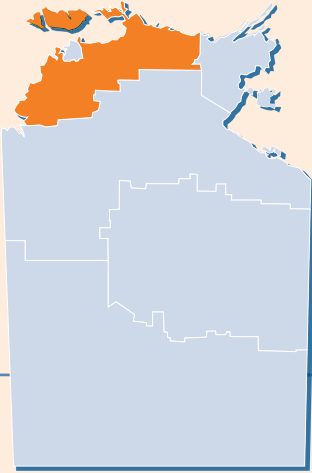


Top End Rural



The Top End Rural region covers the area to the south of Palmerston and Litchfield, east to East Arnhem and south to the Katherine region, encompassing many small communities. In 2006 approximately 14 700 people lived in the region, 70 per cent of whom were Indigenous. The region's population is relatively young, with 48 per cent aged 24 years and under, and only 3 per cent 65 years and older.

Mining, including Toms Gully, Ranger and Browns Oxide mines, contributes significantly to the region's economic activity. Other important industries include cattle, farming, horticulture and agriculture, which are supported by the Coastal Plains Horticultural Research Farm and Douglas Daly Research Farm. A project to construct an onshore treatment plant and connecting pipeline to source gas from the Blacktip gas fields is currently under way.

Tourism is growing in importance, with the Tiwi Islands, Litchfield National Park and Kakadu National Park, as well as the Daly and other rivers, all within the region's borders.

Supporting Business

- › \$1.12M to advise land-holders on weed management for control, prevention, best practice and identification
- › \$0.98M for animal health services including inspection, treatment and certification services and disease surveillance and preparedness programs to ensure Territory livestock meet standards for domestic and export outlets
- › \$0.92M to manage the Douglas Daly Research Farm as the base for delivery of primary industry programs and to test best farming systems
- › \$0.64M to provide integrated land and vegetation advice to land-holders by raising potential soil erosion issues, sediment control and effects of clearing
- › \$0.4M to provide new generation geoscience data and promote investment opportunities under Bringing Forward Discovery
- › \$0.39M to provide monitoring and advisory services to pastoralists through satellite monitoring to observe land and grazing conditions
- › \$0.38M to monitor the environmental impact from operational and closed mine sites in the region, including Ranger and Woodcutters mines
- › \$0.17M to support the Territory mango industry with a series of workshops to improve the uptake of mango production technology
- › \$80 000 to support buffalo industry development through genetics, Tenderbuff and crossbreeding research programs

Infrastructure Highlights

- › \$12.27M for Port Keats Road for continuing and further upgrade works
- › \$9.2M for Indigenous community housing organisations to construct and upgrade Indigenous housing
- › \$4.5M to continue work on the Litchfield Loop
- › \$3.11M for new Wadeye health clinic
- › \$1.2M for Waruwi aerodrome upgrade at Goulburn Island
- › \$0.5M for Mary River Wetlands saltwater intrusion control works
- › \$0.31M for Channel Point park infrastructure
- › \$1.91M for repairs and maintenance of urban and rural roads across the Top End
- › \$3M for landscaping and irrigation maintenance across the Top End

Power and Water Projects

- › \$1.2M to meet growing demand for electricity supplies to horticultural, residential and commercial customers in the Corroboree Park area east of Humpty Doo
- › \$1M for Maningrida to upgrade power generation
- › \$0.54M to continue upgrading electrical feeders to improve reliability
- › \$0.5M for Milikapiti to connect community to Ngiuu electricity grid
- › \$0.45M for Maningrida to upgrade sewer main

- › \$50 000 for tourism plans for Mataranka, Larrimah and Daly River
- › \$47 000 to improve transport and logistics for the mango industry using a fruit crop forecasting system to predict maturity dates
- › \$23 000 for aerial photography and mapping to assist industry activity relating to land resources

Jobs and Training

- › \$2.27M for Charles Darwin University, Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education and other service providers to deliver vocational education and training
- › \$0.5M for Flexible Response Funding for training leading to employment for Indigenous people, including Training for Remote Youth



- › \$90 000 to train and employ traditional owners for parks and reserves in accordance with joint management arrangements
- › \$60 000 for Revive and Refocus forums for remote Territory public sector workers

Safer Communities

- › \$7.6M for police, fire and emergency services, including nine police stations, one fire station and 12 volunteer groups, including \$0.35M for repairs, maintenance and minor new works
- › \$0.53M for Wadeye, Jabiru and Tiwi Islands community corrections to monitor and supervise adult and juvenile clients, including successful reintegration into the community
- › \$0.1M for courts to administer justice for regional and remote communities, including Wadeye, Daly River and Jabiru. Registry services are provided through the Magistrates Court in Darwin

Across the Territory

Some initiatives cannot be accurately apportioned between regions. A summary of these are provided here.

- › \$52.66M to subsidise tariffs for electricity, water and sewerage customers
- › \$9.29M for business and industry development and support services
- › \$6.69M to support mining in the Territory including Bringing Forward Discovery
- › \$3.56M assisting primary producers and land managers
- › \$24.69M to support and train apprentices and trainees and provide employer incentives including Jobs Plan 2 and 3
- › \$0.61M for 40 higher education scholarships
- › \$7.62M for legal and court-related services
- › \$4.35M for road safety reforms and policing
- › \$12.4M for Building Better Schools
- › \$2.69M to improve English literacy outcomes for students
- › \$1.51M for community education organisations
- › \$0.75M for renal dialysis and kidney disease health management services
- › \$0.48M for the rotavirus vaccination program for infants in the Territory
- › \$6.88M to implement new local government reform including \$4.95M for one-off establishment grants
- › \$33M improve access to affordable housing through rebates, grants and concessions
- › \$1.86M to encourage Indigenous business development and industry participation
- › \$13.65M to support peak and grass roots sporting and recreation organisations
- › \$11.06M for renewable energy, water and environment projects
- › \$5.33M for major and key regional sporting, cultural and arts events
- › \$5.25M for grants and sponsorship including the Community Benefit Fund

Infrastructure

- › \$33.7M for housing-related projects
- › \$16.26M for new and continuing works on highways, local roads and blackspots
- › \$6.7M for Indigenous Essential Services minor works
- › \$33M in minor new works across all agencies

Better Schooling

- › \$23.09M for early childhood, primary and secondary education in 17 remote schools
- › \$8.08M to assist non-government schools in the region
- › \$2.55M for the Indigenous Education Strategic Initiatives Program to improve Indigenous education outcomes
- › \$1.18M to provide student and school support services, including curricula and special needs support
- › \$0.8M for Australian Government Targeted Programs including Literacy, Numeracy and Special Learning Needs and the National Drug Education Strategy

2007-08 budget

- › \$0.6M for the Territory Student Assistance Travel Scheme and teacher housing
- › \$0.26M for children's early learning and family support to help children get to school in Wadeye
- › \$0.25M for programs to support students with a disability
- › \$0.13M in Back to School payments to assist students with the costs of essential school items
- › \$0.13M to employ Aboriginal and Islander education workers

Better Health

- › \$32.56M for non-acute health and community services in the region

Community Development

- › \$3.3M to Indigenous community housing organisations to maintain and manage community housing
- › \$0.36M for two development coordinator positions at Pine Creek and the Tiwi Islands to assist in governance capacity development and to support regional local government
- › \$0.14M for regional public library services at Jabiru, Wadeye, Coomalie, Peppimenarti and the Tiwi Islands

- › \$0.1M for the Adelaide River railway beautification project
- › \$35 000 for technological expertise and crablets to support mud crab aquaculture at Maningrida as a model for other low-tech aquaculture ventures, to provide employment and training opportunities for local Indigenous people

Lifestyle and Environment

- › \$1.13M for a joint project with the Australian Greenhouse Office to harvest and chip *Mimosa pigra* at Beatrice Hill to produce gas to drive power generators
- › \$1.13M for bushfire mitigation and control operations in the Arafura, Vernon and Arnhem Bushfire Control regions

- › \$0.61M for water management, including bore monitoring and water allocation planning
- › \$0.43M for crocodile management through trapping and relocation at Wangi Falls and Berry Springs
- › \$0.32M to support the Daly River Management Advisory Committee
- › \$0.25M to eradicate Cabomba aquatic weed from Darwin River
- › \$0.24M for the Marine Ranger Program, including financial and training support to Indigenous communities, monitoring of illegal activity, sacred site protection, feral animal and noxious plant control and community education
- › \$0.21M to implement joint management agreements with traditional owners for parks and reserves
- › \$0.16M to monitor surface and ground water for sustainability
- › \$0.16M for flood forecasting
- › \$20 000 to develop joint park management arrangements between traditional owners and Parks and Wildlife Service
- › \$20 000 to develop new joint park management arrangements for the Mary River region
- › \$10 000 for the Jabiru Mahbilil Festival

