



1995-96

EMBARGO: 11.30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) FRI 12 SEP 1997

Agriculture and Fishing

Northern Territory



NOTES

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

n.a.	not available
r	figure or series revised since previous issue
ha	hectare
mm	millimetres
kg	kilograms
t	tonne
—	nil or rounded to zero

.....

CHANGES IN THIS PUBLICATION

In this issue, value and production of trepang has been reported separately in Table 15 and included with echinoderm species in Table 12. Trepang was reported only in Table 12 of the previous issue.

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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 Sandra Lowry on (08) 8943 2171.

Zia Abbasi
Regional Director, Northern Territory

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

	Item	1995-96	% change from 1994-95
VALUE OF PRODUCTION			
	■ field crops and horticulture	\$41 million	13%
	◆ fruit (incl. grapes)	\$34 million	18%
	■ livestock	\$149 million	8%
	◆ live cattle exports	\$71 million	23%
	■ fishing	\$99 million	-19%
	◆ crustaceans	\$42 million	-36%
	■ total agriculture and fishing	\$289 million	-2%
CONTRIBUTION TO GROSS STATE PRODUCT			
	■ NT agriculture, forestry and fishing	\$223 million	22%
AREA OF HOLDINGS			
	■ total area of agricultural holdings	68 million hectares	0%
NUMBER OF AGRICULTURAL ESTABLISHMENTS			
	■ cattle establishments	221	0%
	■ total agricultural establishments	355	5%
LIVE CATTLE EXPORTS			
	■ number	156 062	21%
INTERSTATE CATTLE MOVEMENTS			
	■ number	212 567	13%

TOTAL AGRICULTURE AND FISHING

VALUE OF PRODUCTION

During the Northern Territory's 1995-96 season, commercial agriculture and fishing production was valued at \$289 million, a decrease of \$7 million (- 2%) over the previous year's level.

TABLE 1. VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL AND FISHING PRODUCTION

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
<i>Industry</i>	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000
Field crops and horticulture(a)(b)	31 010	35 979	40 565
Livestock slaughterings/other disposals and livestock products(c)	170 043	138 190	149 457
Fish (d)	105 549	121 918	98 920
Total agriculture and fishing	306 603	296 087	288 942

(a) Includes fruit and vegetables.

(b) Figures for Horticulture relate to 1995 calendar year. Data are supplied by Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries.

(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 1996, 355 Northern Territory establishments were involved in commercial agriculture with property holdings totalling 68 million hectares. The Tableland and Victoria statistical local areas combined accounted for 33% 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 (69). This area is dominated by horticultural activity.

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

<i>Statistical Local Area</i>	<i>Total area of holdings</i>	<i>Establishments</i>
	Hectares	Number
Litchfield (S) - Part B	183 318	69
South Alligator	851 260	11
Daly	1 312 629	14
Elsey - Balance	6 705 055	45
Gulf	5 314 459	15
Victoria	10 173 590	29
Tableland	12 240 437	23
Tennant Creek - Balance	5 446 272	9
Petermann	7 566 509	20
Sandover - Balance	10 210 621	36
Tanami	7 540 809	24
Other	734 703	60
Northern Territory	68 276 017	355

FIELD CROPS AND HORTICULTURE

VALUE OF PRODUCTION

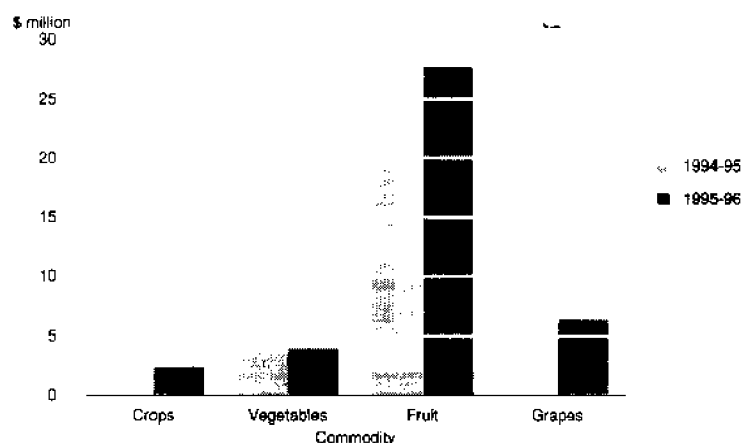
Northern Territory field crops and horticulture production in the 1995-96 season was valued at \$41 million, an increase of \$5 million from the 1994-95 season. This increase was attributable to an increase in the value of total fruit production of \$5 million.

TABLE 3. VALUE OF FIELD CROPS AND HORTICULTURAL PRODUCTION

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Commodity	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000
Field crops	3 308	3 252	2 410
Vegetables	3 674	3 685	4 011
Fruit	19 613	24 416	27 744
Grapes	4 415	4 625	6 400
Total field crops and horticultural commodities	31 010	35 978	40 565

Source: Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries and Australian Bureau of Statistics Agricultural Census.

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 \$149 million for the 1995-96 season. This was an increase of \$11 million from the previous season and due mainly to a 23% increase in the value of live cattle exports.

TABLE 4. VALUE OF CATTLE AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
	\$ 000	\$ 000	\$ 000
Live cattle exports	47 762	57 286	70 595
Total cattle and livestock products(a)	170 043	138 190	149 457

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

Source: Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries

NUMBER OF CATTLE AND CALF DISPOSALS

The number of cattle and calf disposals for 1995-96 decreased by 47 900 (13%) from 1994-95 to 321 199. The Tableland statistical local area had an decrease of 70 757 (44%) over the same period.

TABLE 5. NUMBER OF CATTLE AND CALF DISPOSALS

Statistical Local Area	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Daly	17 988	12 047	14 285
Elsey - balance	19 458	17 555	50 136
Gulf	4 717	5 176	2 537
Victoria	75 375	70 464	70 873
Tableland	89 196	159 306	88 549
Tennant Creek - balance	24 556	21 585	10 440
Petermann	14 790	10 572	9 182
Sandover - balance	34 274	37 857	35 534
Tanami	18 227	17 436	16 714
Other	26 477	17 101	22 949
Northern Territory	325 058	369 099	321 199

LIVESTOCK *continued*

INTERSTATE CATTLE MOVEMENTS

Interstate cattle movements from the Northern Territory increased by 24 662 or 13% compared with 1994-95. Interstate movements continued to account for the majority of Northern Territory cattle disposals, with Queensland receiving just over half of the total.

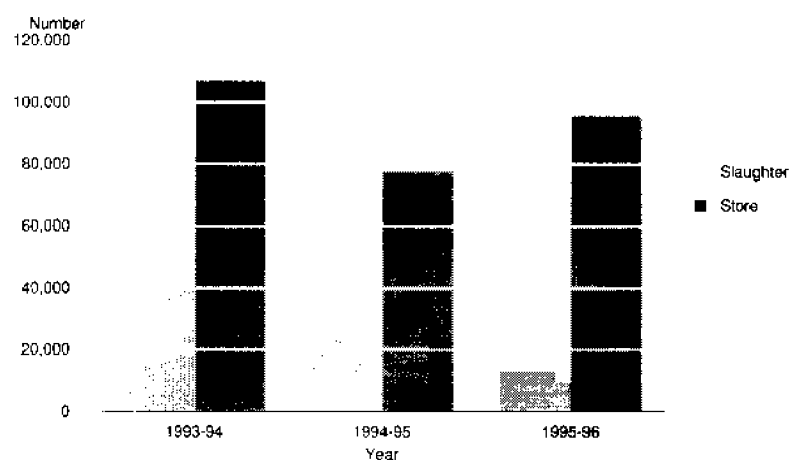
TABLE 6. INTERSTATE CATTLE MOVEMENTS(a)

	1993-94.....			1994-95.....			1995-96.....		
	<i>Slaughter</i>	<i>Store</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Slaughter</i>	<i>Store</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Slaughter</i>	<i>Store</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Destination</i>	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Queensland	56 300	106 964	163 264	22 973	77 533	100 506	13 016	95 764	108 780
South Australia	30 106	41 485	71 591	20 919	44 856	65 775	19 821	54 131	73 952
Western Australia	3 886	24 045	27 931	934	17 892	18 826	2 700	26 405	29 105
Other States	350	3 033	3 383	—	2 798	2 798	—	730	730
Total interstate	90 642	175 527	266 169	44 826	143 079	187 905	35 537	177 030	212 567

(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 156 667 head of live Northern Territory cattle and buffalo (excluding interstate cattle exported through NT ports) with a value of \$71 million were exported in 1995-96. Of these, 90% were for store and 10% were for slaughter. The number exported was an increase of 27 304 over the 1994-95 level, a \$13 million increase in value. Live exports have increased significantly over the last two years and are now rapidly closing the gap between the number of cattle moved interstate.

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

Commodity	1993-94.....		1994-95.....		1995-96.....	
	Number	\$A 000(b)	Number	\$A 000(b)	Number	\$A 000(b)
Cattle						
Slaughter	12 952	n.a.	15 916	n.a.	14 679	n.a.
Store(c)	97 119	n.a.	112 724	n.a.	141 383	n.a.
Total cattle	110 071	47 762	128 640	57 286	156 062	70 595
Buffalo						
Slaughter	789	n.a.	723	n.a.	605	390
Store(c)	98	n.a.	—	—	—	—
Total buffalo	887	455	723	411	605	390
Total exports	110 958	48 217	129 363	57 697	156 667	70 985

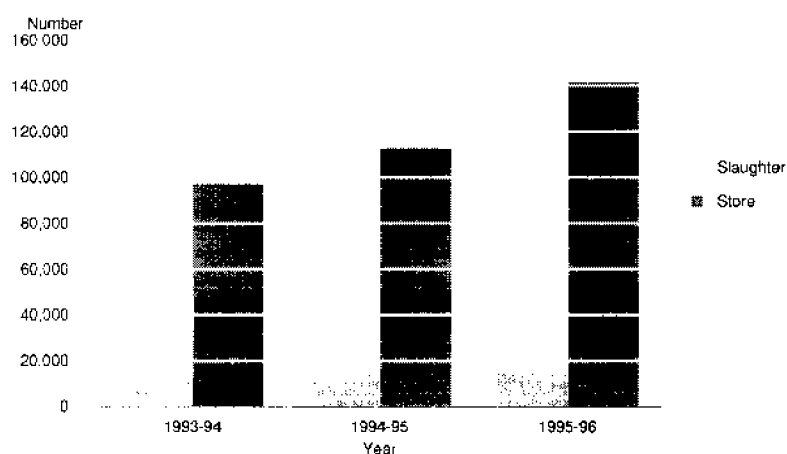
(a) Includes exports through the port of Wyndham.

(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



LIVESTOCK *continued*

LIVESTOCK NUMBERS

In the 1995-96 season, 221 Northern Territory establishments reported 1.5 million head of cattle on their holdings, an increase of 6% on 1994-95.

TABLE 8. LIVESTOCK NUMBERS ON HOLDINGS

Livestock	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Cattle	1 435 475	1 420 874	1 503 072
Domesticated buffalo	10 751	10 880	8 850
Pigs	2 679	2 641	2 500
Goats	1 035	345	247
Horses	10 085	9 103	6 977

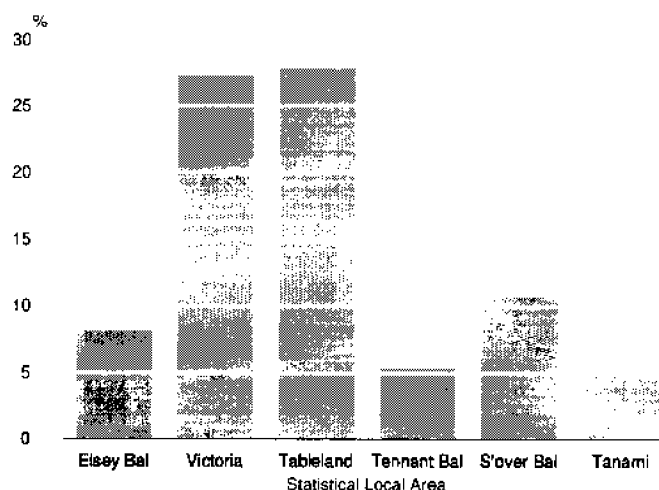
NUMBER OF CATTLE AND ESTABLISHMENTS

The highest concentrations of cattle numbers were in the statistical local areas of Victoria and Tableland, which together accounted for 55% of all Northern Territory cattle.

TABLE 9. NUMBER OF CATTLE AND ESTABLISHMENTS AT 31 MARCH 1996

Statistical Local Area	Cattle	Establishments
Daly	64 228	10
Elsey - balance	123 046	34
Gulf	42 743	14
Victoria	410 166	28
Tableland	417 531	23
Tennant Creek - balance	79 418	9
Petermann	56 727	19
Sandover - balance	161 265	34
Tanami	77 284	20
Other	70 664	30
Northern Territory	1 503 072	221

PROPORTION OF CATTLE IN SELECTED AREAS AT 31 MARCH 1996



LIVESTOCK *continued*

DOMESTICATED BUFFALO NUMBERS

In 1995-96 there were 8 850 buffalo in the Northern Territory, with the majority of these (57%) in the Elsey balance statistical local area. The number of buffalo has decreased by 2 030 (19%) from 1994-95.

TABLE 10. DOMESTICATED BUFFALO NUMBERS

<i>Statistical Local Area</i>	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
South Alligator	2 109	2 076	1 997
Daly	190	172	98
Elsey - balance	7 886	7 238	5 009
Victoria	85	117	113
Other	481	1 277	1 633
Northern Territory	10 751	10 880	8 850

BUFFALO SLAUGHTERED

The number of buffalo slaughtered in 1995-96 fell significantly from 1 844 in 1994-95 to 307 in 1995-96, a decrease of 83%.

TABLE 11. BUFFALO SLAUGHTERED AT NORTHERN TERRITORY ABATTOIRS

<i>Year</i>	<i>Buffalo slaughtered Number</i>	<i>Estimated value(a) \$ 000</i>
1993-94	4 997	1 028
1994-95	1 844	510
1995-96	307	175

(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 summonses 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 1995-96 was \$99 million, a decrease of \$23 million compared with the 1994-95 season. This was due primarily to a decline in the production and value of crustaceans.

TABLE 12. VALUE AND PRODUCTION OF FISHING

	1993-94.....		1994-95.....		1995-96.....	
	Catch live weight(a)	Estimated value	Catch live weight(a)	Estimated value	Catch live weight(a)	Estimated value
Species	tonnes	\$ 000	tonnes	\$ 000	tonnes	\$ 000
Crustaceans	3 983	50 299	5 592	65 056	3 851	41 722
Aquaculture	n.a.	46 215	n.a.	46 215	n.a.	45 000
Fish	3 072	8 806	2 441	19 416	2 889	11 682
Echinoderms	47	165	94	910	111	406
Molluscs	123	64	64	321	23	110
Total NT Fisheries(b)(c)(d)	7 125	105 549	8 190	121 918	6 875	98 920

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

(b) Total excludes value of pearl shell.

(c) Excludes live catch weight for aquaculture.

Source: Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries

CRUSTACEANS

Total estimated value of the crustacean catch in 1995-96 at \$42 million, was \$23 million lower than for the 1994-95 season. This was attributable to a significant decrease in the value of the prawn catch of \$26 million. The prawn catch of 3 218 tonnes was 40% less than the previous season.

TABLE 13. VALUE AND PRODUCTION OF CRUSTACEANS

	1993-94.....		1994-95.....		1995-96.....	
	Catch live weight(a)	Estimated value	Catch live weight(a)	Estimated value	Catch live weight(a)	Estimated value
Species	tonnes	\$ 000	tonnes	\$ 000	tonnes	\$ 000
Prawn(b)	3 734	47 933	5 345	62 134	3 218	35 916
Mud crab	244	2 339	236	2 851	454	5 490
Other	6	28	11	70	179	316
Total crustaceans	3 983	50 299	5 592	65 056	3 851	41 722

(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.

Source: Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries

FISHING *continued*

AQUACULTURE

The value of the Northern Territory aquaculture industry, which includes pearl, prawn, barramundi and aquarium fish, was estimated at \$45 million in 1995-96, a decrease of \$1 million from 1994-95. Due to a limited number of operators, production data are not available.

FISH

The total estimated value of fish production for 1995-96 was \$11.7 million, an increase of \$2.3 million from 1994-95. This was mainly attributable to an increase in snapper (\$1.0 million), barramundi (\$0.4 million) and mackerel (\$0.4 million).

TABLE 14. VALUE AND PRODUCTION OF FISH

	1993-94.....		1994-95.....		1995-96.....	
	Catch live weight(a)	Estimated value	Catch live weight(a)	Estimated value	Catch live weight(a)	Estimated value
Species	tonnes	\$ 000	tonnes	\$ 000	tonnes	\$ 000
Barramundi	472	2 110	511	2 494	550	2 891
Mackerel	398	1 131	336	1 019	495	1 457
Shark	496	941	523	1 628	707	1 771
Snapper	1 093	3 350	505	2 596	551	3 596
Other	613	1 273	566	1 679	586	1 967
Total fish	3 072	8 805	2 441	9 416	2 889	11 682

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

Source: Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries

MOLLUSCS AND ECHINODERMS

The total estimated value of mollusc and echinoderm production for 1995-96 was \$516 000, less than half the value of the previous year. Almost all of the decrease was attributable to a fall in the value of squid production, from \$268 000 to \$84 000 with the catch decreasing from 49 to 16 tonnes.

TABLE 15. VALUE AND PRODUCTION OF MOLLUSCS AND ECHINODERMS

	1993-94.....		1994-95.....		1995-96.....	
	Catch live weight(a)	Estimated value	Catch live weight(a)	Estimated value	Catch live weight(a)	Estimated value
Species	tonnes	\$ 000	tonnes	\$ 000	tonnes	\$ 000
Squid	21	59	49	268	16	84
Scallops	1	3	8	18	4	13
Trepang	47	165	94	910	111	406
Other molluscs	—	2	6	29	3	13
Total molluscs and echinoderms	91	229	157	1 225	134	516

(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 1996 was 1 503 millimetres (Decile 4), a 34% decrease over 1994-95. Rainfall was well below average in the Katherine region showing a decrease of 65%. Tennant Creek had an increase of 36% during the same period. A rainfall analysis map is included in this publication on page 15.

TABLE 16. RAINFALL AT SELECTED STATIONS

	1993-94.....		1994-95.....		1995-96.....	
	<i>Actual rainfall</i>	<i>Decile(a)</i>	<i>Actual rainfall</i>	<i>Decile(a)</i>	<i>Actual rainfall</i>	<i>Decile(a)</i>
<i>Station name</i>	mm		mm		mm	
Darwin	1 717.2	6.0	2 290.6	10.0	1 503.2	4.0
Katherine	1 000.6	6.0	1 009.3	5.0	655.6	1.0
Tennant Creek	414.6	5.0	266.4	3.0	366.2	4.0
Alice Springs	356.0	8.0	221.0	4.0	184.8	4.0

(a) Refer to paragraph 8 in Explanatory Notes.

Source: Bureau of Meteorology

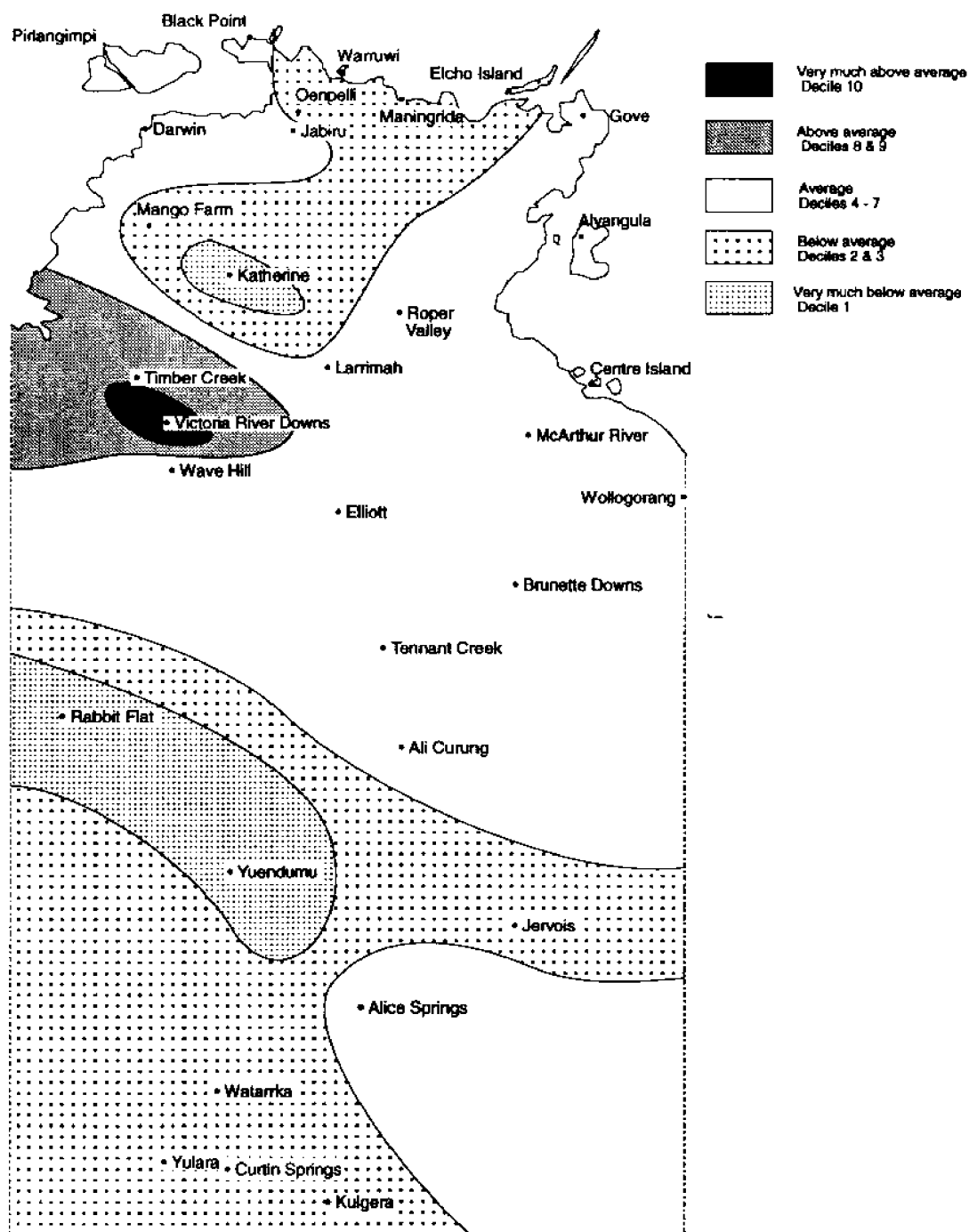
TEMPERATURE

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

	DARWIN...		GOVE.....		KATHERINE...		TENNANT CREEK.....		ALICE SPRINGS.....	
	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min	Max	Min
<i>Month</i>	°C	°C	°C	°C	°C	°C	°C	°C	°C	°C
January	31.8	24.8	32.1	24.6	35.3	24.3	37.0	25.1	36.2	21.3
February	31.4	24.7	31.4	24.4	34.1	23.8	35.8	24.6	34.9	20.7
March	31.9	24.5	31.3	23.9	34.4	23.2	34.3	23.2	32.6	17.4
April	32.6	23.9	31.0	23.1	34.1	20.8	31.4	20.2	27.9	12.6
May	32.0	22.1	29.9	22.7	32.1	17.1	27.6	16.5	22.8	8.4
June	30.5	20.0	28.4	21.0	30.4	14.4	24.6	13.0	19.8	5.3
July	30.4	19.3	27.7	20.1	30.6	12.8	24.4	12.2	19.5	4.1
August	31.2	20.6	28.4	19.3	32.6	14.9	27.5	14.5	22.4	6.1
September	32.4	23.1	30.1	19.6	35.8	20.2	31.1	18.0	26.8	10.0
October	33.1	25.0	31.5	21.2	37.9	23.9	34.7	21.6	30.8	14.7
November	33.1	25.3	33.2	23.3	37.7	24.8	36.5	23.8	33.5	17.8
December	32.6	25.3	32.9	24.5	36.1	24.7	37.6	25.0	35.4	20.2

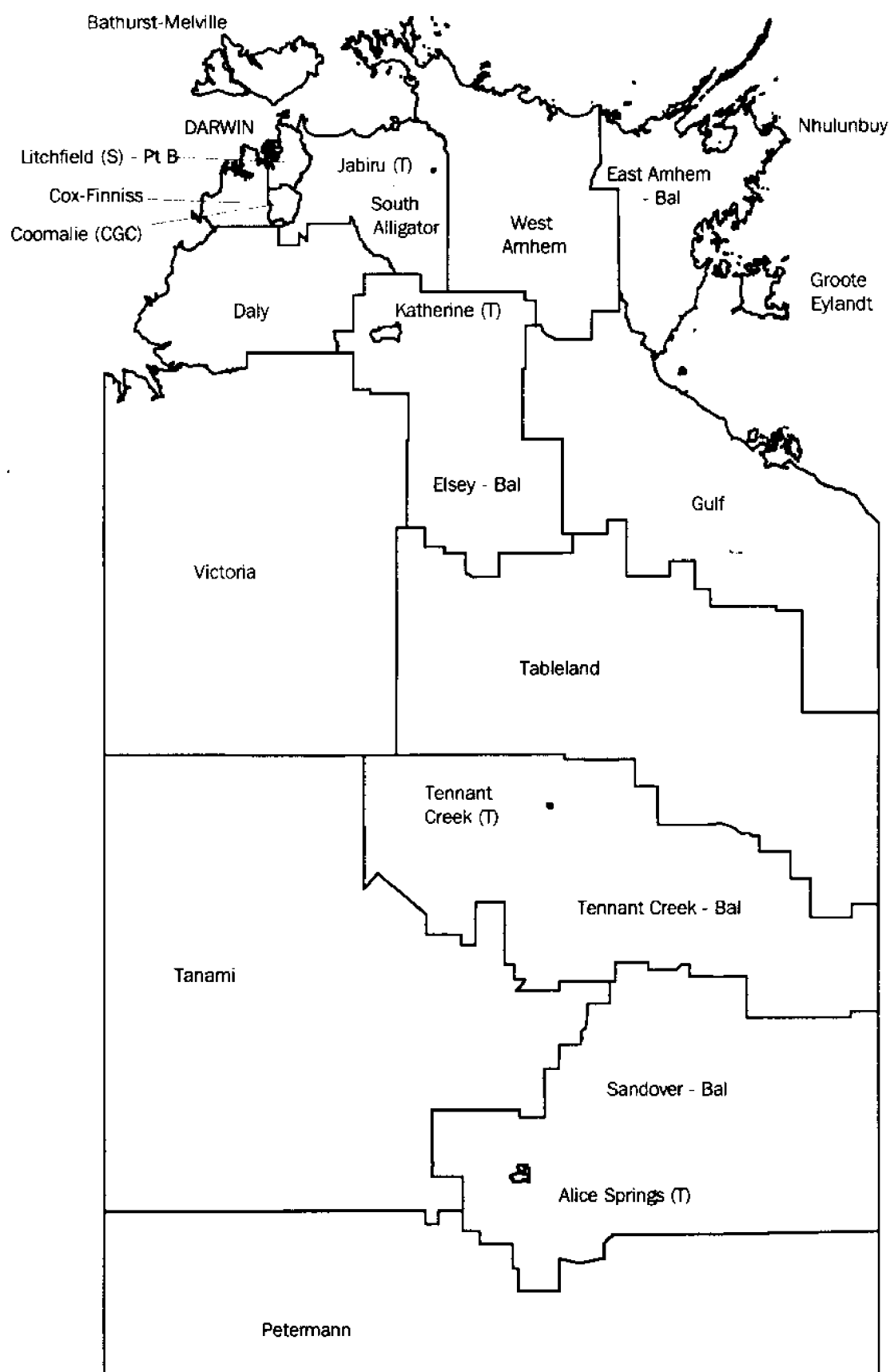
Source: Bureau of Meteorology



Distribution of decile range numbers of rainfall
for April 1995 to March 1996

Source: Bureau of Meteorology

Northern Territory - Statistical Local Areas



EXPLANATORY NOTES

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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
- Fruit and Vegetables

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.

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).

For more information . . .

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BRISBANE	(07) 3222 6351	(07) 3222 6350
PERTH	(08) 9360 5140	(08) 9360 5307
ADELAIDE	(08) 8237 7100	(08) 8237 7582
HOBART	(03) 6222 5800	(03) 6222 5800
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