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CHAPTER 27

THE TERRITORIES OF AUSTRALIA

The internal Territories of Australia are the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. External Territories under the control of Australia 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; and the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands.

Information on all Territories except Ashmore and Cartier Islands is contained in the following pages, and details of the acquisition of all the Territories can be found in Chapter 1 of previous Year Books. 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* (1307.0) issued by the ABS. 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 Northern Territory seat of Government is Darwin on the North Coast. The estimated resident population of the Greater Darwin Area at 30 June 1981 was 57,212.

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 comprised of all Northern Territory Ministers, led by the Chief Minister. The Administrator acts with the advice of the Executive Council on all matters transferred to the Northern Territory. He acts with Commonwealth advice on matters not transferred.

The Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory is the Northern Territory's Parliament. It has 19 Members, which 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 six 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 afterwards 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, comprise the Executive Council of the Northern Territory. A Northern Territory Government, comprised of 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.

Physical geography

The Territory is within the torrid zone, with the exception of a strip about 300 kilometres wide which lies south of the Tropic of Capricorn.

The low flat coastline seldom reaches a height of 30 metres. Sandy beaches and mud flats, thickly fringed with mangroves, prevail. Sandstone, marl and laterite form the occasional cliffy headlands. The coastline of 6,200 kilometres is indented by bays and inlets and intersected by numerous rivers, many of which are navigable for considerable distances from their estuaries. The only practicable deep-water port for general use, however, is Darwin.

Inland, the country generally is devoid of conspicuous landmarks. From the coast there is a general rise southwards to the vicinity of the seventeenth or eighteenth parallel of south latitude, where the higher lands form the watershed between the rivers that flow northwards to the sea and those that form the scanty supply for the interior system. Towards the centre of the continent the land over a wide area is of considerable elevation, and there are several mountain ranges, generally with an east west trend.

Climate, fauna and flora

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

The ordinary types of native Australian fauna inhabit the Territory. As elsewhere on the continent, the higher *Theria* are rare, but marsupials, birds, crocodiles, fresh-water tortoises, snakes (mostly non-venomous), and frogs abound. There are many varieties of fresh-water fish and littoral Mollusca. Butterflies and beetles are strongly represented. The termite is a pest which is capable of serious

damage to wooden buildings unless special preventive measures are taken. Mosquitoes and sandflies are very troublesome in the 'top end', particularly in the wet season. Buffaloes exist in large herds on the northern coastal plains. Most types of native fauna are protected.

The vegetation is north Australian in type, but a number of forms belong to the Malayan and Oceanic regions. The climate and generally poor soils associated with it give rise to tropical savannah vegetation, with the size and volume of woody material present being closely related to rainfall and the quality of the forests decreasing strikingly as one proceeds inland from the northern coastline. In the north, cypress pine (which is termite resistant), ironwood, bloodwood and paperbark timbers are cut and milled for local building purposes. Further inland, particularly on the Barkly Tablelands and parts of the Victoria River district, there are better grazing grasses and some shrubs, while the wide belt of sandy plain between the Barkly Tableland and the ranges in the Alice Springs area carries mainly spinifex grass and low scrub. The plains of the Alice Springs district carry chiefly an acacia scrub known as mulga, spinifex and other sparse grasses. The principal families represented in the interior are *Gramineae*, *Chenopodiaceae*, *Compositae* and *Mimosaceae*.

Population

See also Chapter 6, Demography.

The estimated population of the Northern Territory at 30 June 1982, was 127,400 persons.

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 for Aboriginals access to government services equal to that accorded other Australian citizens, together with additional services appropriate to Aboriginals' state of extreme 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

The *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* gives traditional Aboriginals inalienable freehold title to former Aboriginal reserves and some other land, amounting to approximately 19 per cent of the Northern Territory, and provides a procedure for them to claim title to other areas of unalienated Crown land.

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 Act 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.

By 31 October 1982, 8 claims had been finalised, resulting in 106,263 square kilometres being granted to Aboriginal Land Trusts, bringing the total of Aboriginal freehold land in the Northern Territory to 362,930 square kilometres, or approximately 27 per cent of the Territory.

Several claims have been heard and are awaiting the decision of the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, while a number of other claims are waiting to be heard. Freehold titles to Aboriginal land are held by Aboriginal Land Trusts and the land is administered by Aboriginal Land Councils.

Minerals on Aboriginal land remain the property of the Crown. The Aboriginal Land Rights Act provides, however, that mineral exploration can only proceed with the approval of the appropriate land council which in turn must abide by the wishes of the traditional Aboriginal owners of the area concerned. This veto power can be overruled if the Governor-General, by Proclamation, declares that the national interest requires the grant of a mining interest, and neither House of Parliament disallows that Proclamation. Pre-existing mining interests were exempt from the requirement for Aboriginal

consent. In all cases however, agreement must be reached on terms and conditions of mining and the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs is able to appoint an arbitrator in cases where Aboriginal consent is not required but a land council is unable or unwilling to reach agreement with a mining company.

Royalties from mining on Aboriginal land are paid into an Aboriginal Benefits 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.

Aboriginal communities are also being assisted to purchase land on the open market. An Aboriginal Land Fund Commission was established in 1974 for this purpose. This function was taken over on 1 July 1980 by the Aboriginal Development Commission which 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 Aboriginals as to other Australian citizens and to take special measures to ensure that these services are appropriate, accessible and reflect the variety of Aboriginal life styles. In line with the transfer of other functions to the Northern Territory Government on 1 July 1978, the Northern Territory Government has assumed responsibility for the provision of major services to Aboriginal communities including essential services such as water and power supply, health, education and support for local government. Subsequently, the Commonwealth has provided annual grants to the Northern Territory Government and to the Aboriginal Development Commission for housing programs for Aboriginals.

Special programs for Aboriginals

Attention is being given to changing the institutional character of Aboriginal communities in the Northern Territory. Support 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 have been expanded and are operating in several schools.

Aboriginal Legal Services operated by Aboriginals and supported by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs have been established on the initiative of Aboriginal groups in all States and the Northern Territory to ensure that Aboriginals have access to legal advice and are competently represented in the courts.

Production

See also the chapters dealing with particular subjects.

Land tenure

On 30 June 1981, 19,682,293 hectares were held under freehold title; 77,169,774 hectares under leasehold; 27,717 hectares under various licences; 13,247,036 hectares reserved for public purposes and for the benefit of Aboriginals; 82,334 hectares set aside for Government use; and 24,410,846 hectares unalienated. Land rent collected for the year 1980-81 amounted to \$358,298.

Following the report of the Aboriginal Land Rights Commissioner in April 1974, the Commonwealth Government introduced the *Aboriginal Land Rights (N.T.) Act* 1976. This Act which commenced on Australia Day, 26 January 1977 provides for the granting to Aboriginals of a title in fee simple, of traditional Aboriginal land in the Northern Territory.

Existing reserves for the use and benefit of Aboriginals will be subject to fee simple title pursuant to the provisions of the Act, while title to other areas of land over which traditional rights are claimed are subject to hearings by the Aboriginal Land Commissioner, who must be a judge of the Supreme Court of the Northern Territory.

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.

The various forms of lease or licence of lands are as follows:

Pastoral leases	—granted for periods not exceeding 50 years.
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.
Occupation licences	—granted for manufacturing, industrial or any prescribed purposes for periods not exceeding five years.
Miscellaneous licences	—granted for periods not exceeding one year.

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 to the poor quality of native pastures in the Top End and unsatisfactory market outlets. Developments in pasture improvement and the use of adapted Zebu cross-cattle in the northern areas, the opening in 1963 of the export abattoirs in Katherine and Darwin, some improvement in disease control coupled with better management techniques, and various incentives and research programs introduced by the Government to encourage development of the pastoral industry have resulted in an increase in turnoff figures and value of production.

In the mid 1970's industry development suffered a major set-back due to a prolonged period of low export meat prices despite the upgraded export status given to Point Stuart Meatworks as well as the development of the live cattle export market in Malaysia. Over that period cattle numbers increased by approximately 400,000 head to 1.8 million, reflecting the high cost of mustering and cartage, which, together with the low returns resulted in non-profitability of cattle sold to market.

Between 1978 and 1980 the industry saw a dramatic upturn in prices by more than 300 per cent. Additional export abattoirs opened at Alice Springs and Tennant Creek. During 1981 beef cattle prices retreated from their historic high of 1980 and buffalo prices, due mainly to adverse exchange rate movement fell by up to 30 per cent.

Animal production has continued to be augmented by the buffalo meat industry. Development in the domestication of buffaloes continues on the sub-coastal plains properties, the 1981 estimated population being 6,300 out of an estimated feral buffalo population of 150,000. Buffalo meat exports of 2,200 tonnes during 1980 increased by one-third over the 1979 figure of 1,500 tonnes, the market changing quite radically. The American and Far East Markets of Hong Kong, Malaysia and Taiwan Province declined in favour of European markets, especially the Federal Republic of Germany and Scandinavia. Both the pig and poultry industries, unaffected by overseas marketing, have continued to expand.

In 1980 the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority (ADMA) was established to encourage crop growing, diversification within the pastoral and agricultural industries, economies of scale and market development. ADMA has commenced development of three farms for cropping in the Daly Basin, 250 kilometres from Darwin, and is managing a program of co-ordinated farm development on a commercial scale for the production of maize, sorghum, soya beans, peanuts and pastures for seed production, hay or grazing. A grain handling facility and a seed and fertilizer store in Katherine have been established and horticultural marketing in the Darwin region is being promoted.

Continuing private investment in rural development is leading to greater pressures upon the Government for extension services and research. The work of CSIRO and the Dept. of Primary Production research stations and experimental farms is providing the basis for continuing rural development. As new knowledge is being gathered it will be followed by testing on farm scale.

The research institutions in existence in the Northern Territory are as follows:

Arid Zone Research Institute—Alice Springs. This institute zones research in the 'Centre' and studies the need to conserve valuable pastoral lands while achieving maximum productivity.

Fields of work at the Institute include animal health, agriculture, horticulture, soil conservation, botany, animal production and range management.

Coastal Plains Research Station. The Station has 3 main roles: one as a regional station examining suitable pasture and animal production systems in the Coastal Plains/Darwin area; the second as the major centre for rice research and a third as a centre researching into buffalo production. Its efforts have been devoted to the animal breeding investigations, with some attention being paid

to the development of improved pasture systems including establishment, maintenance and the reaction to various grazing rates. Breeding trials are being conducted with Brahmans and Africander cross-breeds, and Shorthorns. A small herd of cross-bred cattle (Shorthorn cows artificially inseminated from Bantang (Bali) Purebred Semen) has now been developed and the group transferred to private enterprise.

Victoria River Research Station. This is the only Government Experiment Station in the range-lands of the Northern Territory. Work is being undertaken on: cattle production management systems; evaluation of improved pastures; supplements; virus antibody survey; and range management studies.

Tortilla Flats Research Farm. The Research Farm is mainly concerned with rice production as it is representative of the Adelaide River plains land system which extends over 10,000 square kilometres. Work is being undertaken on testing new varieties, fertilizer trials, sowing techniques and weed control in rice bays.

Berrimah Research Farm. The work of this Farm has been mainly restricted to pasture and crop investigations; plant introduction; fruit, vegetable and weed control trials; and intensive animal studies.

Douglas-Daly Research Farm. With the advent of the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority (ADMA), cropping investigation under irrigation will be resumed. The crops experimented with will include soy beans, peanuts, maize and mungbeans.

Katherine Experiment Farm. This farm is concerned with cattle studies and trial crop production. Katherine Rural Education Centre makes considerable use of the Farm's facilities for practical and work experience.

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 N.T. land area (134,620,000 hectares)
				'000 hectares		
1976-77	289	2.4	112.8	75,263.3	75,378.5	55.9
1977-78	297	0.8	112.3	75,410.0	75,523.1	56.0
1978-79	301	1.6	90.4	76,099.9	76,191.9	56.6
1979-80	346	1.8	99.0	78,066.8	78,167.7	58.1
1980-81	336	1.4	87.1	77,500.4	77,588.7	57.7
1981-82p	300	2.0	56.0	77,078.0	77,136.0	57.3

(a) Excludes duplication on account of area double cropped.

(b) Used for grazing, lying idle, fallow, etc.

NORTHERN TERRITORY: AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

	Unit	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82p
Livestock numbers—							
Cattle	'000	1,663.7	1,674.1	1,784.6	1,727.2	1,675.4	1,622.4
Domesticated buffaloes	'000	3.7	4.2	3.6	2.4	6.3	2.5
Poultry	'000	175.0	183.5	200.3	180.1	169.9	206.4
Pigs	'000	7.4	3.2	3.1	2.3	3.2	2.5
Gross value of livestock slaughterings and other disposals—							
Cattle and calves	\$'000	22,834	29,291	106,890	121,494	56,852	49,620
Poultry	\$'000	534	633	633	880	1,314	945
Pigs	\$'000	602	687	390	488	523	722
Gross value of livestock products—							
Dairy products	\$'000	142	72	72	86	n.a.(a)	n.a.(a)
Eggs	\$'000	898	1,300	1,292	1,395	1,757	2,500
Crops, Area—							
Sorghum (grain and feed)	Hectares	1,705	144	764	653	592	508
Hay	Hectares	195	66	251	367	258	n.y.a.
Tree fruit	Hectares	26	15	15	16	15	17
Bananas	Hectares	11	14	12	13	13	19
Vegetables	Hectares	97	108	119	145	110	98
Pastures and grasses (hay, seed, green feed)	Hectares	2,175	1,591	2,123	1,717	2,974	n.y.a.
Total area used for crops (incl. pastures and grasses)	Hectares	4,566	2,407	3,697	3,549	4,410	n.y.a.
Crops, Production—							
Sorghum for grain	Tonnes	1,335	41	331	1,011	496	818
Hay	Tonnes	1,457	200	1,956	1,396	4	32
Bananas	Tonnes	70	89	124	101	60	87
Pastures and grasses (hay, seed)	Tonnes	7,056	5,083	5,583	3,920	7,328	12,457
Gross value of crops—							
Sorghum for grain	\$'000	117	4	6	104	69	115
Fruit	\$'000	36	60	220	85	75	495
Vegetables	\$'000	132	421	588	332	297	230
Pastures and grasses	\$'000	152	231	164	330	426	810
Total crops (incl. pastures and grasses)	\$'000	545	1,194	1,125	1,083	1,908	1,786
Gross value of agriculture	\$'000	25,555	33,177	110,402	125,426	62,355	55,573

(a) Not available for publication. Excluded from totals.

Mining

The value of mineral output continued its rapid rise of recent years from \$249.8 million in 1978-79, to \$369.6 million in 1979-80 and \$437.0 million in the 1980 calendar year. Major factors in the increasing values of production have been the generally higher metal prices, combined with increasing outputs of copper, manganese, bauxite, construction materials such as crushed rock, sand and gravel and commencement of yellowcake production from Nabarlek. The principal mining areas are the Gove Peninsula, where bauxite is produced; Groote Eylandt for manganese; Tennant Creek for copper and gold; and the Alligator Rivers region for uranium.

NORTHERN TERRITORY: MINING ESTABLISHMENTS

		1978-79	1979-80	1980-81
Establishments operating end of June	No.	11	13	15
Average employment over whole year—persons (a)	No.	1,251	1,488	1,907
Wages and salaries	\$m	19.5	28.1	39.7
Turnover	\$m	143.5	189.6	305.5
Opening stocks at 30 June	\$m	20.2	19.7	42.0
Closing stocks at 30 June	\$m	19.7	38.7	81.7
Purchases, transfers in and selected expenses	\$m	36.2	55.0	118.6
Value added (b)	\$m	106.8	153.6	226.6
Fixed capital expenditure (c)	\$m	28.2	186.1	194.3

(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.

Petroleum and natural gas

During 1980-81 eight new offshore permits were granted. At 30 June 1981, 22 offshore permits had been issued covering 5,586 blocks and 8 onshore permits totalling 140,703 square kilometres. There are 24 onshore oil permits and 3 oil leases under application.

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. The program which at this time is totally research oriented with limited plantings, 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 Aborigines 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

The Northern Territory fishing industry has increased in importance over the last decade following development of prawn resources. Prawn trawling is now the major fishery, contributing over 80 per cent of total value. Barramundi is second, with the remainder mainly threadfin salmon, spanish mackerel, mud crabs, reef fish and bay lobsters. Prawn and barramundi are heavily fished and measures have been introduced to prevent over-exploitation. The Territory Government is encouraging development of under-utilised demersal and pelagic species (mainly fished by foreign vessels), and reef fish, crabs, scallops and squid. Foreign fishing ventures have involved the issue of Commonwealth licences to 150 Taiwanese vessels and one Japanese feasibility vessel. The Government is encouraging Australians to participate in fisheries not utilised by them and in those exploited by foreign vessels.

NORTHERN TERRITORY: PRINCIPAL FISHERIES

		1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81
Prawns—							
Estimated gross weight of prawn catch	tonnes	3,191	2,882	2,165	3,749	3,147	4,259
Gross value of prawns	\$'000	4,222	8,647	8,100	17,100	14,900	17,067
Fish—							
Estimated live weight of fish catch	tonnes	978	1,483	1,451	1,576	1,352	1,634
Gross value of fish	\$'000	969	1,664	1,900	2,334	1,791	2,267

Secondary industries

The types of secondary industries that have developed in the Northern Territory have been largely service industries based on demand from local markets, together with the processing of primary production for export including the processing of mined ores, prawns and beef. The isolation of the Northern Territory from the major population areas of Australia and the resultant high transportation costs make other than local market expansion difficult.

The extent of importation of commodities into the Northern Territory, significant underdeveloped raw resources and a growing population would suggest that potential exists for industrial expansion. Some see the proximity of South East Asian markets to Darwin as providing considerable future potential for export-orientated secondary industry development.

The following table shows results of the Manufacturing Censuses taken in respect of the years 1978-79 to 1980-81.

NORTHERN TERRITORY: MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS

		1978-79	1979-80	1980-81
Establishments at 30 June	No.	87	101	98
Persons employed (a)	No.	2,068	2,512	2,651
Wages and salaries	\$m	28.3	32.9	46.1
Turnover	\$m	186.3	251.2	292.3
Opening stocks at 30 June	\$m	37.6	45.2	48.8
Closing stocks at 30 June	\$m	41.8	50.4	83.5
Purchases, transfers in and selected expenses (b)	\$m	117.5	179.4	230.6
Value added (b)	\$m	73.0	77.0	96.3

(a) Average over whole year. Includes working proprietors. (b) Data in this table have been revised to comply with changes in the ABS definition of *value added*. 'Rent, leasing and hiring expenses' and 'Rent, leasing and hiring revenue', previously excluded from the *value added* calculations, are now included.

Tourism

Tourism is one of the Territory's major industries with direct earnings for 1979-80 estimated at almost \$100 million. Visitors increased from 112,800 in 1971 to 330,000 in 1979-80 (about 15 per cent of these being from overseas). A visitor growth rate of 12 per cent continues to encourage investment in tourist facilities which includes casinos in Darwin and Alice Springs and the Yulara Tourist Village at Ayers Rock—Mt Olga National Park. Ayers Rock (which provides the most reliable visitors figures) showed increases from 5,000 in 1961 to 38,000 in 1971, and 79,219 in 1980-81.

The Northern Territory Tourist Commission has an Alice Springs Head Office, a Darwin Office, a Bureau in Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, Perth and Brisbane and a budget for 1981-82 of \$3.2 million.

National parks and reserves

There are 45 parks and reserves, covering about 48,000 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 in the lands under its control.

Transport and communication

Railways

Passenger and freight train services commenced in December 1980 over the new 831 kilometre standard gauge (1,435 millimetres) Tarcoola—Alice Springs railway, construction of which commenced at Tarcoola, on the Trans-Australian Railway, in April 1975. It replaces a light pioneer narrow gauge (1,067 millimetres) line from Marree to Alice Springs, completed in 1929, and subject to frequent flooding and washaways. The Marree-Alice Springs line will be removed by 1983. Train services on the North Australia Railway, from Darwin to Birdum, ceased on 30 June 1976, by direction of the Commonwealth Government. Australian National Railways is currently carrying out survey work for a proposed new railway between Alice Springs and Darwin.

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 1,491 kilometres long and sealed over its full length. The section south of Alice Springs is sealed to the South Australian border, a distance of 293 kilometres.

The Barkly Highway is the principal route to and from Queensland via Mount Isa. It is 648 kilometres long 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 467 kilometres long 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 first program for upgrading the Stuart and Barkly Highways is complete, while the second program is nearing completion. Future works will be an ongoing program to bring these roads to National Highway Standards.

Water

The Northern Territory Government provides water and wastewater facilities in main centres including Darwin, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine, Adelaide River, Batchelor, Pine Creek and many Aboriginal communities. Piped water is available in a number of small settlements including Mataranka, Larrimah, Daly Waters, Elliott, Ti Tree and Finke.

Darwin is served by the Darwin River Dam some 70 kilometres from the city. The earth rockfill dam was completed in 1972. It 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 per day. A supplementary source, McMinn's borefield, is supplying up to 15 megalitres per day. Studies are also being carried out to identify future sources to meet the growing needs of the Darwin region. A first stage project will be the diversion of flow from the Finnis River to Darwin River storage.

Alice Springs has twenty-five bores at Roe Creek, Tennant Creek has ten at Kelly Well and three at Cabbage Gum. Other communities are also supplied from groundwater sources. Katherine is to be supplied with treated water from the Katherine River in place of the hard water from the Tindall limestone aquifer.

Feasibility studies are in progress to assess the economic viability of multi-purpose dams at Warrai on the Adelaide River.

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 the Government and the private sectors.

Shipping

Shipping services to Darwin are provided from the eastern states by the Australian National Line container/bulk ore vessel, the MV Darwin Trader on a six weekly service, and from Western Australia by Western Australian State Shipping Service using two unit load vessels providing a fortnightly service. Tankers from Australian and overseas ports deliver oil products to Darwin. General cargo vessels from overseas ports also visit Darwin. The prawning and fishing industry accounts for a significant portion of the shipping entries into the port.

A regular shipping service operates from Brisbane to the Gulf of Carpentaria ports which serves Aboriginal communities as well as the mining centres of Melville Bay (Gove) and Milner Bay (Groote Eylandt), and bulk carriers load ore and other mining products for delivery to ports in Australia and overseas.

Two Darwin-based companies operate landing craft to Aboriginal communities and ports along the coast, and provide one vessel on regular service to Singapore.

Air services

At 1 September 1981 there were 100 licensed aerodromes plus 4 Commonwealth controlled airports in the Territory. Qantas operates a weekly international service from Darwin to Singapore whilst Garuda Indonesian Airways provides a twice weekly service to Den Pasar (Bali). Regular services to Darwin with intermediate stops at some Territory centres are operated by Trans Australian Airlines and Ansett Airlines of Australia from mainland capital cities and by Airlines of Western Australia from Western Australia. Airlines of Northern Australia commenced operations in 1981 and provide a network to all major Territory centres. The Northern Territory Aerial Medical Service has aircraft based at Darwin and Gove while the Royal Flying Doctor Service operates from Alice Springs. Regular commuter services operate from Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs to outlying centres. Charter services are available at Darwin, Alice Springs, Gove, Groote Eylandt, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Jabiru. Responsibility for the economic licensing of domestic operations passed from the Commonwealth to the Northern Territory Government on 1 June 1980. The Commonwealth Government retains responsibility for safety and operational aspects and works closely with Territory authorities in the licensing of commercial operations within the Territory.

Several organisations provide helicopter services particularly for cattle mustering and aerial survey. In 1981 heavy helicopter activity from Darwin increased in support of offshore drilling rigs involved in oil and gas exploration.

Civil aircraft under contracts to the Department of Transport, Australia, operate on extensive coastal surveillance operation from Darwin.

Post, telegraph, telephone, radio and television

Postal communication is maintained by daily air transport between major Northern Territory centres and the capital cities of Australia. Large centres receive surface mails by two major road mail services operating from Queensland and South Australia. More remote centres are served by aerial services. Direct mail despatches are exchanged between Darwin and several overseas countries.

Trunk telephone links to Darwin extend from Townsville via a broadband microwave radio relay system, and from Adelaide via systems operated over leased circuits on the NAR Tarcoola-Alice Springs microwave link. These systems also carry telegraph and data traffic and serve towns along the routes. Subscriber trunk dialling facilities were introduced to Darwin, Nhulunbuy (Gove Peninsula) in 1974 and to Katherine in 1975. ISD (International Subscriber Dialling) was introduced to telephone exchanges in the Darwin area and to Katherine and Nhulunbuy in December 1976. Tennant Creek and Elliott telephone services were connected to automatic with subscriber trunk dialling facilities during 1979.

Completion of Australia's first solar-powered broad-band microwave relay system between Tennant Creek and Alice Springs in October 1979 brought subscriber trunk dialling and ISD facilities to Alice Springs. It also provides live television programs to the National Television Service transmitter at Alice Springs.

All small towns in the Northern Territory had been converted to automatic telephone service with STD facilities in a program extending over the last several years. The most recent of these was Adelaide River, Mataranka, Millingimbi and Bathurst/Melville Islands (Tiwi Exchange). An automatic exchange equipped to 600 lines was provided in November 1980 to service the newly created uranium mining town of Jabiru.

High frequency radio telephone exchanges at Katherine and Alice Springs provide connections to the telephone network for some of the remote properties in the Northern Territory. The majority of homesteads on pastoral leases are equipped with radio transceivers operating through the Royal Flying Doctor base at Alice Springs or the Telecom Australia Outpost Radio base in Darwin which provide a message passing and emergency communications service. A number of homesteads and settlements adjacent to the Darwin-Isa and Tennant Creek-Alice Springs microwave corridors are provided with VHF radio telephone giving 24 hour service with STD facilities.

Regional national broadcasting stations are situated at Darwin, Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine and Gove and there are commercial broadcasting stations located at Darwin and Alice Springs. Two television stations, ABD Channel 6 of the national broadcasting system and NTD Channel 8, a commercial station, operate in Darwin. The Darwin ABD 6 national program is also broadcast in Katherine (ABKN 7) and Tennant Creek (ABTD 9) with a translator (ABTD 9-10) to give coverage of the mining residential area at Warrego. A national television station, ABAD Channel 7, operates in Alice Springs. Remote area television provided via satellite to earth stations at Elcho Island, Nhulunbuy, Groote Eylandt, Jabiru, Daly River and Boroloola in early 1983.

Education

See also Chapter 12, 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.

Since that date education services have been provided by the Northern Territory Department of Education.

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 of children in the Territory in fulfilling the responsibility to educate their children according to the individual needs and abilities of those children; to make education services, provided by him, available to all people in the Territory; and to 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

At 31 July 1981 there were 143 schools in the Northern Territory with a total school population of 30,889. Of that number 3,203 attended 7 private schools and 1,120 attended 6 mission schools. Approximately 9,715 students were of Aboriginal descent. In addition to primary and pre-schools, there are eight government high schools, one secondary correspondence school and one private high school. There are three area schools offering secondary courses and two residential colleges for Aboriginal students.

There are also 22 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 matriculation level, where students sit for examinations offered by the South Australian Public Examinations Board, all aspects of curriculum, course accreditation and student assessment are the responsibility of the Northern Territory Curriculum Advisory Committees, with subject area committees, in Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social and Cultural Education, Physical and Health Education, The Arts, and Life/Work Skills. With the exception of 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 recommend the curricula to be followed in Northern Territory schools, determine the core of essential understandings and processes which students are expected to master in those curricula and assess the students' mastery of the core. Guidelines for all those functions are determined by the Curriculum Advisory Committee which also accredits non-matriculation courses offered to the senior school (post Year 10) students. Core Curriculum was introduced into primary schools in 1981, Year 8 in 1982, and will be introduced into Year 9 in 1983 and Year 10 in 1984. The nature and format of certificates for secondary students is currently under review.

The work of curriculum committees including the development and implementation of curricula, is supported by educational advisers and 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 Bali (Indonesia) and the Northern Territory is continuing in which two teachers from each country are exchanged for a school year, and four senior students spend up to six months in the other country. The Northern Territory have also sponsored a group of junior high school students and teachers from Bali on a two-week educational visit to the Territory each year.

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. 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 internally or to attend 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 14 schools offering bilingual programs and 3 schools preparing resources for programmes to be introduced in the future. Many other schools include Aboriginal language and culture in the curriculum. Twelve languages are now being used in the program and research is continuing into another two. Most school children are acquiring initial literacy skills in their own language. Although a large proportion of the curriculum is devoted to instruction in an Aboriginal language, a structured English course forms an integral part of the bilingual program. Other aspects of Aboriginal education are covered in the TAFE section.

Darwin Community College

The College was opened in 1974 and is an autonomous, multipurpose institution. It has Schools of Business and Administration, General Studies, Creative and Applied Arts, Technology and Science, Trades and Linguistics. As well as courses at Advanced Education and TAFE levels leading to awards, the College provides a wide range of non-award recreational classes. It provides lecture and tutorial assistance in a limited range of subjects to external students enrolled at the University of Queensland and at the Adelaide College of Arts and Education. The College has an annex at Nhulunbuy and the School of Australian Linguistics located at Batchelor. By August 1981 the College had recorded 6,341 enrolments for the year in the various courses offered.

Industrial Training

The Northern Territory Industries Training Commission commenced, under the provisions of the Industries Training Act (1979), on 6 June 1980. Commission members represent government, education, employers and employees. Functions include research, special needs, co-ordination, standards, promotion, accreditation, financial assistance and advice in all matters relating to post-school training and manpower matters in the Territory.

Technical and Further Education

Aboriginal Adult Education. Most large Aboriginal communities have an Adult Educator who relates to adults in the community and arranges non-formal programs which he or local part-time instructors and visiting lecturers teach.

Communities are developing more confidence in the management of their own affairs through implementation of policies such as the Chief Minister Five-year plan to improve Aboriginal Communities in the Territory. There is thus a growing demand for Adult Education requiring a co-ordinated effort on the part of all agencies offering Adult Education services.

Community College of Central Australia. Prior to 1 July 1979 was a campus of Darwin Community College. It offers electrical and aircraft engineering licences, apprenticeship, business, secretarial, tourism, hospitality, Aboriginal development, technology, art, matriculation and preparatory studies, non-credit refresher, recreational and general education courses and a tutorial program for degrees, diplomas and certificates from Warrnambool Institute of Advanced Education, Darwin Community College and the South Australian Open College of Further Education.

Katherine Rural Education Centre began teaching in 1979 and is residential. It offers a one year full-time Certificate in Rural Studies and short courses such as power saw maintenance, water conservation and use, helicopter mustering and horse shoeing.

Batchelor College is a residential TAFE institution providing programs for Aboriginal people leading to teacher education qualifications.

Adult Migrant Education Centre supersedes Adult Migrant Education Service courses and provides courses for on-arrival migrants and adult migrants preparing to enter the work force.

Finance

The following table gives details of government receipts and outlays that have been identified as relating specifically to the performance of local or State-type functions in the Northern Territory for 1978-79, 1979-80 and 1980-81. 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.

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, Jabiru Town Development Authority, Corporation of the City of Darwin, Corporation of the Municipality of Alice Springs, Corporation of the Municipality of Katherine and Corporation of the Municipality of Tennant Creek.

On 1 July 1978 the Northern Territory became self-governing with expenditure responsibilities and revenue raising powers broadly approximating those of a State. As a consequence, statistics for 1978-79 onwards show the receipts and outlays of the Northern Territory Government and its subsidiary bodies as a distinct level of government separate from the Commonwealth.

NORTHERN TERRITORY: OUTLAY AND RECEIPTS

(\$'000)

	1978-79		1979-80	1980-81
	Commonwealth Government	Northern Territory Government	Northern Territory Government	Northern Territory Government
OUTLAY				
Final consumption expenditure—				
Law, order and public safety	1,053	25,134	33,909	39,940
Education	62,317	—	71,285	85,894
Health	24,325	29,764	59,547	72,449
Social security and welfare	18,492	11,597	12,749	26,040
Other	4,292	75,194	106,458	140,962
Gross fixed capital expenditure on new assets and stocks—				
Education	19,427	—	13,377	11,478
Roads	—	33,848	50,178	53,741
Housing and regional development	365	28,891	22,467	33,838
Health	10,163	10,582	9,892	2,893
Social security and welfare	57	566	195	532
Electricity, gas and water	—	34,327	47,624	19,545
Other	588	25,133	40,538	49,952
Net purchase of existing assets	—	450	—10,243	16,806
Interest paid	—	11,380	15,099	22,159
Cash benefits	269	—	451	629
Subsidies	—	1,758	55	299
Net advances to the private sector—				
Housing and community amenities	—	10,191	26,144	48,518
Other	—	1,356	—1,069	—589
Grants for private capital purposes	8,612	1,221	696	570
Advances to public financial enterprises	—	—	—	—
Total outlay	149,960	301,392	499,352	625,656
RECEIPTS				
Taxation—				
Payroll tax	—	10,381	15,209	17,169
Rates on land	—	4,515	5,622	6,353
Stamp duties	—	1,919	3,064	4,304
Motor registration	—	2,460	3,098	3,057
Other taxes, fees, fines, etc.	226	4,137	4,799	7,041
Interest, rent, etc.	—	9,540	13,859	22,353
Income from public enterprises	593	—16,607	—21,186	—38,876
Net sale of local authority and public corporation securities	—	4,319	25,878	59,966
Other receipts	—1,060	—5,556	3,819	—9,881
Net charge to Commonwealth Government budget	150,201	286,284	445,190	554,170
Total receipts	149,960	301,392	499,352	625,656

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 2,395 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 Department of the Capital Territory, whose functions include housing, public transport and municipal

services. Education, public health and justice are the responsibilities of the Departments of Education, Health and the Attorney-General respectively. The National Capital Development Commission has the responsibility for the planning and development of the Canberra city area.

In 1974, the A.C.T. Advisory Council, which had been in existence since 1930, was replaced by the A.C.T. Legislative Assembly. The first Assembly was elected on 28 September 1974 and held its first meeting on 28 October 1974.

During 1979, the name of the A.C.T. Legislative Assembly was changed to the A.C.T. House of Assembly. The first election for the House of Assembly was held on 2 June 1979 and first meeting of the House of Assembly was held on 29 June. The Assembly is constituted under the (*Legislative Assembly Ordinance*) Section 10 of which defines its role as follows:

'The Assembly may advise the Minister (for the Capital Territory) in relation to any matter affecting the Territory including the making of new Ordinances or the repeal or amendment of existing Ordinances.'

The Assembly consists of 18 Members (9 from each of the electoral divisions of Canberra and Fraser) and its procedure is modelled on that of the House of Representatives. Its Members serve on a part-time basis.

The Assembly normally considers (and sometimes introduces) Ordinances which are proposed for the Territory. It also passes resolutions on matters affecting the Territory. It is represented on a number of boards, authorities and committees such as the Canberra Commercial Development Authority, the A.C.T. Electricity Authority, the A.C.T. Schools Authority, the Gaming and Liquor Authority, the Consumer Affairs Council and the Australian Constitutional Convention.

At 30 June 1982, the population of the Australian Capital Territory was 230,500. *See also* Chapter 6, Demography.

National Capital Development Commission

The *National Capital Development Commission Act 1957* provides for a Commission to undertake and carry out the planning, development and construction of the City of Canberra as the National Capital of the Commonwealth. The year 1981-82 was the twenty-fifth year of the Commission's operations. Construction work was carried out by means of agency operations with the Department of Housing and Construction and by private consultants. Expenditure in recent years is as follows: 1978-79, \$157.1 million; 1979-80, \$136.2 million; 1980-81, \$112.4 million. Total expenditure in 1981-1982 was \$81.2 million comprising: land development and services \$5.5 million; water, sewerage and stormwater services and headworks \$1.8 million; housing, flats and other accommodation \$7.0 million; educational facilities \$5.1 million; roads, public transport and traffic control \$6.9 million; city works and associated facilities \$4.8 million; Commonwealth Government offices \$16.7 million; national works \$16.5 million; health and welfare facilities \$2.1 million; others \$14.8 million.

Works and services

Housing

Until the period following the 1939-45 War, most houses and flats in the Australian Capital Territory were built and rented by the then Department of the Interior. More recently, an increasing number of houses and flats have been built by private enterprise and, as a result, the proportion of houses and flats in the Australian Capital Territory occupied by tenants of the Department of the Capital Territory (formerly the Department of the Interior) has fallen from 79.7 per cent of total occupied houses and flats in 1954 to 58.3 per cent in 1961, 38.8 per cent in 1966, 28.1 per cent in 1971 and 13.3 per cent in 1981. Although the bulk of rented accommodation is provided by public authorities (and this situation will continue in the foreseeable future), there has been a considerable increase in the proportion of home ownership in the Australian Capital Territory since 1954. The proportion of houses and flats owned or being purchased by instalments has risen from 19.5 per cent in 1954 to 29.0 per cent in 1961, 45.6 per cent in 1966 and 51.8 per cent in 1971 and approximately 67.2 per cent in 1981. Home building activity in Woden Valley, Weston Creek, Tuggeranong (south-west of the former city area) and Belconnen (north-west of the former city area) has continued to expand. At December 1982 there were 19,262 occupied dwellings in the Woden Valley and Weston Creek area, 22,710 occupied dwellings in the Belconnen area and 10,104 occupied dwellings in the Tuggeranong area. *See also* Chapter 19, Housing and Construction.

Municipal services

Since its establishment, Canberra has been developed as a garden city. City Parks Administration of the Department of the Capital Territory manages all established urban parklands and sportsgrounds within the city area which amounted to approximately 7,790 hectares in 1981-82, an increase of approximately 300 ha on the 1980-81 total.

The Yarralumla Nursery, established in 1913, propagates trees and shrubs for use in development projects and as replacements in the course of maintenance. During 1981-82 approximately 260,000 plants were produced, a significant drop from 1980-81 (500,000 plants), caused by the reduction in landscape development in Canberra and the elimination of free issue of plants to new householders.

The National Botanic Gardens and the Horticultural Research Centre at Weston are also part of the City Parks Administration.

The water supply, sewerage and drainage systems in the Australian Capital Territory are operated by the Department of Transport and Construction on behalf of the Department of the Capital Territory.

At 30 June 1982, 68,937 metered services were connected to the city water supply. The city draws water from three storages on the Cotter River with a total capacity of 91,000 megalitres and a storage of 125,000 megalitres on the Queanbeyan River at Googong. Distribution is via 41 reservoir installations of which 4 are twin tanks.

In 1981-82, 55,395 megalitres of water were consumed in Canberra whose population was 227,800. An additional 3,693 megalitres were supplied to Queanbeyan, N.S.W. whose population was 20,100.

Canberra's sewerage is disposed of through the Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre.

As at 30 June 1982, 1,790 kilometres of sewers, 14 kilometres of rising sewer mains, 1,987 kilometres of stormwater drains and a total length of 1,804 kilometres of water line were laid.

Production

See also the chapter dealing with particular subjects.

Lands

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. The Agricultural Industry chapter in this Year Book contains statistical information on these subjects.

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. 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.

The Commonwealth Territory at Jervis Bay, comprising about 73 square kilometres, was acquired from New South Wales for the possible provision of port facilities in connection with the Australian Capital Territory. A portion of the area is occupied by the Royal Australian Naval College (*H.M.A.S. Creswell*) and a Royal Australian Navy airfield. Several blocks fronting Sussex Inlet plus an area on Bowen Island have been leased for guest houses and holiday camps, etc., under the *Leases Ordinance* 1918, and an area of land in the Murray's Beach area has been set aside for possible use as an atomic power station under the control of the Australian Atomic Energy Commission. Apart from picnic and camping areas, experimental planting, afforestation and soil conservation activities, the remainder of the area is being maintained in its natural state.

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 improve 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 and 1967, always, however, retaining the basic policy of systematic conservation and development. All of the better native forest has been placed under management. Forestry operations including fire protection treatment have been extended to some 44,500 hectares of

natural forest in the Cotter catchment and adjacent areas. 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.

The policy of forest management in the Australian Capital Territory has been formulated to cater not only for commercial timber production but also to provide recreation facilities and an attractive visual environment for the national capital and to protect the water supply. These policies can be broadly summarised as follows:

- (a) to manage and develop plantations and hardwood forest area in the Australian Capital Territory and Jervis Bay for production of timber and arrange sales of all forest produce;
- (b) to initiate and maintain a variety of growth and environmental experiments to produce information for management decisions; and
- (c) to develop and implement viable multiple use policies for forest areas with particular emphasis on recreation potential and facilities, quality of water harvest in catchments and conservation of the environment.

The forest authority is charged with the management of some 74,000 hectares of land in the Australian Capital Territory. Of this, some 48,000 hectares carry native forest or woodland. As at 30 June 1981, the total area of coniferous plantations in the Australian Capital Territory and Jervis Bay was 14,119 hectares nett. Of 217 hectares at Jervis Bay, the majority consisted of *Pinus radiata* (Monterey Pine) and *Pinus elliottii* (Slash Pine). The plantations in the Australian Capital Territory consisted mainly of *Pinus radiata* and *Pinus ponderosa* (Yellow Pine). Total area of *Pinus radiata* was 13,254 hectares.

In 1980-81 there was no commercial production of hardwood timber from the Australian Capital Territory and Jervis Bay. The volume of softwood cut was 211,000 cubic metres. The total value of this unprocessed timber unloaded at the mill (milldoor value) was \$5.2 million.

Agricultural and secondary industries

In the eight years since 1974-75 the number of agricultural establishments in the Australian Capital Territory has fallen from 142 to 113. The more important items produced in 1981-82 were: wheat for grain 516 tonnes; oats 420 tonnes; meat (carcass weight) 13,535 tonnes. Livestock numbers at 31 March 1982 included 13,598 cattle and 110,147 sheep.

Secondary industries established in the Australian Capital Territory are largely the service industries associated with the growth of the Territory.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY: MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS—1978-79 to 1980-81

		1978-79	1979-80	1980-81
Establishments operating during year	No.	117	112	117
Persons employed (a)	No.	3,073	3,132	3,316
Wages and salaries	\$m	33.7	37.2	44.9
Turnover	\$m	118.8	127.2	162.9
Opening stocks at 30 June	\$m	12.2	11.4	13.5
Closing stocks at 30 June	\$m	11.4	12.6	16.7
Purchases, transfers in and selected expenses (b)	\$m	57.4	64.0	89.3
Value added (b)	\$m	60.6	64.4	76.8

(a) Average over whole year. Includes working proprietors. (b) Data in this table have been revised to comply with changes in the ABS definition of value added. 'Rent, leasing and hiring expenses' and 'Rent, leasing and hiring revenue', previously excluded from the value added calculation, are now included.

Commercial practices

There is growing awareness of consumer rights as evidenced by the increasing number of enquiries received by the A.C.T. Consumer Affairs Bureau and the wide range of consumer oriented legislation.

The Bureau receives and investigates complaints from consumers, conducts research into matters affecting consumer interests and provides information of benefit to consumers.

Control over weights and measures standards traditionally has been, and remains, a prerequisite for fair commercial transactions. The Weights and Measures Office periodically examines the scales and measures used for trade. The office monitors the weight or measure of all packaged goods sold in retail premises.

In the A.C.T., licensing is used as a means of regulating some commercial practices by establishing minimum standards of qualifications and/or experience for entry into certain occupations. These include motor vehicle dealers, stock and station and real estate agents, and pawnbrokers and secondhand dealers.

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

In Canberra there are two retail fruit and vegetable markets. These have been established, operated and controlled by the Canberra Retail Markets Trust.

Transport and communication

Canberra is connected with the railway system of New South Wales at Queanbeyan by a line 8 kilometres long. This line was opened for goods traffic on 25 May 1914 and for passenger traffic on 15 October 1923. Direct or linking services operate between Canberra and Sydney, and Canberra and Melbourne. The two major domestic airlines provide many services daily each way on the Sydney-Canberra-Melbourne route, while three smaller carriers operate services to provincial centres. Regular motor coach services link Canberra with towns in New South Wales, and mainland state capitals. The total length of roads in the Territory at 31 December 1982 was: municipal, 1,250 kilometres; territorial, 670 kilometres; national, 270 kilometres; total, 2,190 kilometres. At 31 December 1982 there were also 100 kilometres of trunk cycle paths connecting suburbs with Canberra's major business centres. The Department of the Capital Territory is responsible for the regulation of transport and traffic under an A.C.T. Ordinance. ACTION, the Australian Capital Territory Internal Omnibus Network, is also operated by the Department of the Capital Territory. It operated 352 buses in 1981-82, over 89 routes covering 1,012.0 kilometres. A total of 12,689,000 kilometres was travelled and an estimated 17,547,000 passenger journeys made.

There are six radio broadcasting stations in the Territory: 2CY, 2CN and ABC-FM of the national broadcasting system; two commercial stations, 2CA and 2CC; and one community station, 2XX. There are two television stations, ABC Channel 3 of the national broadcasting system and Australian Capital Television Pty Ltd (Capital 7), a commercial station.

Social

See also Chapter 12, Education; Chapter 10, Health; 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 A.C.T. Schools Authority, which became a Statutory body in January 1977. The Authority is representative of teachers, parents and the community. The A.C.T. Schools Accrediting Agency within the Authority system accredits courses and administers student assessment procedures for Years 11 and 12. These procedures replaced the New South Wales Higher School Certificate examination at the end of 1976.

In July 1982 there were seventeen 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. Secondary students enrolled numbered 14,790.

Sixty-three schools provide courses at primary levels, three of these being in rural districts and one in the Jervis Bay area. The number of pupils enrolled in primary grades of government schools at July 1982 was 23,575.

There are seven government special schools in the A.C.T. with a total enrolment of 370 students. These schools cater for pre-school, primary and secondary school aged students who are physically or intellectually handicapped. Mildly intellectually handicapped children are served by learning centres attached to eight primary schools and three high schools.

Special units for deaf children are available to three schools, while blind children receive specialised support at six other Schools. Children below school age with learning or sight problems receive assistance from specially-trained staff at pre-schools and in their homes.

Eleven primary schools cater for children of junior primary age who are unable to adjust to a normal class situation. One of these classes specialises in the care of children with language and communication disorders. Educational guidance services are provided by the Education Clinic and through counselling staff attached to schools.

Special English classes for migrant children are available at forty-four primary schools, ten high schools and four secondary colleges. The Introductory English Centre is for secondary school migrant children with little or no English. They attend for up to six months and then return to their neighbourhood school or college.

The seventy-three pre-schools provide facilities for 4,996 children between the ages of three and five years. Provision is made at all pre-schools for the additional enrolment of children who have minimal problems such as speech, behavioural and family problems.

In July 1982 there were twenty-three non-government primary schools in Canberra, seven schools offering both primary and secondary schooling and four schools with secondary grades only. At the same time, 10,093 pupils were in primary grades of non-government schools and 7,683 in the secondary grades of these schools.

A.C.T. Further Education

The Office of A.C.T. Further Education which operates within the structure of the Department of Education is responsible for the Technical and Further Education Colleges, the Canberra School of Art and the Canberra School of Music. The Office is also responsible for the A.C.T. Apprenticeship Board and Adult Migrant Education.

There are presently three TAFE Colleges in the A.C.T.; Canberra, Bruce and Woden. These Colleges provide trade, post trade, certificate, associate diploma, craft and leisure type courses at their main campuses and at several annexes. In the year ended 31 December 1981 there were 19,078 enrolments in A.C.T. TAFE Colleges.

The Canberra School of Art offers a Diploma of Arts (Visual), three years full-time study (or part-time equivalent), an Associate Diploma of Arts (Visual), two years full-time study (or part-time equivalent) and a Post-graduate Diploma, one year full-time study. It also provides art courses for students from the Canberra College of Advanced Education as well as non-vocational classes for the community in general. In the year ended 31 December there were 969 enrolments.

The Canberra School of Music offers a Bachelor of Music, four years full-time study and a Diploma of Music, three years full-time study. Courses for Canberra College of Advanced Education students and single study classes for part-time students are also offered. In the year ended 31 December 1981 there were 609 enrolments.

It should be noted that enrolment figures shown here are course enrolments and are not adjusted for those students enrolled in more than one course at any time during 1981, as they were for the figures given in the 1982 Year Book, and so these are not comparable.

Other Tertiary Educational Institutions

The Canberra College of Advanced Education is administered by a Governing Council constituted under an Act of Parliament and offers courses in six schools—Administrative Studies, Applied Science, Liberal Studies, Education, Information Sciences and Environmental Design. Courses have a professional or vocational orientation and lead to master and bachelor degrees, and associate and graduate diplomas. There were 5,232 students enrolled as at April 1982.

The Australian National University was established by an Act of Parliament and is administered by its governing Council. The Institute of Advanced Studies within the University is a centre for 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 faculties carry out both undergraduate and post-graduate training and research and are composed of the faculties of Arts, Asian Studies, Economics, Law and Science. The total student enrolment as at April 1982 was 5,851.

The University has established the following centres: Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies; Humanities Research Centre; North Australia Research Unit (based in Darwin); Centre for Continuing Education; Computer Services Centre; Office for Research in Academic Methods; and the National Health and Medical Research Council Social Psychiatry Research Unit.

Continuing education

The Centre for Continuing Education, which is run by the Australian National University, is intended 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.

Evening classes in the A.C.T. are provided at two high schools and four secondary colleges as a continuing education service of the A.C.T. Schools Authority. Enrolments in evening classes in July 1982 numbered 3,106, of which 1,692 were enrolled in recreational classes. Evening classes offer courses leading to the award of a certificate of entry to post-secondary and tertiary institutions as well as a variety of craft and cultural courses.

Apprenticeship training

At 30 June 1982, 1,391 indentured apprentices were in training in the 53 declared apprenticeship trades in the Australian Capital Territory. Apprentices were employed by about 800 approved employers. During 1981-82 there were 1,201 applications for apprenticeships. New indentures totalling 531 were registered, representing an increase of 4.5 per cent in new indentures on 1980-81 totals. In this period 342 apprenticeships were completed and 165 cancelled. Trade courses at the TAFE colleges are supplemented, where required, by remedial classes in Mathematics and English.

Adult migrant education

The Office of A.C.T. Further Education, on behalf of the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, is responsible for the Adult Migrant Education Program in the A.C.T.

All classes are free and they are open to migrants who are permanent residents of Australia.

The language program is organised in two strands, an on-going strand for migrants who have been in Australia for some time and an on-arrival strand for newly arrived migrants. As part of the on-going program part-time classes are offered at different levels and at various times in the day and evening. A more intensive part-time course, aimed primarily at unemployed migrants whose lack of proficiency in the English language is prejudicing their employment prospects, is available as is a full-time accelerated English course lasting ten weeks.

As well, English classes are provided in the work place either partly or wholly within working hours. Migrants who are unable to attend classes may undertake a correspondence course, or have a tutor visit them in their own homes.

The on-arrival strand of the program caters for migrants who have arrived in Australia within the previous six months. The full-time courses offered provide an introduction to Australian society and way of life as well as a basic English language instruction. On completion, students are encouraged to enrol in part-time classes.

All migrants attending full-time courses are eligible to receive a living allowance.

Tourism

Tourism has quickly become a major factor in the A.C.T. economy and in the planning and development of the Capital. A large-scale, Government-commissioned study conducted in 1975-76 estimated 2.5 million visitors for the year, spending \$72 million in the A.C.T. and Queanbeyan. Continuing surveys based on the study findings indicate between 3.3 and 3.9 million visitors per annum to the area by 1986. Tourism, a labour-intensive industry, will grow in economic significance to the A.C.T.; for 1982-83, visitor spending is expected to exceed \$170 million.

The official tourist servicing and promotional operation in the A.C.T. is provided by the Department of the Capital Territory through the Canberra Tourist Bureau. Planning and development of physical facilities remain the responsibility of the National Capital Development Commission.

The Bureau operates a highway reception and information centre on the northern (main) gateway to the city, and branch offices in Sydney and Melbourne. Total operational costs, including salaries and overtime, will approximate \$1,802,000 in 1982-83.

Most patronised tourist features in the A.C.T. are the Australian War Memorial, the Black Mountain Telecommunication Tower, the High Court of Australia, Parliament House, the National Library, the Australian National Gallery, the Royal Australian Mint, and the mountain lookouts and reserves. The most important new attraction under construction is the new and permanent Parliament House.

Finance

In the following table, identifiable receipts 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. Poker Machine Licensing Board, Canberra Commercial Development Authority, A.C.T. Totalisator Agency Board and the 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: RECEIPTS AND OUTLAY

(\$'000)

	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81
RECEIPTS						
Taxation—						
Rates on land	10,464	12,098	13,634	15,011	16,540	19,249
Liquor	984	1,260	1,325	2,395	2,136	2,968
Motor registration and licences	4,322	4,954	7,127	7,859	7,793	7,789
Payroll tax	10,761	11,296	11,945	13,142	12,373	14,584
Stamp duties	4,162	4,455	5,003	5,573	6,904	8,382
Other taxes, fees, fines, etc.	1,413	1,635	2,839	4,223	5,135	4,690
Interest, rent, etc.	16,920	21,899	26,214	26,124	25,978	31,692
Income from public enterprises	3,541	4,566	4,301	5,432	6,395	6,280
Net sale of public corporation securities	3,605	(a) 27,903	(a) 15,492	6,798	7,031	-12,226
Other receipts	475	(a) -9,778	18,649	13,429	-3,529	10,923
Net charge to Commonwealth Government budget	313,283	316,292	329,207	294,662	297,898	287,241
Total receipts	369,930	396,580	435,736	394,648	384,654	381,572
OUTLAY						
Final consumption expenditure—						
Law, order and public safety	10,156	13,808	16,109	19,215	21,099	22,473
Education	65,233	79,089	91,140	100,552	112,048	129,789
Health, social security and welfare	35,144	44,711	52,855	58,919	69,081	80,466
Other	48,769	49,949	47,400	43,452	50,756	67,321
Expenditure on new fixed assets and stocks—						
Education	34,139	31,186	26,367	20,676	20,728	16,653
Health, social security and welfare	11,322	7,406	8,493	8,941	5,775	5,505
Housing	7,749	-1,777	-5,263	-4,751	-7,016	-9,734
Community and regional development	36,467	35,235	32,984	16,000	10,211	12,567
Protection of the environment	27,424	24,277	13,212	8,366	5,024	1,660
Recreation and related cultural services	7,088	10,371	11,751	13,999	17,356	26,470
Electricity, gas and water	12,170	28,817	25,495	16,465	6,935	10,783
Roads	11,607	11,937	30,819	31,882	25,763	15,667
Other	43,876	49,535	63,828	57,036	48,823	37,802
Net purchase of existing assets	-21,084	-19,426	-13,604	-17,423	-15,687	-43,272
Interest paid	665	853	3,213	5,974	6,882	6,275
Cash benefits	13	8	127
Subsidies	143	167	207	191	376	451
Net advances for housing	29,450	19,480	21,490	7,566	1,502	-3,326
Grants for private capital purposes	9,599	10,954	9,240	7,588	4,998	3,895
Total outlay	369,930	396,580	435,736	394,648	384,654	381,572

(a) Includes financing transactions of the Canberra Commercial Development Authority.

NORFOLK ISLAND

General description

Norfolk Island, discovered by Captain Cook in 1774, is situated in latitude 29°02'S, longitude 167°57'E approximately. 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 and 1,063 kilometres from Auckland. 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 1,800.

The island served as a penal station from 1788 to 1813 and from 1825 to 1855. In 1856, 194 descendants of the *Bounty* mutineers were transferred there 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. It is controlled by the Minister for Home Affairs and Environment through an Administrator.

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. The passage of this Act followed a series of detailed discussions between the Minister for Home Affairs and Environment and the Norfolk Island Council, the Island's advisory body.

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, 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.

The island's Supreme Court sits as required and a Court of Petty Sessions exercises both civil and criminal jurisdiction.

The Office of the Administrator is financed from Commonwealth expenditure which amounted to \$230,000 in 1981-82. A further \$286,000 was provided by the Commonwealth during the year for the restoration and maintenance of historic structures.

Economic activity

The major economic activity of the island is tourism. Primary production is not fully adequate for local needs and foodstuffs are imported from New Zealand and Australia, mainly for the tourist trade.

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 abound off the island. 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 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, however, the station was closed down.

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

Tourists. Regular sea and 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.

Employment. A large proportion of the population derives its income from various aspects of the tourist industry including the operation of hotels and duty-free stores. The Commonwealth Government provides service through staff from the Departments of Transport and Science and Technology (Bureau of Meteorology) and teachers are seconded by the N.S.W. State Education Department. A number of clerical and other positions are available to islanders in the Norfolk Island Administration. Very few people rely for their income entirely on agricultural pursuits.

Trade, transport and communication

Imports to Norfolk Island since the 1939-45 War have risen from \$65,000 in 1945-46 to over \$12 million in 1981-82. The major proportion came from Australia and New Zealand. Exports in 1981-82 amounted to \$1.2 million to Australia and New Zealand, the principal markets. No duties are chargeable on goods imported into Australia from Norfolk Island if (i) the goods are produced or manufactured in Norfolk Island and shipped direct to Australia, and (ii) not goods which, if manufactured or produced in Australia, would be subject to excise duty.

One shipping company operates a service to Norfolk Island at approximately monthly 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. 4-6 times a week, and more frequently in peak periods. Air New Zealand Limited provides a service 3-4 times a week to the Island from Auckland. A light aircraft charter service operates daily between the island and Brisbane.

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

The island has an automatic telephone service and radio telephone link with Sydney. A local broadcasting service is operated by the Administration.

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 1981 was 299.

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 that in the cases 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 other than the Chief Magistrate.

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)

	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82
REVENUE						
Government grant	126	126	144	—	—	—
Customs duty	403	472	566	680	995	785
Liquor profit	207	233	285	332	339	287
Company fees	208	237	187	137	121	103
Sale of stamps	425	550	613	856	1,075	1,351
Vehicle registration and licence fees	52	73	77	77	81	57
All other	258	330	412	427	677	830
Total revenue	1,679	2,021	2,284	2,509	3,288	3,413
EXPENDITURE						
Administration	645	704	786	736	903	1,334
Education services	245	291	322	122	425	722
Health and welfare services	164	250	275	312	363	452
Repairs and maintenance	227	251	302	389	378	470
Capital works and services	170	124	252	252	353	317
Miscellaneous services	133	162	172	242	155	277
Legislative Assembly	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	92	234	110
Total expenditure	1,584	1,782	2,109	2,145	2,811	3,682

HEARD ISLAND AND McDONALD ISLANDS

These islands, about 4,100 kilometres south-west of Fremantle, 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 and McDonald Islands Act 1953*. In 1968, the responsibility for the administration of this Act was transferred from the Minister for External Affairs to the Minister for Supply, and in 1972 the responsibility was transferred to the Minister for Science.

In December 1947, an Australian scientific station was established on Heard Island. 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. Heard Island is about 43 kilometres long and 20 kilometres wide. 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 the same name, took place on 27 January 1971 when two members of the Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions (ANARE) paid a short visit on their way to the Heard Island station.

AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC TERRITORY

An Imperial Order in Council of 7 February 1933 placed under Australian authority all the islands and territories other than Terre Adelie situated south of 60°S latitude and lying between 160°E longitude and 45°E longitude. 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 lying between 136°E longitude and 142°E longitude. The *Australian Antarctic Territory Act* 1954 declared that the laws in force in the Australian Capital Territory are, so far as they are applicable and are not inconsistent with any ordinance made under the Act, in force in the Australian Antarctic Territory. In 1968 responsibility for the administration of this Act was transferred from the Minister for External Affairs to the Minister for Supply, and in 1972 the responsibility was transferred to the Minister for Science.

On 13 February 1954 the Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions (ANARE) established a station on MacRobertson Land at latitude 67° 36'S and longitude 62° 53'E. The station was named Mawson in honour of the late Sir Douglas Mawson and was the first permanent Australian station to be set up on the Antarctic continent. Scientific research (including meteorology, cosmic ray physics and glaciology) is conducted at Mawson, which is also a centre for coastal and inland survey expeditions.

A second Australian scientific research station was established on the coast of Princess Elizabeth Land on 13 January 1957 at latitude 68° 35'S and longitude 77° 58'E. The station was named in honour of the late Captain John King Davis, second-in-command of two of Mawson's expeditions and master of several famous Antarctic ships. The station was temporarily closed on 25 January 1965 and re-opened on 15 February 1969. On 4 February 1959 the Commonwealth Government accepted from the United States Government custody of Wilkes station, which was established by the United States on 16 January 1957 on Vincennes Bay at latitude 66° 15'S and longitude 110° 32'E. The station was named in honour of Lieutenant Charles Wilkes who commanded the 1838-42 United States expedition to the area. The station was closed on 19 February 1969 when activities were transferred to Casey station built about 2 kilometres south of Wilkes. Casey station, which was opened on 19 February 1969, was named in honour of Baron Casey, former Governor-General of Australia, in recognition of this long association with Australia's Antarctic effort.

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.

West Island, about 10 kilometres long, is the largest. The Territory's administrative community, airport and animal quarantine station are located there. 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 the 1939-45 war 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 Home Affairs and Environment, is the senior Government representative in the Territory.

A representative form of local government was established on 25 July 1979 when the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Council was elected by members of the Home Island community. The Council which has responsibility for a wide 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 Co-operative undertakes copra production, building maintenance and construction, and stevedoring and lighterage 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.

The population of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands at June 1982 was 546, distributed between Home Island (320) and West Island (226).

Transport and communication

There is an airport of international standard at West Island, controlled by the Administrator under licence from the Department of Transport. There is a regular Perth-Cocos (Keeling) Islands-Christmas Island-Perth charter service every 2 weeks. A shipping service operates to the Territory at intervals of several weeks. A radio telephone service between West Island and Perth is maintained by the Administration. There are local postal and telephone services, and a non-commercial broadcasting station.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND

Christmas Island is an isolated peak situated in the Indian Ocean in latitude 10°25'S, longitude 105°40'E. It is approximately 360 kilometres south from Java Head at the south entrance to Sunda Strait, 1,300 kilometres from Singapore and 2,600 kilometres from Perth. Christmas Island covers an area of about 135 square kilometres. It consists of a central plateau about 150 to 250 metres above sea level with several prominent rises up to 360 metres high. The plateau descends to the sea in a series of steep slopes alternating with terraces. Sea cliffs over 200 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 also the only anchorage.

The climate is pleasant, with prevailing winds coming from the south-east to east-south-east 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 about 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 maintain an adequate supply of fresh water for the small population and the installations. 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. During the year ended 30 June 1982, 1,526,282 tonnes of phosphate rock, 133,851 tonnes of phosphate dust and 2,000 tonnes of citraphos/calciphos were exported. From July, mining operations on Christmas Island have been conducted by the Phosphate Mining Company of Christmas Island, Ltd (PMCI) a company wholly owned by the Australian Government as agents for the Christmas Island Phosphate Commission. To minimise the impact on the environment of mining a program of land reclamation has been adopted and a nursery is maintained for reafforestation.

Population

Some 3,018 people (2,026 males and 992 females) were residents of the island at 30 June 1982. There is no indigenous population and many of the 2,666 Asian residents were either born in the Territory or have arrived over the past thirty years. Under the provisions of the Christmas Island Act and the Citizenship Act, most are Australian citizens, or permanent residents.

Education

The education system is based on an Australian curriculum. The Christmas Island Area School provides pre-school, primary and secondary education. The Christmas Island Technical School conducts trades and commercial courses, and provides adult education classes and supervision of correspondence courses from the Western Australian Education Department's Technical Extension Service. Some 600 students are enrolled in the Area School.

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, page 141, and in earlier issues. On 1 October 1958 the island was transferred to Australia by 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 Home Affairs and Environment and the Administrator administers the Territory in accordance with instructions given to him by the Minister. 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. They may be amended or repealed by Commonwealth Statutes.

Transport and communication

Sea transport to and from the Island is maintained by vessels operated under charter by the phosphate manufacturers and the PMCI.

An air charter arranged by the Department of Home Affairs and Environment provides a fortnightly service to and from the island out of Perth via the Cocos Islands. The PMCI operates a fortnightly air charter between Singapore or Kuala Lumpur and the island.

The Territory has its own radio broadcasting station, police force, postal service and philatelic bureau. A radio-telephone and teleprinter service operates between the island and the mainland, and links with Singapore and ships at sea.

CORAL SEA ISLANDS

The Coral Sea Islands Territory comprises scattered reefs and islands, often little more than sandbanks, spread over a sea area of 1,035,995 square kilometres with only a few square kilometres of land area. The territory lies between the Great Barrier Reef and longitude 157° 10' E and between latitude 12° and 24° S. Some of the better known islands in the Territory are Cato Island, Chilcott Islet in the Coringa Group and the islands of the Willis Group.

The islands, or cays, are formed largely of coral and sand and some have a cover of grassy or scrub-type vegetation. Large populations of sea birds nest and breed in the area.

History

About one hundred years ago guano workers camped on a number of the islands collecting manure deposited by the sea birds. But isolation, a lack of permanent fresh water and the limited size of the cays discouraged subsequent permanent occupation.

The Commonwealth Government based its claim to the Coral Sea Islands on numerous acts of sovereignty since early this century and asserted its sovereignty by enacting the *Coral Sea Islands Act* 1969 (which declared the Coral Sea Islands to be a Territory of Australia).

Installations

A lighthouse has been erected on Bougainville Reef and beacons operate on the Frederick and Lihou Reefs. A three-man meteorological station has provided a service on Willis Island since 1921 and there are eight automatic weather stations scattered throughout the Territory.

Most of the islands have been surveyed and the area is visited regularly both by Royal Australian Navy vessels and maintenance vessels of the Bureau of Meteorology.

Administration

By ordinance the laws of the Australian Capital Territory apply in the Coral Sea Islands Territory. The Minister for Home Affairs and Environment is responsible for matters affecting the Territory.

