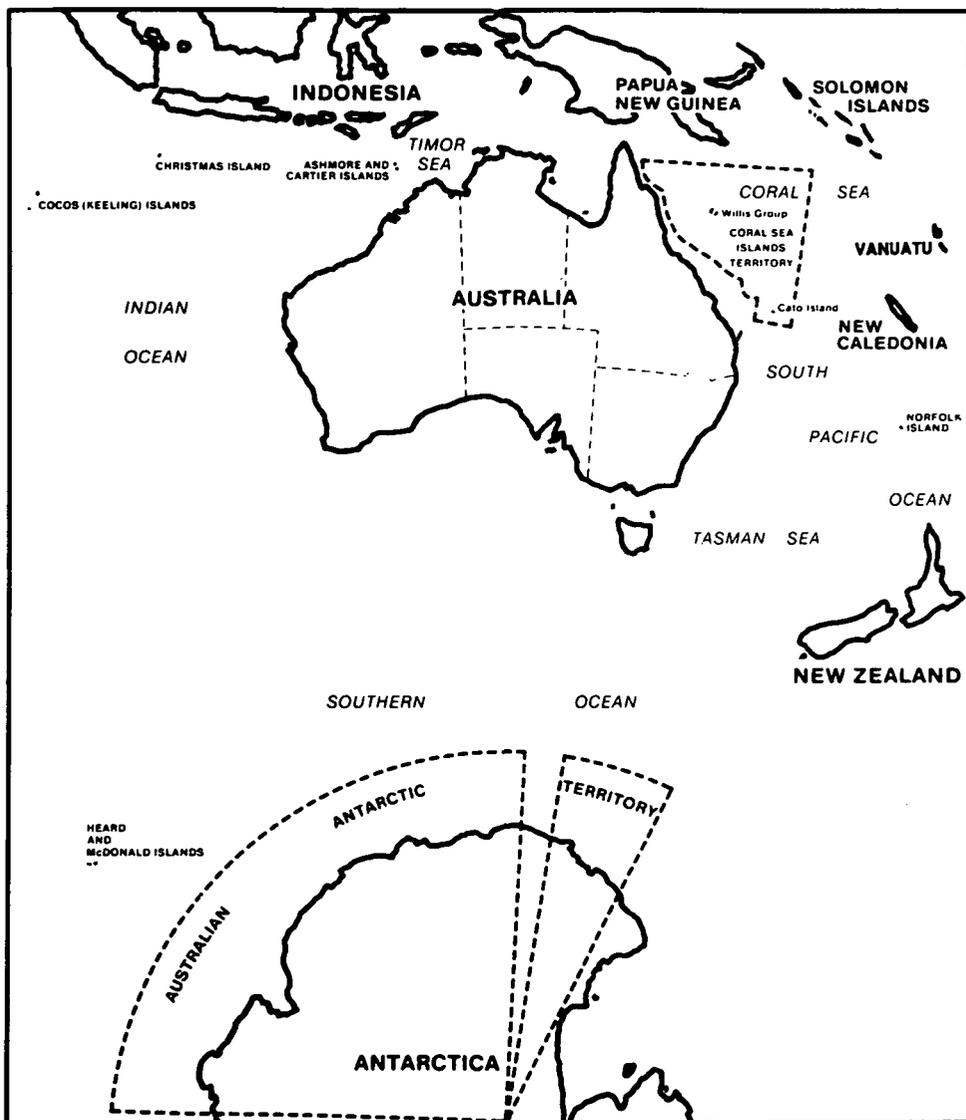


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# THE TERRITORIES OF AUSTRALIA



Source—Promotion Australia

The internal Territories of Australia are the Northern Territory, the Australian Capital Territory and the Jervis Bay Territory. The seven external Territories under Australian Administration are: Norfolk Island; the Territory of Heard and McDonald Islands; the Australian Antarctic Territory; the Territory of Cocos (Keeling) Islands; the Territory of Christmas Island; the Coral Sea Islands Territory and the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands.

More detailed statistics and additional descriptive matter are to be found in the Annual Reports of the administrations of the various Territories and in the *Northern Territory Statistical Summary* (1306.7) and the *Australian Capital Territory Statistical Summary* (1307.8) issued by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. Statistics for the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory are also included in chapters dealing with particular subjects.

## THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

### General Description

The total area of the Northern Territory is 1,346,200 square kilometres. The seat of Government is Darwin on the north coast. The estimated resident population of the Darwin Statistical Division at 30 June 1986 was 72,937.

### Northern Territory self-government

The Northern Territory was established as a self-governing territory by the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978* of the Commonwealth. Under that Act, the Commonwealth transferred most of its powers to the Government of the Northern Territory.

In all fields of transferred power, the Government is similar to that of the Australian States, with some differences in titles, for example there is an Administrator instead of a Governor and a Chief Minister instead of a Premier.

The Administrator, appointed by the Governor-General, has responsibility for administering the Government of the Northern Territory. The Administrator is advised by an Executive Council composed of all Northern Territory Ministers, led by the Chief Minister, and acts with the advice of the Executive Council on all matters transferred to the Northern Territory. The Administrator acts with Commonwealth advice on matters not transferred.

The Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory is the Northern Territory's Parliament. It has 25 Members, who are elected for a period of four years. A Speaker is elected by, and Ministers are appointed from, the Members of the Legislative Assembly. A Ministry of nine is responsible for the administration of all transferred powers and acts through a number of departments and authorities, most of which are staffed by the Northern Territory Public Service.

Local government was established in Darwin in 1957 and later in regional centres. Municipal councils are elected by universal adult franchise, with elections at intervals of not more than three years. Provision has been made for a limited form of local government by smaller communities. There has been considerable interest in this provision, particularly in Aboriginal communities.

### Development of administration

Upon the extension of New South Wales westwards to the 129th east meridian in 1825, the Northern Territory was incorporated in that colony, but in 1863 it was annexed by Royal Letters Patent to the province of South Australia. With the adjacent islands, it was transferred to the Commonwealth on 1 January 1911.

From 1911 until 30 June 1978, the Commonwealth administered the Northern Territory under the provisions of the *Northern Territory (Administration) Act 1910*, as amended.

The Act provided for an Administrator, appointed by the Governor-General, to administer the Northern Territory on behalf of the Commonwealth Government.

By amendment of the Act in 1947, a Legislative Council comprising seven official and six elected members, with the Administrator as President, was created to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Northern Territory. Composition of the Legislative Council was changed by further amendment in 1959 to provide for six official members, three nominated non-official members and eight elected members, and for an Administrator's Council to advise the Administrator. The Act was further amended in 1974 to provide for a Legislative Assembly of 19 elected Members and for a Speaker to be one of those Members, elected by the Members.

Laws passed by the Assembly were presented to the Administrator for assent. The Administrator was required to reserve laws on specific subjects for the pleasure of the Governor-General who was empowered to assent, withhold his assent or refuse his assent in part to such laws, or to return them to the Assembly with recommended amendments.

On 1 January 1977, the Commonwealth Government began a program of transferring executive powers to the Legislative Assembly by amendment of the Northern Territory (Administration) Act. A separate Northern Territory Public Service was created and administrative powers were transferred. Positions of Executive Member were created under the Act. These Members exercised ministerial-type powers in respect of transferred matters such as policy, fire brigade, local government and correctional services. An Executive Council replaced the Administrator's Council.

On 1 July 1978, the Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act came into force and established the Northern Territory as a body politic under the Crown. This Act also provided for the appointment of an Administrator by the Governor-General. It created offices of Ministers of the Northern Territory who, together with the Administrator, formed the Executive Council of the Northern Territory. A Northern Territory Government, comprising Ministers of the Northern Territory, was established with full responsibility for a range of State-type transferred powers administered through a Northern Territory Public Service and a Treasury. A Northern Territory flag was raised for the first time on 1 July 1978, the date upon which the Northern Territory became self-governing.

Major matters not transferred on 1 July 1978 were the mining of uranium and other prescribed substances, Aboriginal land matters, health, education and the Supreme Court. Powers in respect of health, education and the Supreme Court were progressively transferred from the Commonwealth to the Northern Territory Government during 1979.

At the end of 1979, the only major powers retained by the Commonwealth in the Northern Territory were those relating to rights in respect of Aboriginal land and the mining of uranium and other prescribed substances. Since the end of 1979, the Northern Territory, although remaining a Territory of the Commonwealth and still subject to Commonwealth laws made under Section 122 of the Constitution, is in most respects a self-governing Territory.

The Northern Territory is represented in the Parliaments of the Commonwealth by one Member in the House of Representatives and two Senators, whose terms of office coincide with that of the member in the House of Representatives. Since October 1984 the Cocos (Keeling) Islands have been included in the Northern Territory electorate for the purposes of all federal elections and referenda.

### **Physical geography and climate**

The Northern Territory has a mainland coastline that is 5,100 kilometres long, with a further 2,100 kilometres of coast around off-lying islands. A broad, shallow, low-gradient continental shelf, being less than 200 metres deep, runs for more than 140 kilometres offshore. Most of the coast is low-lying; cliffs, rarely exceeding 20 metres high, have been cut into weathered lateritic rocks, and there are active and cemented dunes, more

than 50 metres high, on the western shore of the Gulf of Carpentaria. Coral reefs are best developed on the north coast and around off-lying islands. Most of the coastline consists of unvegetated mudflats, or mangrove swamps, which cover an area of approximately 2,400 square kilometres. The large tidal range of the north-western coast and the low gradient of the coastal lowlands means that some of the larger rivers are tidal for more than 100 kilometres upstream from their mouth. There are extensive seasonally-flooded coastal plains and black soil plains fringing the river systems, between the dissected lateritic lowlands, along much of the coast to the north-west and around the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Inland, the coastal lowlands merge into the dissected sandstone plateaux of Arnhem Land to the north, the granitic and sandstone Ord-Victoria river plateaux to the west, with rounded ridges of largely metamorphic rocks between those plateaux. The central section of the Northern Territory is formed of shallowly dissected lateritised sandstone ridges and sandplains. To the west there are the Lander dunefields with east-west trending longitudinal dunes, and to the east the black clay plains and limestone or sandstone rises of the Barkly Tablelands. The southern end of the Northern Territory is dominated by the Central Australian Ranges. These consist of granitic, sandstone and quartzitic ridges, separated by sandplains or stony lowlands. The folded Macdonnell Ranges, running east-west, contain the highest point in the Territory, Mount Zeil, 1,511 metres high. To the south-east there is a part of the Simpson Desert with north-west-south-east trending longitudinal dunes.

There are two main climatic divisions: the wet season from November to April; and the dry season from May to October. The changes of weather are uniform and regular. Nearly all the rainfall occurs in the summer months.

### **Fauna and flora of the Northern Territory**

The Northern Territory contains an immense array of faunal habitats, from arid deserts to the wet/dry tropics. Consequently, the fauna is characterised by species abundance, many of which are endemic to the Territory.

There are about 378 species of birds, 264 reptiles, 125 mammals, 42 amphibians and 100,000 species of insects, well represented by termites, ants and butterflies. In contrast to these distinctly Australian terrestrial fauna, the marine fauna of the Northern Territory is very similar to the Indo-Malay Archipelago immediately to the north.

The Northern Territory is famous for its herds of wild buffalo although introduced from Timor. There are also feral herds of banteng cattle, Timor ponies and samba deer which are confined to the Cobourg Peninsula.

The most distinct faunal region is centred on the sandstone escarpment of Arnhemland, including Kakadu National Park which is on the World Heritage List. Amongst the endemic fauna to be found there are the black wallaroo, the white-striped sheath-tailed bat, the blackbanded pigeon and the white-throated and Carpentaria grass-wrens. There are also endemic fish (rainbow and primitive archer fish), insects (Leichhardt's grasshopper), and reptiles (Oenpelli python, a gecko, and a stunted variety of Johnston's freshwater crocodile).

In the central deserts surrounding Alice Springs, the harsh climate promotes crypticism among the smaller native species, but plagues of rodents and small marsupials occasionally emerge following suitable rainfall. Distinctly Australian species include the bilby (a bandicoot), the thorny mountain devil (a lizard) and the Major Mitchell cockatoo. Snakes, many of which are venomous, are common throughout all habitats in the Territory. Introduced pests, especially the rabbit, can become extremely abundant in arid areas and constitute a serious threat to the pastoral industry. Similarly, the introduced fox and feral cats have been implicated in the decline or extinction of several native species.

Northern Territory vegetation is Australian in character although there is a significant component of the flora derived from the Indo-Malayan regions. In the 'Top End', the

monsoon climate, the frequent fires associated with it and the poor soils, support eucalypt forests with open savanna understoreys. Pockets of monsoon forests, similar to rainforest, occur on sites with superior moisture supply during the seven month drought. Associated with the lower rainfall further inland, the height and density of forests decreases to form low woodlands. On the Barkly Tablelands and parts of the Victoria Rivers district, savanna with scattered shrubs occur. On the sandy plains of the interior and on the rugged sandstone escarpments, spinifex grasses predominate with occasional stunted shrubs. The country surrounding Alice Springs carries acacia scrub called 'mulga'. Where this community has been severely disturbed it is replaced by spinifex. There are some 180 different families of vascular plants in the Northern Territory, with over 3,000 species. However little of the area has been well studied and future exploration will add to our knowledge, especially in the central and northern portions of the Territory for which there are no published floras.

### **Water**

The Northern Territory Government provides water and sewerage facilities in four of the five major centres—Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine and Tennant Creek. In the other major centre, Nhulunbuy, the mining company North Australian Bauxite Company provides those services. Facilities are also provided for numerous Aboriginal communities and all smaller gazetted towns such as Pine Creek, Mataranka, Elliott and Finke. Facilities for the new Yulara Tourist Village near Uluru (Ayers Rock) are provided by the Yulara Corporation, and in Jabiru they are provided by the Jabiru Town Development Authority.

Darwin is served by the Darwin River Dam, situated some 70 kilometres from the city. The rockfill dam was completed in 1972. The dam is 30 metres high with a crest length of 564 metres, has an active storage of 230 million cubic metres and a safe draft of 90 megalitres a day. Studies are also being carried out to identify future sources to meet the growing needs of the Darwin region.

Katherine is supplied with treated water from the Katherine River, but with the proposed development of Tindal RAAF base near Katherine, feasibility studies are in progress to assess future supplies from various dam sites on the Katherine River system.

Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and all other towns and communities are supplied by bores from groundwater sources. Alice Springs has twenty production bores at Roe Creek. Tennant Creek has ten at Kelly Well and three at Cabbage Gum.

### **Soil conservation**

The Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory administers soil conservation and control legislation, undertakes resource inventories to assess land capabilities and conducts soil erosion works on behalf of government and private sectors.

## **Population**

The population of the Northern Territory at 30 June 1987, was 156,700 persons. For further information, see Chapter 6, Demography.

## **Aboriginal Affairs**

### **Policy**

The Government is committed to policies of Aboriginal self-management at all levels. Involvement of Aboriginals in delivery and planning programs, and in all stages of the development and implementation of policy is paramount.

The basis of the Government's approach is to secure access to government services for Aboriginals equal to that accorded other Australian citizens, together with additional services appropriate to Aboriginals' state of disadvantage, and in recognition of a community obligation deriving from Aboriginals' past dispossession and dispersal.

### **Legal status**

As Australian citizens, Aboriginals are entitled to equality before the law. For the purpose of administering various programs designed to benefit Aboriginals, the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and other Commonwealth Government departments and agencies define an 'Aboriginal' or 'Torres Strait Islander' as a person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community in which he or she lives.

### **Land and land rights**

Aboriginals who are able to prove strong traditional links with unalienated Crown land may make a claim before the Aboriginal Land Commissioner, a judge of the Northern Territory Supreme Court. The *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* requires the Land Commissioner, in hearing a claim, to consider a number of matters in addition to traditional ownership before making a recommendation to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. The Minister can then accept or reject the Aboriginal Land Commissioner's recommendations.

Minerals on Aboriginal land remain the property of the Crown. The Aboriginal Land Rights Act provides that mineral exploration can only proceed with the consent of the appropriate land council, which in turn must abide by the wishes of the traditional Aboriginal owners of the area concerned. Pre-existing mining interests were exempt from this requirement. In all cases where there is disagreement on terms and conditions, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs is able to appoint an arbitrator.

Royalties from mining on Aboriginal land are paid into an Aboriginals Benefit Trust Account and are distributed to pay administrative expenses of land councils, to communities affected by mineral developments and, on the recommendation of an advisory committee, to Aboriginal communities of the Northern Territory generally. Control of uranium mining has been reserved by the Commonwealth and special arrangements have been made between the Commonwealth and the Northern Territory Governments in relation to payments in lieu of royalties.

In August 1985, the Commonwealth Government announced an intention to amend the Aboriginal Land Rights Act on the basis of a preferred National Land Rights Model which the Government would like to see adopted in all States. This model proposes land claims to unalienated Crown land on the basis of traditional entitlement, historical association, long-term occupation and to meet specific needs. It would confer substantial rights in relation to mining on Aboriginal land but there would be no veto on exploration or mining.

Aboriginal communities are also being assisted to purchase land on the open market. The Aboriginal Development Commission, established in 1980, assists Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, groups and individuals to acquire land for a variety of purposes, engage in business enterprises, obtain finance for housing and other personal needs, and to receive training where necessary.

### **Community services and affairs**

Government policy in the administration of Aboriginal affairs is to encourage State and Commonwealth departments and instrumentalities to provide services to Aboriginal Australians as to other Australian citizens and to take measures to ensure that these services are appropriate, accessible and reflect the variety of Aboriginal life styles.

## Special programs for Aboriginals

Attention is being given to changing the institutional character of Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory. Assistance is designed to encourage and strengthen the capacity of Aboriginals to manage their own affairs, to increase their economic independence, and to reduce social handicaps facing them.

Government policy is to provide Aboriginal primary school children in Aboriginal communities with education in their own language as far as practicable. Bilingual education programs initiated in Northern Territory Aboriginal communities in 1973 now operate at 16 schools, using 12 Aboriginal languages. Aboriginal independent community schools, supported by the Government, also operate bilingual education programs.

## Land Tenure

On 26 October 1987, 154,931 km<sup>2</sup> were held under freehold title; 746,320 km<sup>2</sup> under leasehold; 17,312 km<sup>2</sup> under various licences; 343,552 km<sup>2</sup> were Aboriginal freehold (this figure includes land granted under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act 1976* and land which has since been claimed and over which title has issued); 824 km<sup>2</sup> set aside for government use; and 83,261 km<sup>2</sup> unalienated. Land rent collected for the year 1986–87 amounted to \$469,000.

Following the report of the Aboriginal Land Rights Commissioner in April 1974, the Commonwealth Government introduced the *Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act 1976*. This Act which commenced on Australia Day, 26 January 1977, gave traditional Aboriginals inalienable freehold title to former Aboriginal reserves and some other land, amounting to approximately 19 per cent of the Northern Territory, and provided a procedure for them to claim title to other areas of unalienated Crown Land.

With the commencement of the *Crown Lands Amendment Act (No. 3) 1980* most existing leases in the Territory were automatically converted to freehold tenure making it the rule rather than the exception. Most pastoral leases and all special purposes leases were excluded from automatic freeholding.

Additional amendments to the Crown Lands Act were introduced in 1983 which enable Pastoral Lease holders to apply to have their leases converted to perpetual tenure after certain criteria have been complied with.

The various forms of lease or licence of lands are described below.

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Pastoral leases           | —granted for periods not exceeding 50 years.   |
| Perpetual pastoral leases | —granted in perpetuity and are only granted after certain criteria have been complied with.  |
| Crown leases (Term)       | —granted for a term of years, and in majority of cases can be converted to freehold when developed.  |
| Crown leases (Perpetual)  | —granted in perpetuity.  |
| Special purposes leases   | —granted for a term of years or in perpetuity for purposes other than pastoral, agricultural or mining, or for private residential purposes within a town. |
| Grazing licences          | —granted to graze stock on Crown Lands for periods not exceeding one year.   |
| Occupational licences     | —granted for manufacturing, industrial or any prescribed purposes for periods not exceeding five years.  |
| Miscellaneous licences    | —granted for periods not exceeding one year.   |

## Production

### Pastoral and agricultural industries

Beef cattle production is the major rural industry in the Northern Territory. The beef industry has been characterised throughout its history by a slow rate of expansion due mainly to the quality of pastures in the top end of the Territory, periodic droughts in the Alice Springs district and remoteness from large domestic markets and other market infrastructure. Although the rate of expansion has been slow it has been persistent. Significant developments in the last two decades include: the establishment of a beef road system; expansion of market outlets, including live animal exports to Malaysia and Brunei; introduction of tropical cattle breeds in the northern regions; continued private investment in water supplies, fences and yards; and development of low cost aerial mustering techniques. Export licenced abattoirs now operate in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine, and Point Stuart and Mudginberri on the northern coast. The latter three abattoirs process both cattle and buffalo for export. The gross value of cattle production in 1985-86 was \$108 million.

In the Darwin district, the cattle industry has continued to be augmented by the buffalo meat industry. Interest in buffalo control has received a significant boost due to the recent development of a high-priced live export trade with Indonesia. Buffalo surplus to the live export trade requirements continue to be slaughtered predominantly for the West German market. The gross value of the buffalo industry in 1985-86 was in the order of \$6 million.

Both the cattle and buffalo industries of the Northern Territory are experiencing dramatic changes in management practices due to a campaign to eradicate brucellosis and tuberculosis from the herds. The campaign requires all stock to be manageable to the extent where a 100 per cent efficient muster can be carried out so controlled stock are segregated and protected from possible infection by non-controlled stock.

In 1980 the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority (ADMA) was established to develop broadacre cropping industries to the point where export sales were viable. The ADMA has developed six project farms in the Douglas-Daly basin, 250 kilometres from Darwin. These farms provide a commercial environment for the development of the required levels of agronomic and economic efficiency. ADMA operates as the handling and marketing authority for these and other non-project farmers in the Territory. Grain handling depots have been established at Katherine and Douglas-Daly. Gross value of production in 1985-86 was \$1.7 million.

#### NORTHERN TERRITORY: NUMBER, AREA AND LAND UTILISATION OF AGRICULTURAL ESTABLISHMENTS

	Number of agricultural establishments	Area used for crops (a)	Area under sown pastures and grasses	Balance of area (b)	Total	
					Area	Percentage of NT land area (134,620,000 hectares)
			—'000 hectares—			%
1981-82	300	2.0	55.6	77,078.0	77,135.6	57.3
1982-83	287	3.4	43.9	75,202.2	75,249.5	55.9
1983-84	283	5.2	32.6	73,648.7	73,686.5	54.7
1984-85	274	5.9	45.3	74,116.8	74,168.0	55.1
1985-86	276	7.1	32.8	72,882.5	72,922.4	54.2
1986-87	290	11.7	51.1	71,175.2	71,238.0	52.9

(a) Excludes duplication on account of area double cropped. (b) Used for grazing, lying idle, fallow, etc.

The horticultural industry in the Northern Territory has experienced very rapid expansion over the last five years. Value of production has increased from just over \$200,000 in the early 1980s to in excess of \$5 million in 1985-86. Very significant plantings of mangoes are as yet immature. The value of mango production is predicted to be in excess of \$10 million by 1990 and will continue to expand thereafter. Commercial trials of cashew production are being undertaken and it is expected that these will be the forerunner for a \$5 million industry. The top end of the Northern Territory has a natural advantage for horticultural production due to its capacity to produce the earliest maturing product in Australia for many lines of tropical fruit and vegetables. Table grape production in the Alice Springs district enjoys a similar advantage.

**NORTHERN TERRITORY: AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS**

	<i>Unit</i>	<i>1984-85</i>	<i>1985-86</i>	<i>1986-87</i>
Livestock numbers—				
Cattle	'000	1,484.0	1,457.5	1,439.3
Domesticated buffaloes	'000	13.3	12.9	15.0
Poultry	'000	223.9	229.0	239.0
Pigs	'000	3.0	3.1	7.0
Gross value of livestock slaughtering—				
Cattle and calves including domesticated buffaloes	\$'000	80,390	111,091	102,700
Crops, Area—				
Grain Sorghum (grain and feed)	Hectares	2,428	3,197	4,795
Hay	Hectares	55	150	374
Tree fruit	Hectares	459	555	388
Bananas	Hectares	28	23	41
Vegetables	Hectares	306	270	454
Pastures and grasses (hay, seed, green feed)	Hectares	7,764	5,337	6,464
Total area used for crops (incl. pastures and grasses)	Hectares	13,678	12,481	21,363
Crops, Production—				
Sorghum for grain	Tonnes	5,068	2,867	6,863
Hay	Tonnes	97	49	1,232
Bananas	Tonnes	760	650	816
Pastures and grasses (hay, seed)	Tonnes	7,895	4,625	2,574
Gross value of crops—				
Sorghum for grain	\$'000	801	487	1,098
Fruit	\$'000	629	1,115	1,406
Vegetables	\$'000	1,512	2,755	5,387
Pastures and grasses	\$'000	1,038	596	255
Total crops (incl. pastures and grasses)	\$'000	5,210	7,486	12,277
Gross value of agriculture	\$'000	(a)85,600	125,217	123,133

(a) Excludes pigs, poultry, milk and eggs.

## Mining

Northern Territory mining establishments have continued to increase from 1983. One of the main factors is the development of gold mining ventures in the Tennant Creek, Hayes Creek, Pine Creek, Tanami Desert and Alice Springs areas.

The principal mining areas are the Alligator Rivers Region for uranium; Gove Peninsula for bauxite/alumina production; Groote Eylandt for manganese; and Tennant Creek for copper and gold.

## NORTHERN TERRITORY: MINING ESTABLISHMENTS

		1984-85	1985-86	1987-88
Establishments operating end of June	No.	21	26	33
Average employment over whole year—persons (a)	No.	1,742	1,903	2,089
Wages and salaries	\$m	49.5	57.7	70.2
Turnover	\$m	623.7	615.5	826.9
Opening stocks at 30 June	\$m	168.4	153.7	208.0
Closing stocks at 30 June	\$m	155.8	184.2	286.9
Purchases, transfers in and selected expenses	\$m	144.8	165.5	194.7
Value added (b)	\$m	466.3	480.5	711.2
Fixed capital expenditure (c)	\$m	61.5	n.a.	n.a.

(a) Includes working proprietors. (b) Turnover plus increase (or less decrease) in the value of stocks less purchases, transfers in and selected expenses. Commencing with 1978-79, 'rent, leasing and hiring revenue' and 'rent, leasing and hiring expenses' have been included in the calculation of value added and its components 'turnover' and 'purchases, transfers in and selected expenses'. (c) Outlay on fixed tangible assets less disposals.

The Department of Mines and Energy encourages and assists the development of an efficient mining and processing industry throughout the Northern Territory. Through five divisions, the Department administers relevant legislation and provides a wide range of services.

The Mines Division acts as a single point of contact for all mineral mining related matters in the Northern Territory. In this context it is also responsible for controlling and ensuring the efficient, orderly and safe exploration for, and recovery and utilisation of, mineral resources in the Northern Territory. The Division formulates and implements policy and legislation designed to investigate the feasibility of mining and development proposals, provides technical advice to prospecting and mining operations, and strives for compatibility between mining and alternate land uses. It also administers all mineral titles and is responsible for the collection of mineral royalties.

The Geological Survey Division provides the essential scientific basis for the overall operations of the Department of Mines and Energy. The Division studies the regional geology and geophysics of the Northern Territory and publishes reports of this work for use by industry, other government departments and the public.

The Energy Division is responsible for the development and implementation of energy policies, research into alternative sources of energy, planning of energy supply and consumption in the Northern Territory and for safety and environmental supervision of petroleum exploration. This includes promotion of the exploration for and development of indigenous energy resources, research into diversification of the Northern Territory's energy base, energy conservation and security.

The Alligator Rivers Region Unit is responsible for the oversight and coordination of all stages of uranium mining, milling and rehabilitation processes in the area. The unit is the focal point for the industry and the public for matters concerning uranium mines in the Northern Territory.

### Offshore petroleum resources

The development of offshore petroleum resources is set to change the entire progress and development of the Northern Territory.

BHP Petroleum, which is putting 50 per cent of its Australian exploration effort into the search for oil in the Timor Sea, recently doubled production from the Jabiru venture with the addition of another subsea well and by modifying facilities. Production is now about 29,000 barrels per day.

In August 1987, the Minister for Mines and Energy authorised the release of four new exploration areas in the Bonaparte Gulf and the Arafura Sea, and the interest shown by the petroleum industry is an optimistic indicator of the promise of these regions.

The Timor Sea is Australia's most promising offshore area, and the increasing activity is heralding a substantial growth in production over the next couple of years. Expenditure on exploration and production in 1986 reached a record \$120 million, treble the amount spent in the previous year. Geophysical activity, which usually precedes drilling, also established record figures in 1986. More than 11,000 kilometres of seismic survey line was run, double the previous year's figures.

### Forestry

Forestry activities in the Northern Territory commenced in 1959 under the Forestry and Timber Bureau; later a State-type service was developed under the Department of the Northern Territory.

In July 1978, with the granting of self-government, forestry became the responsibility of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission, now the Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory.

Present activities fall into four main areas: Urban Forestry, Plantation Forestry, Native Forest Management and Conservation.

The Urban Forestry section is aimed at improving the urban environment throughout the Northern Territory through programs of park and street beautification and arid area species testing.

The Plantation Forestry section is predominantly based on plantation establishment on more favourable sites on Melville Island and is ultimately aimed at import replacement. The major species in use is *Pinus caribaea*, though early plantings were largely cypress pine. A small pressure treatment plant providing treated round timber is operated by the Aboriginals on nearby Bathurst Island.

Management of native forest is currently confined to the Murganella area of Arnhem Land where a policy of protection from fire has resulted in extensive regeneration of cypress pine and native hardwoods, *Eucalyptus tetradonta* and *E. nesophila*. Current research in this area is aimed at development of sound management prescriptions for treatment of this regeneration.

In its conservation role, the Conservation Commission has given emphasis to fire and ecological studies throughout the Territory together with seed collection, testing and propagation, and gene pool conservation of rare or unique species.

### Fishing

Seafoods landed in the Northern Territory in 1986-87 totalled 6,275 tonnes and had an estimated value of \$36.64 million. Prawn fishing continues to dominate the industry with 3,481 tonnes being landed, worth an estimated \$31.15 million. Barramundi remains the second most important species fished. Landings stood at 532 tonnes and were valued at \$1.9 million. In order of estimated landed value, mackerel, mud crabs, threadfin salmon, snapper, shark, bay lobster, bream, scallops and squid are the next most important species taken.

Management control measures have been introduced in the prawn, barramundi and mud crab fisheries in order to prevent over-exploitation of these fisheries resources.

Under an agreement to 31 July 1987, 50 pairs of Taiwanese trawlers were permitted to catch up to 15,000 tonnes of fish from areas off the north and north-west coasts of Australia. The western boundary of the authorised area (116°E longitude) was moved eastward to 117°30' E longitude after 31 July 1987, an adjustment which was considered necessary to ensure that development of an Australian Fishery would not be inhibited.

## NORTHERN TERRITORY: PRINCIPAL FISHERIES

		1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87
Prawns—							
Estimated gross weight of prawn catch	Tonnes	2,986	2,402	2,462	2,154	3,302	3,481
Gross value of prawns	\$'000	15,250	15,692	17,587	13,837	24,661	31,145
Fish—							
Estimated live weight of fish catch	Tonnes	1,897	1,694	1,564	1,784	2,523	2,550
Gross value of fish	\$'000	2,944	3,232	2,584	2,800	3,973	4,393

## Secondary industries

The types of secondary industries that have developed in the Northern Territory have been largely based on demand from the local markets, some processing of primary production for exports, including the processing of mined ores and beef, together with exports in the mining and construction industries.

The isolation of the Northern Territory from the major population areas of Australia and resultant high transportation costs make other than local market expansion difficult.

While industry is limited to local markets, industrial expansion will be small. However determined efforts are being made to take advantage of the proximity of Darwin to the rapidly expanding South East Asian markets. It is envisaged that in the longer term secondary industry will be largely export based.

The following table shows results of the Manufacturing Censuses taken in respect of the years 1982-83 to 1984-85. No Manufacturing Census was conducted in respect of 1985-86.

## NORTHERN TERRITORY: MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS

	Unit	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
Establishments at 30 June	No.	117	115	137
Persons employed (a)	No.	2,434	2,432	2,645
Wages and salaries	\$m	45.2	49.3	58.3
Turnover	\$m	343.9	358.7	407.4
Opening stocks at 30 June	\$m	82.9	76.5	77.4
Closing stocks at 30 June	\$m	81.3	76.6	77.7
Purchases, transfers in and selected expenses	\$m	251.3	248.6	278.9
Value added	\$m	91.0	110.2	128.8

(a) Average over whole year. Includes working proprietors.

## Tourism, Parks and Reserves

Tourism is second only to mining as the Territory's most important industry with direct earnings for 1987-88 estimated at \$300 million.

In 1981-82, 411,000 people travelled to the Territory, increasing to approximately 830,000 in 1987-88, representing a visitor growth rate of 17 per cent. This growth rate continues to encourage investment in tourism facilities and, since the early 1980s, well over \$600 million has been invested in tourism-related facilities in the Territory.

Major developments include the Darwin and Alice Springs Casinos, the Yulara Resort, Sheraton Hotels in Alice Springs and Darwin, and the Beaufort Hotel and Convention Complex in Darwin. Major development plans include wilderness attractions and facilities at Kings Canyon, Litchfield Park and Cobourg Peninsula.

The Northern Territory Tourist Commission has had responsibility for the promotion of tourism since it was formed in 1980. It has its head office in Alice Springs, a regional office in Darwin and bureaus in all States with two each in New South Wales and Victoria, plus overseas regional offices in London, Los Angeles, Tokyo, Frankfurt, Singapore and New Zealand.

In 1986, and again in 1987, the Commission won the Australian tourist industry's most prestigious accolade, the National Award for the Best Australian Tourism Authority/Commission.

The Tourist Commission's budget for the 1988-89 financial year is \$16.1 million.

There are 52 parks and reserves, covering about 5,800 square kilometres, under the care, control and management of the Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory. The Commission's functions include the preservation and protection of natural and historical features and the encouragement of public use and enjoyment of land set aside under its control.

In addition, the Gurig National Park (2,207 square kilometres) is managed by Cobourg Peninsula Sanctuary Board, and the Kakadu National Park (15,923 square kilometres) is managed by the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service. Uluru National Park (Ayers Rock-Mt Olga) is managed by the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service in conjunction with the park's traditional Aboriginal owners. Visitors to Uluru National Park have increased from an estimated 86,900 in 1981 to approximately 250,000 in 1987 while at Kakadu numbers have increased from 31,500 to 185,000 in the same period.

## **Railways and Roads**

### **Railways**

Passenger and freight train services commenced in December 1980 over the then new 831 km standard gauge Tarcoola-Alice Springs railway. Direct services from Sydney to Alice Springs commenced in 1984.

### **Roads**

The Stuart Highway is the principal north-south axis route for the Northern Territory connecting Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Darwin to Adelaide. The section Darwin-Alice Springs is 1,486 kilometres long and sealed over its full length. The section south of Alice Springs is sealed to the South Australian border, a distance of 292 kilometres.

The Barkly Highway is the principal route to and from Queensland via Mount Isa. It is 636 kilometres long, 432 kilometres of this being within the Territory, and is sealed. Running approximately east-west, it connects to the Stuart Highway some 26 kilometres north of Tennant Creek.

The Victoria Highway, the principal access route to and from Western Australia via Kununurra, is 468 kilometres from Katherine to the Northern Territory border and is sealed.

These highways are used to carry a variety of freight, including cattle, particularly between the railheads at Mount Isa and Alice Springs. They provide access to meatworks at Wyndham (Western Australia), Cloncurry (Queensland) and Katherine. In addition, they play a particularly important part in the Northern Territory economy through their association with the tourist industry.

The program for upgrading the Stuart and Barkly Highways was commenced in the early 1970s and the ongoing program is continuing to bring these roads to National Highway Standards. A strategy to upgrade the Victoria Highway is being developed.

## Education

Responsibility for education in the Northern Territory was transferred from the Commonwealth Department of Education to the Northern Territory Government on 1 July 1979.

Details of the responsibilities are outlined in the *Northern Territory of Australia Education Act 1979*. Under the Act, the Minister for Education is responsible for the general administration and control of education services. The Act states that the Minister may take all measures which, in his opinion, are necessary or desirable to: assist parents in the Territory in fulfilling the responsibility to educate their children according to the individual needs and abilities of those children; make education services, provided by the Minister, available to all people in the Territory; and, assist all people of the Territory with their own education. The Act also provides for the establishment of advisory councils.

### Schools in the Northern Territory

There are some 165 schools in the Northern Territory with a total student population of approximately 35,000. About one-third of students are of Aboriginal descent. In addition to primary and pre-schools, there are 11 government high schools, one secondary correspondence school and three private high schools. There are three area schools offering secondary courses and two residential colleges for Aboriginal students. There are also 16 government schools in Aboriginal communities that offer post-primary courses and six mission schools with post-primary programs.

Teaching staff are provided by the Northern Territory Teaching Service and qualified applicants are recruited from all parts of Australia.

With the exception of Year 12 level, where most students are assessed by the Senior Secondary Assessment Board of South Australia, all aspects of curriculum, Course accreditation and student assessment are the responsibility of the Northern Territory Board of Studies, with subject area committees in English, Languages other than English, Mathematics, Science, Computer Education, Social and Cultural Education, the Arts, Health and Physical Education and Life/Work Skills. Apart from Life/Work Skills, which is concerned with secondary education only, all committees span primary and secondary education from Transition to Year 12.

Subject area committees define the core of essential skills and understanding in which all students should gain competence and the educational experiences which they should have during their primary and junior secondary schooling. They also identify or develop the recommended curricula, which consists of those courses and materials which are regarded as the best available to assist schools in achieving the objectives specified in the core, as well as skills, understanding, content and experiences considered appropriate for extension beyond the core.

In addition to curriculum development, subject area committees provide for guidelines on the assessment of student performance, examples of assessment instruments and, in some subjects, moderation of student assessment. The Junior and Senior Secondary Studies Certificates are issued by the Northern Territory Board of Studies at Year 10 and Senior levels respectively.

The work of subject area committees is coordinated and supplemented by curriculum officers at central and regional levels and by a range of educational services.

The two Schools of the Air in the Northern Territory, one at Katherine and one at Alice Springs, have developed individual programs and provide correspondence and radio lessons for students in the Years One to Seven. One correspondence school caters for isolated secondary students. Aerial and road patrols are carried out regularly to provide teacher-student and parent contact.

Special schools are located in Alice Springs and Darwin for handicapped children. However, where appropriate, students with special needs are integrated into primary and secondary schools. Guidance and Special Education Advisory Services operate from the two regional offices in Alice Springs and Darwin.

A program of exchange between Indonesia and the Northern Territory is continuing in which up to two teachers from each country are exchanged for a school year, and four senior students spend up to six months in each country. In addition, the Northern Territory Department of Education encourages school-organised excursions to Bali and other South-East Asian localities.

### **Aboriginal education**

Most Northern Territory Aboriginals live away from town centres and their education is provided in various settings including mission schools, government schools on or near settlements or Aboriginal townships, on pastoral properties and outstations or homeland centres.

There has been an increasing number of requests from outstations for the Department of Education to provide assistance with Aboriginal education. A small group of teachers is currently working in this field and developing special methods and modified courses to help overcome the difficulties faced by isolated outstation groups in their quest for education.

Government schools for Aboriginal children in out-of-town centres provide tuition at pre-school and primary school level with a number of them providing post primary (secondary age) classes as well.

For Aboriginal children who wish to proceed to secondary schools there are now two residential colleges: Yirara and Kormilda. These colleges are regionally based but situated near urban centres, Yirara at Alice Springs and Kormilda in Darwin. They provide secondary age students from outlying centres with the opportunity to undertake a range of courses at an urban high school,

Bilingual education programs in Northern Territory schools in Aboriginal communities have attracted wide interest from within Australia and overseas. There are 16 schools offering bilingual programs to approximately 3,500 students. Many other schools include Aboriginal language and culture in the curriculum. Fourteen languages are now being used in the program and six further languages are under consideration. Many school children are acquiring initial literacy skills in their own language. Half of the curriculum is devoted to instruction in an Aboriginal language, and during the other half a structured English course forms an integral part of the bilingual program. Other aspects of Aboriginal education are covered in the TAFE section.

### **Technical and Further Education—TAFE**

Technical and further education services in the Northern Territory are provided by the Darwin Institute of Technology and the Department of Education through its Institute of Technology and Further Education Division.

The Department has a number of TAFE Colleges and services the TAFE Advisory Council which advises the Minister for Education on Territory-wide TAFE policy issues. The Council membership includes representatives of employer and employee organisations and Northern Territory TAFE colleges.

The TAFE Colleges in the Northern Territory are outlined below.

#### **Darwin Institute of Technology**

The Institute was opened in 1974 as the Darwin Community College and was redesignated the Darwin Institute of Technology in 1985. It is an autonomous multi-level institution offering over 100 award programs in both advanced education and technical and further education, and a wide range of non-award recreational and continuing education programs.

The campus covers 58 hectares at Casuarina in Darwin's northern suburbs, 13 kilometres from the city centre, and the School of Australian Linguistics is located at Batchelor.

Advanced education programs are offered at degree, post-graduate diploma and associate diploma level. Technical and further education programs are offered at certificate, trade certificate, post-trade certificate and apprenticeship trade course level.

The Institute also provides examination facilities and some tutorial assistance to external students in the Northern Territory studying at other Australian Institutions, through the External Studies Centre at the Casuarina campus. International programs are offered through the School of Extension Services. In 1987, 1,469 net students were enrolled in advanced education programs, approximately 4,220 net in TAFE award courses and approximately 3,600 net students in non-award courses.

### **Alice Springs College of TAFE**

Formerly the Community College of Central Australia, the Alice Springs College of TAFE is a multi-sector, multi-campus institution which provides recreational, remedial, pretrade, trade and paraprofessional studies. It has three campuses and has expanded rapidly in recent years in response to increasing demands.

### **Katherine Rural College**

The Katherine Rural College was established to train people for employment in the Northern Territory rural industry. It offers a two-year, full-time residential course, leading to a Certificate in Rural Studies, intensive three-month long courses in basic stock-handling and station skills and short courses in areas such as horse-handling, horse-shoeing, explosives, welding, farm mechanics, pregnancy diagnosis and artificial insemination of cattle.

The College has a 3,440 hectare property north of Katherine and a 1,000 square kilometre property at Mataranka, south of Katherine.

### **Batchelor College**

Batchelor College is a residential institution providing programs for Aboriginal people which lead in particular to teaching qualifications at advanced education and TAFE levels. The College also offers courses for Aboriginal adult educators and conducts courses related to community management. The College is situated in the town of Batchelor.

### **NT Open College**

The Northern Territory Open College is a distance education institution which opened in January 1987 and offers services through a network of education centres and through lecturers based in many communities.

## **Finance**

The following table gives details of government revenue and outlays that have been identified as relating specifically to the performance of local or State-type functions in the Northern Territory from 1984-85 to 1986-87. Receipts collected in the Northern Territory from Australia-wide sources (e.g. income taxes, customs duties, etc.) and outlays in the Northern Territory on items of a national character (e.g. defence, civil aviation and cash benefits paid to Northern Territory residents as part of national programs) are *not* included.

**NORTHERN TERRITORY: OUTLAY AND REVENUE**  
(\$ million)

	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87 <sup>p</sup>
<b>OUTLAY</b>			
Final consumption expenditure—			
Public order and safety	62.3	70.8	81.8
Education	144.1	161.6	180.1
Health	100.5	113.1	123.3
Social security and welfare	12.3	8.0	6.2
Other	293.8	312.7	284.0
Expenditure on new fixed assets—			
Education	21.9	27.1	41.9
Road transport	52.8	48.2	51.5
Housing and community development	68.1	70.7	67.4
Health	4.5	6.9	6.2
Social security and welfare	2.9	4.9	3.9
Electricity and other energy	36.9	99.4	136.8
Other	59.9	62.6	193.2
Expenditure on secondhand fixed assets (net)	-30.4	-12.6	-26.5
Expenditure on land and intangible assets (net)	-6.1	-20.3	-21.3
Increase in stocks	1.6	-3.0	-4.0
Interest paid	74.1	87.6	96.2
Personal benefit payments	1.4	1.7	1.5
Subsidies	74.9	63.2	53.9
Net advances to the private sector	46.5	50.8	14.8
Grants to non-profit institutions—current	52.7	63.8	66.5
Grants to private sector and public financial enterprises—Capital	0.5	0.7	1.1
<b>Total Outlays</b>	<b>1,075.3</b>	<b>1,217.7</b>	<b>1,230.2</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Taxes, fees and fines	76.4	100.1	113.1
Property income	49.0	62.3	50.7
Net operating surpluses of public trading enterprises	27.1	-1.0	-6.4
Other revenue	3.5	11.4	10.0
Commonwealth Government grants	829.0	836.0	901.7
Commonwealth Government advances	84.1	102.5	75.4
Net borrowing	75.0	65.3	103.5
Other financing	-68.8	41.1	-17.8
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>1,075.3</b>	<b>1,217.7</b>	<b>1,230.2</b>

In addition to transactions relating to the Northern Territory in the Consolidated Revenue Fund and certain trust funds, the transactions of the following public corporations are included: Northern Territory Port Authority, Northern Territory Housing Commission, Northern Territory Electricity Commission, Corporation of the City of Darwin, Corporation of the municipalities of Alice Springs, Jabiru, Katherine, Litchfield, Palmerston and Tennant Creek.

## THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

### General Description

The Constitution provides that the Seat of Government of the Commonwealth of Australia shall be in the State of New South Wales but distant not less than 160 kilometres from Sydney. After a number of alternative sites were considered, an area of 2,359 square kilometres, lying approximately 320 kilometres south-west of Sydney, was transferred to the Commonwealth as from 1 January 1911. A further 73 square kilometres at Jervis Bay were transferred as from 4 September 1915 to serve as a port for the Territory.

The primary responsibility for administering the Australian Capital Territory lies with the Australian Capital Territory Administration, within the Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories. The ACT Administration's responsibilities cover most functions carried out by State and municipal governments, including the leasing and management of land, housing, public transport, forestry, municipal and community services, general works, commercial regulation, industrial relations, employment and vocational training, legislative drafting, education and public health. Responsibility for policing and the courts lies with the Attorney General's Department.

As at 31 March 1988 the population of the Australian Capital Territory was 271,900.

### Housing

In May 1987, the Government formally approved the alignment of ACT public housing operations with the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement (CSHA) from 1 July 1987. As a result of this decision, Commonwealth funding assistance for public housing in the ACT will be provided on a similar basis to that provided to the States under the CSHA.

The role of the ACT Administration in the area of housing has changed significantly since 1930 when, as the Department of the Interior, it offered rental accommodation to public servants in Canberra. The proportion of houses and flats in the Australian Capital Territory occupied by tenants of the Administration has fallen steadily from 79.7 per cent of total occupied houses and flats in 1954 to 58.3 per cent in 1961, 28.1 per cent in 1971, 13.0 per cent in 1984, and 12.9 per cent in 1985. This portion rose slightly to 13.1 per cent in 1988.

Although there has been a considerable increase in the proportion of home ownership in the Australian Capital Territory since 1954, the demand for public housing has continued to increase. At June 1981 there were 2,126 persons on the waiting list for public housing. There were 1,554 in 1982; 1,757 in 1983; 2,141 in 1984; 2,756 in 1985; 1,781 in 1986, 2,080 in 1987, and 2,693 in 1988. Housing resources have not been able to keep pace with the demand; therefore rental accommodation and housing finance are now allocated on a means tested basis.

The Administration, in conjunction with the National Capital Development Commission, has endeavoured to expand public housing stock through annual building programs. The 1987-88 building program provided for the commencement of 273 dwellings and it is expected that 188 dwellings will be commenced during 1988-89.

Both private and public home building activity have continued to expand the stock of residential dwellings in the Australian Capital Territory. At June 1988 there were 23,362 occupied dwellings in the Central Canberra area; 20,758 in the Woden Valley and Weston Creek area; 27,509 in the Belconnen area; 17,365 in the Tuggeranong area; and 115 elsewhere in the Australian Capital Territory. The total number of occupied dwellings in the Australian Capital Territory at June 1988 was 89,109.

For further information see Chapter 20, Housing and Construction.

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## Community and Health Services

*See also* Chapter 9, Health.

The ACT Community and Health Service is a statutory authority within the portfolio of the Minister for Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories. The service is an integration of the ACT Health Authority and the Community Services Division of the former Department of Territories. The integration took effect from 1 July 1988.

The role of the Service is to provide a complete range of health, hospital and welfare services for the people of the Australian Capital Territory. The Service employs 4,435 full- and part-time staff members.

The Hospital Services Division operates Royal Canberra and Woden Valley Hospitals within the ACT public hospital system. Both hospitals provide inpatient and outpatient services including medical, surgical, psychiatric, nursing and other professional support services. The Division's ambulance service provides emergency treatment and transport, and inter-hospital transfers.

Other hospital related services operated by the Division are the Central Health Laboratory at Woden which provides pathology services, and the Health Services Supply Centre at Mitchell which provides linen, sterile instruments, transport, supply and engineering facilities.

Calvary Hospital, Queen Elizabeth II Home for Mothers and Babies and the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service are funded through the Service's grant in aid program, and function within the ACT public hospital system. Post-basic education programming in midwifery, pediatrics, psychiatry, intensive care and geriatrics are conducted through both hospitals.

Nursing training in the ACT is conducted through the Canberra College of Advanced Education's Nurse Education Training Program which is funded through the Service's grant in aid program.

The Community Services Division operates health centres, child health clinics and home nursing services. Other community health services provided by the Service include health education, school dental and speech therapy services, and health and pharmaceutical inspections.

The Division also services the mental and special health needs of the general community, the elderly, the intellectually and physically handicapped, and those who are alcohol or drug dependent.

The Division provides welfare services including general family casework, emergency relief, juvenile justice services including Quamby Youth Centre, care and protection of children, adoption services and adult corrective services.

The Service also provides a range of community services including the Women's Information and Referral Centre, Regional Youth Centres, Children's day care, grant in aid programs and provision of community facilities.

Medical Research in the ACT is conducted at the John Curtin School of Medical Research at the Australian National University. One of the School's four divisions, the Division of Clinical Science, is located at the Woden Valley Hospital, along with the University of New South Wales' Centre for Chronic Disease and Disability.

## Parks and Conservation

Since its establishment, Canberra has been developed as a garden city. The ACT Parks and Conservation Service manages the urban open space in the Territory, including national parks, reserves, parkland, sportsgrounds, public surrounds, rural picnic grounds and other landscaped public areas. The total urban area managed during 1987-88 increased by 180 hectares to a total of 9,400 hectares. Management of the urban area included newly developed areas in the new town of Tuggeranong, redevelopment of ageing landscape in the older suburbs and surrounds of Parliament House.

The Yarralumla Nursery, established in 1913, propagates trees and shrubs for use in development projects, as replacements in landscape maintenance and for issue to buyers of new home sites. In 1986-87, 481,270 trees and shrubs and 34,444 annual plants were produced.

The Horticultural Services Unit provides horticultural advice and tests turf grasses, trees, shrubs and new products and techniques for application in the Canberra environment.

### Namadgi National Park

In June 1984 the former Gudgenby Nature Reserve (62,000 hectares) and part of the Cotter River Catchment (32,000 hectares) were combined to form a new national park. It is known as Namadgi and covers 40 per cent of the Australian Capital Territory. Namadgi shares a common boundary with the magnificent Kosciusko National Park (520,000 hectares) and other reserves in neighbouring New South Wales.

The topography and landscapes of Namadgi National Park and, consequently, the plant and animal communities, are extremely varied and include the only parts of the Territory with a sub-alpine climate. Habitat ranges from grassland of the valley floors, through woodland and mountain forest to sphagnum bogs, heath swamps and alpine woodland. Several high peaks rise to over 1,800 metres above sea level and include Mount Bimberi, the highest peak in the Australian Capital Territory.

### Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve

The Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve (5,515 hectares) is located 43 kilometres south-west of Canberra. The Reserve includes much of the Tidbinbilla Valley, which ranges from 762 metres above sea level to 1,561 metres at Tidbinbilla Peak, the highest of the Tidbinbilla Range which forms the western boundary of the Reserve. As a consequence of the valley topography, many habitats are represented and plant and animal wildlife is diverse. A system of wildlife enclosures and waterfowl ponds, 30 kilometres of nature trails and a comprehensive information service are provided for approximately 120,000 visitors a year.

### Black Mountain Reserve

The Black Mountain Reserve (521 hectares), adjacent to Lake Burley Griffin, is a significant focal point in the Canberra landscape and an essential component of the 'mountain and lake' concept of the Canberra scene. Black Mountain Reserve is unique in its setting within the inner boundary of a national capital. In addition to broad scale scenic attributes, the Reserve has a varied complex of flora and fauna and is used extensively for recreation and nature study. Black Mountain Reserve is part of a number of urban reserves which make up Canberra nature parks,

### Jervis Bay Nature Reserve

The Jervis Bay Nature Reserve occupies two-thirds (4,169 hectares) of the Commonwealth Territory of Jervis Bay which lies on the south-east coast of Australia. The Reserve is characterised by a substantially natural landscape and outstanding coastal scenery, high cliffs, ocean and bay beaches, sand dunes, woodland, forest and heath. Bowen Island is now gazetted as part of the Reserve. Parts of the unspoilt marine environment of Jervis Bay and its foreshores are managed in sympathy with the Nature Reserve. Camping

facilities are provided and are designed to complement the natural values of the area which attracts over 500,000 visitors annually.

The aims for all nature reserves in the Australian Capital Territory and Territory of Jervis Bay (which is managed by ACT Parks and Conservation on behalf of the Jervis Bay Territory Administration) are to:

- maintain natural ecosystems and landscapes and protect sites of prehistoric and historic significance;
- provide opportunities for recreational, scientific and educational use of these resources consistent with their protection.

### Wildlife

Extensive surveys and investigations of the vertebrate fauna of the Australian Capital Territory are continuing, and active management of some species is necessary. For example, collaborative research by ACT Parks and Conservation service staff and scientists from CSIRO have developed techniques for the control of feral pigs in Namadgi National Park. Macquarie perch is a rare and endangered fish species which was once common in south-eastern Australia. Small populations occur in streams in the Territory, and these are being regularly monitored. Stocks of native fish species are maintained in Canberra's lakes, with regular stocking of silver perch, golden perch and murray cod.

### Soil conservation

Rivers and lakes of the Australian Capital Territory are protected from serious siltation by a program of works in the Territory and adjoining areas of New South Wales, and by controls on methods of land development and use.

Lake Burley Griffin is protected under a collaborative works project between the Commonwealth, the State of New South Wales, and landholders in the lake's catchment. The scheme, commenced in 1966, is designed to remedy soil erosion problems and to promote sound land management practices. The ACT Administration and the CSIRO are studying the lake sediments to help determine the main sources of sediment, and so to decide works priorities in the catchment.

## Land Tenure

Reference has been made in earlier issues of the *Year Book* to the general conditions of land tenure in the Australian Capital Territory and to the area of alienated and leased land.

With minor exceptions, the freehold estate of land in the Australian Capital Territory has been acquired by, and is vested in the Crown. The *Seat of Government (Administration) Act 1910* prevents the sale or disposal of such Crown land for any estate in freehold, except in the case of a contract that preceded the Act. Progressively the remaining areas of freehold land are being acquired.

Leases of land for residential, commercial and other purposes in the city area are usually granted under the *City Area Leases Ordinance 1936*. Some special leases for other purposes (such as diplomatic sites or churches) are granted under the *Leases (Special Purposes) Ordinance 1925* or the *Church Lands Leases Ordinance 1924* or the *Leases Ordinance 1918* if for a short term or experimental land use. Some areas outside the city area not immediately required for the development of the city or for other public purposes or where there is no intention of development, are leased for agriculture or grazing under the *Leases Ordinance 1918*.

## Production

### Forestry

Forestry field operations in the Australian Capital Territory began in 1915 with the planting of pines on the denuded slopes of Mount Stromlo to arrest soil erosion and to improve the visual quality of the landscape. In 1926, a program for development of commercial forests was approved following a comprehensive review of the Territory's potential for forest development. Major reviews of this program were made in 1932, 1954, 1967 and 1984; always, however, retaining the basic policy of systematic conservation and development. Forestry operations, including fire protection treatment, extend to some 13,000 hectares of natural forest in the Cotter catchment and adjacent areas and the Kowen region. The more productive stands in these areas were harvested extensively to provide timber for Canberra's post-war expansion and were subsequently treated to promote regeneration and protect the quality of water harvested.

Forest management in the Australian Capital Territory has been formulated to cater not only for commercial timber production but also to provide recreation facilities, an attractive visual environment for the national capital, to protect the water supply catchment and for appropriate wildlife conservation.

The forest authority is charged with the management of some 31,400 hectares of land in the Australian Capital Territory. As at 30 June 1988, the total area of coniferous plantations in the Australian Capital Territory and Jervis Bay was 16,194 hectares net. Of 220 hectares at Jervis Bay, the majority consisted of Radiata Pine and Slash Pine. The plantations in the Australian Capital Territory consisted mainly of Radiata Pine.

In 1987-88 there was no commercial production of hardwood timber from the Australian Capital Territory or Jervis Bay. The volume of softwood cut was 166,000 cubic metres. The total value of this unprocessed timber unloaded at the mill (mill door value) was \$8.3 million.

### Agriculture

The development of Canberra has brought about a decline in the area of land available for agricultural production in the Australian Capital Territory. At 31 December 1987 there were 141 rural leases carrying 116,851 sheep, 12,422 cattle, 1,948 horses and 1,086 goats.

ACT Agriculture manages land during its traditional phase from rural production to urban development and related uses.

Rural fencing totalling 55 kilometres was constructed for the control of stock and vermin by the rural workforce and by contract during the year ended 31 December 1987.

The ACT Veterinary service has a responsibility for prevention and control of disease in farm animals and provides a quarantine service for the import and export of animals.

Fresh fruit and vegetables are imported currently into the Australian Capital Territory at the rate of 156,000 tonnes per year. Agricultural personnel inspect annually a total of 120 retail produce outlets for quality control and to ensure produce is free from pests and disease. During the year to 31 December 1987, 13,000 gardens were inspected and advice given to landholders to minimise plant pests and disease.

## Commercial Controls

### Consumer affairs

The Consumer Affairs Bureau receives and investigates complaints from consumers concerning unfair commercial practices, including credit transactions. It conducts research into matters affecting consumer interests and provides information of benefit to consumers in fields such as tenancy and product safety.

## **The Trading Standards Office**

The Trading Standards Office, which is part of the Consumer Affairs Bureau, maintains the standards of mass, length and volume for the Australian Capital Territory. It periodically examines all scales and measures used for trade and checks the weight or measures of packaged goods sold in retail premises. The Office also receives and investigates consumer complaints in relation to weights and measures problems.

## **Licensing**

In the Australian Capital Territory, licensing schemes are established as a means of regulation, consumer protection, and of setting minimum standards of qualifications and experience for entry into certain occupations. Commercial activities such as credit provision, finance broking, bookmaking (racing industry), sale of motor vehicles, sale of real estate and stock station and business agencies are controlled by legislation requiring licensing or registration.

## **Gaming and liquor**

The Gaming and Liquor Authority was established to provide totalisator betting services, to control outlets engaged in the supply of liquor and to control gaming machines in the Australian Capital Territory.

## **ACT Credit Tribunal**

The ACT Credit Tribunal is an independent Tribunal established by the *Credit Ordinance 1985* to adjudicate between credit users and credit providers in matters arising under the Ordinance. It also decides as to the grant of licences to credit providers and finance brokers to engage in those businesses.

## **Cooperative societies**

The *Co-operative Societies Ordinance 1939* provides for the incorporation of building societies, trading, housing and service societies and credit unions. The Registrar is responsible for the incorporation of new societies, registration of documents, inspections, and inquiries into the working and financial affairs of societies and the hearing and determination of certain disputes between a society and a member.

## **Workers' compensation**

A workers' compensation scheme was established by the *Workmen's Compensation Ordinance 1951*. Under this scheme, the nominal insurer is liable to pay workers' compensation if an employer fails to cover a worker for workers' compensation and defaults in compensation payment.

## **Industrial relations and occupational health and safety**

The Industrial Relations Unit has responsibility for industrial relations policy development and coordination in the ACT. Broad objectives for the Unit are the maximising of labour productivity through industrial stability and healthy and safe working environments. Its functions within the requirements of employment and industrial legislation. Proposed occupational health and safety legislation will similarly impact the Unit's work.

## **Registrar's Office**

The Registrar's Office controls both Land Titles and Births, Deaths and Marriages Offices. The Land Titles Office is responsible for registration of Land Titles dealings, Miscellaneous Deeds (e.g. Powers of Attorney) and Instruments (e.g. Bills of Sale) whilst the Births, Deaths and Marriages Office registers all Australian Capital Territory births, deaths and marriages.

## **Public Trustee**

The Office of the Public Trustee is a corporation established by the *Public Trustee Ordinance 1985*. Its main responsibilities are connected to the role of trustee, administrator, executor, attorney, agent and manager of property in relation to wills or settlements, under the Ordinance.

## Transport and Communications

The ACT Office of City Management is responsible for the regulation of transport and traffic under an ACT Ordinance. ACTION, the Australian Capital Territory Internal Omnibus Network, is a specific organisation within the Office of City Management. ACTION operated 431 buses in 1987-88 over 129 routes covering 1,533 kilometres. A total of 17,030,200 kilometres was travelled and 25,043,000 passenger journeys made.

There are eleven radio broadcasting stations currently in the Territory: 2CN, 2CY and ABC-FM of the national broadcasting system, four commercial stations, 2CA, 2CC, RRAC-FM and KIX-FM, and four public stations, 2XX, 1PPP, RPH-FM and 2SSS-FM. There are three television stations, ABC and Channel 0-28 of the national broadcasting system, and Australian Capital Television Pty Ltd (Capital 7), a Canberra-based commercial service.

## Social

See also Chapter 10, Education and Chapter 11, Law and Order.

### Schools

The *Education Ordinance 1937* provides for the compulsory attendance at school of children between the ages of six and fifteen years. Government schools are administered by the ACT Schools Authority, which became a statutory body under the *Schools Authority Ordinance 1976* in January 1977. The Authority and school boards are representative of teachers, parents and the community. The ACT Schools Accrediting Agency within the Authority system accredits courses and administers student assessment procedures for Years 11 and 12.

In July 1988 there were sixteen government high schools in the Australian Capital Territory and eight secondary colleges. High schools cater for Years 7 to 10 and secondary colleges for Years 11 and 12. In addition, there is a Year 9 to 12 school and a kindergarten to Year 10 school. Secondary students enrolled totalled 18,206.

Sixty-eight government schools provide courses at primary level, three of these being in rural districts and one at Jervis Bay. The number of students enrolled in government primary schools at July 1987 was 22,200.

Educational guidance services are provided by the Educational Guidance Centre and by school counsellors allocated to each school.

There are four government special schools in the Australian Capital Territory with a total enrolment of 373 students in July 1988. These schools cater for pre-school, primary and secondary school aged students who are physically or mentally handicapped. An annex for physically disabled students operates on a mainstream primary campus.

Mildly intellectually handicapped children are served by learning centres attached to ten primary schools and seven high schools. Special units for deaf children are available at three schools. Blind children also receive specialised support. Children below school age with learning, sight or hearing problems receive assistance from specially-trained staff at preschools, at the Therapy Centre and in their homes. Eleven primary schools cater for children of junior primary age who are unable to adjust to a normal class situation. Two schools cater for children with language and communication disorders.

Special English classes for children of non-English speaking background are available at fifty-nine primary schools, sixteen high schools and eight secondary colleges. Three Introductory English Centres (two for primary, one for secondary aged students) cater for migrant or refugee children with little or no English. They attend for up to six months and then return to their neighbourhood school.

The seventy-six pre-schools provide facilities for 3,942 children aged four years.

In July 1987 there were twenty-two non-government primary schools in Canberra, eight schools offering both primary and secondary schooling and five schools with secondary grades only. There were 10,428 pupils enrolled in primary grades at non-government schools and 10,076 in the secondary grades.

### **Higher education institutions**

The Australian National University was established by an Act of Parliament and is administered by a governing council. The Institute of Advanced Studies within the University is a centre of research and training in research. It includes the John Curtin School of Medical Research, and Research Schools of Physical Sciences, Social Sciences, Pacific Studies, Chemistry, Biological Sciences and Earth Sciences. The Mount Stromlo and Siding Spring Observatories are part of the Institute of Advanced Studies. The Faculties carry out both undergraduate and postgraduate training and research, and are composed of the Faculties of Arts, Asian Studies, Economics and Commerce, Law and Science. The total student enrolment in 1988 was 6,645. The University has established a number of academic research centres.

The Canberra College of Advanced Education is administered by a governing council, constituted under an Act of Parliament and offers courses in six schools—Applied Science, Communication, Education, Environmental Design, Information Sciences and Engineering, and Management. Courses have a professional or vocational orientation and lead to Bachelor and Master degrees, and to Associate Diploma, Diploma and Graduate Diploma awards. There were 6,582 students enrolled in 1988. The College has set up several research centres.

### **Continuing education**

The Centre for Continuing Education is part of the Australian National University and it aims to foster 'the learning society' by enriching the contacts between the University and the community to their mutual advantage. The Centre offers a wide range of courses in the natural and social sciences and the humanities.

## **Tourism**

Tourism looms large in Canberra's future. It is a key element in the economy, sustaining employment for some 7,000 people and generating about \$250 million revenue a year—or \$1,000 for every man, woman and child of the resident population.

The official tourist servicing and marketing operation in the ACT is provided by the Canberra Tourism Development Bureau. The Bureau's main office is located in the Jolimont Centre in the city and it also operates a new Visitor Information Centre on the inbound lane of Northbourne Avenue. Both offices are open seven days. The Bureau is represented by branch offices in Sydney and Melbourne.

The major new attraction in Canberra is Parliament House. It is a superb drawcard for Canberra and, as early visitor figures indicate, will play a significant role in further boosting the value of tourism to the local economy. In the first three months after opening nearly half a million people inspected the building.

The National Science and Technology Centre and the new Parliament House round off Canberra's most important decade of tourism development, a decade which has brought forth not only the two other significant newcomers to the Parliamentary Triangle—the Australian National Gallery and the High Court—but also the National Film and Sound Archive, the Australian Institute of Sport, Cockington Green—the most successful private enterprise attraction—and overlooking it all, the Telecom Tower.

To keep pace with its multiplying attractions, Canberra's accommodation industry has also flourished. More than a thousand new hotel and motel rooms will have been built between 1985 and 1989—a 40 per cent increase, in a wide range from family budget to grande luxe. The Hyatt Hotel belongs in the latter category; a unique redevelopment of the famous old hotel that became the alternative meeting place to Parliament House in the early days of the 'bush capital'.

In 1989, the 300 room Capital Parkroyal will be completed along with its stunning neighbour, the Canberra National Convention Centre. The CNCC will have a seating capacity of 2500 in the Royal Theatre, 3000 in the Exhibition Hall and 800 in the Grand Ballroom. Its arrival will undoubtedly herald a new era for conferences and conventions in the national capital.

Two initiatives currently on the tourism drawing boards—the Casino/Theatre proposal and the Very Fast Train service—both promise to further enhance Canberra as a national and international tourist destination.

### **Sport and Recreation**

Management aims are to contribute to the physical and mental well being of individuals within the ACT through promoting and providing opportunities for participation in sport and recreation activities.

A range of sport and recreation facilities and programs are provided in the ACT, including sportsgrounds, Erindale Leisure Centre, Birragai, 'Life. Be in it', Lake Burley Griffin and the Carillon.

The views of sporting and community bodies are represented by the ACT Sport and Fitness Committee which provides advice on sport and fitness policies and on the allocation of Sports Development Grants from the Community Development Fund.

### **Finance**

In the following table, identifiable revenue and outlay relating to the Australian Capital Territory have been classified in a National Accounts form. The table covers transactions of the Commonwealth Government in respect of the Australian Capital Territory in the Consolidated Revenue Fund and the following trust funds: Australian Capital Territory Forestry, Australian Capital Territory Housing, Australian Capital Territory Transport and Australian Capital Territory Suspense. In addition, details of the financial transactions of the following public corporations are also covered: Australian Capital Territory Electricity Authority, Commonwealth Brickworks (to September 1979), Canberra Retail Market Trust, National Capital Development Commission, the Canberra Theatre Trust, the Canberra College of Advanced Education, A.C.T. Gaming and Liquor Authority, Canberra Commercial Development Authority and the Australian Capital Territory Health Commission including the Canberra and Woden Valley Hospitals. Not included are: revenue derived by the Commonwealth Government from income taxes, sales tax, etc., levied in the Australian Capital Territory; outlay on items of a national character such as defence, civil aviation, railways, etc.; and payments to residents from the National Welfare Fund.

**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY: OUTLAY AND REVENUE**  
(\$ million)

	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87 <sup>p</sup>
Current outlays (a)	527.9	568.1	630.4
General government final consumption expenditure (a)	453.2	483.0	532.3
Interest payments	2.9	3.6	4.1
Subsidies paid:	14.7	16.2	18.9
To public trading enterprises	14.7	16.2	18.9
To other enterprises	—	—	—
Personal benefit payments	11.0	12.5	15.5
Current grants	46.2	52.7	59.5
Grants to non-profit institutions	46.2	52.7	59.5
Capital outlays	96.5	10.9	176.8
Gross fixed capital expenditure	194.0	136.4	277.2
Expenditure on new fixed assets	194.0	223.6	277.2
Expenditure on secondhand fixed assets (net)	—	(b)-87.1	—
Increase in stocks	1.1	1.4	0.9
Expenditure on land and intangible assets (net)	-95.1	-110.8	-90.5
Capital grants to private sector and public financial enterprises	2.8	2.6	2.5
Net advances paid to the private sector	-6.3	-18.8	-13.3
Revenue and grants received	171.4	198.8	244.4
Taxes, fees and fines	125.1	145.8	186.0
Net operating surpluses of public trading enterprises	10.8	16.0	15.8
Interest received	31.1	30.7	33.9
Other revenue	4.3	6.2	8.8
Financing transactions	453.0	380.2	562.8
Net borrowing:	-2.7	5.5	4.7
General government	-0.1	-0.1	-0.1
Public trading enterprises	-2.6	5.6	4.7
Deposits received (net)	-0.4	-2.0	13.5
Increase in cash balance of private trust funds	-0.4	-2.0	13.5
Other	—	—	—
Decrease in investments	-0.4	-1.6	-1.7
Decrease in currency and deposits	7.1	-5.8	-3.3
Increase in provisions	4.4	3.0	7.4
Increase in provisions for depreciation	4.4	3.1	6.5
Other	-0.1	—	1.0
Net charge to Commonwealth budget (c)	445.1	381.0	542.2

(a) Excludes estimate of expenditure on Police services in the Australian Capital Territory. Information on the actual expenditure on these services is so available. (b) Negative expenditure due to sale of Belconnen Mall in this year. (c) This item is a partial measure of the net difference between revenues raised and expenditures made in the Australian Capital Territory because expenditures have been overstated by inclusion of outlays on Commonwealth offices and national works, and revenues understated by exclusion of income taxes, sales tax, etc. and excise duties levied in the Australian Capital Territory. This information is not separately available.

## THE JERVIS BAY TERRITORY

The Jervis Bay Territory was acquired by the Commonwealth from New South Wales in 1915 under the Jervis Bay Territory Acceptance Act, to make provision for the Seat of Government in Canberra to have access to the sea. The Jervis Bay Territory is a Territory in its own right, to which ACT laws apply insofar as they are applicable.

The Territory has an area of about 7,360 hectares including about 800 hectares of territorial waters in Jervis Bay. In 1971, 4,118 hectares were declared as the Jervis Bay Nature Reserve and in December 1985 the whole of Bowen Island (51 hectares) was declared a reserved area under the *Nature Conservation Ordinance 1980*. On 14 March 1987 the Government granted to the Wreck Bay Aboriginal community inalienable freehold title over 403 hectares.

Other land uses in the Territory include the Jervis Bay Village, the Royal Australian Naval College at HMAS *Creswell* and the RAN airfield. A number of blocks fronting Sussex Inlet have been leased for residential or holiday purposes; these include historic Christian's Minde, the site of the first European Settlement in the area, dating from 1880.

## NORFOLK ISLAND

### General Description

Norfolk Island, discovered by Captain Cook in 1774, is situated approximately in latitude 29°02'S, longitude 167°57'E. Its total area is approximately 3,455 hectares, the island being about 8 kilometres long and 5 kilometres wide. It is 1,676 kilometres from Sydney, 1,063 kilometres from Auckland and 772 kilometres from Noumea. The coastline, which is 32 kilometres long, consists of almost inaccessible cliffs rising from the waters edge, except at Kingston in the south and the landing place at Cascade on the northern side. The climate is equable, the average daily maximum temperature varying between 16°C and 28°C, and the average annual rainfall is 1,350 millimetres. The resident population is about 2,000.

The island served as a penal station from 1788 to 1814 and from 1825 to 1855. In 1856, 194 descendants of the *Bounty* mutineers were transferred from Pitcairn Island.

### Administration

In 1856, the island was created a distinct and separate settlement under the jurisdiction of the Governor of New South Wales. In 1897 it was made a dependency under the Governor of that colony, and finally, by the passage of the *Norfolk Island Act 1913*, became a Territory of Australia.

In May 1978, the Government announced that it should try to develop for Norfolk Island a form of government involving the island's own elected representatives under which the necessary revenue could be raised by its own system of law. The *Norfolk Island Act 1979*, which was assented to on 30 May, established the framework for this objective. In broad terms, the Act equips Norfolk Island with responsible legislative and executive government to enable it to run its own affairs to the greatest practicable extent. Wide powers are exercised by the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly and by an Executive Council, comprising the executive members of the Legislative Assembly who have ministerial-type responsibilities. The Act preserves the Commonwealth's responsibility for Norfolk Island as a Territory under its authority, with the Minister for the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories as the responsible Minister; and indicates the Parliament's intention that consideration will be given to an extension of the powers of the Legislative Assembly and the political and administrative institutions of Norfolk Island within five years. In 1985 legislative and executive responsibility for a range of matters was formally transferred to the Norfolk Island Government. Consideration is being given to the transfer of further powers as part of an on-going process of devolution of responsibility to the local community.

The Office of the Administrator is financed from Commonwealth expenditure which amounted to \$395,000 in 1987-88. A further \$408,000 was provided by the Commonwealth during the year for the restoration and maintenance of historic structures.

### Economic Activity

The island's major economic activity is tourism. Primary production is not fully adequate for local needs and foodstuffs are imported from New Zealand and Australia.

## Primary industries

The soil on the island is particularly fertile, the climate equable and the rainfall fairly evenly distributed except for a pronounced dry period in November. This enables a wide range of temperate and semi-tropical products to be cultivated. However, the island's comparative isolation presents trading difficulties, and there is only very limited production of export crops.

Fish are in abundance and in the past a number of ventures have been formed to exploit this resource, but they have been short-lived, mainly because of the lack of a sheltered harbour. A modern whaling station was started on the island in 1955, and production commenced during the second half of 1956. Owing to a marked scarcity of whales after 1961 the station was closed down.

A forestry program is being carried out to increase the resources of Norfolk Island Pine and to introduce suitable types of eucalypts.

## Tourists

Regular air services to the island are available for those who seek a quiet holiday in surroundings of beauty and historic interest. At present, accommodation consists of flats and hotels as well as licensed and unlicensed guest houses. There were 28,192 tourist arrivals in 1987-88.

## Employment

A large proportion of the population derives its income from various aspects of the tourist industry including the operation of hotels and low duty stores. A number of clerical and other positions are available to islanders in the Norfolk Island Administration. Very few people rely entirely on agricultural pursuits for their income.

## Finance

Until 1979, Norfolk Island revenue was supplemented by annual grants from the Commonwealth Government. Under present constitutional arrangements, the cost of maintaining the island, other than the Administrator and his staff, is met as far as practicable from island sources.

### NORFOLK ISLAND: REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE (\$'000)

	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87
<b>REVENUE</b>						
Customs duty	785	710	1,104	1,373	1,833	2,008
Liquor profit	287	288	423	439	578	614
Company fees	103	111	96	94	84	92
Postal operations (a)	1,351	755	1,016	801	744	114
Vehicle registration and licence fees	57	92	113	117	124	128
All other	830	718	1,094	1,624	1,777	2,173
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>3,413</b>	<b>2,674</b>	<b>3,846</b>	<b>4,448</b>	<b>5,140</b>	<b>5,129</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>						
Administration	1,334	1,214	1,451	1,669	1,770	1,245
Education services	722	453	627	627	927	755
Health and welfare services	452	485	469	514	552	627
Repairs and maintenance	470	436	467	571	706	830
Capital works and services	317	210	99	265	768	1,682
Miscellaneous services	277	278	312	312	431	501
Legislative Assembly	110	183	192	230	234	210
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>3,682</b>	<b>3,261</b>	<b>3,617</b>	<b>4,188</b>	<b>5,388</b>	<b>5,850</b>

(a) In July 1986 the Postal Operation became a separate undertaking from the Administration. The 1986-87 figure for Postal Operations represents the net profit of that undertaking and not, as previously, the total revenue from the sale of stamps. The decrease in expenditure on Administration also reflects this change.

## **Trade, Transport and Communication**

Imports to Norfolk Island since World War II have risen in value from \$65,000 in 1945-46 to over \$26 million in 1986-87. The major proportion came from Australia and New Zealand. Exports in 1986-87 amounted to \$2.9 million, with Australia and New Zealand as the principal markets.

A shipping company operates cargo services to Norfolk Island at approximately 6 weekly intervals, linking the island with Australia, New Zealand and other islands in the South Pacific area.

A passenger and air freight service between Sydney and Norfolk Island is operated by East-West Airlines Ltd. Air New Zealand Limited provides a service 2-3 times a week to the island from Auckland. Flights between Norfolk Island and Brisbane are also operated by East-West Airlines 2-3 times a week and by Norfolk Island Airlines 2-4 times a week.

There are approximately 80 kilometres of motor roads on the island. A substantial section of the population possesses motor cars. Hire cars, taxis and scooters are available.

The island has an automatic telephone exchange and international telephone connection with Australia, New Zealand and Fiji by way of the ANZCAN submarine cable system. A local broadcasting service is operated by the Administration. The Administration also provides a television service. A central ground station receives ABS and SBS services via the AUSSAT satellite which are then re-broadcast throughout the island.

## **Education**

Education is free and compulsory between the ages of 6 and 15 years. The school, which is conducted for the Administration by the New South Wales Department of Education conforms to the Australian standard of public education, ranging from Kindergarten to the School Certificate (Year 10) level. The number of students enrolled at 30 June 1987 was 315.

Some bursaries, subject to a means test, are available for pupils who wish to attend a mainland school either to continue their studies beyond the School Certificate level or to undertake high school courses not available on the island. A limited number of trainee scholarships are available for pupils who have left school and wish to undertake apprenticeships or similar training away from the island.

## **Judiciary**

The judicial system of Norfolk Island consists of a Supreme Court and a Court of Petty Sessions. The Supreme Court is the highest judicial authority in the Territory and is a superior court of record with original criminal and civil jurisdiction. The jurisdiction of the court is exercised by one judge sitting in court or, to the extent provided by or under ordinance, sitting in chambers. The jurisdiction of the Court of Petty Sessions is exercised by the Chief Magistrate or any three Magistrates.

## **HEARD ISLAND AND McDONALD ISLANDS**

Heard Island, about 43 kilometres long and 20 kilometres wide, is the largest of a group of southern Indian Ocean islands about 4,100 kilometres south-west of Fremantle. The islands were transferred from the United Kingdom to Australia as from 26 December 1947. The laws of the Australian Capital Territory were declared to be in force in the Territory

of Heard Island and McDonald Islands by the *Heard Island and McDonald Islands Act 1953*.

In December 1947, the first of the Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions (ANARE) set up a scientific station on Heard Island. Various scientific and meteorological investigations were conducted until the station was closed in March 1955 following the establishment of Mawson station on the Antarctic mainland. Australian expeditions have since visited the island from time to time. From 1985 until March 1988 a major new research program was undertaken on the island, mainly involving investigation of the Island's wildlife as part of international studies of the Southern Ocean ecosystem.

The McDonald Islands are 43 kilometres to the west of Heard Island. They are small, rocky and precipitous. The first known landing on McDonald Island, the largest of the group of that name, was by ANARE expeditioners on 27 January 1971.

Heard Island is widely regarded as one of the last Antarctic habitats remaining free of introduced organisms, and is thus of significance as a benchmark for ecological studies. In December 1987, introduction of the Environment Protection Ordinance under the *Heard Island and McDonald Islands Act 1953* put in place the framework for sustained conservation of the islands.

## AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC TERRITORY

An Imperial Order in Council of 7 February 1933 placed under Australian Authority all the islands and territories, other than the French Terre Adelie, south of 60°S latitude and between 45°E and 160°E longitude, a total land area of six million square kilometres, or the size of Australia less Queensland. The Order came into force with a proclamation issued by the Governor-General on 24 August 1936, after the passage of the *Australian Antarctic Territory Acceptance Act 1933*. The boundaries of Terre Adelie were definitively fixed by a French decree of 1 April 1938 as the islands and territories south of 60°S latitude and between 136°E and 142°E longitude. The *Australian Capital Territory Act 1954* declared the laws of the Australian Capital Territory, so far as they are applicable and not inconsistent with any ordinance made under the Act, to be in force in Australian Antarctic Territory.

On 13 February 1954 ANARE established the first permanent Australian Antarctic station, in Mac Robertson Land at latitude 67°36'S and longitude 62°53'E. The station was named Mawson in honour of the Australian Antarctic pioneer Sir Douglas Mawson. A second Australian continental station was established in 1957 at latitude 68°35'S and longitude 77°58'E, and was named Davis to commemorate Captain John King Davis, second-in-command of two of Mawson's expeditions and master of several famous Antarctic ships. On 4 February 1959 Australia accepted from the United States Government custody of Wilkes station, which had been established two years earlier at latitude 66°15'S and longitude 110°32'E. Wilkes was subject to inundation by snow and ice, and was closed on 19 February 1969 when activities were transferred to Casey, a new station built nearby. Casey was named in honour of Lord Casey, former Governor-General of Australia, in recognition of his long association with Australia's Antarctic effort.

Australian science in Antarctica deals mainly with the Antarctic ecosystem, the region's natural phenomena, and atmospheric and space studies. Disciplines include marine science, land based biology, cosmic ray physics, upper atmosphere physics, glaciology and earth sciences.

In addition to its three permanent continental stations (a fourth permanent station is on the Tasmanian territory of Macquarie Island), Australia conducts its Antarctic science from summer bases at Cape Denison (in the eastern sector of Australian territory), Scullin Monolith, the Larsemann Hills and the Bunger Hills, as well as temporary field camps

in such places as Enderby Land, Prince Charles Mountains, Amery Ice Shelf and Law Dome.

In 1981–82 a ten-year program for redeveloping Australia's Antarctic stations began. It is now well advanced, and the first of the new stations to be completed—Casey—will be occupied in 1989.

## COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS

### General Description

The Territory of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands comprises a group of 27 small coral islands in two separate atolls in the Indian Ocean, 2,768 kilometres north-west of Perth.

The Territory's administrative community, airport and animal quarantine station are located on West Island, the largest island, about 10 kilometres long. The Cocos Malay community lives on Home Island. The main atoll is low-lying, flat, and thickly covered by coconut palms, and surrounds a lagoon which has an anchorage in the northern part but which is extremely difficult for navigation.

The climate is equable and pleasant, usually being under the influence of the south-east trade winds for about nine months of the year. However, the winds vary at times, and meteorological reports from the Territory are particularly valuable for those engaged in forecasting for the eastern Indian Ocean. The temperature varies between 21°C and 32°C, and the average yearly rainfall is 1,998 millimetres. There are occasional violent storms.

### History and Administration

The islands were discovered in 1609 by Captain William Keeling of the East India Company, but were uninhabited until Alexander Hare and John Clunies-Ross established small settlements at different points on the main atoll in 1826 and 1827 respectively. Clunies-Ross secured sole possession in 1831, and the islands were declared part of the British Dominions in 1857. In 1878 responsibility for the supervision of the islands was transferred to the Government of Ceylon and eight years later, to the Government of the Straits Settlements.

In 1903 the islands were incorporated in the Settlement of Singapore but were attached again to Ceylon during World War II while Singapore was under Japanese occupation.

By mutual agreement between the British and Australian Governments, and confirmed by complementary legislation, the islands became an Australian territory in 1955. The Australian Government purchased the Clunies-Ross interests in the Territory in 1978, except for the family home and grounds.

The *Cocos (Keeling) Islands Act 1955* is the basis of the Territory's administrative, legislative and judicial systems.

An Administrator, appointed by the Governor-General and responsible to the Minister for the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories, is the senior Government representative in the Territory.

On 25 July 1979 the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Council, elected by members of the Home Island community, was established. The Council has responsibility for a range of functions in the Home Island village area, advises the Administrator on local affairs, and is also empowered to make representations on ordinances proposed for the Territory.

The Cocos Islands Co-operative Society Limited, also established in 1979, conducts the business enterprises of the Cocos people. The Cooperative undertakes building maintenance

and construction, stevedoring and lighterage services, retailing and provision of accommodation and catering services.

The Territory's own postal service, including a philatelic bureau, was opened in 1979. The service, run by the Administration, provides local employment and its profits are directed to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Council for use on community projects.

On 6 April 1984 the Cocos Malay community, in an Act of Self Determination which took the form of a referendum observed by the United Nations, chose to integrate with Australia.

The population of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands at 30 June 1988 was 686, distributed between Home Island (465) and West Island (221).

## **Transport and Communication**

There is an airport of international standard at West Island, controlled by the Administrator under licence from the Department of Transport and Communications. The Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories operates a weekly air charter service which alternates between the routes Perth-Christmas Island-Cocos (Keeling) Islands-Perth and Perth-Cocos (Keeling) Islands-Christmas Island-Perth. A shipping service operates to the Territory every 6-8 weeks. The Administration operates and maintains, on behalf of the Overseas Telecommunications Commission (Australia), a satellite communications facility which provides telephone, facsimile and telex services to the Australian mainland and beyond. There are local postal and telephone services, and a non-commercial broadcasting station.

## **CHRISTMAS ISLAND**

### **General Description**

Christmas Island is an isolated peak situated in the Indian Ocean, latitude 10°25'S, longitude 105°40'E. It is approximately 360 kilometres south from Java Head at the southern entrance to Sunda Strait, 1,312 kilometres from Singapore and 2,623 kilometres from Perth. Christmas Island covers an area of about 135 square kilometres. It consists of a central plateau varying in height from 250 metres above sea level at the eastern side of the island to 150 metres on the western side. Several prominent rises in the plateau reach 360 metres above sea level. The plateau descends to the sea in a series of steep slopes alternating with terraces. Sea cliffs over 20 metres high run along a considerable portion of the coastline except in a few places, the chief of which is Flying Fish Cove where the principal settlement is located and which is the only anchorage.

The climate is tropical, with prevailing winds coming from the south-east to east-southeast from May to December, and occasionally shifting round to between north and west from December to April (the wet season). The average yearly rainfall is 2,673 mm with a marked summer incidence. The porous nature of the ground prevents the formation of pools of water, but there are several good springs which provide an adequate supply of fresh water for the population and for the mining operation. The mean average temperature is about 27°C, and does not vary greatly throughout the year.

### **Economy**

The economy of the Territory is based almost entirely on the mining and extraction of phosphate. In November 1985 responsibility for the mining operation was transferred from the Phosphate Mining Company of Christmas Island (a limited liability company wholly owned by the Australian Government) to the Phosphate Mining Corporation of Christmas Island, PMCI, (a statutory authority).

When it became apparent that PMCI could not operate within an agreed Government underwrite, the Government decided to close down the mining operation. A Liquidator was appointed on 11 November 1987 to wind up PMCI. The mining operation ceased on 31 December 1987, although it was announced in February 1988 that the Government would consider proposals by private operators to recommence phosphate mining on the Island provided that certain guidelines were met, including that there be no further rainforest clearing.

On 1 July 1988 it was announced that negotiations would commence with Elders Resources Limited for the recommencement of mining operations on the Island.

The Government has actively encouraged private sector investment in new activities on the island to secure an economic future which is not solely dependent on mining. Several worthwhile development proposals which have been received are progressing, including a major tourist hotel/casino project, a three star hotel development, and a fishing venture.

The Government has recognised that the unique environment of the Island holds the key to its future development, in particular tourism. Several rare and endangered species of wildlife live on Christmas Island, the best known being the Abbots Booby, an endemic sea bird which nests in emergent trees in the rainforest canopy.

### **Population**

Some 1,000 people were residents of the island in June 1988. The majority are Chinese, with the remainder being mostly Malays and Europeans. There is no indigenous population. Under the provisions of the *Christmas Island Act 1958* and the *Australian Citizenship Act 1948* almost all residents are Australian citizens or have permanent Australian resident status.

### **Education**

The Christmas Island Area School is run by the Administration and is staffed by teachers provided by the Commonwealth Teaching Service, which staffs government schools in the Australian Capital Territory. The school provides education from pre-school level through to Year 10 secondary level. It follows a locally developed curriculum aligned with that used in Western Australia. There are 239 students enrolled at the school. A further 23 senior secondary students (Years 11 and 12) in Western Australian schools receive assistance from the Administration.

### **Resettlement and Training**

The Government introduced a generous redundancy and resettlement scheme to assist workers made redundant as a result of the closure of the mine to relocate to areas with greater long term job potential. The Government additionally extended into 1988 its major skills upgrading package to provide the opportunity for redundant mine workers to acquire relevant skills on the mainland in known areas of ongoing employment. The establishment of the Christmas Island Community Centre in Perth within this program provided a major focus for the delivery of these services.

### **History and Administration**

Summarised particulars of the history of Christmas Island up to its administration by the United Kingdom as a separate Crown Colony (from 1 January 1958, pending transfer to Australia) are given in *Year Book* No. 51, and in earlier issues. On 1 October 1958, the island was accepted by Australia under the *Christmas Island Act 1958*. The Territory is administered by an Administrator appointed by the Governor-General. Responsibility for the administration and government of the Territory rests with the Minister for the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories. The Administrator reports to the Minister

and is subject to his direction. The laws which were in force on the island at 30 September 1958 were continued as the laws of the Territory after its transfer to Australia.

The *Migration Act 1958* was extended to the Territory from 23 January 1981, enabling all island residents to become Australian residents and to acquire Australian citizenship. A number of measures have since been taken to extend the same benefits and responsibilities to island residents as apply on the Australian mainland so that the islanders will be in no better or worse a position than their mainland counterparts.

The *Christmas Island Administration (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act 1984* received Royal assent on 18 October 1984. The Act provides for the extension of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, *Social Security Act 1947*, *National Health Act 1953*, *Student Assistance Act 1973* and related Acts relevant to Christmas Island. Following passage of the legislation, normal social security and health benefits applied with effect from 1 October 1984 and 18 October 1984 respectively and Australian citizens in the Territory were entitled to vote in federal elections and referendums from 18 October 1984. The *Lands Ordinance 1987* provides for the leasing of land for commercial and residential purposes.

The *Services Corporation Ordinance 1984* was made on 26 October 1984, creating the Christmas Island Services Corporation (CISC) with power to provide many local and community services on the island.

The *Taxation Laws Amendment Act 1985* received Royal assent on 30 May 1985. The Act provided for the introduction of full company tax and the Medicare levy, as well as the phased introduction of personal income tax on Christmas Island over a four year period from 1 July 1985.

The *Christmas Island Assembly Ordinance 1985* and the Christmas Island Assembly (Election) Regulations permitted Christmas Island residents to elect their first Assembly on 28 September 1985. The inaugural meeting was held on 6 October 1985. Nine members were elected for a one-year term under a voting system similar to that used in electing Senators of the Commonwealth of Australia. The Christmas Island Assembly has responsibility for directing the Christmas Island Services Corporation in the performance of its functions.

## Transport and Communications

Shipping and freight services to and from the Island were provided by Wesfarmers, a Western Australian freight company. This was an interim measure until January 1989, when a combined shipping service to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and Christmas Island commenced operation.

An air charter arranged by the Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories, provides a weekly service to the island following alternate routes Perth–Christmas Island–Cocos (Keeling) Islands–Perth one week and Perth–Cocos (Keeling) Islands–Christmas Island–Perth the next. The Department also currently operates a fortnightly air charter between Singapore and the island.

The Territory has its own radio broadcasting station, police force, hospital, postal service and philatelic bureau. The VISTA communications system which provides an external telex and telephone service by intelsat satellite, and a back-up INMARSAT system, became fully operational on 17 October 1985.

## CORAL SEA ISLANDS TERRITORY

The Coral Sea Islands are situated east of Queensland between the Great Barrier Reef and longitude 156°06'E and between latitudes 12' and 24'S. The Territory comprises a sea area of approximately 780,000 square kilometres. The islands are largely formed of sand and coral. Some have grass or scrub cover, but most are extremely small, with no permanent fresh water. A meteorological station, staffed by three people, has operated on Willis Island since 1921. The remaining islands are uninhabited.

In the 19th century many ships were wrecked in the area, and the reefs and islands are often named for the ships which foundered there. There are beacons on the Frederick and Saumarez Reefs and on East Diamond Islet, and a lighthouse on Bougainville Reef. There are occasional tropical cyclones in the area. Meteorological data are relayed to the mainland from automatic weather stations located on Cato Island, Flinders Reef, Frederick Reef, Holmes Reef, Lihou Reef and Marion Reef.

Six species of sea turtle nest in the Coral Sea Islands Territory, including the largest species in the world, *Dermochelys coriacea*, which is regarded as one of the most endangered of the world's sea turtles. There are at least 24 bird species in the Territory; a number of these species are protected under Australia-Japan and Australia-China agreements on endangered and migratory birds. In 1982 the Lihou Reef and Coringa-Herald National Nature Reserves were declared to protect the wildlife in the Territory.

There have been a number of scientific expeditions to the region since 1859, and many specimens of flora and fauna are now housed in Australian herbariums and museums.

In 1969, the Coral Sea Islands became a Territory of the Commonwealth under the Coral Sea Islands Act. The Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories in Canberra, is responsible for the administration of the Territory.

Aerial surveillance of the Territory is undertaken by the Royal Australian Air Force and by chartered civil aircraft. Regular visits are made to the islands by ships of the Royal Australian Navy.

The Jabiru and Challis oil fields are located within the adjacent area of the Territory. The Jabiru field commenced production in 1986, and the Challis field is being developed.

## THE TERRITORY OF ASHMORE AND CARTIER ISLANDS

Ashmore Islands (known as Middle, East and West Islands) and Cartier Island are situated in the Indian Ocean some 850 km and 790 km west of Darwin respectively. The islands lie at the outer edge of the continental shelf. They are small and low and are composed of coral and sand. Vegetation consists mainly of grass. The islands have no permanent inhabitants.

Great Britain took formal possession of the Ashmores in 1878 and Cartier Island was annexed in 1909. By Imperial Order in Council of 23 July 1931, the islands were placed under the authority of the Commonwealth of Australia. The islands were accepted by Australia through the *Ashmore and Cartier Islands Acceptance Act 1933* under the name of the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands. By amendments to the Act in 1938, the Territory was annexed to, and deemed to form part of, the Northern Territory. With the granting of self-government to the Northern Territory on 1 July 1978, the administration of the Territory became a direct responsibility of the Commonwealth Government.

Responsibility for the administration of the Territory rests with the Minister for the Arts, Sports, the Environment, Tourism and Territories. Relevant laws of the Northern Territory

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as at 1 July 1978 presently apply in the Territory. A 1985 amendment to the Ashmore and Cartier Islands Acceptance Act will, when it comes into force, extend to the Territory laws of the Northern Territory as in force from time to time, so providing the Territory with an up-to-date body of law.

Birdlife is plentiful on the islands of Ashmore Reef. Turtles are plentiful at certain times of the year and *bêche-de-mer* is abundant. In recognition of the environmental significance of the area, the Reef was in 1983 given the status of a national nature reserve under the *National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1975*. Regular visits are made to the Reef by officers of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service.

An agreement between Australia and Indonesia allows Indonesian traditional fishermen to continue to fish in Waters of the Territory. Since 1985, an Australian presence has been maintained at Ashmore Reef during the March to November fishing season to monitor the activities of visiting Indonesian fishermen.

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## LIST OF SPECIAL ARTICLES AND MISCELLANEOUS MATTER CONTAINED IN PREVIOUS ISSUES

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