groote Eylandt consist of Technicians & Trades workers (17%), Machinery Operators & Drivers (15%), Labourers (15%), Professionals (15%) and Community and personal service workers (11%).

### Number of Businesses

There are 117 registered businesses on the island, of which 29 are companies and 88 are individuals/sole traders. It is likely that over half of the individuals/sole traders are sub-contractors to the Groote Eylandt Mining Company (GEMCO). There is a range of businesses that supply the local community such as cafes, a travel agency, a hairdresser, car hire, hardware, home wares, electrical retail, cleaning services, and IT consultants.

## Mining

The discovery of manganese deposit near Angurugu has dramatically changed the economy of Groote Eylandt. GEMCO supplies about 10 per cent of the world's manganese ore and is jointly owned by BHP Billiton (60%) and the Anglo American Corporation (40%). GEMCO is the largest employer on Groote Eylandt with a permanent workforce of approximately 250 people. Manganese production in 2006-07 was 3.3 million tonnes with a total value of \$953 million.

## Tourism

A \$16 million eco-resort has been built by the Anindilyakwa Land Council on Groote Eylandt. The resort has the capacity to accommodate up to 150 guests. The four-star 'Dugong Beach Resort' includes 60 rooms, ranging from motel style business suites and family rooms to VIP executive bungalows. It will feature a safari tent fishing village, art and culture centre, restaurant and bar.

## Fishing

Recreational fishing in the waters around Groote Eylandt is a population pastime for island residents, as well as attracting fishing charters from Nhulunbuy.

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## References

2006 Census of Population and Housing - Basic Community Profiles by Location - Groote Eylandt).

2006 Census of Population and Housing - Basic Community Profiles by Location – East Arnhem.

ABN Business Count: data provided by the Australia Tax Office July 2006

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Small Area Labour Markets, Australia, March Quarter 2008