



# NORTHERN TERRITORY **PRIMARY INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES** **ECONOMIC OVERVIEW** 2017-18





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# Department of Primary Industry and Resources

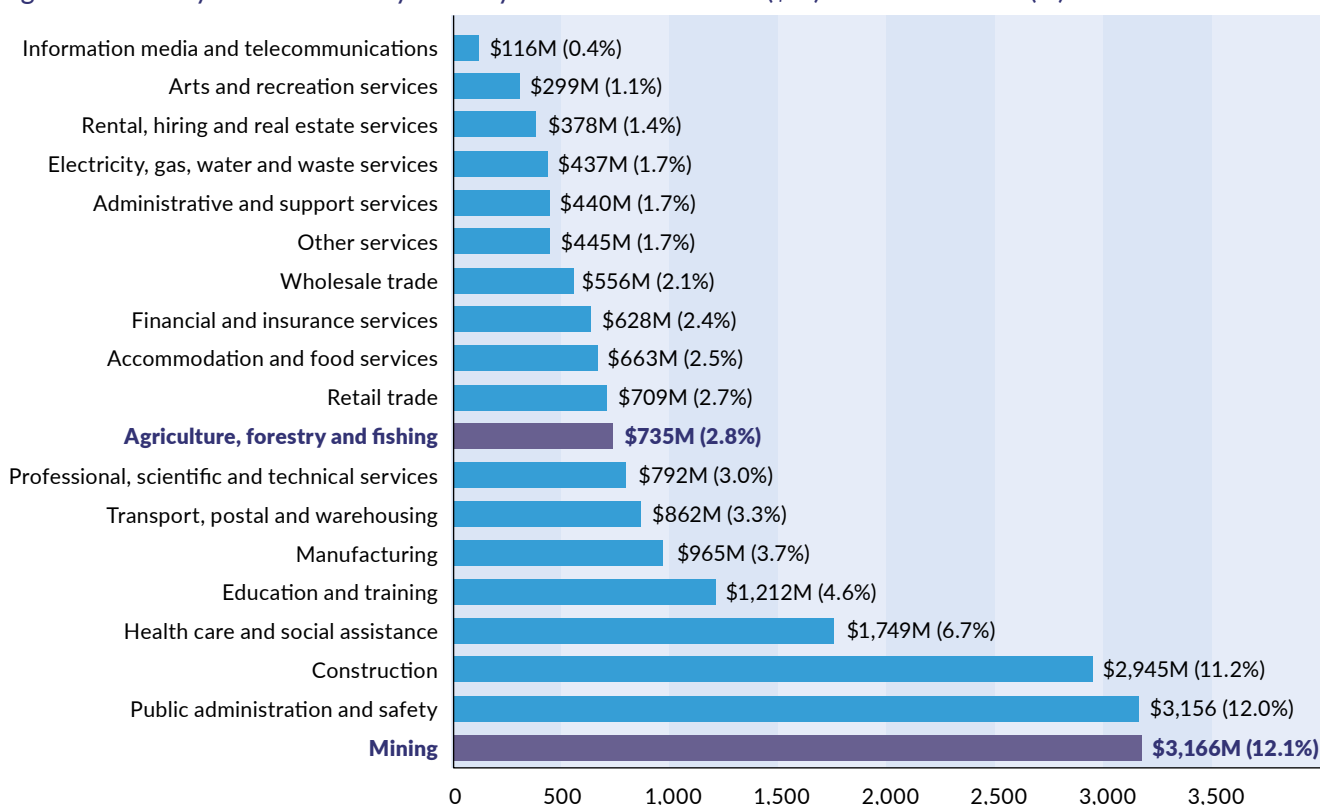
The Northern Territory Government Department of Primary Industry and Resources brings together many of the key functions that drive economic development on Northern Territory lands, coastal areas and inland waterways, and our operations cover the whole of the Territory. The department plays an integral, enabling role through the development and regulation of our industries, which are significant to our economy and advancing our regions. Industry sectors include mines, energy, fisheries, livestock, horticulture and other agriculture.

The department operates a range of facilities, including research farms, stations, laboratories and scientific precincts, and offices in different regions and climatic zones across the Territory. Our skilled staff across a range of disciplines support our aim to ensure the Territory optimises benefits from its industry sectors.

The department collaborates with diverse industry stakeholders to optimise agriculture, fisheries and resource sector benefits, seizing opportunities to develop northern Australia and attain the Territory's full economic potential as a gateway to global markets. We also play a significant role in supporting Aboriginal and regionally-based business development, working to increase economic progress and employment growth.

The value added of Territory primary industry and fisheries estimated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) exceeds \$700 million annually (Figure 1), accounting for nearly 3 per cent of Territory's gross state product (GSP). Mining is the giant of the Territory resource industry, grossing an annual \$3.0 billion and contributing over 12 per cent of Territory GSP.

Figure 1: Territory GSP 2017-18 by industry sector – value added (\$M) and contribution (%)



Source: ABS 5220.0 - Australian National Accounts: State Accounts, 2017-18

## Primary industry

The department delivers strategic services that support profitable and sustainable production for primary industry.

The department works in partnership with producers, industry bodies, community groups and related agencies to promote industry growth and ensure access to markets for animals, plants and plant products. This includes the fisheries, livestock, horticulture and other agriculture sectors.

Services include:

- inspection, treatment and certification services for animals and animal products
- inspection, treatment and certification services for plant and plant products
- research and extension programs to help producers sustainably lift crop and stock yields and capacity
- development of best-practice farming methods for specific environments
- Aboriginal pastoral and horticultural economic development
- biosecurity and laboratory diagnostic services for plant and animal health
- monitoring of, and response to, emergency and endemic animal and plant pests and disease
- supporting industry trade and investment development.

## Fisheries

The department works in partnership with commercial and recreational fishing industries, the aquaculture industry, Aboriginal communities and other stakeholders to achieve optimum sustainable utilisation of the Territory's valuable aquatic resources. It follows a consultative and precautionary approach to ensure all Territory wild harvest fisheries, aquaculture and associated aquatic resources are ecologically, economically and socially sustained. Management programs are based on high quality scientific indicators and designed to ensure the Territory's aquatic resources are not over-exploited.

Services include:

- facilitating the sustainable commercial catch, sale and processing of fish and aquatic life through licence allocation
- encouraging industry development
- supporting the recreational fishing industry
- preventing introduction of aquatic pests into the Territory
- contributing to the research needs for each Territory fishery
- working in partnership to address the needs of the aquaculture industry
- operating the commercial barramundi hatchery and nursery business
- assisting Aboriginal communities in relation to fishing issues
- delivering community education, including education resources for schools.



# Economic overview of the Territory

## – facts and figures

In 2017-18, the Territory economy grew by 1.7 per cent to \$26.2 billion, up from \$25.4 billion in 2016-17 (Table 1).

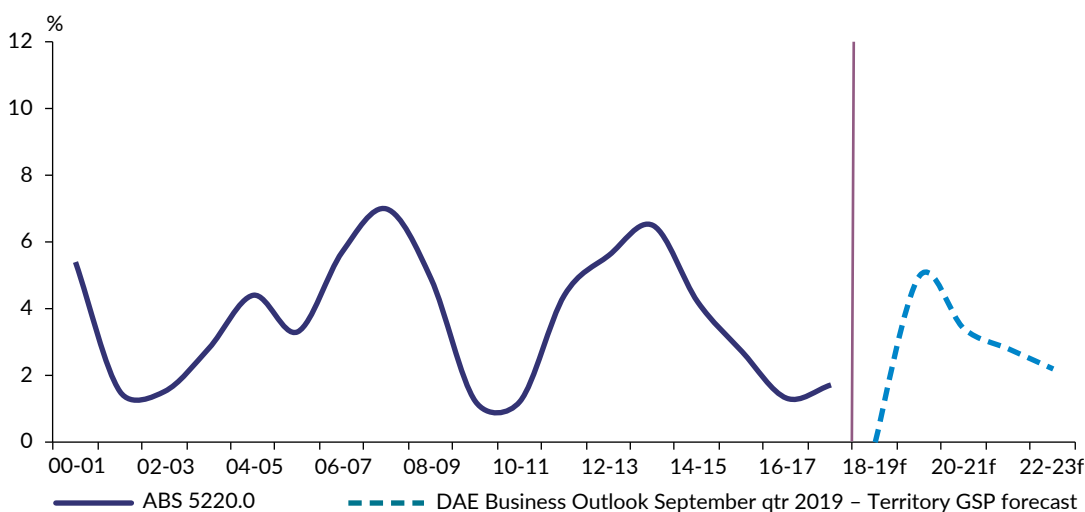
Table 1: Territory economy, 2016-17 and 2017-18

	2016-17	2017-18
Gross state product (\$m)	\$25,400	\$26,200
Population (persons)	246,065	247,159
Exports (\$m)	\$4,956	\$5,721
Imports (\$m)	\$1,680	\$1,957
Unemployment rate (original)	3.2%	4.1%
Inflation rate (national)	1.1%	1.2%
Average weekly full-time adult earnings (persons)	\$1,807	\$1,727

Source: [www.treasury.nt.gov.au](http://www.treasury.nt.gov.au)

Deloitte Access Economics (DAE) Economic Outlook forecasts moderate growth of the Territory economy by an average of 2.7 per cent over the five years to 2022-23 (Figure 2). DAE notes that exports (mainly minerals and liquefied natural gas) are expected to be key drivers of the Territory economy, however they will have less flow-on effects to domestic demand.

Figure 2: Territory economic outlook – GSP 2000-01 to 2022-23



Source: [www.treasury.nt.gov.au](http://www.treasury.nt.gov.au)



# Primary industry and fisheries

## – an economic overview

### Methodology for the calculation of production values

The production values estimated in this publication are calculated at the point of production, not at the point of sale and are based on a farm-gate price (minus marketing costs). In the case of Territory fisheries, the farm-gate price is the onboard or landed price. The Australian Government-managed Northern Prawn Fishery (Territory catch only) (NPF) production value is based on an Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) export price.

Marketing costs are the cost of moving agricultural and fishery commodities from the point of production (on the farm or fishing vessel) to the point of sale (the market place). These costs include, but are not limited to, freight, cost of containers, commissions, insurance, storage, handling, weighing, yard fees and other fees or charges incurred by the producer in delivering commodities to the market place.

Outputs and values reported in this publication were obtained with the assistance of the Northern Territory (NT) Farmers' Association, Crocodile Farmers Association of the NT, Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Australian Fisheries Management Authority, ABS and ABARES.

### Contribution of industry to sector production value

Primary industry and fisheries in the Territory include cattle (interstate movements and live export), other livestock (buffalo, crocodiles, horses, camels, donkeys and goats), horticulture (fruits, vegetables, nursery, cut flowers and turf), and mixed farming (hay and forestry). The fisheries industry comprises harvesting of wild catch (including the Australian Government-managed NPF and aquaculture). A substantial recreational fishing sector generates tourism activity and provides lifestyle amenity.

The relative contribution of each industry to the primary industry and fisheries total is illustrated in Figure 3, with cattle, horticulture and fisheries being the major sectors. These output and values originate from the department's data collections and are presented in Table 3. The annual performance of the Territory's major commodities by sector is presented in Table 4.

In 2017-18, the total estimated value of Territory primary industry and fisheries production was \$1,027.1 million (Table 3), a decrease of 6.2 per cent over the previous year. This result reflected mixed production results and market conditions. The decrease is primarily due to a 9.1 per cent decline in the value of cattle production to \$597.3 million (due to reduced interstate movements and abattoir output, although live exports increased), and a 21.5 per cent decrease in fisheries value of production to \$110.6 million (driven by decreases in the NPF and aquaculture). These decreases were offset by 7.4 per cent growth in the value of horticultural production to \$251 million, an 8.9 per cent increase in other livestock production value (mainly buffalo and crocodile production) to \$32.9 million, and a 7 per cent increase in the value of mixed farming output to \$35.3 million (driven by Tiwi woodchip shipments and hay production).

Cattle  
**\$597.3M**



Horticulture  
**\$251M**



Fisheries  
**\$110.6M**



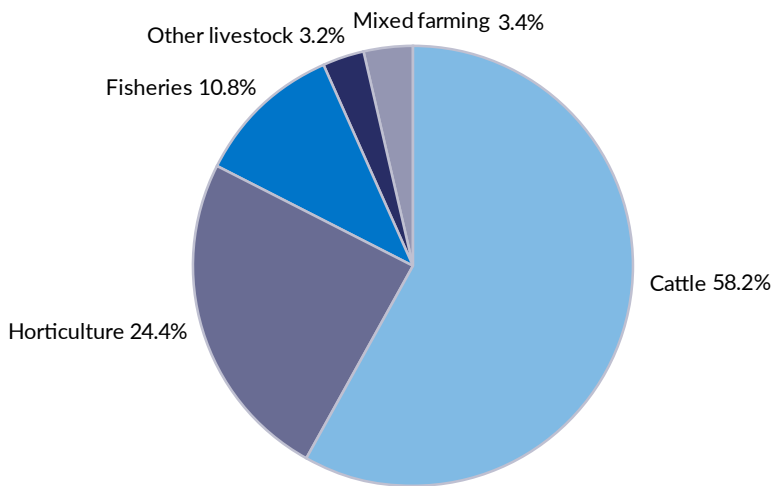
Mixed farming  
**\$35.3M**



Other livestock  
**\$32.9M**



Figure 3: Contribution of industry to sector production value, 2017-18



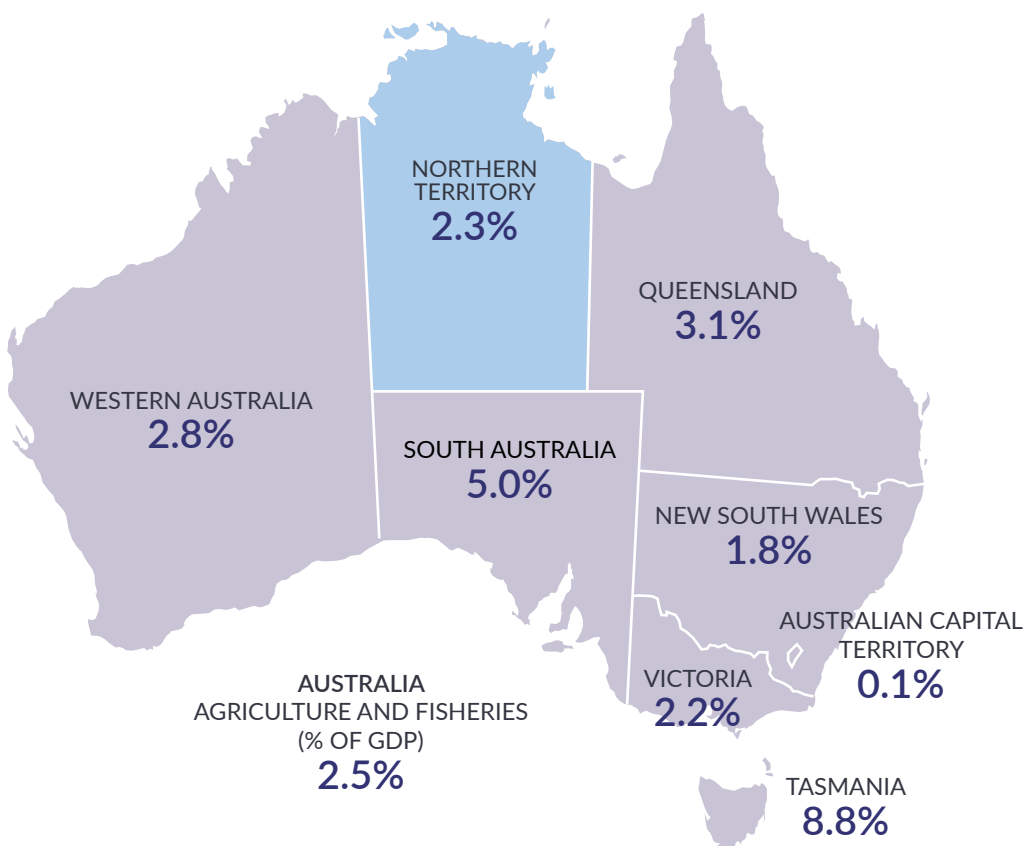
Source: Department of Primary Industry and Resources data collections

Territory primary industry and fisheries have significant links to other sectors of the local economy, such as manufacturing, transport and storage, retail and wholesale trade. These industries are vital in regional areas, providing economic stimulus and employment for approximately 1,743 people in 2017-18 (ABS). This represents 1.3 per cent of the estimated workforce in the Territory. This labour force estimate is subject to a sampling variability and results can be volatile.

Primary industry and fisheries also account for a significant proportion of the Territory's non-mineral export revenue. These industries comprised 2.3 per cent of Territory GSP in 2017-18. This is just below the total primary industry and fisheries contribution (of all states and territories) to Australia's gross domestic product (GDP) of 2.5 per cent (Figure 4).

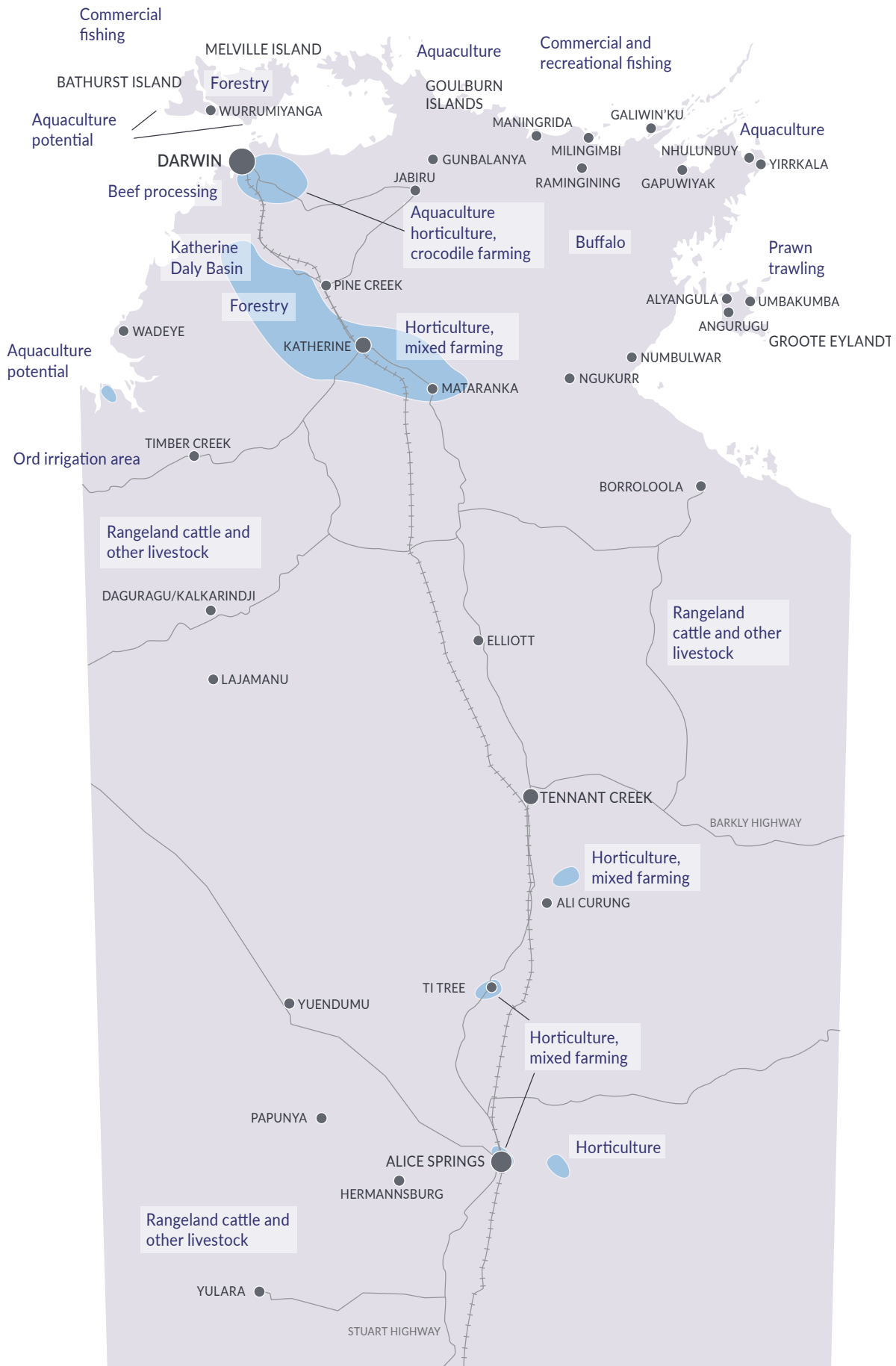
Exports of Territory primary industry and fisheries outputs are dominated by live cattle exports (mainly to Indonesia), fisheries, horticulture, forestry and, to a lesser extent, agriculture services.

Figure 4: States and territories- agriculture and fisheries contribution to GSP, 2017-18



Source: ABS, Australian National Accounts, Cat No. 5220.0, 2017-18

Figure 5: Agricultural and fishing areas in the Territory



Source: Department of Treasury and Finance





## Business overview

There were 943 agriculture, forestry and fishing businesses counted for the period June 2014 to June 2018. The sole trader or owner-operator was the most common form of business structure (66.5 per cent). There are no large firms (200 plus employees) in the sector (Table 2).

The majority of agricultural and fisheries businesses are pastoral businesses (35.5 per cent) and 66.5 per cent of all agricultural and fisheries businesses are non-employing.

Table 2: Counts of Territory businesses by industry and employment, 2014-18

Description	Non-employing	1-19	20-199	200+	Total	By business (%)
Pastoral industries	213	108	14	0	335	35.5%
Plant industries	219	76	16	0	311	33.0%
Other agriculture and fishing support services	69	62	4	0	135	14.3%
Fisheries	70	15	0	0	85	9.0%
Forestry	22	0	0	0	22	2.3%
Other animals	24	11	3	0	38	4.0%
Aquaculture	6	3	0	0	9	1.0%
Hunting and trapping	4	4	0	0	8	0.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>627</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>943</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>% by employment</b>	<b>66.5%</b>	<b>29.6%</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

Source: ABS, Counts of Australian Businesses, including Entries and Exits, Cat No. 8165.0, June 2014 to June 2018



# Industry production values overview

Table 3: Territory primary industry and fisheries production values

	Value of production (\$M)			Annual change (%)
	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	16-17 to 17-18
<b>Horticulture</b>				
Mangoes	88.5	88.3	112.8	27.7%
Table grapes	8.0	8.0	8.7	8.7%
Melons	52.6	50.3	42.0	-16.5%
Other fruits	8.0	17.7	17.7	0.0%
Vegetables	41.5	43.9	43.9	0.0%
Nursery, cut flowers and turf	18.0	17.7	17.7	0.0%
Territory markets	7.9	7.8	8.2	5.1%
<b>Total horticultural</b>	<b>224.5</b>	<b>233.7</b>	<b>251.0</b>	<b>7.4%</b>
<b>Fisheries</b>				
Fish	31.6	37.3	37.5	0.5%
Crustaceans	3.0	5.9	9.8	65.3%
Aquaculture	24.5	34.4	25.6	-25.8%
Molluscs and echinoderms	0.29	0.63	0.51	-19.0%
<b>Total Territory fisheries</b>	<b>59.4</b>	<b>78.3</b>	<b>73.4</b>	<b>-6.3%</b>
NPF crustaceans	64.8	62.7	37.2	-40.5%
<b>Total fisheries</b>	<b>124.2</b>	<b>141.0</b>	<b>110.6</b>	<b>-21.5%</b>
<b>Livestock and other agriculture<sup>1</sup></b>				
Cattle	658.8	657.5	597.3	-9.1%
Other livestock	34.0	30.2	32.9	8.9%
<b>Total livestock</b>	<b>692.8</b>	<b>687.6</b>	<b>630.2</b>	<b>-8.4%</b>
Field crops	20.0	19.3	21.1	6.1%
Poppy	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0%
Forestry	6.4	13.7	14.8	8.2%
<b>Total other agriculture</b>	<b>28.8</b>	<b>33.0</b>	<b>35.3</b>	<b>7.0%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>721.6</b>	<b>720.6</b>	<b>665.5</b>	<b>-7.7%</b>
<b>Total livestock and other agriculture</b>				
Horticulture	224.5	233.7	251.0	7.4%
Fisheries	124.3	140.8	110.6	-21.5%
Livestock	692.8	687.6	630.2	-8.4%
Other agriculture	28.8	33.0	35.3	7.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1070.4</b>	<b>1095.2</b>	<b>1027.1</b>	<b>-6.2%</b>

1. Other agriculture includes mixed farming and forestry.

Source: Department of Primary Industry and Resources data collections



# Primary industry and fisheries performance

Table 4: Current year performance of Territory commodities

Commodity	Value of production (\$M)		Annual change (%)	Performance indicator
	2016-17	2017-18		
Territory cattle exported overseas	\$243.7	\$261.6	7.3%	↑
Territory cattle movements interstate	\$360.8	\$303.2	-16.0%	↓
Territory cattle slaughtered	\$53.0	\$32.5	-38.6%	↓
Buffalo	\$6.9	\$9.0	30.2%	↑
Other livestock	\$0.25	\$0.20	-17.9%	↓
Crocodiles	\$23.0	\$23.7	2.8%	↑
Mangoes	\$88.3	\$112.8	27.7%	↑
Table grapes	\$8.0	\$8.7	8.7%	↑
Melons	\$50.3	\$42.0	-16.5%	↓
Other fruits	\$17.7	\$17.7	0.0%	→
Vegetables	\$43.9	\$43.9	0.0%	→
Nursery, cut flowers and turf	\$17.7	\$17.7	0.0%	→
Territory markets	\$7.8	\$8.2	5.1%	↑
Forestry	\$13.7	\$14.8	8.2%	↑
Hay and fodder production	\$19.3	\$20.5	6.1%	↑
Fin fish	\$37.3	\$37.5	0.5%	↑
Territory crustaceans	\$5.9	\$9.8	65.3%	↑
NPF crustaceans	\$62.7	\$37.2	-40.5%	↓
Aquaculture	\$34.4	\$25.6	-25.8%	↓
Molluscs and echinoderms	\$0.63	\$0.51	-19.0%	↓

Source: Department of Primary Industry and Resources data collections

Territory primary industry and fisheries sectors generate additional outputs (Table 5) and employment in the rest of the Territory economy. In 2017-18, primary industry and fisheries sectors produced \$516.7 million in output value in the rest of the Territory economy (Table 6).

Table 5: Output multipliers by industry for the Territory economy, 2017-18

Industry	Output value created in the rest of the Territory economy <sup>1</sup> per \$1 million industry output value
Beef cattle	\$510,000
Other agriculture <sup>2</sup>	\$480,000
Horticulture	\$510,000
Forestry	\$960,000
Commercial fishing	\$400,000

1. Output created in the rest of the Territory economy excludes the referenced industry.

2. Other agriculture includes other livestock and mixed farming.

Source: Department of Business and Employment 2006-07

Table 6: Dollar value of output multipliers by industry for the Territory economy, 2017-18

Industry	Output value by industry (\$M)	Output value created in the rest of the Territory economy <sup>1</sup> (\$M)
Beef cattle	\$597.3	\$304.6
Other agriculture <sup>2</sup>	\$53.3	\$25.6
Horticulture	\$251.0	\$128.0
Forestry	\$14.8	\$14.2
Commercial fishing	\$110.6	\$44.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,027.1</b>	<b>\$516.7</b>

1. Jobs in the rest of Territory economy excludes the referenced industry.

2. Other agriculture includes other livestock and mixed farming.

Source: Department of Business and Employment 2006-07

## JOBS CREATED IN THE REST OF THE TERRITORY ECONOMY<sup>1</sup> per 100 industry jobs

Beef cattle

**36**



Horticulture

**51**



Commercial fishing

**57**



Forestry

**71**



Other agriculture<sup>2</sup>

**97**



1. Jobs in the rest of Territory economy excludes the referenced industry.

2. Other agriculture includes other livestock and mixed farming.

Source: Department of Business and Employment 2006-07



# Primary industry and fisheries sectors

## Livestock – cattle

The live cattle export trade (mainly to Indonesia) and interstate movements (mostly to Queensland and South Australia) dominates agricultural production in the Territory. Market destinations for Territory cattle in 2017-18 consisted of live export trade (51 per cent), interstate movements (44 per cent) and local slaughter (5 per cent).

The pastoral industry is a major contributor to incomes in regional areas of the Territory. It also generates considerable flow-on benefits to other industries, particularly transport and storage, business-to-business services and retail trade services. The pastoral industry contributed 58.2 per cent of the total value of Territory primary industry and fisheries production in 2017-18 (Figure 3).

The estimated value of production for the cattle industry in 2017-18 was \$597.3 million, down 9.1 per cent from 2016-17. In 2017-18, 556,088 head of Territory cattle were turned-off for exports, interstate movements or for slaughter, down 4 per cent from 2016-17 (Table 7).

Table 7: Territory cattle industry – turn-off and production values annual percentage changes

Turn-off (Territory cattle only)	2016-17		2017-18		Annual change (%)	
	Head	\$M	Head	\$M	Head	\$M
Interstate movements	317,823	\$360.8	282,296	\$303.2	-11.2%	-16.0%
Live exports	214,615	\$243.7	243,501	\$261.6	13.5%	7.3%
Slaughter (Territory abattoirs)	46,671	\$53.0	30,291	\$32.5	-35.1%	-38.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>579,109</b>	<b>\$657.5</b>	<b>556,088</b>	<b>\$597.3</b>	<b>-4.0%</b>	<b>-9.1%</b>

Source: Department of Primary Industry and Resources data collections

## Interstate cattle movements

The majority of Territory cattle movements to interstate (Table 8) are slaughter cattle for boxed beef sale in domestic and international markets, such as Japan, South Korea, the United States and Taiwan. Traditionally, over 50 per cent of the interstate movement of Territory cattle go to Queensland and approximately 20 per cent to South Australia. Western Australia, New South Wales and Victoria account for the remaining 30 per cent of interstate movements.

The value of the total interstate movements of Territory cattle in 2017-18 was estimated at \$303.2 million, down 16 per cent from 2016-17 (\$360.8 million). A total of 282,296 head of Territory cattle were sent interstate in 2017-18, an 11.2 per cent decrease over 2016-17 (317,823).

Table 8: Interstate cattle movements – turn-off and production values annual percentage changes

Description	2016-17		2017-18		Annual change (%)	
	Head	\$M	Head	\$M	Head	\$M
Queensland	196,861	\$223.5	159,663	\$171.5	-18.9%	-23.3%
South Australia	63,679	\$72.3	61,508	\$66.1	-3.4%	-8.6%
Western Australia	19,697	\$22.4	29,350	\$31.5	49.0%	41.0%
Other states	37,586	\$42.7	31,775	\$34.1	-15.5%	-20.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>317,823</b>	<b>\$360.8</b>	<b>282,296</b>	<b>\$303.2</b>	<b>-11.2%</b>	<b>-16.0%</b>

Source: Department of Primary Industry and Resources data collections

## Live cattle exports

A total of 243,501 head of Territory cattle were exported to South East Asia in 2017-18 (Table 9), a 13.5 per cent increase over 2016-17 (214,615 head). The value of production for Territory live cattle exports in 2017-18 was estimated at \$261.6 million, a 7.3 per cent increase over 2016-17 (\$243.7 million).

Indonesia is the largest export market for Territory cattle, accounting for over 80 per cent of cattle exports through the Port of Darwin in 2017-18. Vietnam is the next biggest market, accounting for over 10 per cent of exports. Other markets for Territory cattle include Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand. In 2017-18, Territory cattle exports accounted for 22.4 per cent of Australia's total live cattle exports and 31.7 per cent of Australia's total live cattle exports to Indonesia.

Table 9: Territory live cattle exports – turn-off and production values annual percentage changes

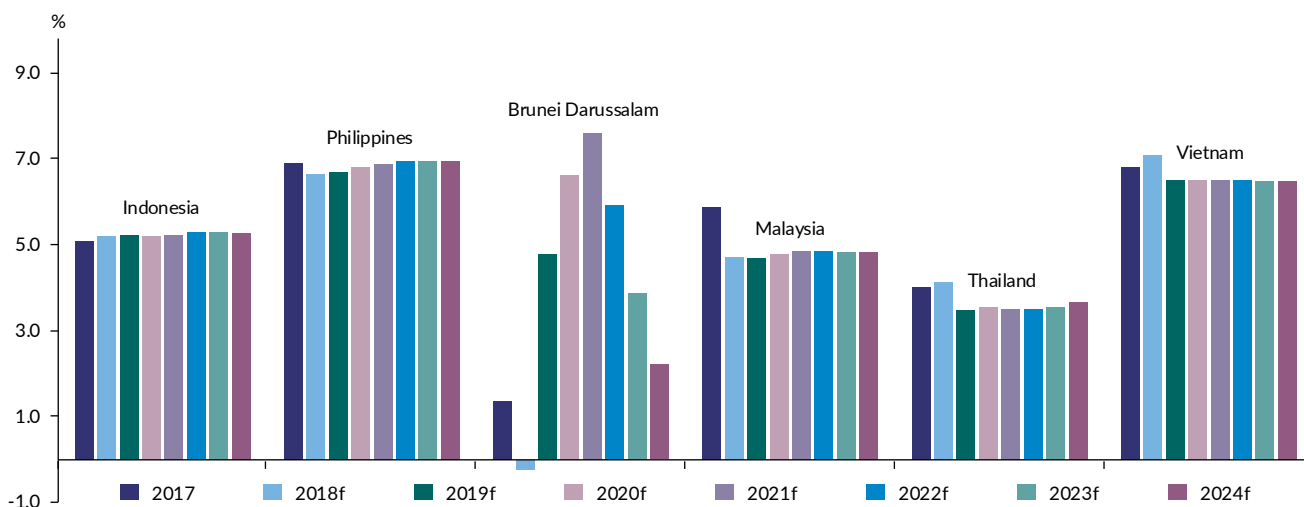
Description	2016-17		2017-18		Annual change (%)	
	Head	\$M	Head	\$M	Head	\$M
Brunei	2,306	\$2.6	2,836	\$3.0	23.0%	16.4%
Indonesia	177,602	\$201.6	187,023	\$200.9	5.3%	-0.4%
Philippines	-	-	4,579	\$4.9	0.0%	0.0%
Sabah	-	-	1,680	\$1.8	0.0%	0.0%
Sarawak	1,430	\$1.6	1,970	\$2.1	37.7%	30.3%
West Malaysia	7,818	\$8.9	12,137	\$13.0	55.3%	46.9%
Thailand	535	\$0.60	658	\$0.70	22.9%	16.3%
Vietnam	24,924	\$28.3	32,617	\$35.0	30.9%	23.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>214,615</b>	<b>\$243.7</b>	<b>243,501</b>	<b>\$261.6</b>	<b>13.5%</b>	<b>7.3%</b>

Note: Live cattle exports only represent Territory cattle shipped from the Port of Darwin.

Source: Department of Primary Industry and Resources data collections

The economies of the major destination countries for live cattle exports are forecast to maintain positive GDP growth, supporting strong domestic demand for Territory beef (Figure 6). This is offset by the appreciating value of the Australian dollar, competition from other beef producers, biosecurity impacts, and local substitutes like fish, pork and chicken.

Figure 6: GDP growth forecasts 2017-2024f for Territory live cattle exports – major destinations



f: forecast

Source: International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook Database, April 2019

## Other livestock

Other livestock is a category of industries in the Territory that has historically included crocodiles, poultry, buffalo, horses, camels, deer, pigs and goats, exported overseas or sent to domestic markets. Crocodiles are the largest industry in this category. Premium grade crocodile skins are highly sought after in Japan, France, Italy and Asian countries. Second and third grade skins are also exported, although there is a growing domestic demand. The by-products of flesh, feet, teeth and skulls are mainly sold domestically.

Total other livestock (crocodiles, buffalo, horses, camels, pigs, and goats) contributed 3.2 per cent to the total value of Territory primary industry and fisheries production in 2017-18 (Figure 3).

In 2017-18, the total value of production in other livestock increased 8.9 per cent to an estimated \$32.9 million, from \$30.2 million in 2016-17 (Table 10).

For 2017-18, the value of the Territory's crocodile industry was estimated at \$23.7 million. This accounted for 72.1 per cent of the total value of production of the other livestock industry sector.

Buffalo turn-off increased 28.9 per cent in 2017-18 to 10,709 head with an estimated value of \$9.0 million.

Table 10: Other Territory livestock industry – production values annual percentage changes

Description	2016-17 (\$M)	2017-18 (\$M)	Annual change (%)
Crocodiles	\$23.0	\$23.7	2.8%
Other livestock	\$0.25	\$0.20	-17.9%
Buffalo	\$6.9	\$9.0	30.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$30.2</b>	<b>\$32.9</b>	<b>8.9%</b>

Source: Department of Primary Industry and Resources data collections

## Plant industry

The Territory's plant industry includes:

- fruits
- vegetables
- nursery, cut flowers and turf
- field crops
- Territory markets
- forestry
- other crops.

The value of Territory plant production for 2017-18 was \$286.3 million, an increase of around 7 per cent compared to 2016-17 (Table 11). Plant industry (horticulture and mixed farming) contributed an estimated 27.8 per cent of the total value of Territory primary industry and fisheries production in 2017-18 (Figure 3).

Almost all production from Territory plant industry is sent interstate (for domestic consumption or to be exported). Less than 1 per cent of plant produce is exported directly from the Territory. Historically, this has involved mangoes, melons and pumpkins to Singapore and, most recently, woodchips to Japan. Field crops are mostly hay production for the cattle industry. The Territory generally accounts for 1.6 per cent of national horticulture production.

Table 11: Territory plant industry – production values annual percentage changes

Description	2016-17 (\$M)	2017-18 (\$M)	Annual change (%)	Total production value 2017-18 (%)
Fruits	\$164.3	\$181.2	10.3%	63.3%
Vegetables	\$43.9	\$43.9	0.0%	15.3%
Field crops	\$19.3	\$20.5	6.1%	7.2%
Nursery, cut flowers and turf	\$17.7	\$17.7	0.0%	6.2%
Territory markets	\$7.8	\$8.2	5.1%	2.9%
Forestry	\$13.7	\$14.8	8.2%	5.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$266.7</b>	<b>\$286.3</b>	<b>7.4%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: NT Farmers Association, NT Farming Production 2017

## Fruits

The main fruits produced in the Territory include mangoes, melons, and table grapes. Fruit production value in 2017-18 increased an estimated 10.3 per cent to \$181.2 million on 2016-17 (Table 12). This was due to increases in value for mangoes and table grapes, offset by a decline in the melon value. Values of other fruits remain unchanged and there was no production recorded for bananas in 2017-18.

Table 12: Territory fruits – tonnes and production values annual percentage changes

Description	2016-17		2017-18		Annual change (%)	
	Tonnes	\$M	Tonnes	\$M	Tonnes	\$M
Mangoes	29,700	\$88.3	39,700	\$112.8	33.7%	27.7%
Table grapes	1,800	\$8.0	1,950	\$8.7	8.3%	8.7%
Melons	56,400	\$50.3	46,000	\$42.0	-18.4%	-16.5%
Other fruits	4,500	\$17.7	4,500	\$17.7	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>92,400</b>	<b>\$164.3</b>	<b>92,150</b>	<b>\$181.2</b>	<b>-0.3%</b>	<b>10.3%</b>

Source: NT Farmers Association, NT Farming Production 2017



## Vegetables

The major vegetables produced in the Territory include cucumber, bitter melon, hairy melon, long melon, okra, snake beans and pumpkin. Data is not collected for individual commodities.

The production value of vegetables remained unchanged for 2017-18, at \$43.9 million. Vegetable production was 13,100 tonnes for this period.

## Field crops

Historically, Territory mixed farming has included seed production, sorghum, maize and other crops, such as sesame and soybeans. Hay and fodder production, used to supply the Territory cattle industry, accounted for 100 per cent of the total field crops production values in 2017-18.

Mixed farming contributed over 3.4 per cent of the total value of Territory primary industry and fisheries production in 2017-18 (Figure 3).

The value of field crop production in 2017-18 was \$20.5 million, a 3.5 per cent increase from 2016-17 (\$19.3 million).

## Territory markets

Local markets accounted for around \$7.8 million of production in 2017-18, mainly in the Darwin markets. Local farmers' markets include Rapid Creek, Palmerston, Parap, Nightcliff and Mindil Beach.

The major supermarket chains use local production where possible, especially bananas, mangoes, rockmelons, watermelons, Lebanese cucumber, Asian vegetables, pineapples, papaya, dragon fruit, rambutan, carambola and pumpkin. The Territory has specialist vegetable producers supplying hydroponic fancy lettuce, tomatoes and other vegetables to local supermarkets.

## Forestry

There are more than 49,000 hectares under plantation forestry across the Territory.

Acacia (*Acacia mangium*) plantations on the Tiwi Islands are grown for paper pulp.

Tiwi plantations started to reach maturity in 2015 and trees continue to be harvested and sold into the international woodchip market (mainly Japan). In 2017-18, Tiwi Plantations Corporation exported woodchips worth \$14.8 million.

African mahogany is grown for high-value timber in the Douglas-Daly and Katherine regions. The trees have an expected rotation of between 18 and 25 years. These plantations are currently mid-rotation and have been independently valued at \$100 million standing value, that is the current value of trees within the plantation that will yield saleable timber when harvested at maturity.

Indian sandalwood is grown for oil and pharmaceuticals in the Douglas-Daly and Katherine regions. Sandalwood is the only plantation forestry in Australia routinely grown in a mixed species system and with irrigation. Still at the early rotation phase, Territory sandalwood plantations will not be harvested for more than a decade, when they are expected to go into the valuable international oils and pharmaceutical markets. A standing value is not currently available.

## Fisheries

The Territory fishing industry encompasses the commercial, recreational and traditional Aboriginal sectors. The commercial sector includes wild capture and aquaculture production, as well as seafood processing, wholesale, and retail trade.

Most Territory seafood is transported interstate (to be either exported or consumed domestically). The value of Territory fisheries production for 2017-18 was \$110.6 million, a decrease of around 21.5 per cent compared to 2016-17 (Table 13). This decrease is mainly attributed to falls in the NPF crustaceans output and aquaculture.

These falls were offset by increases in fish (wild-stock catch) and Territory crustaceans. In 2017-18, fisheries contributed an estimated 10.8 per cent of the total value of Territory primary industry and fisheries production value (Figure 3).

Table 13: Territory fisheries – production values annual percentage changes

Description	2016-17 (\$M)	2017-18 (\$M)	Annual change (%)
Fish (wild-stock catch)	\$37.3	\$37.5	0.5%
Territory crustaceans	\$5.9	\$9.8	65.3%
Aquaculture	\$34.4	\$25.6	-25.8%
Molluscs and echinoderms	\$0.63	\$0.51	-19.0%
<b>Total Territory fisheries</b>	<b>\$78.3</b>	<b>\$73.4</b>	<b>-6.3%</b>
NPF crustaceans (Territory catch)	\$62.7	\$37.2	-40.5%
<b>Total fisheries</b>	<b>\$141.0</b>	<b>\$110.6</b>	<b>-21.5%</b>

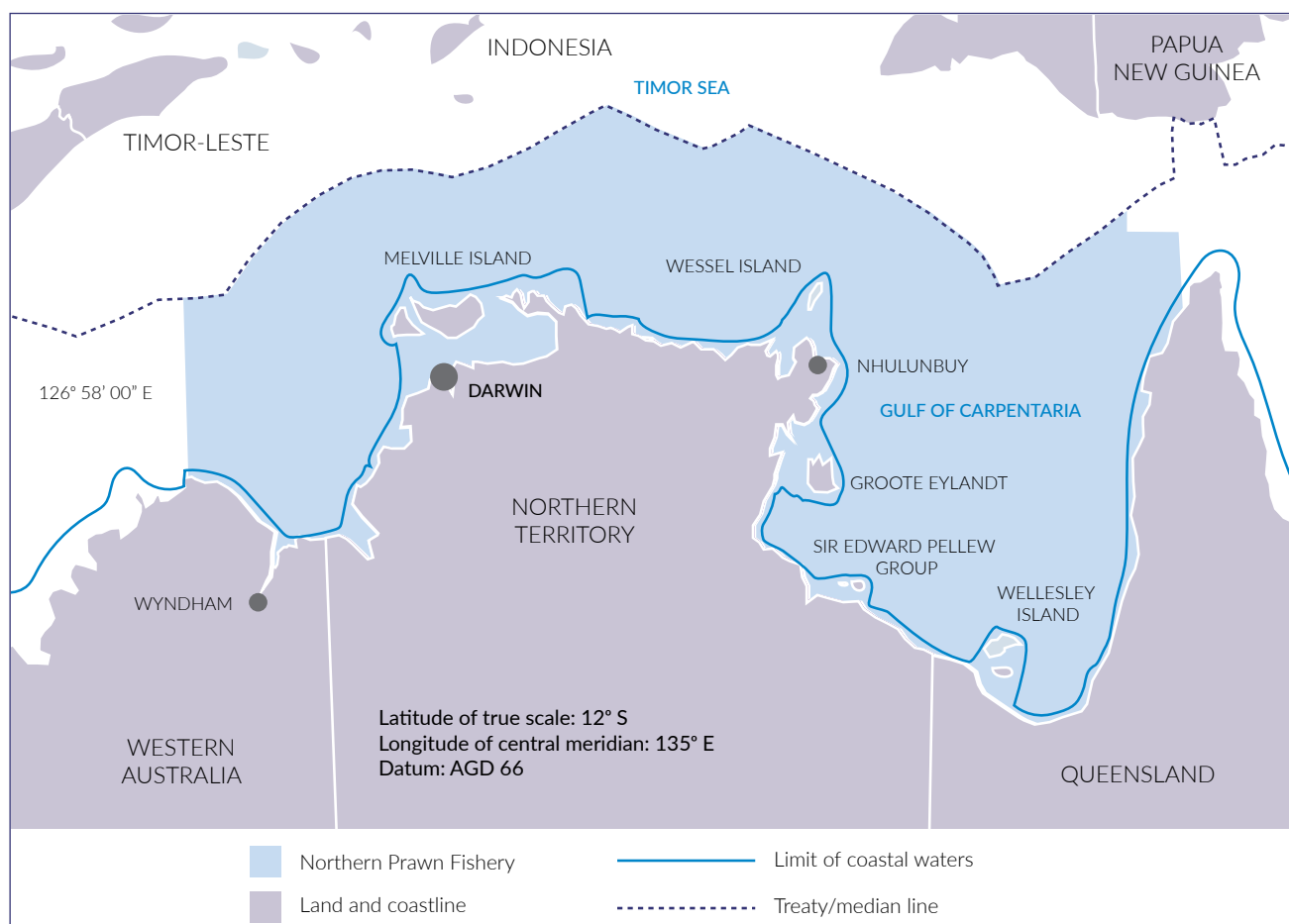
Source: Department of Primary Industry and Resources data collections

## Northern Prawn Fleet Fishery management area

The Northern Prawn Fleet Fishery management area is located off Australia's northern coast from Cape York in Queensland to Cape Londonderry in Western Australia. There are 52 vessels licensed to operate within the fishery, which covers approximately 880,000 square kilometres of Australia's northern waters. On average, the value of the NPF catch accounts for 40 per cent of the total value of Territory fisheries.

Within this fishery, arrangements exist between the Australian Government and governments of Western Australia, the Territory and Queensland, whereby the coastal waters of these states and territories are deemed part of the Australian Fishing Zone. The area of the fishery is sourced from the Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan 1995 (17 October 2003 – amendments up to Northern Prawn Fishery Amendment Plan 2003 (No NPF 04)). The maritime zone boundaries shown on Figure 7 are sourced from the Australian Maritime Boundaries Information System 2001 (Version 1.1) (released October 2001).

Figure 7: Northern Prawn Fleet Fishery management area



Source: Northern Prawn Fishery Report



# Appendix

## Publications

- Department of Primary Industry and Resources Annual Report 2018-19  
<https://dpir.nt.gov.au/publications>
- Department of Primary Industry and Resources: Economic Overview 2017  
<https://dpir.nt.gov.au/primary-industry/primary-industry-publications/economic-profile>
- Department of Primary Industry and Resources: Fisheries publications  
<https://dpir.nt.gov.au/fisheries/fisheries-publications>
- Department of Primary Industry and Resources: Industry Development Plan 2013-2017  
<https://dpir.nt.gov.au/publications>
- Department of Trade, Business and Innovation Annual Report 2018-19  
<https://business.nt.gov.au/publications/reports/annual-reports>
- Department of Treasury and Finance: Economic briefs  
<https://treasury.nt.gov.au/df/economic-group/economic-briefs>

## Useful links

- Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics  
<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares>
- Australian Bureau of Statistics  
<http://www.abs.gov.au/>
- Department of Primary Industry and Resources  
<https://dpir.nt.gov.au>
- Department of Trade, Business and Innovation  
<https://business.nt.gov.au/>
- Department of Trade, Business and Innovation: business and economic data  
<https://business.nt.gov.au/business-and-economic-data>
- Department of Treasury and Finance  
<https://treasury.nt.gov.au/>
- NT Cattlemen's Association  
<http://www.ntca.org.au/>
- NT Farmers Association  
<https://ntfarmers.org.au/>



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