



1994-95

EMBARGOED UNTIL 11.30 AM FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 1996

Agriculture and Fishing

Northern Territory

Statistics

NOTES

SYMBOLS AND OTHER	n.a.	not available
USAGES	n.p.	not available for publication but included in totals where applicable
	n.c.	not collected
	r	figure or series revised since previous issue
	mm	millimetres
	kg	kilograms
	t	tonne
	\$A	Australian dollars
	—	nil or rounded to zero

.....

CHANGES IN THIS PUBLICATION

In this issue, the method of reporting the prawn catch has been revised to reflect catch rather than landings. Previous years' data in this publication has been amended to reflect this change. Refer to paragraph 13 of the Explanatory Notes for further information.

Value of Aquaculture production along with value and production of Trovang has been included in this publication.

Squid value and production has been reported separately in Table 4. Previously this was included in other molluscs.

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INQUIRIES

For information about other ABS statistics and services, please refer to the back of this publication.

For further information about these statistics, contact Mick Holdstock on Darwin, (08) 8943 2160.

Bob Harrison
Statistician, Northern Territory

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

	Item	1994-95	% change from 1993-94
VALUE OF PRODUCTION			
	■ field crops and horticulture	\$36 million	16%
	♦ fruit	\$24 million	24%
	■ livestock	\$183 million	8%
	♦ live cattle exports	\$57 million	20%
	■ fishing	\$122 million	15%
	♦ crustaceans	\$65 million	29%
	■ total agriculture and fishing	\$341 million	11%
CONTRIBUTION TO GROSS STATE PRODUCT			
	■ NT agriculture, forestry and fishing	\$167 million	5%
AREA OF HOLDINGS			
	■ total area of agricultural holdings	69 million hectares	0%
NUMBER OF AGRICULTURAL ESTABLISHMENTS			
	■ cattle establishments	221	2%
	■ total agricultural establishments	337	7%
LIVE CATTLE EXPORTS			
	■ number	128 640	17%
INTERSTATE CATTLE MOVEMENTS			
	■ number	187 905	-29%

TOTAL AGRICULTURE AND FISHING

VALUE OF PRODUCTION

During the Northern Territory's 1994-95 season, commercial agriculture and fishing production was valued at \$341 million, an increase of \$34 million (11%) over the previous year's production levels.

TABLE 1. VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL AND FISHING PRODUCTION

Industry	1992-93 \$ 000	1993-94 \$ 000	1994-95 \$ 000
Field crops and horticulture(a)(b)	24 833	r31 010	35 978
Livestock slaughterings/other disposals and livestock products(c)	113 683	r170 043	183 100
Fish (d)	r90 807	r105 608	121 910
Total agriculture and fishing	r229 323	r306 661	340 988

(a) Includes fruit and vegetables.

(b) Figures relate to years ended 31 March.

(c) Includes livestock slaughtered in the NT, livestock movements interstate and exported live overseas, dressed poultry and livestock products such as milk and eggs. Data are supplied by Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries. Figures relate to years ended 30 June.

(d) Includes value of crustaceans, molluscs, trepang and aquaculture. Fishing industry data supplied by Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries for years ended 30 June.

AREA OF HOLDINGS AND NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS

At 31 March 1995, 337 Northern Territory establishments were involved in commercial agriculture with property holdings totalling 69 million hectares. The Tableland and Victoria statistical local areas combined accounted for 34% of total area of holdings and 15% of agricultural establishments. These areas are dominated by large pastoral leases predominantly involved in cattle production. In contrast the Litchfield (S) - Part B statistical local area accounted for less than 1% of the total area of holdings but contained the majority of establishments (62). This area is dominated by horticultural activity.

TABLE 2. TOTAL AREA OF AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS AND NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS

Statistical Local Area	Total area of holdings	Establishments
	Hectares	Number
Litchfield (S) - Part B	183 410	62
South Alligator	537 935	9
Daly	1 265 965	12
Eisey - Balance	7 394 120	48
Gulf	5 321 560	14
Victoria	10 728 448	30
Tableland	12 591 682	21
Tennant Creek - Balance	5 874 627	12
Petermann	6 763 105	19
Sandover - Balance	9 985 354	37
Tanami	7 516 670	25
Other	440 791	48
Northern Territory	68 603 667	337

FIELD CROPS AND HORTICULTURE

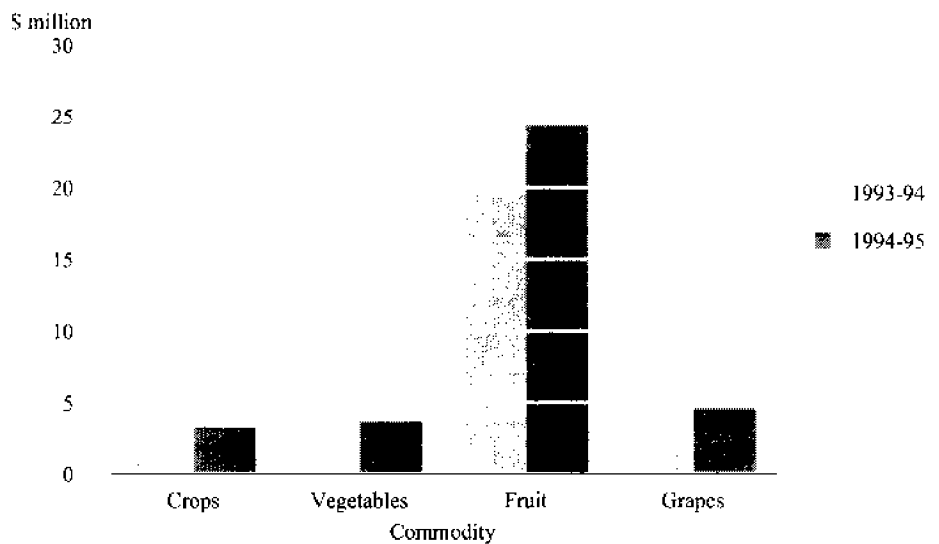
VALUE OF PRODUCTION

Northern Territory field crops and horticulture production in the 1994-95 season was valued at \$36 million, an increase of \$5 million from the 1993-94 season. This increase was attributable to an increase in the value of fruit production of \$5 million, due mainly to an increase in the value of mango production.

TABLE 3. VALUE OF FIELD CROPS AND HORTICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Commodity	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000
Field crops	6 995	7 308	3 252
Vegetables	3 507	3 674	3 685
Fruit	10 016	19 613	24 416
Grapes	4 315	4 415	4 625
Total field crops and horticultural commodities	24 833	31 010	35 978

VALUE OF FIELD CROPS AND HORTICULTURE



LIVESTOCK

VALUE OF PRODUCTION

The Northern Territory cattle and livestock products industry, which includes local slaughtering, interstate movement, live exports and other livestock products, was valued at \$183 million for the 1994-95 season. This was an increase of \$13 million from the previous season due mainly to an increase in the value of live cattle exports.

TABLE 4. VALUE OF CATTLE AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000
Live cattle exports	25 589	47 762	57 286
Total cattle and livestock products(a)	113 683	170 043	183 100

(a) Includes local slaughtering, interstate movements and other livestock products.

NUMBER OF CATTLE AND CALF DISPOSALS

The number of cattle and calf disposals for 1994-95 increased by 44 041 (14%) over 1993-94. The Tableland statistical local area had an increase of 70 110 (79%) over the same period due mainly to the area recovering from a severe drought in 1993-94.

TABLE 5. NUMBER OF CATTLE AND CALF DISPOSALS

Statistical Local Area	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
Victoria	83 468	75 375	70 464
Tableland	139 142	89 196	159 306
Sandover - balance	39 656	34 274	37 857
Tanami	22 064	18 227	17 436
Elsley - balance	15 716	19 458	17 555
Tennant Creek - balance	18 696	24 556	21 585
Petermann	13 060	14 790	10 572
Daly	15 110	17 988	12 047
Gulf	7 339	4 717	5 176
Other	12 826	26 477	17 101
Northern Territory	367 077	325 058	369 099

LIVESTOCK *continued*

INTERSTATE CATTLE MOVEMENTS

Due to severe drought conditions experienced in Queensland in 1994-95, interstate cattle movements from the Northern Territory to Queensland decreased by 62 758 or 38% compared with 1993-94. Nevertheless, interstate cattle movements continued to account for the majority of Northern Territory cattle disposals, with Queensland receiving 53% of the total.

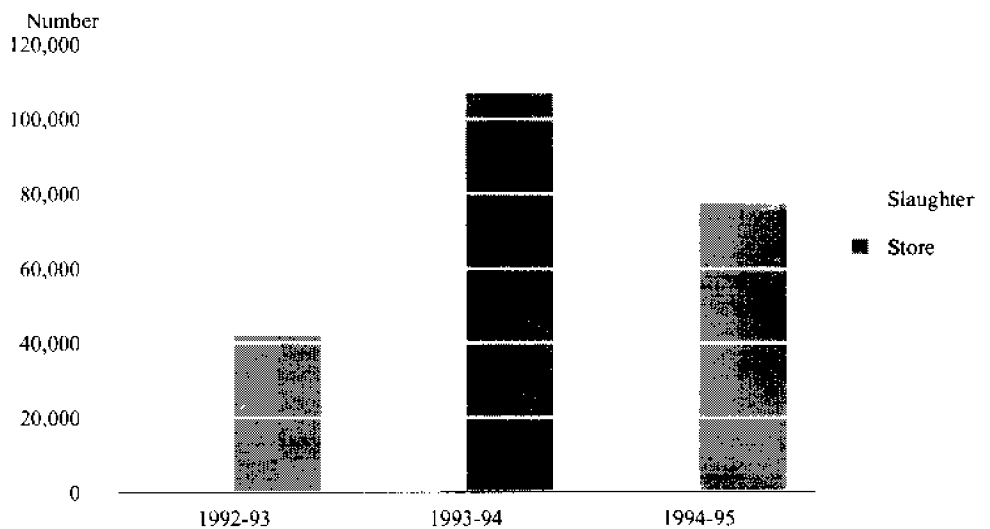
TABLE 6. INTERSTATE CATTLE MOVEMENTS(a)

Destination	1992-93			1993-94			1994-95		
	Slaughter	Store	Total	Slaughter	Store	Total	Slaughter	Store	Total
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Queensland	15 830	41 767	57 597	56 300	106 964	163 264	22 973	77 533	100 506
South Australia	28 848	71 223	100 071	30 106	41 485	71 591	20 919	44 856	65 775
Western Australia	6 349	11 187	17 536	3 886	24 045	27 931	934	17 892	18 826
Other States	—	8 510	8 510	350	3 033	3 383	—	2 798	2 798
Total interstate	51 027	132 687	183 714	90 642	175 527	266 169	44 826	143 079	187 905

(a) Refer to paragraphs 9 to 13 in the Explanatory Notes.

Source: Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries

LIVE CATTLE MOVEMENTS FROM THE NORTHERN TERRITORY TO QUEENSLAND



LIVESTOCK *continued*

CATTLE EXPORTS

A total of 129 363 head of live Northern Territory cattle and buffalo (excluding interstate cattle exported through NT ports) were exported in 1994-95, of which 87% were for store and 13% were for slaughter. This was an increase of 18 405 (17%) over the 1993-94 level. Live exports have increased significantly over the last two years and are now rapidly closing the gap with the number of cattle moved interstate.

TABLE 7. LIVE NORTHERN TERRITORY CATTLE AND BUFFALO EXPORTS(a)

Commodity	1992-93.....		1993-94.....		1994-95.....	
	Number	\$A 000(b)	Number	\$A 000(b)	Number	\$A 000(b)
Cattle						
Slaughter	13 743	n.a.	12 952	n.a.	15 916	n.a.
Store(c)	55 433	n.a.	97 119	n.a.	112 724	n.a.
Total cattle	69 176	28 589	110 071	47 762	128 640	57 286
Buffalo						
Slaughter	886	n.a.	789	n.a.	723	n.a.
Store(c)	35	n.a.	98	n.a.	—	—
Total buffalo	921	462	887	455	723	411
Total exports	70 097	29 051	110 958	48 217	129 363	57 697

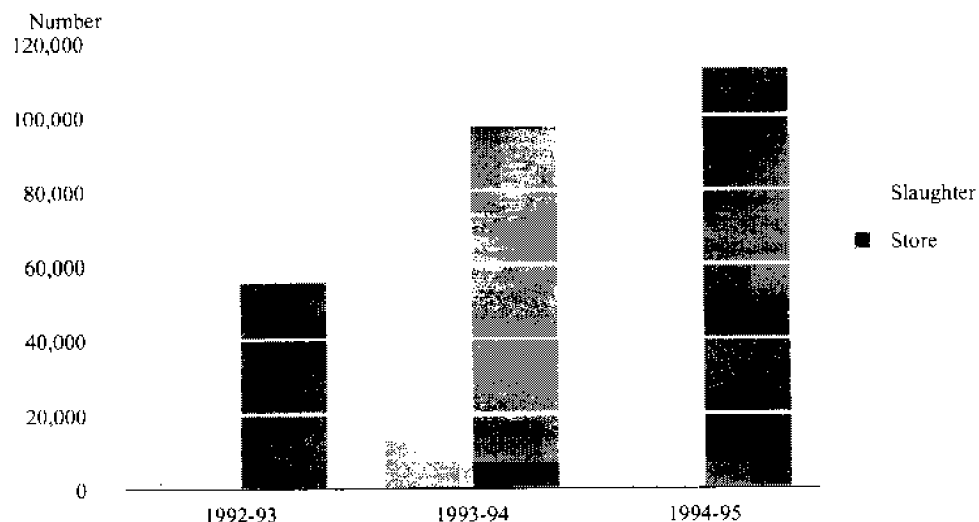
(a) Includes exports through the port of Wyndham.

(b) Estimated FOB (Free On Board).

(c) Refer to paragraph 10 in the Explanatory Notes.

Source: Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries

LIVE CATTLE EXPORTS, NORTHERN TERRITORY



Source: Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries.

LIVESTOCK *continued*

LIVESTOCK NUMBERS

In the 1994-95 season, 221 Northern Territory establishments reported 1.4 million head of cattle on their holdings, a slight decrease on 1993-94. Number of goats on holdings has decreased 67% to 345 due mainly to a drop in the number of establishments farming goats in 1994-95.

TABLE 8. LIVESTOCK NUMBERS ON HOLDINGS

Livestock	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
Cattle	1 347 223	1 435 475	1 420 874
Domesticated buffalo	10 382	10 751	10 880
Pigs	2 681	2 679	2 641
Goats	1 074	1 035	345
Horses	11 905	10 085	9 103

NUMBER OF CATTLE AND ESTABLISHMENTS

The highest concentrations of cattle numbers were in the statistical local areas of Victoria and Tableland, which together accounted for 56% of all Northern Territory cattle.

TABLE 9. NUMBER OF CATTLE AND ESTABLISHMENTS AT 31 MARCH 1995

Statistical Local Area	Cattle	Establishments
Victoria	400 229	29
Tableland	390 889	20
Sandover - balance	142 851	35
Tanami	78 254	21
Elsey - balance	123 886	32
Tennant Creek - balance	71 944	12
Petermann	61 311	18
Daly	58 649	9
Gulf	33 224	13
Other	59 637	32
Northern Territory	1 420 874	221

PROPORTION OF CATTLE IN SELECTED AREAS AT 31 MARCH 1995



LIVESTOCK *continued*

DOMESTICATED BUFFALO NUMBERS

Buffalo numbers have remained relatively constant over the last three years with minor restocking after the completion of the Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Eradication Campaign (BTEC). In 1994-95, there were 10 880 buffalo in the Northern Territory with the majority of these (67%) in the Elsey balance statistical local area.

TABLE 10. DOMESTICATED BUFFALO NUMBERS

<i>Statistical Local Area</i>	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
South Alligator	2 862	2 109	2 076
Daly	390	190	172
Elsey - balance	6 708	7 886	7 238
Victoria	117	85	117
Other	305	481	1 277
Northern Territory	10 382	10 751	10 880

BUFFALO SLAUGHTERED

The number of buffalo slaughtered in 1994-95 decreased by 3 051 (62%) from 1993-94 due to a move away from buffalo farming because of a drop in market prices and increased production costs.

TABLE 11. BUFFALO SLAUGHTERED AT NORTHERN TERRITORY ABATTOIRS

<i>Year</i>	<i>Buffalo slaughtered</i> Number	<i>Estimated value(a)</i> \$ 000
1992-93	4 431	1 151
1993-94	4 895	1 204
1994-95	1 844	510

(a) Estimated values are calculated as the product of the number of buffalo which were slaughtered (and passed meat inspection), and the average value per head. The average value per head is based on monthly abattoir prices and average dressed weights. The buffalo slaughtering statistics are based on monthly summaries prepared by meat inspectors. Figures relate to years ended 30 June.

Source: Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries

FISHING

VALUE OF PRODUCTION

The total estimated value of production in the Northern Territory fishing industry for 1994-95 was \$122 million, an increase of \$16 million compared with the 1993-94 season. This was attributable to an increase of \$15 million in the value of crustaceans.

TABLE 12. VALUE OF TOTAL FISHING PRODUCTION

Species	1992-93.....		1993-94.....		1994-95.....	
	Catch live weight(a) tonnes	Estimated value \$ 000	Catch live weight(a) tonnes	Estimated value \$ 000	Catch live weight(a) tonnes	Estimated value \$ 000
Crustaceans	4 217 ^r	r44 056	r3 984	r50 300	5 592	65 055
Aquaculture	n.a.	40 000	n.a.	46 215	n.a.	46 214
Fish	2 291	6 462	3 072	8 805	2 441	9 416
Trepang	46	237	47	165	94	910
Molluscs	15	36	22	66	63	315
Total NT Fisheries(b)(c)(d)	6 573 ^r	r90 807	r7 416	r105 608	8 190	121 910

(a) Includes 7% moisture factor unless otherwise stated.

(b) Total excludes value of pearl shell.

(c) Includes trepang weight and value which has not been previously published.

(d) Excludes live catch weight for aquaculture.

Source: Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries

CRUSTACEANS

Total estimated value of the crustacean catch in 1994-95 was \$65.1 million, an increase of \$15 million compared with the 1993-94 season, which was attributable to a significant increase in the prawn catch of \$14 million. The prawn catch of 5 345 tonnes was an increase of 43% from 1993-94. The value of the prawn catch accounted for 51% of the total Northern Territory fishing industry compared with 45% in 1993-94.

TABLE 13. VALUE OF CRUSTACEAN PRODUCTION

Species	1992-93.....		1993-94.....		1994-95.....	
	Catch live weight(a) tonnes	Estimated value \$ 000	Catch live weight(a) tonnes	Estimated value \$ 000	Catch live weight(a) tonnes	Estimated value \$ 000
Prawn(b)(c)	r3 987	r41 861	r3 734	r47 933	5 345	62 134
Mud crab	207	2 052	244	2 339	236	2 851
Other	23	143	6	28	11	70
Total crustaceans	r4 217	r44 056	r3 984	r50 300	5 592	65 055

(a) Includes 7% moisture factor unless otherwise stated.

(b) Figures are obtained from Northern Territory trader purchases and Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries Export Inspection Services.

(c) Refer to paragraph 14 in Explanatory Notes.

Source: Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries

FISHING *continued*

AQUACULTURE

The Northern Territory aquaculture industry, which includes pearl, prawn, barramundi and aquarium fish, was estimated at \$46 million in 1994-95. Due to a limited number of operations, production data are not available.

FISH

The total estimated value of fish production for 1994-95 was \$9.4 million, an increase of \$0.6 million compared with 1993-94. This was mainly attributable to an increase in the shark (\$0.7 million), barramundi (\$0.4 million) and other fish catch (\$0.4 million). This was offset by a decrease in the snapper catch of \$0.8 million.

TABLE 14. VALUE OF FISHING PRODUCTION

Species	1992-93.....		1993-94.....		1994-95.....	
	Catch live weight(a) tonnes	Estimated value \$ 000	Catch live weight(a) tonnes	Estimated value \$ 000	Catch live weight(a) tonnes	Estimated value \$ 000
Barramundi	451	2 073	472	2 110	511	2 494
Mackerel	248	727	398	1 131	336	1 019
Shark	529	935	496	941	523	1 628
Snapper	457	1 192	1 093	3 350	505	2 596
Other	605	1 535	613	1 273	566	1 679
Total fish	2 291	6 462	3 072	8 805	2 441	9 416

(a) Includes 7% moisture factor unless otherwise stated.

Source: Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries

MOLLUSCS

The total estimated value of mollusc production for 1994-95 was \$315 000, almost 5 times the value of 1993-94 production. The majority of the increase is attributable to a \$209 000 increase in the value of squid production, with the catch increasing from 21 to 49 tonnes.

TABLE 15. VALUE OF MOLLUSCS PRODUCTION

Species	1992-93.....		1993-94.....		1994-95.....	
	Catch live weight(a) tonnes	Estimated value \$ 000	Catch live weight(a) tonnes	Estimated value \$ 000	Catch live weight(a) tonnes	Estimated value \$ 000
Squid	4	16	21	59	49	268
Scallops	6	12	1	3	8	18
Other	5	8	—	2	6	29
Total molluscs	15	36	22	64	63	315

(a) Includes 7% moisture factor unless otherwise stated.

Source: Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries.

CLIMATE

RAINFALL

The rainfall recorded at the Darwin station for the year ended 31 March 1995 was 2 291 millimetres (Decile 10), a 33% increase over 1993-94. Tennant Creek had a decrease of 36% during the same period. A rainfall analysis map is included in this publication on page 15.

TABLE 16. RAINFALL AT SELECTED STATIONS

Station name	1992-93.....		1993-94.....		1994-95.....	
	Actual rainfall mm	Decile(a)	Actual rainfall mm	Decile(a)	Actual rainfall mm	Decile(a)
Darwin	1 733.4	7	1 717.2	6	2 290.6	10
Katherine	1 014.8	n.a.	1 000.6	6	1 009.3	5
Tennant Creek	667.8	9	414.6	5	266.4	3
Alice Springs	206.8	4	356.0	8	221.0	4

(a) Refer to paragraph 8 in Explanatory Notes.

Source: Bureau of Meteorology

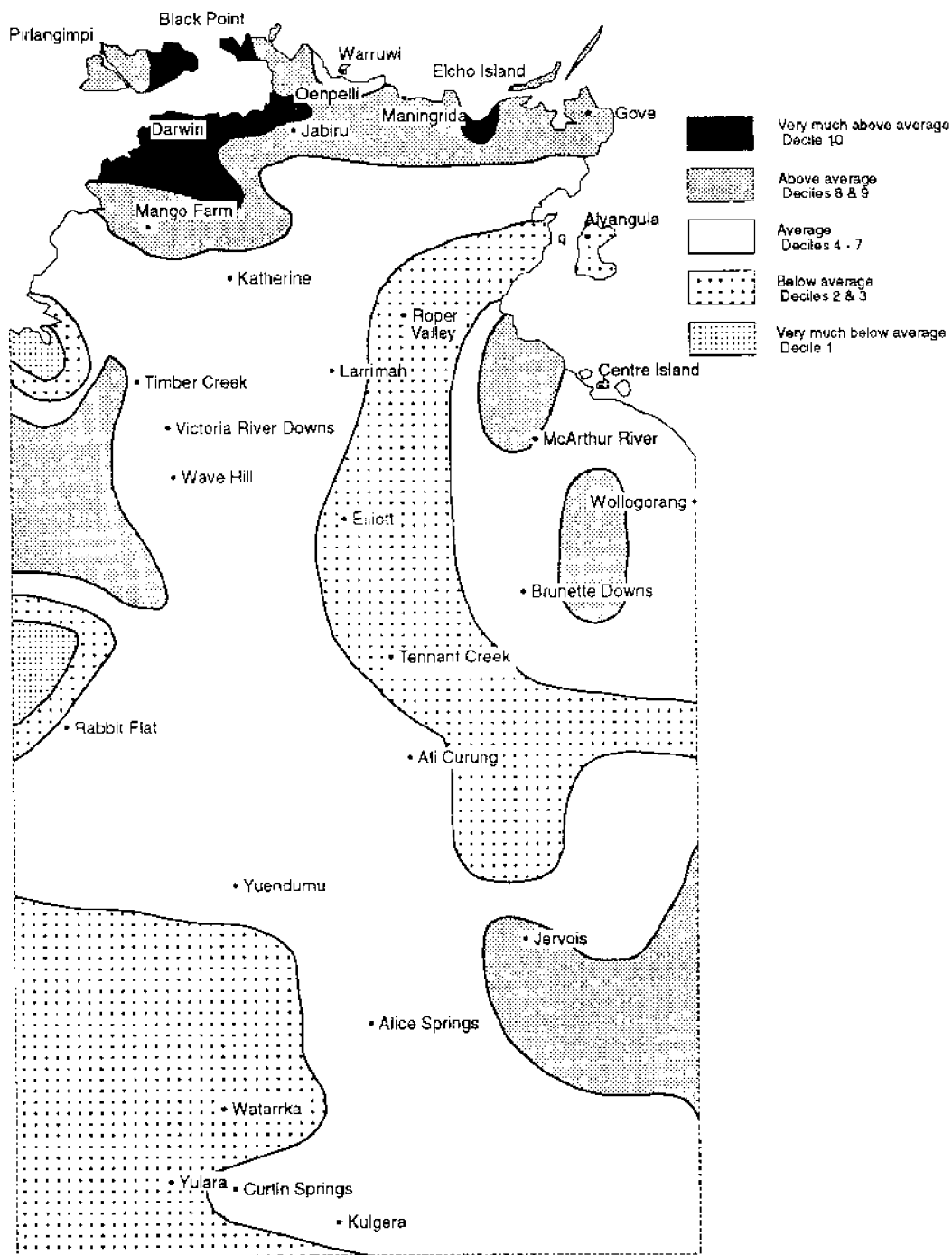
TEMPERATURE

There is little variation in the long term mean monthly temperature throughout the year about the Northern Territory coast. Across the northern half of the Northern Territory temperatures are highest in the last three months of the year, whilst the southern half experiences larger variations of temperature throughout the year.

TABLE 17. LONG TERM MEAN TEMPERATURES

Month	DARWIN...		GOVE.....		KATHERINE...		TENNANT CREEK.....		ALICE SPRINGS.....	
	Max °C	Min °C	Max °C	Min °C	Max °C	Min °C	Max °C	Min °C	Max °C	Min °C
January	31.8	24.8	32.3	24.5	35.0	24.0	36.9	25.0	36.0	21.2
February	31.4	24.6	31.5	24.3	34.3	23.7	35.9	24.6	34.9	20.6
March	31.8	24.4	31.3	23.9	34.5	22.9	34.4	23.2	32.5	17.4
April	32.6	23.9	31.0	23.1	34.0	20.4	31.3	20.1	27.9	12.6
May	31.9	22.1	29.9	22.6	32.1	17.1	27.7	16.5	22.8	8.4
June	30.5	19.9	28.3	21.0	30.0	14.1	24.5	12.8	19.8	5.2
July	30.4	19.3	27.6	20.4	30.1	13.2	24.3	12.0	19.4	4.0
August	31.2	20.6	28.5	19.2	32.5	15.5	27.6	14.4	22.3	6.1
September	32.4	23.1	30.1	19.7	35.4	19.6	31.0	17.8	26.6	9.9
October	33.1	25.0	31.5	21.1	37.7	23.6	34.7	21.6	30.8	14.7
November	33.1	25.3	33.2	23.4	38.0	24.7	36.5	23.7	33.5	17.8
December	32.6	25.2	33.2	24.5	36.5	24.4	37.6	24.9	35.4	20.1

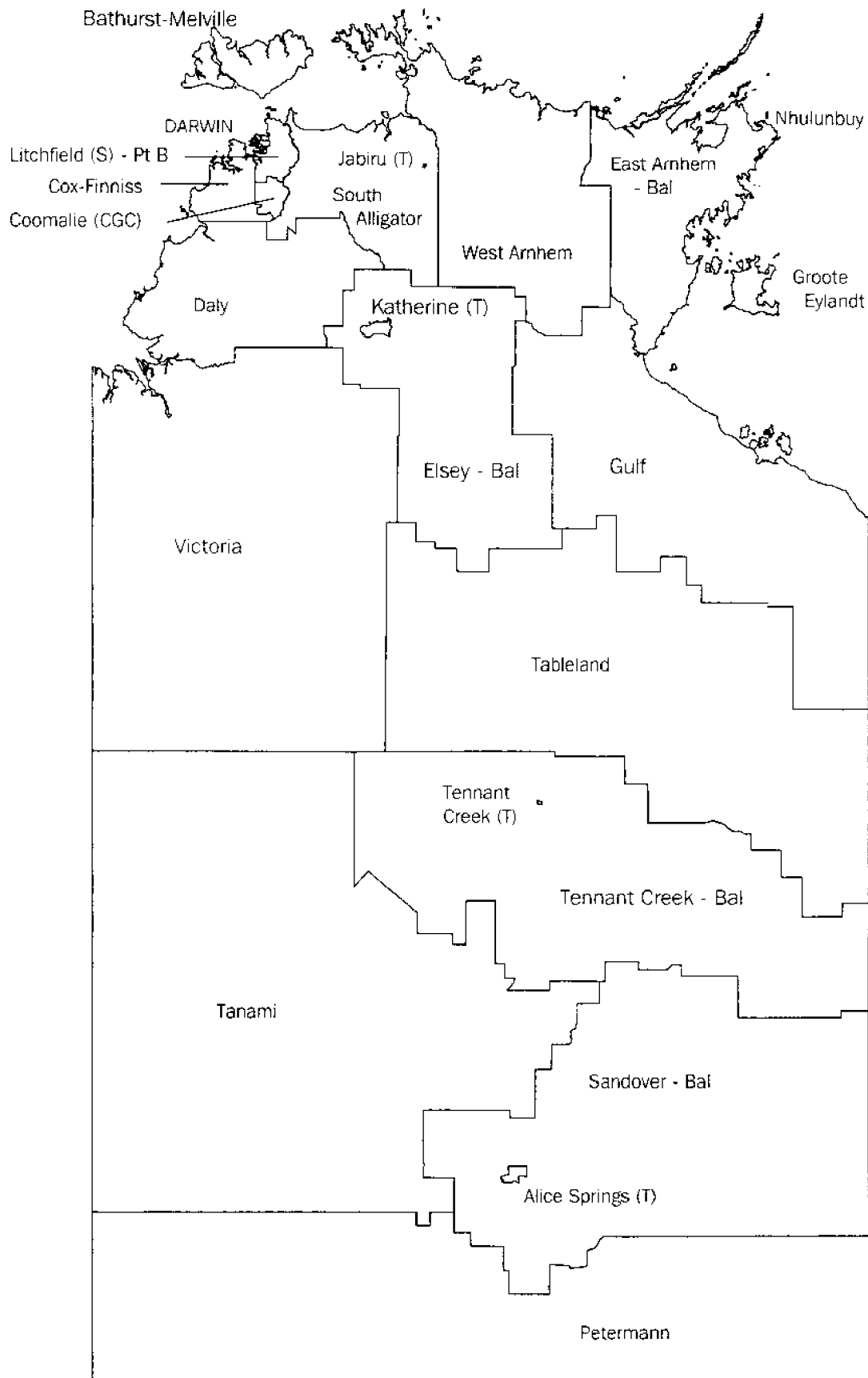
Source: Bureau of Meteorology



Distribution of decile range numbers of rainfall from April 1994 to March 1995

Source: Bureau of Meteorology

Northern Territory - Statistical Local Areas



EXPLANATORY NOTES

SCOPE AND COVERAGE

1 Unless otherwise specified, statistics in this publication are derived from the annual Agricultural Census conducted throughout Australia at 31 March, which collects data from establishments with agricultural activity.

2 To minimise demands on small operators for statistical information and to reduce the cost of processing the Census, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) excludes from the census those establishments that make only a small contribution to overall agricultural production. From 1986-87 the scope of the Census excludes those establishments with an estimated value of agricultural operations (EVAO) less than \$20,000. In 1991-92 this figure was increased to \$22,500. From 1993-94 the figure has decreased to \$5,000.

3 Generally, an operator who works on more than one establishment must supply separate annual returns for each establishment. If, however, the establishments are not far apart geographically, and are worked as one, the operator may (and in most cases does) supply a single composite return. For statistical purposes, establishments covered by a composite return are treated as a single agricultural establishment. Where an establishment extends into two or more statistical local areas, all operations of that establishment are attributed to the statistical local area in which the homestead is located.

4 Some data in this publication is obtained from information supplied to agencies other than the Australian Bureau of Statistics, in which case the ABS scope and coverage parameters do not apply. Data items involved are:

- Interstate cattle movements
- Rainfall and temperatures
- Live exports
- Fishing industry catch

AUSTRALIAN STANDARD GEOGRAPHICAL CLASSIFICATION (ASGC)

5 The ASGC is a system for the classification of statistical units by geographical areas.

6 The system is hierarchical with each geographical area constituting a particular level in one of seven hierarchies.

7 At the base of one hierarchy are the smallest geographic classifications, the Census Districts. These districts may then be combined to form Statistical Local Areas (as referred to in the map provided), the next level in the hierarchy. This process of aggregation continues upward to Statistical Subdivisions (SSD's), then Statistical Divisions (SD's), then States/Territories (S) and finally Australia.

RAINFALL DECILES

8 Mean or average rainfall figures can give a misleading impression of the regime especially in tropical parts of the Northern Territory. The decile ranges give a better indication of how dry or wet the month or year have been than the departure from the 'mean' or 'average'. All rainfalls received at a particular station are ranked in order from lowest to highest. The lowest 10 per cent are in decile range 1, the next 10 per cent are in decile range 2, and so on, the highest 10 per cent being in decile range 10.

EXPLANATORY NOTES *continued*

INTERSTATE LIVESTOCK MOVEMENTS

9 Data on interstate livestock movements are derived from information reported at three State/Territory border locations.

10 Cattle in store are those which are moved interstate or overseas for the purpose of maintaining and keeping breeding stock. Also the cattle are fattened up for slaughter at a later date.

11 Cattle movements to Western Australia are reported to the Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries by the Western Australian Department of Agriculture in Kununurra.

12 Data on the movement of cattle to Queensland are supplied by the Queensland Department of Primary Industry in Mt Isa.

13 The Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries in Alice Springs reports all cattle movements to South Australia and other southern States.

FISHING INDUSTRY CATCH

14 Catch is the term used to refer to fish taken from Northern Territory waters and not landings through Northern Territory ports. The prawn figures have been revised to reflect catch, rather than landings as was previously published.

15 Fishing industry data are compiled from Territory fishermen's monthly returns to the Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries.

AGSTATS

16 AgStats consists of the annual Agricultural Census results at small area level in the six States and two Territories. From 1992-93 details of the value of agricultural commodities are also available on AgStats. It is available on Floppy Disc (7117.0), Magnetic Tape (7116.0) or CD-ROM (7115.0).



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