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THE TERRITORIES OF AUSTRALIA



Source—Overseas Information Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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

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

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

General Description

The total area of the Northern Territory is 1,346,200 square kilometres. The seat of Government is Darwin on the north coast. The estimated resident population of the Darwin Statistical Division at 30 June 1989 was 72,800.

Northern Territory self-government

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

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

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

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

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

Development of administration

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Physical geography and climate

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

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

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

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

Fauna and flora of the Northern Territory

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

There are about 378 species of birds, 295 reptiles, 125 mammals, 44 amphibians and 100,000 species of insects, well represented by termites, ants and butterflies. In contrast to these distinctly Australian terrestrial fauna, the marine fauna of the Northern Territory is very similar to the Indo-Malay Archipelago immediately to the north.

The Northern Territory is famous for the saltwater crocodile which inhabits most rivers within 100 kilometres of the coast. It is also noted for its introduced feral animals, particularly herds of wild buffalo, banteng cattle, Timor ponies, samba deer, camels, pigs and donkeys.

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

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

Northern Territory vegetation is Australian in character although there is a significant component of the flora derived from the Indo-Malayan regions. In the 'Top End', the monsoon climate, the frequent fires associated with it and the poor soils, support eucalypt forests with open savanna understoreys. Pockets of monsoon forests, similar to rainforest, occur on sites with superior moisture supply during the seven month drought. Associated with the lower rainfall further inland, the height and density of forests decreases to form low woodlands. On the Barkly Tablelands and parts of the Victoria Rivers district, savanna with scattered shrubs occurs. On the sandy plains of the interior and on the rugged sandstone escarpments, spinifex grasses predominate with occasional stunted shrubs. The country surrounding Alice Springs carries acacia scrub called 'mulga'. Where this community has been severely disturbed it is replaced by spinifex. There are some 190 different families of vascular plants in the Northern Territory with over 3,400 species. However, little of the area has been well studied and future exploration will add to our knowledge, especially in the central and northern portions of the Territory for which there are no published floras.

Water

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

Darwin is served by the Darwin River Dam, situated some 70 kilometres from the city. The rockfill dam was completed in 1972. 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 a day. Studies are also being carried out to identify future sources to meet the growing needs of the Darwin region.

Katherine and the Tindal RAAF Base are supplied with treated water from the Katherine River. This water is blended with bore water to enhance the quality and to conserve the limited river supply in the dry season.

Alice Springs, Tennant Creek and all other towns and communities are supplied by bores from groundwater sources.

Soil conservation

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

Population

The population of the Northern Territory at 30 June 1989 was 156,100 persons. For further information, *see* Chapter 6, Demography.

Aboriginal Affairs

Policy

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

The basis of the Government's approach is to secure access to government services for Aboriginal people equal to that accorded other Australian citizens, together with additional

services appropriate to Aboriginal peoples' state of disadvantage, and in recognition of a community obligation deriving from Aboriginals' past dispossession and dispersal.

The long term objective is to achieve a situation of justice and equality where Aboriginal people have sufficient economic and social independence to enjoy their rights as Australian citizens.

Legal status

As Australian citizens, Aboriginal people are entitled to equality before the law. For the purpose of administering various programs designed to benefit Aboriginal people, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) 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

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

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

Royalties from mining on Aboriginal land are paid into an Aboriginals Benefit Trust Account and are distributed to pay administrative expenses of land councils, to Aboriginal Associations and Corporations representing 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 Government and the Northern Territory Government in relation to payments in lieu of royalties.

In September 1989, a Memorandum of Agreement was signed between the Commonwealth Government and the Northern Territory Government to provide for Community Living Areas in the pastoral districts of the Northern Territory.

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

Community services and affairs

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

Special programs for Aboriginal people

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

Government policy is to provide Aboriginal primary school children in Aboriginal communities with education in their own language as far as practicable. Bilingual education programs initiated in Northern Territory Aboriginal communities in 1973 now operate at 21 schools, using 17 Aboriginal languages. Aboriginal independent community schools, supported by the Government, also operate bilingual education programs.

Land tenure

As at June 1990, 57,628 square kilometres were held under freehold title; 735,300 square kilometres under leasehold; 475,572 were Aboriginal freehold (this figure includes land granted under the *Aboriginal Land Rights (NT) Act 1976* and land which has since been claimed and over which title has been granted); and 77,700 square kilometres unalienated. Land rent collected for the year 1988–89 amounted to \$484,000.

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

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

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

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

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

Production

Pastoral and agricultural industries

Beef cattle production is the major rural industry in the Northern Territory. The beef industry has been characterised throughout its history by a slow rate of expansion due mainly to the quality of pastures in the top end of the Territory, periodic droughts in the Alice Springs district and remoteness from large domestic markets and other market infrastructure. Although the rate of expansion has been slow it has been persistent. Significant developments in the last two decades include: the establishment of a beef road system; expansion of market outlets, including live animal exports to Malaysia, Brunei and the Philippines; introduction of tropical cattle breeds in the northern regions; continued private investment in water supplies, fences and yards; and development of low cost aerial mustering techniques. In 1988–89, export licensed abattoirs operated in Tennant Creek, Katherine and Batchelor, 100 kilometres south of Darwin. The former abattoir processes both cattle and horses while the latter two process both cattle and buffalo for export. The gross value of cattle production in 1988–89 was \$130 million.

In the Darwin district, the cattle industry has continued to be augmented by the buffalo meat industry. Interest in buffalo control has received a significant boost due to the planned removal of all tuberculosis-infected feral buffalo as part of a national campaign to eradicate bovine tuberculosis. Buffalo are slaughtered predominantly for the European and Taiwanese markets. High prices are realised for export sales of quality breeder buffalo and small volumes of high quality grain-fed buffalo meat that is sold to domestic hotels and restaurants. The gross value of the buffalo industry in 1988–89 was in the order of \$8 million.

Both the cattle and buffalo industries of the Northern Territory are experiencing dramatic changes in management practices due to the campaign to eradicate tuberculosis from the herds. The campaign requires all stock to be manageable to the extent where a 100 per cent efficient muster can be carried out. This has necessitated substantial investment in boundary and internal fencing as well as the destocking of unmanageable areas.

In 1980, the Agricultural Development and Marketing Authority (ADMA) was established to develop broadacre cropping industries to the point where export sales were viable. The ADMA developed six project farms in the Douglas–Daly basin, 250 kilometres from Darwin. These, plus other farms in the Katherine district provide a commercial environment for the development of the required levels of agronomic and economic efficiency. The main crops grown are sorghum, maize, sesame, soybean and mungbean. Grain handling depots have been established at Katherine and Douglas–Daly. The ADMA Act faces its sunset clause in 1990 and the grain marketing function has been transferred to a grower-controlled Grain Marketing Board. Gross value of production in 1988–89 was about \$2 million. Production is mainly oriented to supplying local stockfeed requirements with small quantities of high valued grains sold interstate and overseas.

The horticultural industry in the Northern Territory has experienced very rapid expansion over the last five years. Value of production has increased from just over \$200,000 in the early 1980s to in excess of \$13 million in 1988–89. Very significant plantings of mangoes are in their first years of production and yields will continue to expand as trees mature. The value of mango production is predicted to be in excess of \$10 million by 1990 and will continue to expand thereafter. Commercial trials of cashew production are being undertaken and it is expected that these will be the forerunner for a substantial industry. The Northern Territory has a natural advantage for horticultural production due to its capacity to produce some of the earliest maturing products in Australia for many lines of tropical fruit and vegetables. Significant volumes, mainly rockmelons, are exported to Asian markets and potential for expansion has been identified.

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

	Number of agricultural establishments	Area used for crops(a)	Area under sown pastures and grasses	Balance of area(b)	Total	
					Area	Percentage of NT land area (134,620,000 hectares)
			—'000 hectares—			%
1983-84	283	5.2	32.6	73,648.7	73,686.5	54.7
1984-85	274	5.9	45.3	74,116.8	74,168.0	55.1
1985-86	276	7.1	32.8	72,882.5	72,922.4	54.2
1986-87	290	11.7	51.1	71,175.2	71,238.0	52.9
1987-88	278	13.1	64.4	69,504.5	69,582.0	51.7
1988-89	270	10.6	146.5	68,169.8	68,326.9	50.8

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

NORTHERN TERRITORY: AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

	Unit	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
Livestock numbers—				
Cattle	'000	1,439.3	1,384.7	1,388.0
Domesticated buffaloes	'000	15.0	15.6	13.3
Poultry	'000	239.0	237.5	220.9
Pigs	'000	7.0	3.2	2.7
Gross value of livestock slaughterings—				
Cattle and calves including domesticated buffaloes	\$'000	102,700	82,219	70,026
Crops, Area—				
Grain Sorghum (grain and feed)	Hectares	6,401	5,018	5,324
Hay	Hectares	403	346	935
Tree fruit	Hectares	389	379	725
Bananas	Hectares	42	145	211
Vegetables	Hectares	453	549	490
Pastures and grasses (hay, seed, green feed)	Hectares	4,843	3,942	4,132
Total area used for crops (incl. pastures and grasses)	Hectares	16,590	17,003	14,758
Crops, Production—				
Sorghum for grain	Tonnes	6,863	6,803	7,795
Hay	Tonnes	1,272	1,016	3,895
Bananas	Tonnes	816	499	625
Pastures and grasses (hay, seed)	Tonnes	2,292	6,441	8,235
Gross value of crops—				
Sorghum for grain	\$'000	1,098	1,261	1,485
Fruit	\$'000	1,406	1,604	2,180
Vegetables	\$'000	5,387	8,149	7,876
Pastures and grasses	\$'000	55	689	1,193
Total crops (incl. pastures and grasses)	\$'000	12,277	15,884	17,323
Gross value of agriculture	\$'000	123,133	107,506	98,174

Mining

Mining activity in the Northern Territory has intensified in 1988-89.

Gold, lead, zinc, silver, uranium, bauxite/alumina and manganese are the principal minerals.

Uranium is mined in the Alligator River region, bauxite in the Gove Peninsula and manganese on Groote Eylandt. Gold is produced in the Pine Creek, Tanami Desert, Alice Springs, Hayes Creek and Tennant Creek regions.

The total value of mineral production for 1989 was \$950 million.

NORTHERN TERRITORY: MINING ESTABLISHMENTS

		1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
Establishments operating end of June	No.	26	33	37
Average employment over whole year—persons(a)	No.	1,903	2,128	2,188
Wages and salaries(b)	\$m	57.7	70.2	80.2
Turnover	\$m	615.5	826.9	1,063.9
Opening stocks at 30 June	\$m	153.7	208.0	277.2
Closing stocks at 30 June	\$m	184.2	286.9	293.9
Purchases, transfers in and selected expenses	\$m	165.5	194.7	214.9
Value added(c)	\$m	480.5	711.2	865.8
Fixed capital expenditure(d)	\$m	n.a.	n.a.	153.8

(a) Includes working proprietors. (b) Excludes amounts drawn by working proprietors. (c) 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'. (d) Outlay on fixed tangible assets less disposals.

Offshore petroleum resources

The Timor Sea is well positioned to take over from the Bass Strait as Australia's most promising oil producing region.

Exploration effort into the search for oil resulted in an total of 17 offshore wells and nine onshore wells being approved in 1988-89.

A total of 120,000 line kilometres of seismic surveys has been undertaken in Northern Territory waters since 1976.

Oil and gas production in the Northern Territory is expected to be around one billion dollars in 1990-91.

Forestry

Significant use of accessible timber resources in the Northern Territory has been mainly related to particular historical events, for example, the Overland Telegraph railway construction and war-time defence applications.

Following an extensive assessment of the natural resource in the early 1950s, a research station was established in Darwin by the Forestry and Timber Bureau in 1959. A state-type service was undertaken by the Department of the Northern Territory from 1967.

With the granting of self government in July 1978, forestry became the responsibility of the Territory Parks and Wildlife Commission, now the Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory. The unit was responsible for plantation forestry establishment and management until 1986, and for an Urban Beautification and Planting Program until 1988.

In 1986, all plantations and associated assets on Melville Island were transferred to Tiwi Aboriginal control. A joint venture company, Melville Forest Products Pty Ltd, has since been formed to manage the project on a private enterprise basis. Plantation thinnings provide the resource for current production of poles and bark by-products. The Conservation Commission continues to undertake plantation research and provide related advisory services.

In its conservation role, forestry related functions are now shared between several Conservation Commission projects. These embrace plant community and fire ecology studies, vegetation mapping, herbarium and botanical services, flora conservation, utilisation, silvicultural research, extension and advisory services.

Fishing

Seafood landings in the Northern Territory for the 1988-89 financial year were 6,430.1 tonnes with an estimated value of \$29.7 million. Prawn landings continue to dominate the industry with 3,360.1 tonnes being landed having an estimated value of \$22.6 million.

Barramundi remains the second most important species harvested followed by mud crab. These two species accounted for 613.0 tonnes and 143.4 tonnes of landings with estimated values of \$2.2 million and \$0.88 million respectively. The success of the dropline fishery and establishment of markets for fresh fish has also produced substantial increases in the landings of reef fish, snapper and emperor.

To prevent over-exploitation and maintain the long term viability of the industry, strict management measures are in force for the prawn, barramundi and mud crab fisheries. Major reviews of the barramundi and mud crab fisheries were undertaken during 1988 and 1989 with a view to the implementation of formal management plans by January 1 1991.

Harvesting of pearl oyster shell commenced in the Territory in 1988. A total of six licences were issued to operate in the fishery, each with a quota of 20,000 shells per year. Up to 10,000 shells of an individual quota may be utilised for mother of pearl, the remainder being for pearl culture.

Foreign fishing arrangements entered into by the Commonwealth in 1988-89 provided for Thai, Taiwanese and Chinese vessels to operate in the north and north-west waters of Australia. These agreements allow for a total quota of 19,650 tonnes of demersal trawl fish to be taken by 16 stern trawlers and 36 pairs of trawlers.

NORTHERN TERRITORY: PRINCIPAL FISHERIES

		1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
Prawns—							
Estimated gross weight of prawn catch	Tonnes	2,462	2,154	3,302	3,481	3,880	3,361
Gross value of prawns	\$'000	17,587	13,837	24,661	31,145	38,859	22,546
Fish—							
Estimated live weight of fish catch	Tonnes	1,564	1,784	2,523	2,550	2,576	2,886
Gross value of fish	\$'000	2,584	2,800	3,973	4,393	4,852	5,722

Secondary industries

The development of secondary industries in the Northern Territory has been largely based on demand from local markets, processing of primary production for exports and exports in the mining and construction industries. Considerable development is occurring in the support industry to service offshore oil and gas activities in the Timor Sea region.

The isolation of the Northern Territory from the major population areas of Australia and resultant high transportation costs have made other than local market expansion difficult, but this is changing.

Industrial expansion will be small while industry is limited to local markets, but determined efforts are being made to take advantage of the proximity of Darwin to rapidly expanding South-East Asian markets. In the longer term, secondary industry will be largely export based.

The following table shows results of the Manufacturing Censuses taken in respect of the years 1984-85, 1986-87 and 1987-88. No Manufacturing Census was conducted in respect of 1985-86.

NORTHERN TERRITORY: MANUFACTURING ESTABLISHMENTS

	Unit	1984-85	1986-87	1987-88
Establishments at 30 June	No.	137	145	172
Persons employed(a)	No.	2,686	2,864	3,207
Wages and salaries(b)	\$m	58.3	675	81.5
Turnover	\$m	407.4	404.7	450.7
Wages and salaries per employee	\$'000	21.7	23.6	25.4
Persons employed per establishment	No.	20	20	19
Turnover per person employed	\$'000	151.7	141.3	140.5

(a) Includes working proprietors. (b) Excludes drawings of working proprietors.

Tourism, Parks and Reserves

Tourism is second only to mining as the Northern Territory's most important industry, with direct earnings for 1988-89 estimated at \$400 million.

In 1981-82, 411,000 people travelled to the Territory, increasing to 835,000 in 1988-89. The Territory's obvious growth continues to encourage investment in tourism related properties and, since the early 1980s, well over \$700 million has been invested in tourism related facilities in the Territory.

Major developments include the Casinos and Sheraton Hotels in Darwin and Alice Springs, the Yulara Resort, the Beaufort Hotel and Convention facility in Darwin and the Territory Wildlife Park at Berry Springs. One of the most unusual developments has been a hotel in Kakadu which is shaped like a 250 metre long crocodile.

A wilderness lodge has been established at Seven Spirit Bay on the Cobourg Peninsula and there are plans for other major wilderness attractions and facilities at King's Canyon and Litchfield Park.

Since the Northern Territory Tourist Commission was formed in 1980, it has been responsible for the promotion of tourism in the Territory. The Commission has its head office in Alice Springs, a regional office in Darwin and bureaus in all States except Tasmania and the ACT which are serviced by the Victorian and New South Wales bureaus respectively. The Northern Territory Tourist Commission has overseas offices in London, Tokyo, New York, Vancouver, Frankfurt, Los Angeles, Singapore and Auckland.

The Tourist Commission's budget for 1989-90 was \$20.2 million.

There are 52 parks and reserves, covering about 5,200 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 historic features and the encouragement of public use and enjoyment of land set aside under its control.

In addition, the Gurig National Park (2,207 square kilometres) is managed by Cobourg Peninsula Sanctuary Board, while the Kakadu National Park (19,500 square kilometres) and Uluru National Park (Ayers Rock-Mt Olga) are managed by the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service. Uluru is managed in conjunction with the Park's traditional Aboriginal owners. Visitors to Uluru National Park have increased from an estimated 86,900 in 1981 to more than 250,000 in 1988 while at Kakadu National Park numbers have increased from 31,500 to 240,000 in the same period.

Railways and Roads

Railways

Passenger and freight train services commenced in December 1980 over the then new 831 kilometres long standard gauge Tarcoola-Alice Springs railway.

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, and is sealed over its full length.

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

The Victoria Highway, is part of ‘Highway 1’ and is the principal route connecting the Western Australia and the Northern Territory, intersecting the Stuart Highway at Katherine. The distance from the town of Katherine to the Western Australian border is 468 kilometres. Seventy-five percent of the pavement is narrow seal. A federally funded program is now in force to upgrade all narrow sections to National Highway standards within the next five years.

The Victoria Highway is servicing the local cattle, mining and tourist industries and is of vital importance for defence purposes, connecting the east and west of Northern Australia.

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

The program for upgrading the Stuart and Barkly Highways was commenced in the early 1970s and is continuing to bring these roads to National Highway Standards.

Education

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

Details of the responsibilities are outlined in the *Northern Territory of Australia Education Act 1979*. Under the Act, the Minister for Education is responsible for the general administration and control of education services. The Act states that the Minister may take all measures which, in his opinion, are necessary or desirable to:

- assist parents in the Territory in fulfilling the responsibility to educate their children according to the individual needs and abilities of those children;
- make education services, provided by the Minister, available to all people in the Territory; and
- assist all people of the Territory with their own education.

The Act also provides for the establishment of advisory councils.

Schools in the Northern Territory

There are 176 schools in the Northern Territory with a total student population of approximately 35,669. About 30 per cent of students are of Aboriginal descent. In addition to primary and pre-schools, there are 16 government secondary schools, one secondary correspondence school and six private secondary schools (including Kormilda, a residential college) and one government residential college for Aboriginal students, Yirara College.

Teaching staff are employed by the Northern Territory Teaching Service and qualified persons are recruited from all parts of Australia. An increasing number of teachers with

qualifications obtained from the Northern Territory University are also entering the Northern Territory Teaching Service.

Nearly all children in the Northern Territory enrol in pre-school education when they turn four. At the age of five they enter a Transition Year prior to joining Year One. The length of time spent in Transition depends on a child's readiness for Year One, varying from three months to a year.

There are seven years of primary education (Years One to Seven) with students entering high school at Year Eight.

With the exception of Year Twelve level, where most students are assessed by the Senior Secondary Assessment Board of South Australia, all aspects of curriculum, course accreditation and student assessment are the responsibility of the Northern Territory Board of Studies. The Board oversees the work of 11 subject area committees. In addition, there are advisory committees on Early Childhood Education, Special Education, Education for the Gifted and Post Compulsory Education which provide input to the Board. Each subject area committee is responsible for its subject area at all levels of schooling.

In addition to its responsibility for advising the Secretary on curriculum development, the Board of Studies provides: guidelines on the assessment of student performance, examples of assessment instruments and, in some subjects, moderation of student assessment. School assessments in English and Mathematics at Years Ten and Eleven are fully moderated and school assessments in these subjects in Year Ten are augmented by an external assessment which contributes 30 per cent of a student's final score. The Junior Secondary Studies Certificate is issued by the Northern Territory Board of Studies to students on completion of Year Ten. Students studying beyond Year Ten will be awarded the Senior Secondary Studies Certificate showing courses satisfactorily completed in Years Eleven and Twelve.

The two Schools of the Air in the Northern Territory, one at Katherine and one at Alice Springs, 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, Katherine and Darwin for disabled children. However, where appropriate, students with special needs are integrated into primary and secondary schools. Guidance and Special Education Advisory Services operate from Regional Offices.

Requests to the Department of Education from geographically isolated communities for educational services continue to grow. School buildings and educational services are being provided in an increasing number of remote locations. Projects involving classroom teachers and curriculum staff have been carried out to address the appropriateness of teaching methods, suitability of materials, and relevance to courses in response to the challenge of providing education to isolated homeland centre groups.

Government schools for Aboriginal children in the smaller remote centres provide education at the primary level only. In the larger communities, Community Education Centres are being established to provide a comprehensive range of education services, from pre-school through to nationally accredited TAFE courses.

Bilingual education programs have been offered in Northern Territory schools in Aboriginal communities for almost twenty years now. There are 21 formal bilingual programs in 17 Aboriginal languages for approximately 3,500 students. Many school children are acquiring initial literacy skills in their own languages and this is being extended to include adults where feasible. Many other schools include Aboriginal language and culture in their curriculum.

A major initiative in the education of Aboriginal Territorians is the training and recruitment of Aboriginal persons, not just for the classroom, but to fill management positions in the school. The Mentor Scheme underpins the training of Aboriginal persons for management positions. The Scheme involves the appointment of qualified Aboriginal persons as Principals-in-Training or Deputy Principals and senior teachers 'in training' to understudy non-Aboriginal managers for about two years. The Aboriginal person, after the period of 'training', takes over the management role.

Yirara College near Alice Springs caters for secondary-aged students from outlying centres which do not have a Community Education Centre or whose parents wish them to attend courses at an urban high school. Kormilda College in Darwin, now an independent school, is developing its own range of appropriate secondary courses. While its enrolment policy is similar to Yirara, it also enrolls non-Aboriginal students, either as day students or boarders.

The Northern Territory has an exchange program with Indonesia which involves up to four teachers from each country in a school year. The teachers are usually on 'exchange' for a full year whilst students 'exchange' for six months. The Northern Territory Department of Education is also involved in an expanded TAFE teacher exchange and development program with Indonesia. In addition, it has a major role in the National Indonesian Language Curriculum Development Project over three years, from 1989 to 1991.

Technical and Further Education—TAFE

Technical and Further Education services in the Northern Territory are provided by the Northern Territory University Institute of TAFE and the Department of Education through its Colleges.

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

Alice Springs College of TAFE

The Alice Springs College of TAFE is a multi-sector institution providing TAFE services within the Alice Springs region. It provides trade, post-trade, and other TAFE programs up to and including Associate Diplomas. The College is also the major Territory provider for all tourism and hospitality training.

Centre for Appropriate Technology

The Centre for Appropriate Technology is part of the Alice Springs College of TAFE and has a specific responsibility in the provision of technical training to traditionally oriented Aboriginal people in the Centre of Australia.

Northern Territory Rural College

The Northern Territory Rural College in Katherine provides education and training for the pastoral and agricultural industries. It offers a two-year, full-time residential course, leading to a Certificate in Rural Studies; intensive three-month long courses in basic stock-handling and station skills; and short courses in areas such as horse-handling, horse-shoeing, explosives, welding, farm mechanics, pregnancy diagnosis and artificial insemination of cattle. The College also works in cooperation with other TAFE institutions in the provision of more general TAFE programs in the Katherine area and, in particular, has responsibility for conducting pre-vocational trade training in the Katherine region.

Batchelor College

Batchelor College is a semi-autonomous tertiary institution providing programs for Aboriginal people which lead in particular to teaching qualifications at advanced education and TAFE levels. The College also offers courses for Aboriginal adult educators and health workers and conducts courses related to community management. Courses are available from Associate Diploma to Diploma level as well as providing bridging and access

programs. The College is situated in the town of Batchelor and has residential facilities, although a significant proportion of its program is provided through mixed mode/on-site courses in Aboriginal communities.

Northern Territory Open College of TAFE

The Northern Territory Open College of TAFE is a distance education institution which offers services through a network of education centres and community based lecturers. The College provides adult education and training programs up to and including certificate level. The College has particular expertise in the provision of pre-trade and access programs.

The Northern Territory Open College embraces the Territory Training Centre and the Adult Migrant Education Centre which offer pre-trade training and English courses to other areas of the Territory. From 1991, the Northern Territory Secondary Correspondence School will be part of the Open College.

Northern Territory University—NTU

The Northern Territory University was established on 1 January 1989 through the amalgamation of the University College of the Northern Territory and the Darwin Institute of Technology. The University offers both higher education and technical and further education to meet its first priority of providing for the full spectrum of the tertiary educational and research needs of the Northern Territory. It is the first university in Australia to incorporate technical and further education as an integral part of its structure. The student population of approximately 5,000 is fairly evenly divided between the two sectors.

Undergraduate and postgraduate programs are offered through the faculties of Arts, Business, Education and Science. It is envisaged that the Law School within the Faculty of Arts will become the Faculty of Law by 1991. The Institute of Technical and Further Education offers programs through to Associate Diploma level.

The University also offers continuing and professional education courses to the wider community.

The University currently operates on two sites, Myilly Point on the edge of the Darwin city centre and at Casuarina, and development is planned with a view to accommodating the entire program at the latter campus by 1997.

Finance

The following table gives details of government revenue and outlays that have been identified as relating specifically to the performance of local or State-type functions in the Northern Territory from 1986–87 to 1989–90. Receipts collected in the Northern Territory from Australia-wide sources (e.g. income taxes, customs duties, etc.) and outlays in the Northern Territory on items of a national character (e.g. defence, civil aviation and cash benefits paid to Northern Territory residents as part of national programs) are *not* included.

NORTHERN TERRITORY: FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS OF TERRITORY GOVERNMENT
(\$ million)

<i>Economic transactions</i>	<i>1987-88</i>	<i>1988-89^p</i>	<i>1989-90(a)</i>
Current outlays	1,018	1,086	1,143
General government final consumption expenditure	690	734	787
Required current transfer payments	146	155	157
Interest payments	146	155	157
To Commonwealth Government on advances	93	93	90
Other	53	62	66
Land rent, royalties and dividends paid	—	—	—
Unrequited current transfer payments	182	197	199
Subsidies paid to enterprises	96	124	126
Personal benefit payments	2	9	10
Current grants	76	53	54
To non-profit institutions	60	32	37
To local governments	16	21	18
Other current transfer payments	8	11	8
Capital outlays	207	204	251
Gross fixed capital expenditure	215	231	262
Expenditure on new fixed assets	218	240	271
Expenditure on second-hand fixed assets (net)	-2	-8	-9
Increase in stocks	-1	—	—
Expenditure on land and intangible assets (net)	-6	-8	-5
Capital transfer payments	10	12	14
Capital grants	10	12	14
To local governments	2	3	3
To other sectors	8	9	11
Other capital transfer payments	—	—	—
Advances paid (net)	-12	-31	-20
To local governments	2	2	—
To other sectors	-14	-33	-21
Revenue	1,124	1,215	1,212
Taxes, fees and fines	105	116	131
Net operating surpluses of public trading enterprises	50	48	53
Property income and other revenue	61	65	62
Income from public financial enterprises	—	—	2
Interest received	43	50	48
Other property income and other revenue	18	14	13
Grants received	909	987	966
Financing transactions	100	76	181
Net advances received	45	32	-9
Net domestic borrowing	67	88	81
Net borrowing from abroad	—	—	—
Increase in provisions	29	31	37
Other financing transactions	-40	-76	73
Deficit	72	44	145
Net Financial Requirement	27	12	154

(a) Forward estimate.

THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

General Description

The Constitution provided that the seat of Government of the Commonwealth of Australia shall be a federal territory, located in the State of New South Wales but distant not less than 160 kilometres from Sydney. After a number of alternative sites were considered, an area of 2,359 square kilometres, lying approximately 320 kilometres south-west of Sydney, was transferred to the Commonwealth as from 1 January 1911. The forecast population for 30 June 1991 is 287,000, nearly all of whom live in Canberra, the National Capital.

Australian Capital Territory Self-Government

The Australian Capital Territory was established as a self-governing Territory by the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988* and related legislation. There is a Legislative Assembly of 17 members to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Territory, and an Australian Capital Territory Executive consisting of a Chief Minister and three other Ministers exercising the executive power.

Under the legislation, the Commonwealth transferred most of its powers and responsibilities concerning the administration of the Territory to the new Territorial Government. The functions which were not transferred include responsibility for the ACT Courts, policing functions, and the power for the ACT to determine its own electoral system and size of the Executive. A timetable was detailed in the Self-Government legislation for the progressive transfer of the courts and policing functions.

Elections for the first ACT Legislative Assembly took place in March 1989 and the formal transfer of power from the Commonwealth to the ACT Government followed on 11 May 1989 with the swearing in of the first Members of the Assembly.

Health

Hospital Services

Royal Canberra and Woden Valley Hospitals are the major public hospitals in the ACT. Calvary Hospital and the Queen Elizabeth II Home for Mothers and Babies also function within the public hospital system.

The hospital system provides in-patient and outpatient services including medical, surgical, psychiatric, nursing and other professional support services.

The Ambulance Service operates from four ambulance stations and provides treatment and transport for emergencies and inter-hospital transfers.

Support services for the hospitals, including laundry, sterile instrument and surgical dressing supply, maintenance, purchasing and a central store are located at the Mitchell Health Services and Supply Centre.

The Central Health Laboratory is part of the hospital system and is located at Woden Valley Hospital.

Public Health Services

The Chief Health Officer is responsible for public health matters in the ACT and administers a number of public health services. These range from Radiation Safety and Pharmaceutical Services, management of the Analytical Laboratory and communicable and environmental disease control, to the Health Surveillance Service which monitors food standards (preparation and sale), water and air pollution, inspection of hotel accommodation and restaurants and general sanitation and disposal of solid wastes.

The John Curtin School of Medical Research is located in the Australian National University. One of the School's four divisions, the Division of Clinical Science, operates from the Woden Valley Hospital, as does the University of New South Wales' Centre for Chronic Disease and Disability.

Nursing training in the ACT is conducted at the University of Canberra on behalf of the ACT Government.

Community Health Services

In the community health field, the ACT Government operates health centres, a women's health service, child health clinics, a community nursing service, school dental and speech therapy services, a service for the treatment and counselling of people with an alcohol or drug addiction and a mental health counselling and treatment service.

A range of programs is provided in health education, and to cover special health needs such as those of the elderly and the physically and intellectually handicapped.

Justice and Community Services

The ACT Housing and Community Services Bureau was created in December 1989 to better coordinate and improve efficiency in the delivery of community and social welfare services in the ACT.

Housing

Both private and public building activity have continued to expand the stock of residential dwellings in the ACT. At June 1989, there were 23,651 occupied dwellings in the Central Canberra area; 21,185 in the Woden Valley and Weston Creek area; 27,765 in the Belconnen area; 18,733 in the Tuggeranong area, and 290 elsewhere in the Territory. The total number of occupied dwellings in the Territory at June 1989 was 91,624.

Although there has been a considerable increase in the proportion of home ownership in the ACT since 1954, the demand for public housing has continued to increase. Rental accommodation and housing finance are now allocated on a means tested basis. There has also been continuing expansion of public housing stock through annual building programs and the purchase of established housing.

A range of public rental housing for low and moderate income earners is provided by the ACT Housing Trust. Continued expansion of the public rental housing stock during 1989-90 resulted in a total rental stock of 12,141 dwellings at 30 June 1990.

The Housing Trust also provides home purchase assistance to low and moderate income earners through the Commission for Housing Loans Scheme.

Correctional and Remand Services

Juvenile justice services which include the Quamby Youth Centre, are provided for the detention of juvenile offenders and remandees.

A Remand Centre at Belconnen and a Community Services Order Scheme are also operated.

Community Welfare Services

Community programs include general family casework, adoptions, emergency relief, migrant services, the Women's Information and Referral Centre, child day care, regional youth centres, grants-in-aid, support for elderly and disabled persons to remain at home, refugees for homeless persons, and the provision of community facilities.

The Office of the Youth Advocate has been established to address problems associated with the care and protection of children, particularly child abuse, as set out in the *Childrens Services Act, 1986*.

Legal Services

On self-government, the Government Law Office was established to provide a range of legal services to the Government and the people of the ACT.

Within that Office:

- the Legislative Council drafts legislation for presentation to the Legislative Assembly;
- the Government Solicitor handles much of the day-to-day legal work for the government; and
- specialist legal units provide advice to the Government on the implementation of legal programs concerned with the courts, human rights, censorship, law reform and justice.

In addition, the Office provides a range of legal and social services through the Legal Aid Office, the Registrar of Titles, the Gaming and Liquor Authority, the Consumer Affairs Bureau, the Credit Tribunal and the Public Trustee.

Land Planning and Administration

Reference has been made in earlier issues of the Year Book to the general conditions of land tenure in the ACT. The freehold estate of all land in the ACT 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.

There have been a number of changes to land planning and administration as part of the move to self-government. Most of these flow from the *ACT (Planning and Land Management) Act 1988*.

Early in 1989, the Commonwealth Government established a National Capital Planning Authority to prepare a National Capital Plan and to ensure that development is appropriate to Canberra's National Capital character and functions. It also declared specified areas of land to be 'National Land' to be used by, or on behalf of, the Commonwealth.

The administration of all other land (Territory Land), including the granting of leases, is undertaken by the ACT Government.

The Act also requires the ACT Government to enact legislation to establish a Territory planning authority. Until this is done, local planning is being undertaken by the Interim Territory Planning Authority.

Leases of land for residential, commercial and other purposes in the city area are usually granted under the *City Area Leases Act 1936*. Some special leases for other purposes (such as diplomatic sites or churches) are granted under the *Leases (Special Purposes) Act 1925* or the *Leases Act 1918* for short term land use. Some areas outside the city area are leased for agriculture under the *Leases Act 1918*. These include areas not immediately required for development in the short or medium term.

Parks and Conservation

The ACT Parks and Conservation Service manages open space, natural and cultural resources and public sport and recreation facilities throughout the ACT.

The aims for all nature reserves in the ACT are to:

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

Urban Parks

Since its establishment, Canberra has been developed as a garden city. The area of developed landscape increased by 3.8 per cent in 1989-90 to 5,284 hectares. Management of urban areas included newly developed areas in the town of Tuggeranong and redevelopment of ageing landscapes in the older suburbs and surrounds of the old Parliament House.

The Yarralumla Nursery, established in 1913, propagates trees and shrubs for use in development projects, as replacements in landscape maintenance and for issue to buyers of new home sites. In 1989-90, 433,068 trees and shrubs and 222,600 bedding plants were produced.

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

Floriade

Floriade, Canberra's spring Festival, has taken place each year since its inception in the Bicentennial year. It consists of floral displays and a theatre and arts program.

Namadgi National Park

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

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

Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve

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

Canberra Nature Park

Canberra Nature Park (approximately 4,600 hectares) is made up of the numerous hills and ridges in the urban area of Canberra. These hills were an integral part of the original Walter Burley Griffin design for the 'bush' capital. There are over 20 separate areas of Canberra Nature Park each with its own character and values. The more prominent areas include Black Mountain, Mount Ainslie, Red Hill and Mount Taylor. Canberra Nature Park is very important for education and in providing wildlife habitats and corridors throughout the urban area.

Black Mountain

The Black Mountain Reserve (521 hectares), adjacent to Lake Burley Griffin, is a significant focal point in the Canberra landscape and an essential component of the 'mountain and lake' concept of the Canberra scene. Black Mountain Reserve is unique in its setting within the inner boundary of a national capital. In addition to broad scale

scenic attributes, the Reserve has a varied complex of flora and fauna and is used extensively for recreation and nature study. Black Mountain Reserve is part of a number of hill tops and ridges which make up Canberra Nature Park.

Murrumbidgee River Corridor

A corridor of land comprising 7,000 hectares along the Murrumbidgee River in the ACT is managed as a unit within the ACT Nature Reserve system. As well as areas of nature conservation, the corridor contains seven major recreation areas which attract over 700,000 visitors per annum for picnicking, canoeing, swimming, fishing and walking.

The corridor includes a habitat for rare plants and animals and a number of cultural features including the historic homestead, Lanyon, and records of aboriginal occupation.

Wildlife

Extensive surveys of the native fauna and flora of the ACT are continuing. Information obtained is used to appropriately manage the wildlife of the Territory. For example, collaborative research by ACT Parks and Conservation Service staff and scientists from CSIRO have developed techniques for the control of feral pigs in Namadgi National Park.

Land Care

The treatment of land degradation and prevention of future damage are the aims of ACT landcare programs. Some of the most serious gully erosion originated in the last century and this is now being treated. New development guidelines help prevent soil loss during urban development. Tree protection and soil and pasture management are being brought together under landcare programs for the ACT. These are being developed in cooperation with neighbouring NSW programs.

The Lake Burley Griffin Catchment Protection Scheme, a collaborative works program between the ACT Government, the State of New South Wales and landholders, is continuing with restoration measures being directed to the Molonglo River catchment.

The ACT is undertaking activities for the Year and the Decade of Landcare.

Library Services

Comprehensive library services are available to residents of the Territory through the ACT Library Service. A network of regional libraries is being developed, modelled on State library systems. A mobile library services the rural areas of Hall and Tharwa, retirement villages and nursing homes.

Other services include a home library service, material on spoken work cassettes, Braille material, large print material and material in languages other than English.

Forestry

Forestry field operations in the ACT began in 1915 with the planting of pines on the denuded slopes of Mount Stromlo to arrest soil erosion and to improve the visual quality of the landscape. In 1926, a program for development of commercial forests was approved following a comprehensive review of the Territory's potential for forest development.

Major reviews of this program were made in 1932, 1954, 1967 and 1984; always, however, retaining the basic policy of systematic conservation and development. Forestry operations, including fire protection measures, extend to some 13,000 hectares of natural forest in the Cotter catchment and adjacent areas and the Kowan region. The more productive stands in these areas were harvested extensively to provide timber for Canberra's post-war expansion and were subsequently treated to promote regeneration and protect the quality of water harvested.

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

The forest authority is charged with the management of some 30,000 hectares of land in the ACT. As at 30 June 1988, the total area of coniferous plantations—mainly of *Radiata Pine*—in the ACT was 161,780 hectares.

In 1988–89, there was no commercial production of hardwood timber from the ACT. The volume of softwood cut was 181,000 cubic metres. The total value of this unprocessed timber unloaded at the mill (mill door value) was \$9.3 million.

Agriculture

Agricultural production is confined primarily to sheep and beef cattle with 116,851 sheep and 12,422 cattle on 252 rural leases on agisted Territorial lands. The ACT abattoir serves the southern tablelands region.

Fresh fruit and vegetables are imported to Canberra through wholesale fruit and vegetable markets, handling 156,000 tonnes per year. Inspections of wholesale and retail produce outlets and of ACT apiaries and fruit trees are conducted to maintain product quality and to prevent the spread of plant and apiary diseases and pests.

Communications

Ten radio stations currently broadcast in the Territory: 2CN, 2CY and ABC-FM of the national broadcasting system, four commercial stations, 2CA, 2CC, FM104.7 and KIX-FM, and three public stations, 2XX, 1PPP and 2SSS-FM.

Since March 1989, two additional commercial television stations began broadcasting on the VHF frequency. They are WIN-TV, based in Wollongong and Prime based in Orange. Their services add to those provided by ABC Television, Capital Television and the Special Broadcasting Service.

Transport

The private car is the dominant form of transport in the ACT, given the ACT's generally good road accessibility and high car availability. Based on 1986 Census data, Canberra has the highest number of vehicles per household of any Australian capital city (a mean figure of 1.51), and a high percentage (74.5 per cent) of commuters travelling to work by private motor vehicle.

Public transport within the ACT is provided by ACT Government owned buses and privately owned taxis. The bus service is based on a feeder network to town centres with express buses between interchanges at the town centres. On an average weekday over 100,000 passengers are carried on the bus system.

Canberra also has an extensive network of cycle paths.

Transport links between the ACT and the rest of Australia are provided by Canberra Airport, the rail line to Goulburn, and major roads to Goulburn, Yass, Cooma and the South Coast.

Education

The *Education Act 1937* provides for the compulsory attendance at school of children between the ages of six and fifteen years. Public schools are administered by the ACT Ministry for Health, Education and the Arts under the provisions of the *Schools Authority Act 1976*. The Act also provides for school boards which are representative of teachers, parents and the community.

The ACT Schools Accrediting Agency accredits courses and administers student assessment procedures for Years 11 and 12.

In February 1990, there were 16 government high schools in the ACT and 9 secondary colleges. High schools cater for Years 7 to 10 and secondary colleges for Years 11 and 12. In addition, there is a Year 9 to 12 school and a kindergarten-to-Year 10 school. Secondary students enrolled totalled 18,516.

Another 65 government schools provide courses at primary level in the ACT, three of these being in rural districts. The number of students enrolled in government primary schools at February 1990 was 21,867.

The 78 government preschools provide facilities for 3,965 children aged four before 30 April of each year. Full-time preschools operate eight half-day sessions per week.

There are four government special schools which cater for preschool, primary and secondary school-aged students with special needs. In addition, an annex of a mainstream primary school provides for physically disabled students. The total enrolment at these special settings in February was 450.

Fifteen primary schools and seven high schools offer programs for students who have a need for structured intervention in a small group setting because of serious difficulties in making expected educational progress. Special units for deaf children are available at three schools. Blind children also receive specialised support. Two schools cater for primary aged children with language and communication disorders.

High school, primary and junior primary students referred with severe behavioural problems attend special behaviour management support units.

Itinerant teachers also give assistance to mainstream classroom teachers for students with hearing, vision and behaviour difficulties.

Children below school age with learning, sight or hearing problems receive assistance from specially trained staff at preschools, a therapy centre and in their homes.

Special classes for students of non-English speaking background are available at most primary schools, high schools and secondary colleges. Three introductory English centres (two for primary, one for secondary-aged students) cater for migrant or refugee children with little or no English. Students attend for up to six months and then return to their neighbourhood schools.

In February 1990, there were 22 non-government primary schools in Canberra, eight schools offering both primary and secondary schooling and six schools with secondary grades only. There were 10,159 students enrolled in primary grades at non-government schools and 10,319 students in secondary grades.

Higher Education

Universities

The Australian National University was established by an Act of Parliament and is administered by a governing council. The Institute of Advanced Studies within the University is a centre of excellence in research and post-graduate training. 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 postgraduate training and research, and comprise the Faculties of Arts, Asian Studies, Economics and Commerce, Law and Science. The total student enrolment in 1990 was 7,430. The University has established a number of academic centres.

The Canberra Institute of the Arts (CITA) was established in 1988 through the amalgamation of the Canberra School of Music and the Canberra School of Art. The Institute provides multi-level education and training in the visual and performing arts

covered by the work of its two constituent schools. The work of the Institute ranges from community activities supporting the arts in Canberra to the provision of professional courses to degree and postgraduate levels. In recognition of its dual role, CITA receives funding both from the Commonwealth and ACT Governments. The Institute has concluded an affiliation agreement with the Australian National University which is seen as a first step to amalgamation.

The University of Canberra, formerly the Canberra College of Advanced Education, is administered by a governing council constituted under an Act of the Commonwealth Parliament and offers courses in six schools—Applied Science, Communication, Education, Environmental Design, Information Sciences and Engineering, and Management. Courses have either a professional or vocational orientation. There were 7,800 students enrolled in 1990. The University has set up several research centres.

Continuing Education

The Centre for Continuing Education is part of the Australian National University and it aims to foster a 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.

Technical and Further Education

The ACT Institute of TAFE is a multi-campus, multi-discipline educational system catering for the vocational, educational and training needs of the ACT and surrounding region.

The Institute is a Statutory Authority operating under ACT legislation and headed by an Executive Director. It also has an Advisory Committee representative of private and public industry, unions, community, teaching and student bodies.

The Education Delivery Program encompasses the teaching operations of TAFE and comprises nine teaching schools in the broad discipline areas of Applied Design, Applied Science, Community Education, Construction Studies, Electrical and Electronic Studies, Engineering, General Studies, Management and Business Studies, and Tourism and Hospitality. This program is supported by specialised units such as curriculum, educational computing and corporate services.

In 1990, some 18,000 students enrolled in a range of some 300 courses, of varying duration, offered on a full-time or part-time basis at trade, certificate, associate diploma and diploma levels and in preparatory, remedial and non-vocational areas.

Vocational training

The *Vocational Training Act 1989* which was passed by the ACT Legislative Assembly on 27 June 1989, provides a framework for the development and improvement of vocational training in the Territory.

In particular, the legislation provided for the establishment of the ACT Vocational Training Authority which commenced operations on 1 September 1989. The authority replaces the ACT Apprenticeship Board. Its membership is tripartite with equal employer, union and government representation.

The Vocational Training Authority promotes training in both the public and private sectors, regulates vocational training and advises the ACT Government on training issues.

Tourism

Tourism is a key element in the economy, sustaining employment for some 9,000 people and generating about \$450 million revenue a year—more than \$1,500 for every ACT resident.

The official tourist servicing and marketing operation in the ACT is provided by the Canberra Tourism Development Bureau. The Bureau's main office is located in the

Jolimont Centre in the city and it also operates a Visitor Information Centre on the inbound land of Northbourne Avenue. Both offices are open seven days a week. The Bureau is represented by branch offices in Sydney and Melbourne.

The major attraction in Canberra is Parliament House. It is a superb drawcard for Canberra with more than 3 million visitors passing through its doors in the two years since its opening. It is playing a significant role in boosting the value of tourism to the local economy.

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

To keep pace with its multiplying attractions, Canberra's accommodation industry has also flourished. More than a thousand new hotel and motel rooms were added between 1985 and 1989—a 40 per cent increase, in a wide range from family budget to grande luxe.

The Hyatt Hotel belongs in the latter category; a unique redevelopment of the famous old hotel that became the alternative meeting place to Parliament House in the early days of the 'bush capital'. In the 1989 National Tourism Awards, the Hyatt received two awards—runner-up in the International Hotel category and runner-up in the Restaurants in the Pursuit of Excellence category.

The 300 room Capital Park Royal opened in 1989 along with its neighbour, the National Convention Centre. The National Convention Centre has a seating capacity of 2,500 in the Royal Theatre, 3,000 in the Exhibition Hall and 800 in the Grand Ballroom. Its arrival heralds a new era for conferences and conventions in the national capital.

Industry

The aims of industry development in the ACT are the expansion of private sector investment and employment opportunities.

ACT employment growth for the past ten years has averaged 4.2 per cent per annum and is forecast to average about 2.8 per cent per annum up until 1995. The private sector accounts for nearly 50 per cent of all ACT employment.

The major industry sectors in the ACT are public administration and defence, building and construction, finance, property and business services, entertainment, recreation and personal services (including tourism), light manufacturing, wholesaling, retailing and printing.

Over recent years there has been little growth in public sector employment in the ACT, mainly because of reductions in the staffing levels of public service departments. Some of the most significant growth industries are the finance, property and business services which encompasses insurance, accounting, banking, superannuation firms, and engineering and computing consultants.

The building and construction industry suffered a decline in activity following the completion of the new Parliament House. However, a number of major public sector construction projects are expected to make a significant contribution to the level of building activity in the longer term, notably the Civic Square redevelopment.

The entertainment, recreation and personal services industry provides a wide range of services to the local community in association with sporting activities, restaurants, clubs, and other personal services. This industry is also significant as it covers most of the activities associated with tourism which is a major growth sector. Growth in this industry

is dependent on population growth and changes in the demographic structure of the population.

The wholesaling and retailing industry is largely concerned with the provision of retail facilities in developing residential areas such as Tuggeranong and in the redevelopment and expansion of existing retail centres such as City Centre and Belconnen.

Opportunities for further growth are being examined in targetted industry sectors such as advanced technology and the printing industry which is the largest manufacturing industry in the ACT.

The ACT has a number of competitive advantages which attract firms including a well-educated workforce, expertise in research-intensive and design based industries, relatively cheap land, a quality lifestyle and environment and access to Commonwealth Government decision makers.

Mechanisms have been put in place to provide assistance for new business activity in the ACT which are designed to promote further employment opportunities. These measures include assistance with one-off establishment costs, training and other resource development programs, market feasibility studies and the direct purchase of land.

In addition to local industry initiatives, broader based projects which are likely to have an impact on the future development of the ACT as a place to live, work and do business are being examined. For example, the Very Fast Train project would provide an opportunity for industry expansion in the ACT by reducing the travel time between Sydney and Melbourne and by improving access to commercial and tourist markets.

Employment

Historically, ACT employment-related programs have tended to complement Commonwealth labour market initiatives. With the achievement of self-government, emphasis is now being placed on identifying and meeting particular ACT needs.

The primary objective is the provision of a range of employment-related services which ensure equity of access to all sectors of the ACT community. Specific target groups include:

- the long-term unemployed;
- youth;
- women wishing to enter or re-enter the workforce;
- people with disabilities;
- people of non-English speaking backgrounds; and
- others classified as disadvantaged.

Government Receipts and Outlays

Self-government was granted to the ACT on 11 May 1989 and the ACT Government presented its first Budget on 26 September 1989 for the 1989-90 financial year.

The ACT Government in 1989-90 was responsible for most of the functions normally carried by Municipal and State Governments. The main exceptions were the courts and police. Responsibility for the ACT Magistrate Courts was to be transferred to the ACT Government on 1 July 1990. From that date, police services in the ACT are subject to an arrangement with the Commonwealth. Responsibility for the Supreme Court may not be transferred until 1 July 1992.

The following table is a summary of ACT Government finances for 1989-90, including both the General Government and Public Trading Enterprise sectors. The table conforms

to the definitions used by the ABS in the publication *Classifications Manual for Government Finance Statistics, Australia* (1217.0).

**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY: FINANCIAL
TRANSACTIONS OF TERRITORY GOVERNMENT
(\$ million)**

<i>Economic transactions</i>	<i>1989-90</i>
Current outlays	858
General government final consumption expenditure	673
Required current transfer payments	51
Interest payments	51
To Commonwealth Government on advances	47
Other	4
Land rent, royalties and dividends paid	—
Unrequited current transfer payment	134
Subsidies paid to enterprises	32
Personal benefit payments	—
Current grants	102
To non-profit institutions	102
To local governments	—
Other current transfer payments	—
Capital outlays	191
Gross fixed capital expenditure	241
Expenditure on new fixed assets	231
Expenditure on second-hand fixed assets (net)	10
Increase in stocks	—
Expenditure on land and intangible assets (net)	-60
Capital transfer payments	7
Capital grants	7
To local governments	—
To other sectors	7
Other capital transfer payments	—
Advances paid (net)	3
To local governments	—
To other sectors	3
Revenue	1,021
Taxes, fees and fines	318
Net operating surpluses of public trading enterprises	57
Property income and other revenue	56
Income from public financial enterprises	—
Interest received	42
Other property income and other revenue	14
Grants received	590
Financing transactions	28
Net advances received	-45
Net domestic borrowing	24
Net borrowing from abroad	—
Increase in provisions	34
Other financing transactions	15
Deficit	-6
Net Financing Requirement	39

Source: ACT 1990-91 Budget Paper No. 4.

THE JERVIS BAY TERRITORY

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

The Territory has an area of about 7,360 hectares including about 800 hectares of territorial waters in Jervis Bay. In 1971, 4,118 hectares were declared as the Jervis Bay Nature Reserve under the *Public Parks Ordinance 1928* and in December 1985 Bowen Island (51 hectares) was declared a reserved area under the *Nature Conservation Ordinance 1980*. On 14 March 1987, the Government granted to the Wreck Bay Aboriginal community inalienable freehold title over 403 hectares.

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

NORFOLK ISLAND

General Description

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

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

Administration

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

In May 1978, the Government announced that it should try to develop for Norfolk Island a form of government involving the island's own elected representatives under which the necessary revenue could be raised by its own system of law. The *Norfolk Island Act 1979* which was assented to on 30 May, established the framework for this objective. In broad terms, the Act equips Norfolk Island with responsible legislative and executive government to enable it to run its own affairs to the greatest practicable extent. Wide powers are exercised by the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly and by an Executive Council, comprising the executive members of the Legislative Assembly who have ministerial-type responsibilities. The Act preserves the Commonwealth's responsibility for Norfolk Island as a Territory under its authority, with the Minister for the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories as the responsible Minister. Since 1979, various additional powers have been transferred to the responsibility of the Norfolk Island Government and further progress towards self-government was made in 1989 with the transfer of a significant number of new powers.

The Office of the Administrator is financed from Commonwealth expenditure which amounted to approximately \$486,700 in 1989-90. A further \$384,000 was provided by the Commonwealth during the year for the restoration and maintenance of historic structures and \$1,585,000 towards the cost of a water assurance scheme.

Economic Activity

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

Primary industries

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

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

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

Tourists

Regular air services to the island are available for those who seek a quiet holiday in surroundings of beauty and historic interest. At present, accommodation consists of flats and hotels as well as licensed and unlicensed guest houses. There were 23,201 tourist arrivals in 1989-90.

Employment

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

Finance

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

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

	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89
REVENUE						
Customs duty	1,104	1,373	1,833	2,008	1,902	1,881
Liquor service	423	439	578	614	611	632
Company fees	96	94	84	92	108	80
Postal operations	1,016	801	744	114	272	20
Vehicle registration and licence fees	113	117	124	128	136	132
Departure fees(a)	—	—	—	—	272	278
Public works levy(a)	—	—	—	—	249	263
Fuel levy(a)	—	—	—	—	142	167
Telecommunications(a)	—	—	—	—	185	185
Electricity service(a)	—	—	—	—	115	190
All other(b)	1,094	1,624	1,777	2,173	688	984
Interest on investments(a)	—	—	—	—	336	437
Total revenue	3,846	4,448	5,140	5,129	5,016	5,249
EXPENDITURE						
Administration	1,451	1,669	1,770	1,245	1,343	1,193
Education services	627	627	927	755	880	865
Health and welfare services	469	514	552	627	611	619
Repairs and maintenance	467	571	706	830	777	774
Capital works and services	99	265	768	1,682	638	507
Miscellaneous services	312	312	431	501	509	996
Legislative Assembly	192	230	234	210	182	167
Total expenditure	3,617	4,188	5,388	5,850	4,940	5,121

(a) For the years 1986-87 and prior, these amounts had been included in the total of 'All other revenue'. (b) 'All other revenue' is made up of sundry classifications none of which individually exceeds \$100,000.

Trade, Transport and Communication

Imports to Norfolk Island since World War II have risen in value from \$65,000 in 1945-46 to over \$23 million in 1988-89. The major proportion came from Australia and New Zealand. Exports in 1988-89 amounted to \$2.8 million, with Australia and New Zealand as the principal markets.

A shipping company operates cargo services to Norfolk Island at approximately five weekly intervals, linking the island with Australia and New Zealand.

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

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

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

Education

Education is free and compulsory between the ages of 6 and 15 years. The school which is conducted for the Administration by the New South Wales Department of Education, conforms to the Australian standard of public education, ranging from Kindergarten to the School Certificate (Year 10) level. The number of students enrolled at 30 June 1990 was 322.

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

Judiciary

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

HEARD ISLAND AND McDONALD ISLANDS

Heard Island, about 43 kilometres long and 20 kilometres wide, is the largest of a group of southern Indian Ocean islands about 4,100 kilometres south-west of Fremantle. The islands were transferred from the United Kingdom to Australia as from 26 December 1947. The laws of the Australian Capital Territory were declared to be in force in the Territory of Heard Island and McDonald Islands by the *Heard Island and McDonald Islands Act 1953* which also provides that Commonwealth laws apply when expressed to do so and provides for the making of Ordinances for the Territory.

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

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

Heard Island is widely regarded as one of the last Antarctic habitats remaining free of introduced organisms and is thus of significance as a benchmark for ecological studies. In January 1988, introduction of the Environment Protection and Management Ordinance under the *Heard Island and McDonald Islands Act 1953* put in place the framework for sustained conservation of the islands.

AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC TERRITORY

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

in Australian Antarctic Territory. The Act also provides that Commonwealth laws apply when expressed to do so and that Ordinances may be made for the Territory.

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

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

In addition to its three permanent continental stations (a fourth permanent station is on the Tasmanian territory of Macquarie Island), Australia conducts its Antarctic science from summer bases at Cape Denison (in the eastern sector of Australian territory), the Prince Charles Mountains, the Larsemann Hills and the Bunger Hills, as well as temporary field camps in such places as Enderby Land, Scullin Monolith, Amery Ice Shelf and Law Dome.

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

COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS

General Description

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

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

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

History and Administration

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

transferred to the Government of Ceylon and eight years later, to the Government of the Straits Settlements.

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

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

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

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

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

The Cocos Islands Cooperative Society Limited, also established in 1979, conducts the business enterprises of the Cocos people. The Cooperative undertakes building maintenance and construction, stevedoring and lighterage services, retailing and provision of accommodation and catering services.

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

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

The population of the Cocos (Keeling) Islands at 30 June 1990 was 603, distributed between Home Island (413) and West Island (190).

Transport and Communication

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

CHRISTMAS ISLAND

General Description

Christmas Island is an isolated peak situated in the Indian Ocean, latitude 10°25'S, longitude 105°40'E. It is approximately 360 kilometres south from Java Head at the southern entrance to Sunda Strait, 1,312 kilometres from Singapore and 2,623 kilometres

from Perth. Christmas Island covers an area of about 135 square kilometres. It consists of a central plateau varying in height from 250 metres above sea level at the eastern side of the island to 150 metres on the western side. Several prominent rises in the plateau reach 360 metres above sea level. The plateau descends to the sea in a series of steep slopes alternating with terraces. Sea cliffs over 20 metres high run along a considerable portion of the coastline except in a few places, the chief of which is Flying Fish Cove where the principal settlement is located and which is the only anchorage.

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

Economy

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

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

On 1 July 1988, it was announced that negotiations would commence with Elders Resources Limited for the recommencement of mining operations on the island. However, following a successful appeal to the Full Bench of the Federal Court by an unsuccessful proponent, negotiations ceased.

On 2 November 1989, the Minister for the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories announced that tenders would be sought from companies or consortiums interested in operating the phosphate mine on Christmas Island. The closing date for new tenders was 11 May 1990 and the new tender proposals are being considered.

Notwithstanding the recommencement of mining, the Government is actively encouraging private sector investment in new activities on the island to secure an economic future which is not solely dependent on mining. Several development proposals, including a major tourist hotel/casino project, are progressing.

The Government has recognised that the unique environment of the Island holds the key to its future development, in particular tourism. Several rare and endangered species of wildlife live on Christmas Island, the best known being the Abbotts Booby, an endemic sea bird which nests in emergent trees in the rainforest canopy. On 5 April 1989, the Government notified a major extension to the National Park. The Park now covers approximately 60–70 per cent of the Island.

Population

Some 1,200 people were residents of the island in 1990. The majority are Chinese with the remainder being mostly Malays and Europeans. There is no indigenous population.

Education

The Christmas Island Area School is run by the Administration. The school provides education from pre-school level through to Year 10 secondary level. It follows a locally developed curriculum aligned with that used in Western Australia. There are 247 students enrolled at the school. Senior secondary students (Years 11 and 12) in Western Australian schools receive assistance from the Administration.

History and Administration

Summarised particulars of the history of Christmas Island up to its administration by the United Kingdom as a separate Crown Colony (from 1 January 1958, pending transfer to Australia) are given in *Year Book* No. 51 and in earlier issues. On 1 October 1958, the island was accepted by Australia under the *Christmas Island Act 1958*. The Territory is administered by an Administrator appointed by the Governor-General. Responsibility for the administration and government of the Territory rests with the Minister for the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories. The Administrator reports to the Minister and is subject to his direction. The laws which were in force on the island at 30 September 1958 were continued as the laws of the Territory after its transfer to Australia.

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

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

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

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

Transport and Communications

A Joint Island Supply System (JISS) commenced operations on 1 February 1989. It was designed to provide a more efficient and cost effective shipping service to meet the needs of people living and working on both the Christmas and the Cocos (Keeling) islands.

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

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

CORAL SEA ISLANDS TERRITORY

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

In the 19th century many ships were wrecked in the area, and the reefs and islands are often named for the ships which foundered there. There are navigation aids on several of the reefs and islands. There are occasional tropical cyclones in the area. Meteorological data are relayed to the mainland from automatic weather stations located on Cato Island, Flinders Reef, Frederick Reef, Holmes Reef, Lihou Reef, Creal Reef, Gannet Cay and Marion Reef.

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

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

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

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

THE TERRITORY OF ASHMORE AND CARTIER ISLANDS

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

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

Responsibility for the administration of the Territory rests with the Minister for the Arts, Sports, the Environment, Tourism and Territories. Laws of the Northern Territory apply in the Territory insofar as they are applicable.

Birdlife is plentiful on the islands of Ashmore Reef. Turtles are plentiful at certain times of the year and bêche-de-mer are abundant. In recognition of the environmental significance

of the area, the Reef was in 1983 given the status of a national nature reserve under the *National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1975*. Regular visits are made to the Reef by officers of the Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service.

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

The Jabiru and Challis oil fields are located within the adjacent area of the Territory.

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