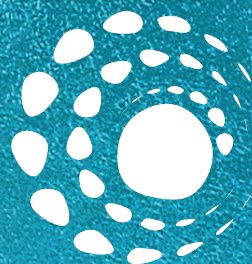


# INVEST EAST ARNHEM



DEVELOPING  
EAST ARNHEM





**Note regarding COVID-19:**

COVID-19 has caused a significant disruption to a range of industries both domestically and around the world, particularly the tourism sector. In this context, the future for some industries remains uncertain, and there may be significant changes in the market.

COVID-19 typically presents a higher risk for Aboriginal communities for various reasons. As such, opportunities in East Arnhem must be managed carefully to prevent transmission.

# CONTENTS

<b>Introduction</b>	4
Our invitation to you	4
About Developing East Arnhem Limited	5
<b>Welcome to East Arnhem</b>	6
About East Arnhem	6
Living in East Arnhem	7
East Arnhem at a glance	8
Our communities	12
<b>Why East Arnhem?</b>	18
<b>Key industries</b>	20
Existing sectors	21
Emerging opportunities	30
<b>Enabling environment</b>	36
Airports	37
Melville Bay commercial precinct	37
Gunyanjara (Gove Port) Tourism Precinct	37
Central Arnhem Road	38
Telecommunications	38
Access to land and sea	40
Development processes	42
Power and water	43
Residential and commercial real estate	43
<b>Supporting future investment</b>	44
Investment and business support	46
Key partnerships	48
Government, for-purpose, education and workforce	50
<b>Get in touch</b>	54
<b>Appendix</b>	56
Gove Port tide levels and wharf parameters	56
East Arnhem airlines and flight segments	58
References	59





# OUR INVITATION TO YOU

The East Arnhem region is ripe for investment, with a myriad of untapped resources and opportunities to explore.

With a regional vision for a resilient East Arnhem economy, with Nhulunbuy as a prosperous and sustainable regional centre and Yolŋu, the local Aboriginal people of mainland East Arnhem and Elcho and Crocodile Islands, as partners and leaders in economic life, there has never been a better time to explore East Arnhem as your next investment destination.

Economic development in East Arnhem is driven through collaboration and partnership between regional businesses, traditional owners and their communities, governments and other enabling organisations. These concerted efforts towards an ambitious and optimistic vision for East Arnhem mean there are boundless opportunities to be a partner in this region's innovative and exciting future. With unrivalled support for investors and dedicated facilitators to assist in making connections in the region, we invite you to be part of our regional development journey.

If you are interested in exploring opportunities for your business or have innovative ideas for development, get in touch with the friendly team at Developing East Arnhem Limited (DEAL). We are ready and willing to assist with any enquiries you have and can facilitate introductions within the region, as well as provide assistance and advice based on our industry expertise and local knowledge.

## ABOUT DEVELOPING EAST ARNHEM LIMITED

DEAL was established in November 2014 by its Members, the Northern Territory Government and Rio Tinto, in response to Rio Tinto's decision to curtail production at its Gove alumina refinery.

DEAL is an independent not-for-profit company with a mission to drive economic development in East Arnhem, to promote the resilience of the region and opportunity for its people.

DEAL does this by leading collaboration across the region, as trusted partners to businesses, governments, and traditional owners, by unlocking creative opportunities for development, guided by evidence and acting as the front door for investment in the East Arnhem region.

Since its establishment, DEAL has been instrumental in securing vital industry and infrastructure investment across the region and supporting economic diversification. Looking to the future, DEAL has a strong vision and aspirations for the East Arnhem region and opportunity that awaits here.

## BUILDING ON PAST SUCCESS

Since DEAL's establishment and the curtailment of Gove Peninsula's alumina refinery, Nhulunbuy has transitioned from a mining town into a vibrant economic hub. This is a result of entrepreneurial businesses, committed residents and investors, the regionalisation of services, innovative partnerships, and the significant backing of both government and private investment.

Over the next ten years, East Arnhem will build on the economic success of the region from the last five years. On the Gove Peninsula, the Rio Tinto bauxite mine is approaching its end of life and will close in approximately 2030. With visionary planning, this presents a significant opportunity for industry and economic diversification to lay the foundation for a long-term, sustainable future for the region.

Beyond Nhulunbuy and the Gove Peninsula, the strength of the broader regional East Arnhem economy is critical. Harnessing the economic aspirations of Yolŋu as part of the mainstream economy will be essential to broader regional growth.

## AN OPTIMISTIC VISION

We share an optimistic vision for the future of East Arnhem, which builds on the success DEAL and its regional partners have driven over the last five years. In this vision, East Arnhem is a resilient regional economy with profitable businesses across a diverse range of industries with substantial investment and favourable lending environment. As a region, East Arnhem is well connected to various markets with diverse and inspiring employment opportunities.

Yolŋu, who form 80 percent of the population and own 100 percent of the region's land and intertidal zones, underpin this vision as leaders and partners in economic life. Ensuring Yolŋu are empowered in economic planning and decision-making is a key focus for DEAL. This includes seeing sustainable Yolŋu-run businesses leading development, partnering for success, and providing services across the region.

Learn more about how to be part of this exciting future and the support DEAL can provide on page 46, or at our website [developingeastarnhem.com.au](http://developingeastarnhem.com.au).



# WELCOME TO EAST ARNHEM

## ABOUT EAST ARNHEM

The East Arnhem region is one of the last pristine, natural environments on earth. Most major services are found in the town of Nhulunbuy on the Gove Peninsula, which supports a network of regional communities and homelands.

The regional hub of Nhulunbuy is located on the north-eastern tip of the Gove Peninsula and is flanked by the Yolŋu communities of Yirrkala and Gunyarrara. This regional economic hub is 600 kilometres east of Darwin (approximately 1,000 kilometres by road) with regular non-stop flights from both Darwin and Cairns.

The East Arnhem region is 33,606 square kilometres<sup>1</sup> and is entirely Aboriginal land. The East Arnhem mainland and adjacent Elcho and Crocodile Islands are managed by the Northern Land Council on behalf of Yolŋu traditional owners.

Since the establishment of Nhulunbuy in the 1960s to service bauxite mining on the Peninsula, Nhulunbuy has become the fourth largest regional town by population in the Northern Territory.<sup>2</sup> Equipped with a district hospital, schools, shops and restaurants, local investment has turned the town into a vibrant community with a high standard of services. The focus for the next 10 years is to diversify industry and provide opportunities for residents and future growth beyond the cessation of Rio Tinto's mining operations around 2030.

There are several unique characteristics that make East Arnhem a competitive location for diverse industry investment, living and working, not least of which is the long history associated with mining operations, which has seen significant infrastructure investment at a level and scale not typically found in other comparative locations.

East Arnhem is in close proximity to thriving APAC markets, giving it a geographical advantage and facilitating international trade. The natural deep-water port in Melville Bay, which is the second deepest in the Northern Territory, also boasts a strong geographical advantage as the next natural link between closest major ports in Cairns and Darwin.

The region is also steeped in a history of trade and entrepreneurship. For thousands of years and prior to Federation, Yolŋu traded with the Macassan people from Sulawesi, Indonesia who were seeking trepang (sea cucumber), which they valued as a medicine and as a food. In return for access to certain fishing areas, Yolŋu received goods such as cloth, tobacco, rice and knives.

East Arnhem is now looking to the future, a future of which you could be a part. Many exciting new industries are aspiring to call this part of Northern Australia home. East Arnhem is uniquely positioned for growth with valuable resources, with priorities around diversifying industry, advancing new opportunities and pursuing the long-term sustainability of the region.

Outside the Yolŋu region of East Arnhem, to the east of Nhulunbuy, located in the Gulf of Carpentaria, is the Groote Archipelago, home to the Anindilyakwa people. Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island are represented by the Anindilyakwa Land Council (ALC). The sub-regional hub of Alyangula supports neighbouring communities and the island's manganese mine. While this guide does not cover the Groote Archipelago, Anindilyakwa people are also committed to industry diversification and share similar visions to Yolŋu on sustainable development. To learn more about Groote Eylandt, please ask DEAL to facilitate introductions with the ALC or visit [anindilyakwa.com.au/contact-us](http://anindilyakwa.com.au/contact-us)

The lifestyle in East Arnhem is  
unlike anywhere else in Australia.



## LIVING IN EAST ARNHEM

East Arnhem's lifestyle, aesthetics and economic potential make it a haven for prospective investors.

East Arnhem has a spectacular landscape, with rugged coastlines, remote islands, and alluring biodiverse habitats of national and scientific significance. From the pristine shores of its coastal beaches to the iconic red dirt of its inland environment, new residents and investors find a warm welcome from a community ready for economic innovation and growth.

The lifestyle, infrastructure and services, the landscape and the community are unique benefits to those seeking to invest in our region. These are the attributes that attract and retain the region's highly skilled and versatile workforce and, in turn, gives you the scope to establish and grow your business or industry future.

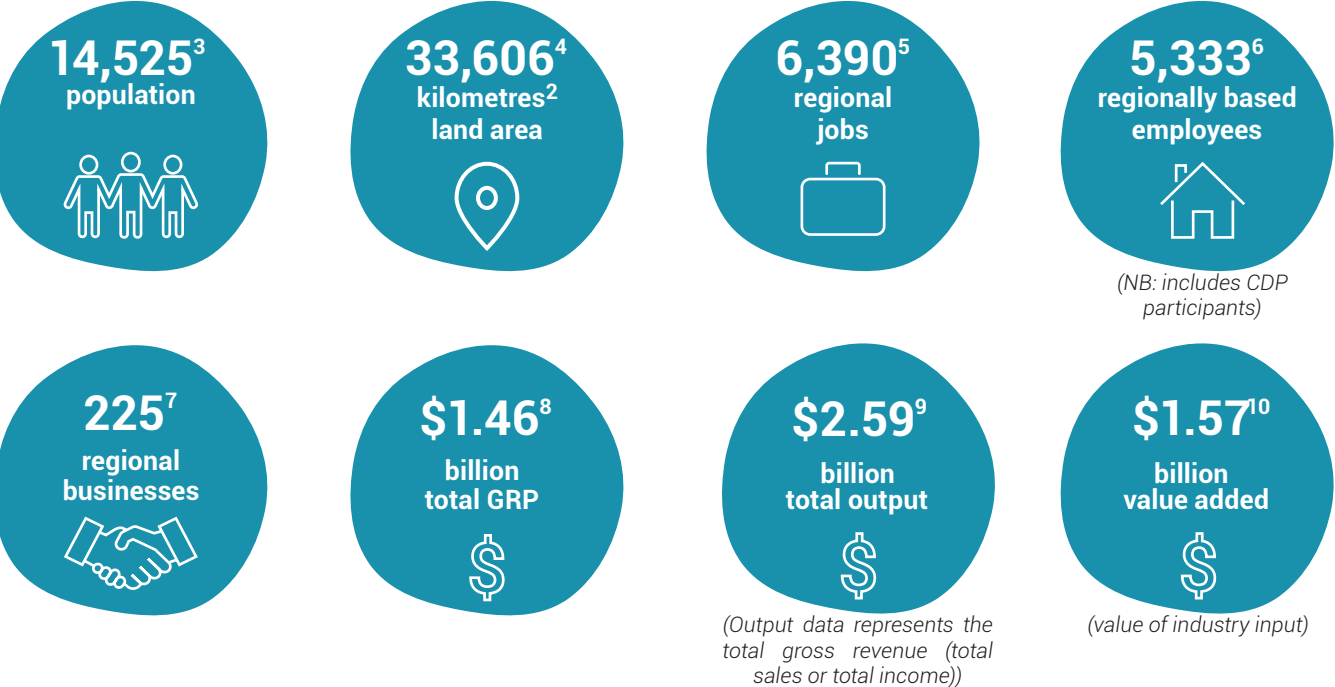
Sport and recreation are a big part of the lives of people in Nhulunbuy and the wider region. There is a diverse range of regional and town-based competitions, recreational activities and facilities, with camping, boating, and four-wheel driving popular activities for residents. Fishing is also a major draw-card for the region, with East Arnhem offering some of the best sports and recreational fishing in the world.

To learn more about living in East Arnhem, please visit [ncl.net.au/welcome-to-nhulunbuy](http://ncl.net.au/welcome-to-nhulunbuy)

To learn more about the abundance of recreation and tourism activities in East Arnhem, please visit [eastarnhemland.com.au](http://eastarnhemland.com.au)

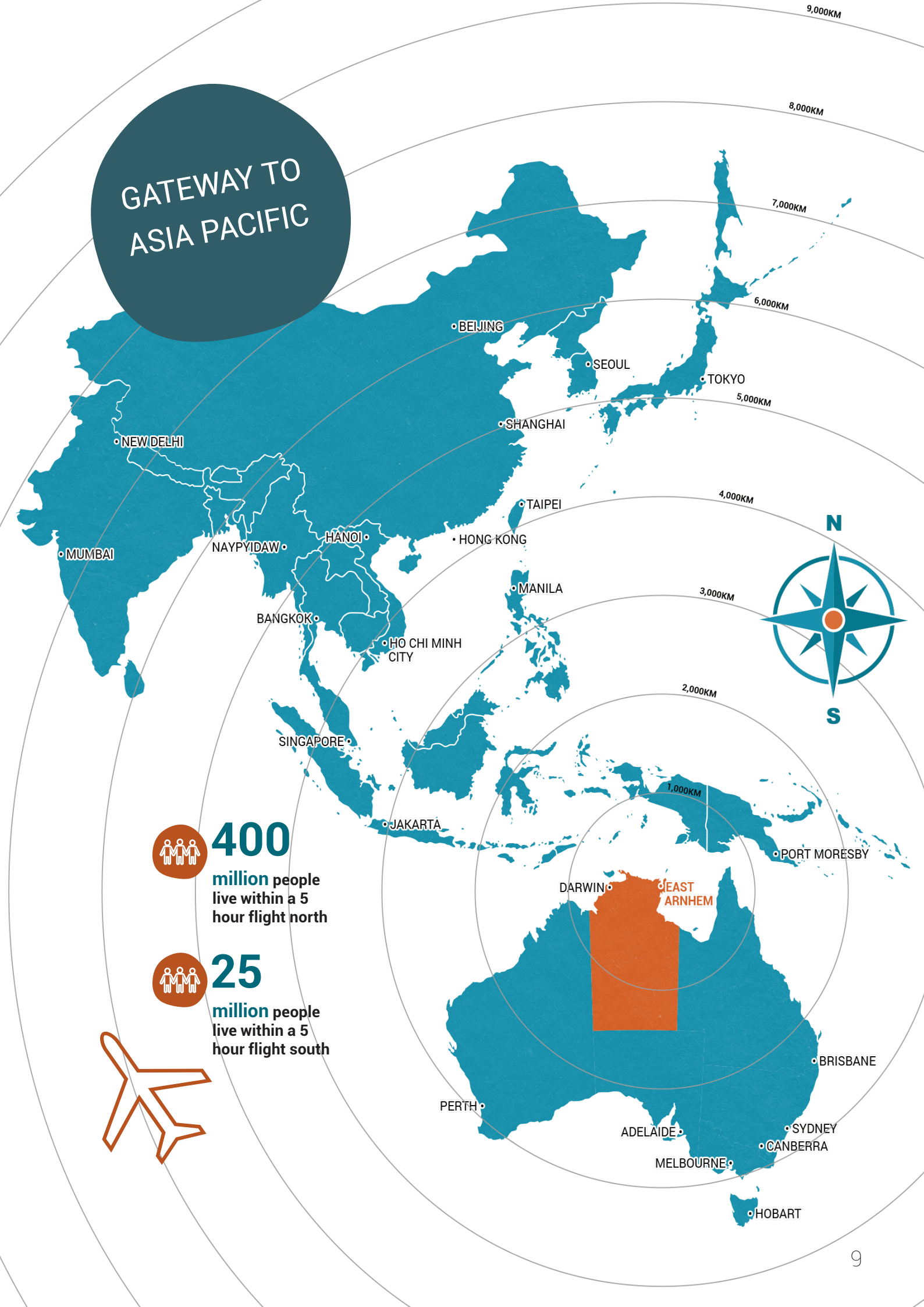


# EAST ARNHEM AT A GLANCE



MAJOR INDUSTRY SECTOR ECONOMIC VALUES 2018/19				
SECTOR	OUTPUT BY SECTOR (\$ million)	SECTOR % of TOTAL REGIONAL OUTPUT	VALUE ADD by SECTOR (\$ million)	EMPLOYMENT by SECTOR
Mining	1,693.4	65.3	1,122.4	1,493
Health care and social assistance	129.1	5.0	87.2	852
Education and Training	101.3	3.9	72.4	895
Public administration and safety	97.8	3.8	69.1	713
Construction	170.4	6.6	47.2	475
Manufacturing	84.2	3.2	14.1	128
Transport, freight and logistics	49.4	1.9	22.5	234
Other services*	41.8	1.6	23.7	547
Retail trade	28.0	1.1	19.1	326
Administrative and support services	27.8	1.1	18.2	180
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	17.1	0.7	9.8	50
Tourism	7.8	0.3	4.0	81

\*Other services include Repair and Maintenance, Personal and Other Services, Private Households Employing Staff and Undifferentiated Goods





## REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY

### ROAD

The Central Arnhem Road is the primary access road to the region and runs 675 kilometres from the Stuart Highway to Nhulunbuy, with a travel time between the towns of Katherine and Nhulunbuy of 8 to 10 hours over an approximate 720 kilometres. Although large sections of the road are unsealed, it is well-maintained and open to travel with a four-wheel drive vehicle and a [Northern Land Council permit](#) for the vast majority of the year.

See page 38 for more information on the Central Arnhem Road.

### AIR

Gove (Nhulunbuy) Airport is serviced by regular nonstop Airnorth commercial passenger flights from both Darwin and Cairns. Therefore, international visitors and work-force participants can quickly transit to Nhulunbuy in just over an hour from Darwin and 1 hour and 40 minutes from Cairns.

Airnorth, Fly Tiwi and Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) also provide regular, scheduled services to all major regional locations.

See page 40 for more information on regional air connectivity.

### DIGITAL

Telecommunication infrastructure is vital to the development of future-focused industries, and the East Arnhem region is serviced by the Arnhem Fibre Network, which provides broadband telecommunication services via the National Broadband Network (NBN).

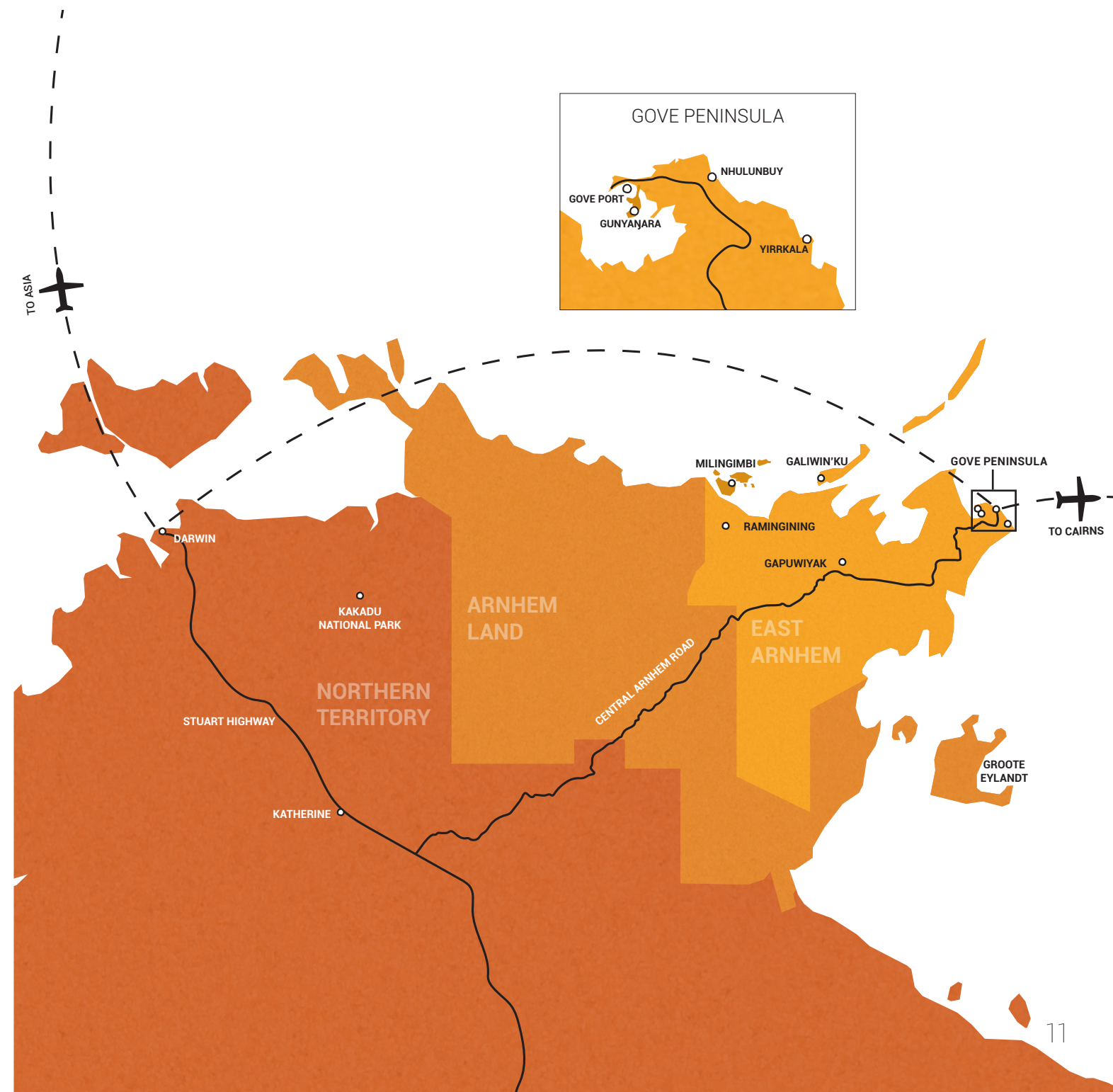
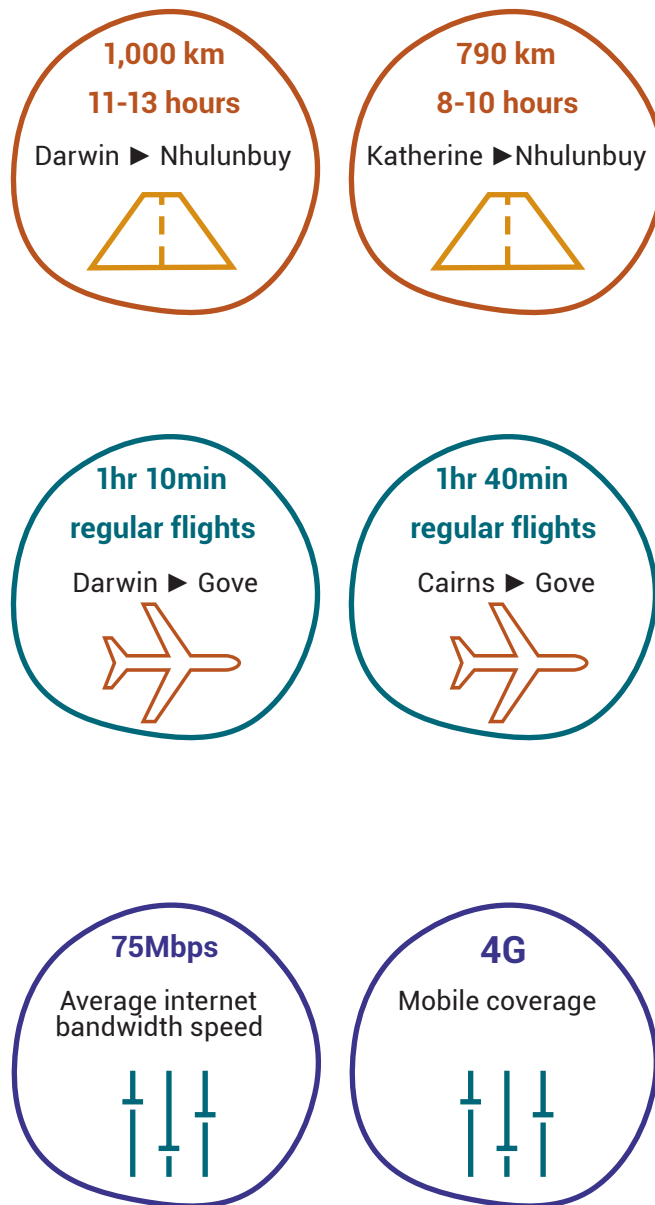
The telecommunications services in the East Arnhem region are considered to be superior to some major cities and regional centres across the continent. Nhulunbuy boasts Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) infrastructure for residential and commercial use, with the remainder of the East Arnhem region able to connect with a combination of NBN satellite and Sky Muster services. The region also benefits from 4G mobile coverage in all major towns and communities.

See page 38 for more information.

### SEA

The East Arnhem region benefits from having the Northern Territory's second deepest naturally occurring port facilities, located on the Gulf of Carpentaria and about 14 kilometres from Nhulunbuy. A deep-water marine wharf services the town and region with complementary infrastructure, which accommodates a range of vessel sizes moving bulk goods and large-scale industrial equipment. It includes an all tides access Roll-on/Roll-off (RORO) wharf, public fishing wharf and launch facilities. It is also the location of an \$8 million tourism precinct development due for completion in 2022, to improve hard standing facilities allowing more extensive and safer sea-based tourism. Melville Bay is sheltered, boasts deep-water access, and relatively low tidal movements, making it a user friendly and accessible harbour.

For more information on the region's wharf facilities and for details on wharf parameters and depths see Appendix A on page 56.







## OUR COMMUNITIES

### NHULUNBUY TOWNSHIP

The town of Nhulunbuy, on the Gove Peninsula, is the largest centre in the region with a population in 2018 of 3,274.<sup>11</sup> The prosperous hub of Nhulunbuy supports the broader region by providing affordable goods and services, boasts a stable population and offers a range of rental and long-term lease options for both commercial and residential property. FTTP digital connectivity is available to all premises in the township providing an average internet bandwidth speed of around 75mbps with an average access speed of up to 50Mbps.<sup>12</sup> Residents and visitors are also able to access 4G mobile phone coverage throughout the town.

A vibrant community with a high standard of services, Nhulunbuy operates as a service and business hub for the region. Initially established in the 1960s to service a bauxite mine on the Gove Peninsula, Nhulunbuy has since grown to become the fourth largest town in the Northern Territory. Rio Tinto, through its subsidiary the Nhulunbuy Corporation Limited (Nhulunbuy Corporation), manages the township of Nhulunbuy, including providing town services and operating and maintaining town infrastructure and the Gove Airport.

Nhulunbuy is a self-sufficient town with all the services one would expect in a progressive regional hub. Nhulunbuy has a well-resourced district hospital, primary and secondary schools, childcare, shops and restaurants. Residents enjoy a relaxed lifestyle with access to a broad range of recreational activities and facilities. The township boasts a considerable number of attractive and well-equipped parks and playgrounds, as well as soccer, rugby and Australian football ovals, 9-hole golf course, boat and yachting club, Olympic-sized swimming pool, skate park, fishing clubs, shooters clubs, four gymnasiums, surf lifesaving club, tennis courts, squash courts, competition standard BMX track, speedway and much more.

Boasting a vast array of sporting, community and social clubs in and around Nhulunbuy alone, the East Arnhem region is known for its proactive community spirit and capacity to mobilise to support the future social viability of the region.

For more information on visiting Nhulunbuy, please visit [eastarnhemland.com.au/places-to-go/nhulunbuy](http://eastarnhemland.com.au/places-to-go/nhulunbuy)

## COMMUNITY HUBS

Beyond Nhulunbuy, the Yolŋu region of East Arnhem consists of six main communities: Milingimbi in the Crocodile Islands, Galiwin'ku on Elcho Island, Ramingining on the edge of the Arafura Swamp, Gapuwiyak on the shores of Lake Evella, and Yirrkala and Gunyarrara on the Gove Peninsula. These communities have schools, shops, clinics, airports, and other facilities and services; they also provide services to surrounding homelands. Essential services to these main communities are provided by the Northern Territory Government's Power and Water Corporation. Digital connectivity is achieved via existing copper line ADSL or the NBN Skymuster satellite service with average speeds between 7Mbps and 25Mbps.<sup>13</sup> Major communities in East Arnhem also benefit from 4G mobile network.

These main regional communities receive regular and scheduled barge services accepting dry goods, dangerous goods, chilled and frozen freight. General cargo services reach each community two to three times weekly. Other barge service options include project and charter services, mothershipping, defence, larger scale fuels and oils barge services.

Airnorth, Fly Tiwi and MAF provide regular scheduled flights to our major communities, operating both from Darwin and Gove airports. There are multiple charter flight companies also operating within the East Arnhem region that can fly on demand and direct to most of the major communities and homelands.

Visitation to communities and homelands requires a permit, which can be obtained through Northern Land Council's website. Visitors are required to apply to the Northern Land Council for a permit if they wish to undertake any of the following activities on Aboriginal land:

- Enter Aboriginal land or waters for any purpose
- Travel by road through Aboriginal land
- Enter or visit an Aboriginal Community.

The Northern Land Council Permit Administration System is designed to help protect the privacy of Aboriginal communities, preserve Aboriginal culture, safeguard the natural environment and promote visitor safety. For more information please visit [nlc.org.au/apply-for-permit](http://nlc.org.au/apply-for-permit). Guidance on obtaining permits can also be offered through the DEAL office.

More information on East Arnhem communities can be found at [eastarnhem.nt.gov.au/communities-overview](http://eastarnhem.nt.gov.au/communities-overview) or [bushtel.nt.gov.au/](http://bushtel.nt.gov.au/)

### GAPUWIYAK

Gapuwiyak, with a population of 923<sup>14</sup>, is located adjacent to the shores of the picturesque Lake Evella and the upper reaches of the Buckingham River. Road access to Gapuwiyak is via a turn-off from the Central Arnhem Road about 220 kilometres or three hours from Nhulunbuy. MAF provide regular scheduled flights from Gove Airport to Lake Evella with an approximate flight time of 40 minutes.

The community hosts a sealed airstrip, police station, commercial accommodation, primary health care service, aged and disability services, child care, primary and secondary level schools and local government service centre. General cargo barge services run as a scheduled, twice weekly service. The community store serves hot food and offers a variety of stock.

The community owned and operated Gapuwiyak Culture and Arts Centre sells locally produced works, as well as housing its own collection and supporting over 100 artists from Gapuwiyak and surrounding homelands. Gapuwiyak Culture and Arts Centre also has self-contained accommodation located centrally in town near the Gapuwiyak Airport.

The Gurrambalk Accommodation and Business Village is also located in Gapuwiyak. As a locally owned Yolŋu business and social enterprise, it offers a secure and collaborative work and living space with short and long term accommodation.

For capital works, maintenance projects or longer term stays, East Arnhem Regional Council offers contractor accommodation inclusive of secure storage and parking for equipment, vehicles and machinery.

For more information on visiting Gapuwiyak, please visit [eastarnhemland.com.au/places-to-go/gapuwiyak](http://eastarnhemland.com.au/places-to-go/gapuwiyak)



## YIRRKALA

Yirrkala is 18 kilometres southeast of Nhulunbuy and accessible via Melville Bay Road and Gunyipinya Road with a travel time of approximately 15 minutes.

The community has a population of approximately 800 people<sup>15</sup>, and hosts a community store, commercial accommodation, primary health care services, aged and disability services, child care, primary and secondary level schools and a local government service centre. Yirrkala's proximity to Nhulunbuy reduces its need for additional services, which residents and businesses can access nearby.

Yirrkala is also home to one of the most prominent Aboriginal art centres in Australia, the Yolŋu community-controlled Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre. It consists of two divisions: the Yirrkala Art Centre which represents Yolŋu artists exhibiting and selling contemporary art, and The Mulka Project which acts as a digital production studio and archiving centre incorporating a museum. The centre also boasts guest accommodation in self-contained units, as well as meeting spaces.

For more information on visiting Yirrkala, please visit [eastarnhemland.com.au/places-to-go/yirrkala](http://eastarnhemland.com.au/places-to-go/yirrkala)

## MILINGIMBI

Milingimbi Island, with a population of 1,225<sup>16</sup>, forms part of the Crocodile Island group off the north coast of Central Arnhem Land in the Arafura Sea, west of Nhulunbuy.

The community, situated on the largest island of the Crocodile Islands group, hosts commercial accommodation, a primary health care service, aged and disability services, child care, primary and secondary level schools, community library and local government service centre. General cargo barge services run as a scheduled, three times a week service.

Access to Milingimbi is via Airnorth from Darwin and MAF from Gove Airport via regular scheduled flights.

The Milingimbi Art and Culture Centre is a community owned art centre. Many of Milingimbi's artists both past and present are represented in collections internationally.

Milingimbi is also home to the high end and internationally acclaimed Yolŋu-owned Manapan Furniture. All the product and furniture crafted out of the Manapan workshop uses Australian timber handmade by the craftsmen of the Milingimbi community.

Visitors to Milingimbi can enjoy comfortable accommodation offered by Yolŋu-owned Rulku Lodge.

For more information on visiting Milingimbi, please visit [eastarnhemland.com.au/places-to-go/milingimbi](http://eastarnhemland.com.au/places-to-go/milingimbi)

## GALIWIN'KU

Galiwin'ku is the largest Yolŋu community in East Arnhem with a population of 2,206.<sup>17</sup> It is located on the southern end of Elcho Island, west of Nhulunbuy. Elcho Island is at the south end of the Wessel Island group and is bounded on the western side by the Arafura Sea and the east by Cadell Strait.

Access to Galiwin'ku is via air, including with Airnorth direct from Darwin or via regular scheduled services with MAF direct from Gove Airport.

The community hosts a police station, commercial accommodation, primary health care service, aged and disability services, child care, primary and secondary level school and local government service centre. General cargo barge services run as a scheduled, three times a week service. There are four community stores and a café, which provide strong employment and convenience in this large community.

Elcho Island Arts is a Yolŋu-owned art centre located in Galiwin'ku. Their artworks, weavings, fibre art, carvings and ceremonial poles are widely exhibited and feature in national collections within Australia and in major collections worldwide.

Visitors to Galiwin'ku can stay in serviced accommodation at the Marthakal Motel, offering complimentary continental breakfast as part of the accommodation package. Visitors can also stay in the East Arnhem Regional Council Accommodation, offering secure rooms with a communal kitchen, dining, laundry, and workspaces.

For more information on visiting Galiwin'ku, please visit [eastarnhemland.com.au/places-to-go/galiwinku](http://eastarnhemland.com.au/places-to-go/galiwinku)



Yirrkala boat ramp





Gunyajarra on the Drimmie Peninsula

## RAMINGINING

Ramingining has a population of approximately 872<sup>18</sup> and is located on the edge of the heritage listed Arafura Swamp, positioned inland and 435 kilometres west of Nhulunbuy. The Arafura Swamp is a vast, pristine 1,000 kilometre<sup>2</sup> wetland surrounded by a catchment extending from Castlereagh Bay to the upper reaches of the Goyder and Glyde Rivers. The surrounding areas boast some of the Northern Territory's richest and most extensive rainforests, and support an abundance of threatened, rare and lesser known wildlife.

Drive time from Nhulunbuy is approximately eight hours via the Central Arnhem Road and Ramingining access road. MAF provide regular scheduled flights from Gove Airport to Ramingining, with an approximate flight time of three hours and 15 minutes. Departing from Darwin, Fly Tiwi also offers several flights per week with an approximate flight time of one hour and 45 minutes.

The community hosts a police station, commercial accommodation, primary health care service, aged and disability services, child care, primary and secondary level schools, community library and local government service centre. General cargo barge services run as a scheduled, three times a week service. The community store offers a wide range of food and products.

Ramingining is home to Bula'bula Arts Aboriginal Corporation, a Yolŋu owned, not-for-profit organisation with its core objective being to preserve and foster Yolŋu culture. Bula'bula Arts represents some 150 artists from Ramingining and surrounding homelands.

When staying in this vibrant community, the accommodation options include Mona Lodge and Dinybulu Lodge. The Dhipirri Barra and Sportfishing Lodge, off the coast of Ramingining, also offers accommodation and dining services, as well as high quality fishing experiences.

For capital works, maintenance projects or longer-term stays, East Arnhem Regional Council offers contractor accommodation inclusive of secure storage and parking for equipment, vehicles and machinery.

For more information on visiting Ramingining, please visit [eastarnhemland.com.au/places-to-go/ramingining](http://eastarnhemland.com.au/places-to-go/ramingining)

## GUNYAJARRA

Gunyajarra is located on Gunyajarra Island in Melville Bay, with a population of approximately 240.<sup>19</sup> The small island community, also known as Ski Beach, is joined to the mainland by a causeway at Drimmie Peninsula, west of Nhulunbuy and sits adjacent to Gove Port. By road, the community is 13 kilometres west of Nhulunbuy town centre and boasts a sporting oval, primary health care services, early primary schooling, and a youth centre.

The Gunyajarra community and surrounds is managed under a 99-year township lease held by the Njarrariyal Aboriginal Corporation. This presents a unique opportunity to work directly with Gumatj traditional owners on economic and community development opportunities on their land through the [Gunyajarra Township Lease](#).

The community has a Yolŋu managed community shop, Gopu Community Store, which stocks a range of locally produced artwork and jewellery items as well as groceries and take away coffee. Gunyajarra is home to the well-established Gumatj sawmill, a woodwork facility that utilises timber sourced from a local Aboriginal led forestry operation. The sawmill produces highly sought-after timber roof trusses, furniture and various other timber products.

For more information on visiting Gunyajarra, please visit [eastarnhemland.com.au/places-to-go/gunyajarra](http://eastarnhemland.com.au/places-to-go/gunyajarra)

## HOMELANDS

Outside of the main communities across the region, there are more than 50 Yolŋu homelands. These are small communities established through the homelands movement of the 1970s when kinship groups left mission communities to return to their traditional lands. Homelands represent the vision of Yolŋu leaders to determine their future.

Homelands range in population from less than 10 people through to over 100 people. Homelands have basic essential and municipal services delivered through homelands service providers, as well as community housing. Access is generally by road and most homelands have airstrips for charter plane access.

Homelands leaders and residents are particularly entrepreneurial and there are a range of successful businesses already operating across the region. Homelands welcome economic development, including through partnerships, as an important means of supporting employment and connection to country for future generations.



# WHY EAST ARNHEM?



## YOLŊU CULTURE

- **LAND & SEAS:** Partner with traditional owners, Yolŋu communities and homelands seeking to leverage their land, sea and cultural assets for sustainable development.
- **PARTNERSHIPS:** Drive innovative and meaningful partnerships with Yolŋu on their lands to progress Yolŋu aspirations for economic independence.
- **OLDEST CONTINUOUS CULTURE:** Draw on 60,000 years of culture and history.
- **KNOWLEDGE:** Share in the strengths of traditional and modern knowledge and practices of one of the oldest continuous cultures on Earth.
- **HISTORY OF TRADE:** Build upon a proud history of Yolŋu enterprise and cultural exchange with Macassan traders.



## SUPPORT

- **GOVERNMENT SUPPORT:** Continued support from the Northern Territory and Australian Governments for project facilitation, infrastructure investment, capacity and capability development, and economic growth opportunities.
- **BUSINESS SUPPORT:** Dedicated business and industry development support networks.
- **SKILLED WORKFORCE:** A local, highly skilled and motivated workforce to support the development and operation of new projects and industries.
- **COMMITTED RESIDENTS:** An established, collaborative and passionate community driven to see East Arnhem succeed post-mining.



## CONNECTIVITY

- **TRANSPORT:** Established road, air and sea corridors support the transportation of goods, services and people.
- **TELECOMMUNICATIONS:** High speed broadband powered by the Arnhem Fibre Network over the NBN and fibre to the premises is one of the most reliable connection types available.



## LOCATION

- **GEOGRAPHICAL ADVANTAGE:** Strategically positioned between Darwin and Cairns, with the only deep-water port and major airport between the two.
- **GATEWAY TO ASIA PACIFIC:** Geographically positioned as a natural gateway to Asia Pacific markets, equipped with existing infrastructure.
- **SPACE INDUSTRY:** Ideally situated for commercial orbital and sub-orbital space engagement due to its proximity to the equator and to the sea, and consistent weather, matched with low density population and comparably low air traffic movement.

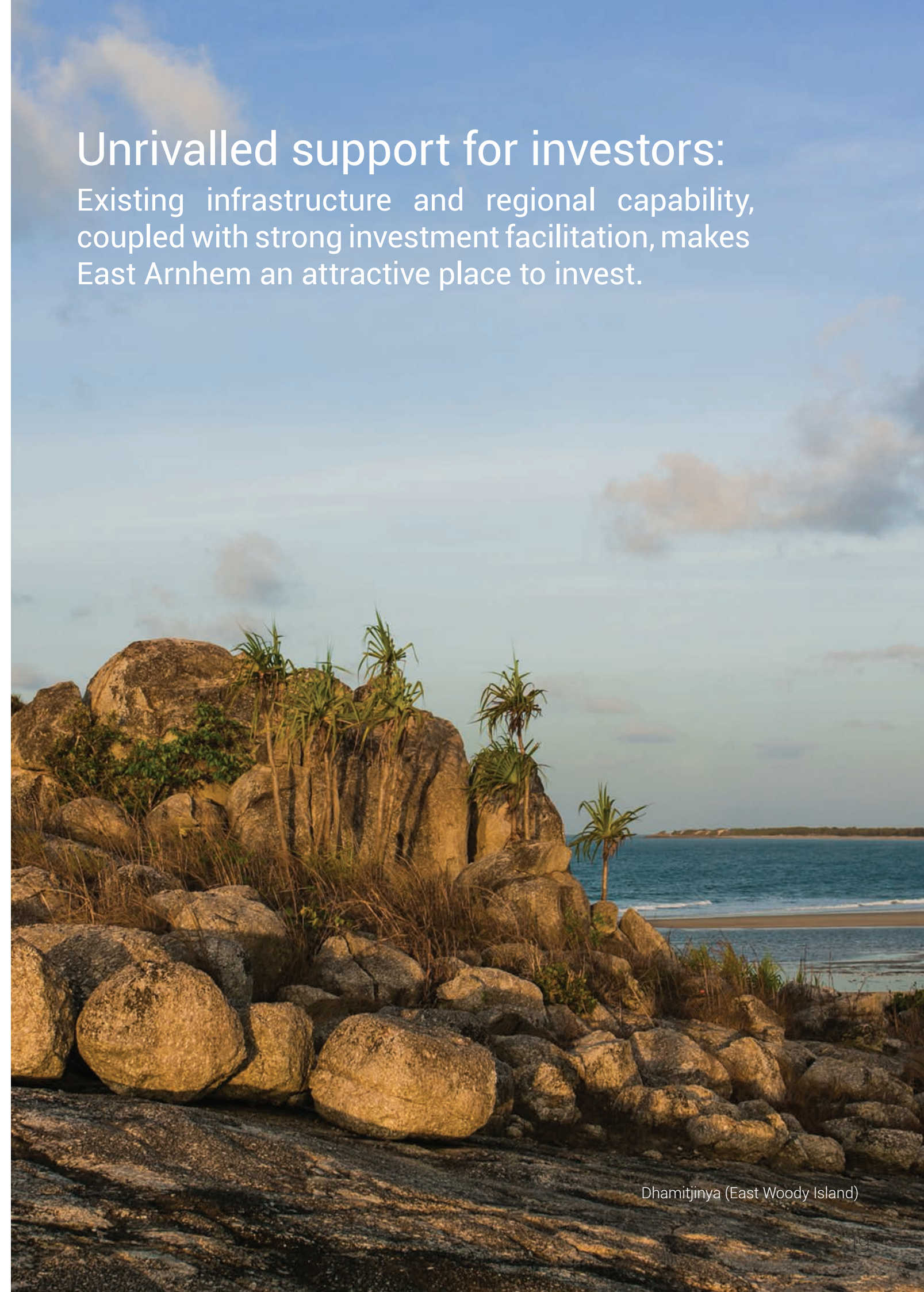


## INFRASTRUCTURE

- **COMMERCIAL PORT FACILITIES:** A deep-water marine wharf with complementary infrastructure accommodates a range of vessel sizes, moving bulk goods and large-scale industrial equipment.
- **TOURISM PORT FACILITIES:** An \$8 million land and marine tourism precinct in Melville Bay is currently under construction, and includes boat mooring, restaurant, and the newly developed Manyimi Campground facilities.
- **AIRPORT:** Aerodrome equipped to handle 150,000 plus passengers per annum, and separate terminals for smaller general aviation craft.
- **ACCESS ROADS:** Significant investments committed to improving the Regional Arterial Road Network including a \$225 million Central Arnhem Road upgrade.
- **TERRITORY TOWN:** Home to the fourth largest regional town in the Northern Territory, which boasts significant town infrastructure including a considerable number of attractive and well-equipped parks, sporting facilities and playgrounds, hospital, high quality schools, police stations, arts centres, and a 32 bed flexible aged care facility under development.
- **HOUSING:** Access to housing to support industry and business development through a range of rental and long-term lease options.
- **LIVEABILITY:** Full range of commercial and community services, including significant range of public and private health services.
- **LIFESTYLE:** A unique way of life in a pristine natural environment.

## Unrivalled support for investors:

Existing infrastructure and regional capability, coupled with strong investment facilitation, makes East Arnhem an attractive place to invest.



Dhamitjinya (East Woody Island)





KEY

INDUSTRIES

## EXISTING SECTORS

### MINING AND RESOURCES

The mining sector in East Arnhem has the largest output by industry, generating \$1,693.4 million in 2018/19 and is the largest employer, generating 1,493 jobs.<sup>20</sup>

SECTOR	OUTPUT BY SECTOR (\$ billion)	SECTOR % of TOTAL REGIONAL OUTPUT	VALUE ADD by SECTOR (\$ billion)	EMPLOYMENT by SECTOR
Mining	1,693	65.3	1,122	1,493

Mining and resources continue to play a significant part in the East Arnhem economy, with Rio Tinto's Gove Operations bauxite extraction activities set to continue for approximately the next decade. Another mining company on the Gove Peninsula, and supplier of bauxite to Rio Tinto, is the Gulkula Mining Company located on the Dhupuma Plateau approximately 30 kilometres south of the Nhulunbuy township. The Gulkula Mining Company is Australia's first Aboriginal-owned and operated bauxite mine.

With Rio Tinto's workforce being primarily residential, mining employees have embraced the Nhulunbuy community and lifestyle, and contribute substantially to the regional economy.





Gove District Hospital, Nhulunbuy

## GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Public administration and safety – which includes public administration, defence, public order, safety and regulatory services – is the region's fourth largest employment sector offering East Arnhem 713 jobs in 2018/19, with an output of \$97.8 million.<sup>21</sup>

East Arnhem is well represented by various government departments and services, with regionalised service delivery converging in Nhulunbuy and extending services out into the region. The region is serviced by all three tiers of government, plus the Nhulunbuy township governance of Nhulunbuy Corporation, supporting East Arnhem in the following areas:

- Aged and disability services
  - Animal Management Program
  - Aviation and compliance
  - Building compliance and development
  - Capital works and maintenance
  - Cemetery management
  - Children and family services
  - Citizenship ceremonies
  - Commercial services (including mechanical workshops)
  - Community housing
  - Community Patrol
  - Community Safety Companion Animal Welfare and Control
  - Economic and community development
  - Emergency services, safety and policing
- Employment support and welfare
  - Environmental and waste services
  - Infrastructure maintenance and development
  - Libraries
  - Local court/justice
  - Local Emergency Management
  - Local roads maintenance
  - Maintenance of council-controlled parks, reserves and open spaces
  - Norforce
  - Post office
  - Primary and allied health
  - Primary and secondary education
  - Tourist/visitor information
  - Traffic management and local roads
  - Youth, sport and recreation

For the year 2018/19, there were an estimated 713 jobs in this sector, including:	
Public administration	622 jobs
Defence	6 jobs
Public order, safety and regulatory services	85 jobs

## HEALTH SERVICES

Health care and social assistance – which includes hospitals, medical and other health care services, residential care services, and social assistance services – employed 852 people in East Arnhem in 2018/19, and is the region's second largest employment sector. Health care and social assistance accounted for \$129.1 million worth of output, the largest output sector outside of mining, manufacturing and construction. Since 2013/14 this sector has increased in output by 6.52% per annum, an increase of \$35 million over the five year period.<sup>22</sup>

SECTOR	OUTPUT BY SECTOR (\$ million)	SECTOR % of TOTAL REGIONAL OUTPUT	VALUE ADD by SECTOR (\$ million)	EMPLOYMENT by SECTOR
Health care and social assistance	129.1	5.0	87.2	852

For the year 2018/19, there were an estimated 852 jobs in this sector, including:	
Hospitals	257 jobs
Medical and other health care services	286 jobs
Residential care services	14 jobs
Social assistance services	295 jobs

[Gove District Hospital](#) is a public hospital operated by Top End Health Service on behalf of the Northern Territory Government, which is nationally accredited by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care to the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards. Top End Health Service is committed to providing the best standards of care to local communities with a comprehensive, well-developed, and functional range of services.

The hospital provides accident, emergency, surgery, obstetrics, medical imaging and related services to the regional population. Gove District Hospital received a \$10.7 million upgrade in late 2018 involving expanded services to the emergency department and ambulatory care, including specialist outpatient services.

The Department of Health's Specialist Outreach Services in the Northern Territory facilitate medical specialist visits to the East Arnhem region. Further details on the types of speciality services available in the remote communities of the Northern Territory can be found at [health.nt.gov.au/professionals/specialist-outreach-nt-sont](http://health.nt.gov.au/professionals/specialist-outreach-nt-sont)

CareFlight delivers the Top End Medical Retrieval Service (TEMRS) for the Northern Territory Government, servicing an area around 600,000 kilometres. Emergency department levels of care are provided to sick and injured people in remote, regional, and difficult-to-get-to environments as fast as possible.

CareFlight provides aeromedical retrieval services under the TEMRS contract to appropriate airstrips in the East Arnhem region with its fixed wing aircraft. The East Arnhem region accounts for around 34% of CareFlight's annual retrieval workload (a total of 3,300 retrievals per annum). Operating their King Air aircraft out of its Gove base, this 24/7 service is supported by a dedicated team of eight permanent staff consisting of four pilots and four flight nurses.



In July 2020, CareFlight was appointed as the dedicated inter-hospital aeromedical evacuation jet provider for the Northern Territory Government for the next five years. To service this contract, a Gulfstream G150 jet will be introduced to the fleet representing a new generation of aeromedical retrieval service for the Northern Territory and Australia, which can also be utilised by Gove District Hospital. Plans are also under development for a Nhulunbuy-based community medical rescue helicopter to service East Arnhem. The East Arnhem Community Helicopter project would improve capability to deliver timely and reliable access in all seasons to offer equitable medical care for residents in the outstations and homelands of the region.<sup>23</sup>

A number of Aboriginal community-controlled health services provide comprehensive primary health care across the Yolŋu communities and homelands of the East Arnhem region by culturally competent staff in partnership with Yolŋu. This includes through both medical clinics and regular visitation from primary health and allied health professionals.

Within Nhulunbuy, private practices provide a range of services including general practice doctors, dentistry, physiotherapy, optometry, surgical consultants, speech therapy, pediatrics, occupational therapy and more. These services are either regionally based or service the region regularly.

East Arnhem also benefits from a high standard of wellbeing and mental health support from psychologists and counsellors who reside in the region. All major communities and people of all ages can access professional and counselling services that offer assistance to a broad range of mental health conditions.

## REGIONAL AVIATION

Regional aviation is a growing sector within and around the 33,606<sup>2</sup> kilometres of the East Arnhem region. There is ongoing and future demand for the delivery of general aviation passenger and cargo-based services with significant aviation-related infrastructure to support market and operator expansion.

Passenger arrivals to Gove Airport (GOV) were approximately two percent higher in 2019 compared to 2015, with the airport welcoming over 29,500 passengers in 2019. Groote Eylandt airport (GTE) recorded 17,427 passenger arrivals in 2019 and in the same year Elcho Island airport (ELC) received 4,199 passengers. Although the communities of Milingimbi, Ramingining and Gapuwiyak also receive regular and scheduled Regular Passenger Transport (RPT) services, passenger movement data for these airports is not publicly available due to being under the reporting threshold of 7,000 passengers per annum.<sup>24</sup>

In addition to the services offered by the region's largest air carrier Airnorth (partners to Qantas Airways), airline companies Fly Tiwi, MAF and Chartair provide connectivity to all major communities. These regional services operate from both Darwin and Gove with multiple scheduled flights per week.

RPT services are provided by MAF, a not-for-profit organisation that has been servicing the Arnhem Land region for over 40 years. The RPT provides regular services along critical intra-regional routes offering connectivity between communities and Nhulunbuy.

Fly Tiwi provides direct services between Darwin and Ramingining, Darwin and Milingimbi, Darwin and Gapuwiyak (Lake Evella Airport) as well as a connection service route between Darwin, Gapuwiyak and Milingimbi before returning to Darwin.

The East Arnhem region also has a regular and robust passenger charter presence. There is a range of operators based in both Nhulunbuy and Groote Eylandt servicing the region for individual and business passenger charters, scenic tours, air freight, remote logistics, aerial surveys, aerial photography and search rescue. In 2020, an aircraft maintenance company invested in the region and partnered with a local air charter business to provide on-base aircraft engineering at Gove Airport. This service will be available to all air charter operators for both rotary and fixed wing aircrafts.

Further information on regional aviation operations can be found via [eastarnhemland.com.au/plan/services/air-services](http://eastarnhemland.com.au/plan/services/air-services)



**Gove**  
29,500 arrivals  
956 aircraft arrivals

**Groote Eylandt**  
17,427 arrivals  
672 aircraft arrivals

**Elcho Island**  
4,199 arrivals  
342 aircraft arrivals

**Total**  
51,126 passenger arrivals on regular scheduled commercial flights in 2019.

## CONSTRUCTION

In 2018/19 the construction sector – including building construction, heavy and civil engineering construction and construction services – delivered \$170.4 million to the East Arnhem economy and 475 jobs.<sup>25</sup>

SECTOR	OUTPUT BY SECTOR (\$ million)	SECTOR % of TOTAL REGIONAL OUTPUT	VALUE ADD by SECTOR (\$ million)	EMPLOYMENT by SECTOR
Construction	170.4	6.2	47.2	475

East Arnhem's construction sector provides a substantial contribution to the local economy and has capacity for further growth and development. There is a range of locally available construction trades, including industry qualified teams across the building, civil and other technical professions. A variety of commercial operations also offer a range of civil and mixed works services, including concrete batching plant, block manufacturing facility and timber mill.

In 2018/19, 41 businesses sustained an estimated 475 jobs in this sector, including:	
Building construction	182 jobs
Heavy and civil engineering construction	9 jobs
Construction services	284 jobs

To underpin current and future construction demand and opportunities, the Northern Territory Government has identified and commenced spending \$1.1 billion on infrastructure projects within and beyond East Arnhem over 10 years. The *Our Community. Our Future. Our Homes* remote housing program consists of:

- \$500 million for 'HomeBuild NT' – to build new homes
- \$200 million for 'Room to Breathe' – to build additional living spaces onto existing houses
- \$200 million for repairs and maintenance of houses – additional to existing repairs and maintenance investment
- \$200 million for new government employee housing – to include remote local government recruits
- An additional \$426 million for land servicing to support new housing.



Committed projects in the East Arnhem region under the Northern Territory Government *Our Community. Our Future. Our Homes* program:

#### Galiwin'ku

- 87 new homes
- 80 lots in new subdivisions
- Upgrades to Government Employee Houses
- New ground water storage tank

#### Gapuwiyak

- 38 new homes
- 50 lots in new subdivisions
- Sewer pump station expansion
- New elevated and ground water storage tank

#### Yirrkala

- 33 new homes
- 30 new lots in a subdivision
- Upgrades to Government Employee Houses
- Water supply works

#### Ramingining

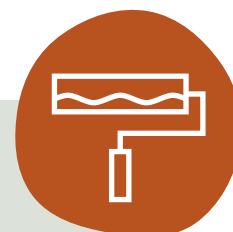
- 26 new homes
- 30 lots in new subdivision
- 1 new Government Employee House
- Sewer pump station expansion
- Water tank upgrades

#### Milingimbi

- 32 new homes
- 60 lots in new subdivision
- New water bores
- New water storage tank
- Significant infrastructure upgrades for connection of new subdivision

#### Gunyarrara

- 3 new homes



## EDUCATION

Education and training – which includes preschool and school education, tertiary education and adult, community and other education – employed 895 people and contributed \$101.3 million in output in 2018/19 for East Arnhem.<sup>26</sup>

SECTOR	OUTPUT BY SECTOR (\$ million)	SECTOR % of TOTAL REGIONAL OUTPUT	VALUE ADD by SECTOR (\$ million)	EMPLOYMENT by SECTOR
Education and training	101.3	3.9	72.4	895

The region is supported by a range of schools, vocational training and university supported research and training schemes. There are 12 primary and secondary schools, and six early childhood/childcare schools within the within the East Arnhem region.

Of the 12 primary and secondary schools, there are four schools located in Nhulunbuy: Nhulunbuy Primary School, Nhulunbuy High School (including Dawurr Boarding Facility), Nhulunbuy Christian College, and Nhulunbuy Preschool in addition to early learning childcare services.

There were an estimated 895 jobs created by this sector in 2018/19, including:	
Preschool and school education	753 jobs
Tertiary education	33 jobs
Adult, community, and other education	109 jobs

Demand remains for private and government funded programs designed to build upon the skills of Yolngu to ensure they can fully access employment opportunities relevant to their aspirations.

Examples of continued university research and teaching within East Arnhem include the Northern Territory Medical Program, which provides training to Flinders University and James Cook University students. This program has established teaching sites at hospitals in Alice Springs, Katherine and Nhulunbuy supported from Royal Darwin Hospital.

## TRANSPORT, FREIGHT AND LOGISTICS

In 2018/19 the transport, freight and logistics sector injected \$49.4 million worth of output into East Arnhem's economy and employed 234 people.<sup>27</sup>

SECTOR	OUTPUT BY SECTOR (\$ million)	SECTOR % of TOTAL REGIONAL OUTPUT	VALUE ADD by SECTOR (\$ million)	EMPLOYMENT by SECTOR
Transport, freight and logistics	49.4	1.9	22.5	234

## MARINE

Barge services operate between Darwin and Nhulunbuy twice a week all year round. Each of the main regional communities of East Arnhem receive regular, scheduled barge services accepting dry goods, dangerous goods, chilled and frozen freight. General cargo services reach each community twice to three times weekly. Other barge service options include project and charter services, mothershipping, defence, larger scale fuels and oils barge services.

In and around Melville Bay and Gove Port, local enterprises conduct inshore marine contracting works consisting of wharf maintenance, mooring and navigation aid maintenance, personnel transfers, work boat operations and labour hire.

Services available from Nhulunbuy include but are not limited to the following:

- Crew transfer vessels
- Multi Cats
- Diving and dive support vessels
- Flat top barges and fenders
- Utility vessels
- Barge ramp facilities
- Secure storage facilities
- Forklift, crane and truck hire
- On water labour hire
- Land side labour hire



## ROAD FREIGHT

To support business and industry growth, road-based transport operates between Darwin, Katherine and Nhulunbuy, underpinning many of the significant industry, business and infrastructure projects within the East Arnhem region. Services range from transporting small personal items through to heavy plant and equipment - and soon to be rockets to the East Arnhem Space Centre. There are also road freight options for movements between Nhulunbuy and East Arnhem communities and homelands.

## COURIER AND POSTAL SERVICES

The Gove Peninsula benefits from a devoted and considerable courier and postal service that often exceeds what might be expected in such a remote location. This is due to the region boasting three independent courier providers plus Qantas Freight and Australia Post. Courier services provided to the region include door to door delivery of general freight and collection of Australia Post mail from the Nhulunbuy Australia Post Office.

Express Post and courier postal services arrive Monday to Friday on Airnorth flights direct from Darwin. Surface (road) mail arrives weekly on the scheduled barge services. Qantas Freight offer an airport to airport service and operate direct from Gove Airport. This service also includes the transportation of approved pets and animals.

Courier services are also available to communities throughout East Arnhem delivered through the Australia Post networks and Community Postal Agents on scheduled barge services and various air services.

## AUSTRALIA POST

In addition to private courier providers, the Gove Peninsula is serviced by Australia Post with a dedicated store based in Nhulunbuy operating six days a week. The store is equipped with 2000 Post Office Boxes and welcomes regular arrivals for registered and express postal items as well as weekly standard mail deliveries arriving via air and sea freight.

The Nhulunbuy store provides all the standard sale and service items one would expect from a regional city store, including mobile phones sales, passport service and identity checks, Motor Vehicle Registration driver and vehicle checks, Western Union transactions, money orders and banking options.

East Arnhem Regional Council is a Community Postal Agent for the communities of Yirrkala, Gapuwiyak, Galiwinku, Ramingining and Milingimbi providing reliable postal services to communities. Council offices in these communities provide essential postal services which include postal sales, envelopes, parcels and stamps, post collection and delivery and are stocked with approved products supplied by Australia Post or other authorised suppliers. As Community Postal Agents, East Arnhem Regional Council offices accept postal deliveries and are available weekdays 9am-4pm for community to take receipt of both parcel and letter post.



## PUBLIC AND PRIVATE TRANSPORT

### Gove Peninsula

The Gove Peninsula Public Bus provides a considerable Monday to Saturday service from Yirrkala ► Gunyarrara (Ski Beach) ► Gove Boat Club ► Nhulunbuy ► Yirrkala. The weekday service currently operates 7.25am to 7.32pm and the Saturday service runs 7.26am to 2.34pm.

There are a number of operators that provide a substantial taxi and minibus service on the Gove Peninsula. There are taxi ranks located in Nhulunbuy next to the Visitor Information Centre in the town centre and near the shopping centres. Services run early until late seven days a week with both pay as you go and pre-paid fare options.

### Homelands and communities

In addition to servicing the Gove Peninsula, bush taxis provide transport to surrounding homelands. They have a selection of vehicles in their fleet including 4WDs suitable for passenger transportation on unsealed roads.

Homelands bush buses also provide passenger services from Gove to Gapuwiyak, as well as various other homelands, with a 20-seater and 28-seater bus designed and equipped for unsealed and off-road conditions. This passenger transport service meets another regional bus service at Gapuwiyak, which then travels on to Katherine, then through to Darwin.

### Car hire

Rental vehicle companies operate on the Gove Peninsula and service both corporate and leisure visitors to East Arnhem, as well as offering some mine approved commercial vehicles to access the Rio Tinto mine site. Rental vehicle companies also operate in a number of East Arnhem's communities including Galiwin'ku, Milingimbi and Ramingining.

There is a large selection of rental vehicles available, which includes hire options for two-wheel drive sedans, 2WD Utes, 4WD Utes, 4WD vehicles, vans and minibuses and heavy lifting trucks.



Australia Post, Nhulunbuy





Lonely Beach, Bawaka homeland

## EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

### TOURISM

In 2018/19 the East Arnhem tourism and hospitality sector contributed to the economy:

- \$4.3 million of value add
- \$7.8 million in total output/sales
- Employed approximately 81 people.<sup>28</sup>

East Arnhem is one of the last pristine tropical paradises in Australia with 60,000 years of rich cultural heritage, including a history of land rights, untouched beaches and incredible biodiversity. The region is perfectly suited to a wide variety of travellers interested in its unique culture. The East Arnhem tourism sector is currently embracing creative and innovative tourism product development, and investment.

The East Arnhem Land Destination Management Plan and the East Arnhem Landowner Prospectus, which are currently under development, will identify significant tourism development opportunities throughout the region. Multiple opportunities exist to partner with traditional owners for investment in diverse accommodation offerings, cultural and natural experiences, and once-in-a-lifetime journeys.

Tourism is expected to grow significantly over the coming decade and form a substantial proportion of the region's economy. There has never been a better time to invest in tourism with opportunities emerging to welcome both domestic and international travellers. Tourism represents an enormous opportunity for enterprise and business development, and workforce training and upskilling.

Strong support for the industry from the Northern Territory Government, Australian Government and private investors has resulted in significant investment to upgrade the Central Arnhem Road (\$225 million) and the Gunyagara (Gove Port) Tourism Precinct development (\$8 million). These projects will make the region more accessible to visitors. The Northern Territory Government has also committed significant funding in cultural tourism through the Arnhem Land Arts Trail Gallery Extensions program towards two of East Arnhem's prominent art centres. The Buku Larrnggay Mulka Centre is to receive \$2.5 million and Gapuwiyak Culture and Arts Centre will receive \$2 million to enhance and further develop visitor experiences.

This, combined with recent work to strengthen the East Arnhem Land tourism brand and the region's digital presence, provides the region with a strong foundation to grow and attract lucrative opportunities for new business development and investment.

For more information please contact the DEAL Tourism Development Officer at [tourism@developingeastarnhem.com.au](mailto:tourism@developingeastarnhem.com.au)

### AEROSPACE

Australia's space industry currently employs some 10,000 people and was worth AUD \$3.9 billion in 2015/16 financial year with estimates the domestic space industry could grow to employ 20,000 people and be worth \$12 billion over the next 10 years.<sup>29</sup>

Local Yolngu-owned business Gumatj Corporation, the Northern Territory Government and DEAL have supported Equatorial Launch Australia to develop the first commercial equatorial launch facility in Australia, to be based in East Arnhem. The Arnhem Space Centre is located on the Dhupuma Plateau, approximately 30 kilometres east of Nhulunbuy. The launch facility will initially be equipped with three launch pads to accommodate sub-orbital and small orbital satellite launch vehicles. The project will provide training and education, support job creation, drive innovation and development of new technologies, and attract new investment.

East Arnhem has the potential to be a major contributor to the growth of the space industry in Australia in both upstream and downstream economies. The global space industry was worth approximately USD \$330 billion in 2016 and is expected to grow to USD \$1 trillion by 2030.

A report released in September 2019 titled Australia Space Launch Assessment found that of the 1,645 satellites that were launched over the past five years (globally), 43% were theoretically accessible to a launch provider operating from an Australian launch site. Between 198 to 213 satellites could be launched from Australia over the 2024 to 2033 period. This would represent a total value of between US\$750 to US\$930 million.

Some of the advantages East Arnhem offers to the space industry include:

- It is located just 12 degrees from the equator allowing launch vehicles to leverage the earth's rotation to gain extra velocity. This improves payload to fuel ratios providing significant cost savings over alternative global launch facilities.
- The region is sparsely populated, air traffic is minimal, and the nearby Gulf of Carpentaria has low activity, allowing for frequent, safe and efficient space launch and easy recovery.
- East Arnhem features tectonic stability (low risk of earthquakes) and consistent and favourable weather conditions.

Tangible opportunities also exist for future technology development within the unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) testing and deployment sector. For the same reasons the East Arnhem region is well suited and supported for space launch, the UAV sector can leverage minimal airspace congestion and our large landmass to develop UAV solutions for disaster relief, medical response, forestry assessment, bushfire management, and many more applications.

For more information visit [ela.space](http://ela.space)



# FORESTRY AND FOREST PRODUCTS

The current forestry industry in East Arnhem is small but regionally and strategically important. Traditional landowners run a sawmill and woodworks facility which is an example of a successful small-scale Indigenous forestry business that has potential to expand its current product range, which is currently focused on replacing imported construction materials including timber roof trusses and supply of specialty timber for local and regional markets.

Over the next five to ten years, there is scope for the northern Australian forestry and forest products industry to double or treble in output value up to \$300 million per annum, as a result of increasing harvest levels, expansion of forest resources and potential for downstream processing and value-adding. These opportunities could also generate up to 600 direct jobs in the forest products industry, which includes opportunities in both the native forest and plantation sectors.<sup>30</sup>

The Northern Territory has the second largest forest stock across Australia's states and territories and has been assessed as having potential for sustainable long-term harvesting.<sup>31</sup> Some of these forests are within the East Arnhem region, with the majority being Darwin Stringybark – which has high durability and multiple potential uses.

A significant research and development project for East Arnhem forestry commenced in mid-2020. The [Indigenous Commercial Forestry Opportunities: East Arnhem, northern Australia](#) research and development project will investigate the potential for commercial Indigenous forestry in the East Arnhem region. The project will facilitate sustainable forest-based livelihood benefits for Yolŋu traditional landowners.

There are four concurrent phases of this sustainable forestry research and development project:

<b>Phase 1 – Forest Product Development Pilot</b>	<b>Phase 2 – Traditional Owner Engagement</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Establish a pilot site where harvesting, product identification, manufacturing, performance testing and market assessments will occur.</li><li>Prepare an Operational Harvest Plan (OHP)</li><li>Commence Conservation and Land Management (CALM) training including tree marking, production identification, species mix and other (OHP) requirements</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Consult with Yolŋu communities interested in commercial forestry informing them of industry opportunities and practicalities.</li><li>This will be championed by DEAL project <a href="#">East Arnhem Landowner Prospectus</a> - supporting Yolŋu to explore economic opportunities on their land.</li></ul>
<b>Phase 3 – Forest Resource Assessment</b>	<b>Phase 4 – Indigenous Capacity Building</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Involves a comprehensive inventory of the commercial forests of East Arnhem.</li><li>This will include fine-scale mapping/reporting of the forests via desktop analysis and field-based surveys.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Working with the Yolŋu communities with identified potential to operate forestry enterprises to develop their forestry workforce and business opportunities.</li><li>Training landowners and community members in forest resource assessment.</li><li>Prepare an integrated forestry development model, identifying how communities can work together across the forestry industry.</li></ul>

# AGRICULTURE AND NATIVE PRODUCTS

In 2018/19 the agriculture sector contributed output of \$1.4 million across East Arnhem and sustained 10 jobs.<sup>32</sup>

East Arnhem has unique native products which, given the growing support for Indigenous native food industries, may have substantial appeal to both Australian and international markets. Kakadu plum and bush apples are two such examples of native products already seeing successful enterprise achievements locally. The agriculture and food industries are currently underdeveloped, though the region may have opportunity to support some of the Northern Territory's more significant crop production products such as mangoes, melons, bananas, citrus and pineapples.

The Northern Territory Department of Environment and Natural Resources has recently finalised soil and land mapping on lands south-west of Nhulunbuy, which shows potential for local food production. The study examined four separate survey areas located within a radius of 130 kilometres of Nhulunbuy, covering a total area of approximately 80,000 hectares. Potentially suitable land for irrigated agriculture was identified in each of the study areas and given a water resource could be identified, there would be opportunities for local food production in the region.

# FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

In 2017/18, the Northern Territory's fishing, aquaculture and associated processing industries contributed \$136 million to the Northern Territory economy and 941 FTE jobs.<sup>33</sup> In 2018/19 the Fishing, Hunting and Trapping sector alone contributed output of \$117.8 million across the Northern Territory. In East Arnhem, the Fishing, Hunting and Trapping sector contributed output of \$5.3 million.<sup>34</sup>

In East Arnhem, for Yolŋu, land and sea are inseparably linked, with traditional owners having responsibility to manage the resources and environments of both their sea and land estates equally.

This provides significant opportunities to work with traditional owners, the Northern Land Council, the Northern Territory Government and the Northern Territory Seafood Council to explore future investment in commercial fishing partnerships.

## COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Industries include wild catch, commercial aquaculture (fish farming) and recreational fishing. East Arnhem has a range of natural fish stock and resources that include mullet, barramundi, mud crabs, mackerel, oysters and trepang. With demand in seafood increasing across the globe, as well as gaps in supply to local and domestic markets, this signifies investment opportunities not only in commercial fisheries, but may also support several downstream activities such as fish processing and marine maintenance services.

## RECREATIONAL FISHING AND FISHING TOURISM

In 2018/19 support services for agriculture, forestry, and fishing contributed output of \$10.4 million and \$5.4 million of value add to the East Arnhem economy.<sup>35</sup>

Recreational fishing including line fishing, diving and tourist fishing charters, and cruises represents a significant portion of the existing fishing activity in East Arnhem. The region has immense untapped potential for further development in differentiated fishing tourism products, including cultural tourism products and shared Yolŋu knowledge that could facilitate new entry fishing tourism businesses and tours. The surrounding waters offer attractive recreational species including snapper varieties, barramundi, red emperor, coral trout, giant trevally, tuna, marlin and more. Mud cubs and crayfish are also a local favourite.



## LAND MANAGEMENT

The land management sector is well established in the region with Aboriginal ranger groups responsible for the maintenance of the Indigenous Protected Areas. Although the sector is generally dependent on government funding and grants, in recent times, there has been an increase in fee-for-service commercial activity.

Rangers carry out a range of core land management work that includes: marine debris clean ups, weed and fire management, pest animal control and quarantine, cultural site management, sea country patrols and surveillance operations, Indigenous knowledge transfer, community education and biodiversity surveys. Ranger groups are also increasingly involved in community development programs.

East Arnhem's ranger groups and traditional owners hold a wealth of knowledge in the conservation of country and management of biosecurity which may lead to innovative collaboration with significant investment potential.

An example of successful land management practices leading to positive economic outcomes and opportunities is demonstrated by ranger groups participating in the carbon farming industry. Utilising 'Savanna Burning Methodology' practices, nine Aboriginal ranger groups consisting of traditional owners and their families operate a total of five fire projects across Arnhem Land, managing an area of 80,000 square kilometres. Australia's vast and ecologically intact northern tropical savannas are extremely flammable, and fire is arguably the most important tool that Aboriginal people have for looking after country.

A 2018/19 summary of outcomes for these groups (as a collective) include:

- 491,942 total tonnes of greenhouse gas abated
- 487,712 Australian Carbon Credit Units secured
- 500 traditional owners involved
- 250 rangers employed
- \$5,440,690 revenue generated (down from \$10,683,612 generated in 2017/18).<sup>36</sup>

## DEFENCE

Defence spending reached \$2 billion in the Northern Territory in 2018/19, or 7.6% of Gross State Product. This reflects an increase of 1.1% compared to the previous year.<sup>37</sup> In 2016 the Australian Government released the Defence White Paper stating an investment of \$8 billion in the Northern Territory between 2016 and 2025 for defence infrastructure and facilities. This is providing opportunities for small to medium Northern Territory businesses to secure long-term work.

The Northern Territory is at the frontline of Australia's national security, and the defence sector contributes significantly to the Northern Territory economy. This is achieved through job creation, building infrastructure and demand for goods and services. Those employed in this industry, together with their families, total around 9,500 people, or 4% of the NT population. The Northern Territory Government is also investing \$100 million to develop a Darwin ship lift and marine industry facility in response to the growing need for marine industry services from defence and Australian Border Force, among other sectors. Seventy-five percent of Australia's Armidale class patrol boats, a squadron of FA18 Classic Hornet fighter jets and a large portion of the Tiger Armed Reconnaissance Helicopters are in the Northern Territory.

East Arnhem has a vast landscape with low population density, existing infrastructure, a natural deep-water port, and sits as a gateway to Asia. Opportunities may emerge to partner with traditional owners and governments to increase defence and border protection services, as well as biosecurity services.

Australian Border Force has a presence in East Arnhem with a permanent office based at Gove Port. Their scope of works includes engaging directly with Rio Tinto – specifically with regard to international shipping arrivals – and with land and sea ranger groups, marine debris surveying and Northern Territory Police operations.

Norforce, an infantry regiment of the Australian Army Reserve for Northern Australia, also has a permanent base in Nhulunbuy.

For more information, please visit [defence.nt.gov.au](https://defence.nt.gov.au)

## AGED AND DISABILITY CARE

The residential care services<sup>38</sup> and social assistance services<sup>39</sup> alone contributed \$33.9 million worth of output into East Arnhem's economy and employed 309 people in 2018/19.

There remains strong demand for aged care and disability services within the East Arnhem region, and with this demand comes significant opportunity for private and for-purpose entities to establish high quality services to support our community.

The [National Disability Insurance Scheme](#) signifies an immense opportunity to leverage support and funding to the essential services and care sectors. There are millions of dollars' worth of support for services which could be delivered to disability clients throughout the region, with potential to create significant employment and investment opportunities. This also correlates to potential openings for related skilling and workforce development offerings.

In the 2018/19 period, two forward thinking entities committed to establishing themselves in the region:

- Australian Regional and Remote Community Services has executed contracts with all parties involved in the construction of a \$20 million 32-bed flexible aged care facility in Nhulunbuy. This facility is expected to supply approximately 50 local jobs.
- Carers NT has recently completed the purchase of existing infrastructure in Nhulunbuy to deliver short stay and respite services for clients from within East Arnhem. The decision of Carers NT to do so came as a result of identifying a regional demand which remains significantly underserved, emphasising the sector as an emerging opportunity. Since completion of the renovation project in May 2020, there have been a total of 12 jobs created in Nhulunbuy, three of which are held by Yolŋu employees.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY

As Nhulunbuy and the Gove Peninsula transitions towards a post-mining future over the next 10 years, ongoing power generation will be a huge industry opportunity.

With Rio Tinto currently generating and distributing power to the Gove Peninsula, regional stakeholders are exploring alternative generation and innovative grid solutions to reduce emissions, improve reliability, provide capacity for growth and broaden the current grid reach to connect key regional industries, including the Garma Festival site, Arnhem Space Centre and Gulkula bauxite mine. Commercial opportunities may emerge to partner with traditional owners and governments to implement new arrangements for the Gove Peninsula to meet its future need.

The Northern Territory Government has a commitment to invest in sustainable renewable energy releasing such strategies such as:

- [Climate Change Response: Towards 2050](#)
- [Northern Territory renewable hydrogen strategy](#)
- [Northern Territory Offsets Framework](#)



Fire management in East Arnhem homelands



# ENABLING

# ENVIRONMENT



Melville Bay Commercial Precinct

## AIRPORTS

The East Arnhem region has several airports, with Gove (Nhulunbuy) Airport – the region's aviation hub – providing the most scheduled passenger movements in the area welcoming over 58,098 passengers in 2019.<sup>40</sup>

The runway comprises an asphalt length of 2,208 metres and a width of 45 metres wide with the capability of safely landing larger jet aircraft such as the Boeing 737-400 series.

The airport is currently managed and operated by Nhulunbuy Corporation with regular Airnorth flights to and from Darwin and Cairns and services between Nhulunbuy and Groote Eylandt. For more concise sub regional connectivity scheduling see data for regional aviation on page 24.

Additional airport infrastructure can also be found within the regional areas of East Arnhem. This includes basic aircraft hangar, fuel, and repair infrastructure, in addition to sealed runways at community airstrips, including Gapuwiyak, Ramingining, Milingimbi and Galiwin'ku's Elcho Island Airport.

A significant number of additional airstrips are located throughout East Arnhem. These airstrips are generally unsealed with limited infrastructure, but provide direct accessibility to smaller communities and home-lands.

## MELVILLE BAY COMMERCIAL PRECINCT

The coastal harbour at Melville Bay is a natural deep-water port on the northern coast of Australia having a strategical geographical advantage as the next major port between Cairns and Darwin. Boasting significant existing infrastructure, the industrial and bulk goods handling facilities are a unique industrial asset in the heart of remote Northern Australia.

Deep-water port access means that a range of vessel sizes is capable of visiting Gove Port. Currently set up for bulky goods import and export, a RORO wharf is available with planning underway to create a new common user wharf and separate tourism precinct.

Within this precinct and as a response to growing demand, \$556,677 was invested by the Northern Territory Government in 2018 towards an improved Community Boat Ramp. This purpose-built wharf facility supports enterprise and fishing enthusiasts, as well as growth sectors such as recreational fishing, charter operations, ranger groups, Border Force and local police.

## GUNYANARA (GOVE PORT) TOURISM PRECINCT

The Gunyanara (Gove Port) Tourism Precinct project will improve marine tourism infrastructure as a critical enabler for growth in the tourism industry for the East Arnhem region.

This \$8 million project, which includes a \$2 million investment from DEAL, will be delivered in partnership with Gumatj Corporation, the Northern Territory and Australian Governments, and will see new marine and land infrastructure developed adjacent to the Gove Boat Club to support existing tourism operators, and attract new yacht and cruise tourism operators to the region.

The project is designed to deliver a significant infrastructure uplift to existing facilities to grow existing industry participation, as well as enticing new market enterprises, diversifying the commercial and tourism related offerings in and around East Arnhem.

This represents an excellent opportunity for the diversification and innovation of existing tourism related businesses, as well as new business development in a market that is expected to see demand growth and prosperity for the region.

For more information about how you can become involved in the anticipated opportunities from this project, please contact the DEAL Tourism Development Officer at [tourism@developingeastarnhem.com.au](mailto:tourism@developingeastarnhem.com.au)



## CENTRAL ARNHEM ROAD

The primary road access to the region is the 675 kilometre Central Arnhem Road, which runs from the Stuart Highway to Nhulunbuy and is a vital transport corridor for the region's communities and homelands. Although large sections are unsealed, it is well-maintained. The Northern Territory Government Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics commit on average over \$2 million per annum for regular upkeep and maintenance to the Central Arnhem Road. The Central Arnhem Road averages about nine days of closure per year in the peak of the wet season, which for Nhulunbuy usually begins around December and ends around May, with the height of the wet season typically being from January to March. This may vary for different subregions along the Central Arnhem Road.

Recently, a government funding allocation of \$225 million was provided through a National Partnership Agreement. This commitment will further improve certain sections of the road, deliver a long-term corridor development plan, and continue to improve and support future industry development. This significant investment complements recent improvements to the road, including a \$34.1 million investment in a new bridge over the Goyder River crossing and a \$7.5 million investment in the Rocky Bottom bridge. Such significant budgetary commitments to improving this corridor will continue to enhance accessibility for residents, improve commercial logistics and transport, and welcome more self-drive visitors to the region.

For more information about the Central Arnhem Road, including detailed information regarding drive times, locations of interest, travel itineraries, accommodation, fuel options and general supply locations, please visit, please visit [eastarnhem-land.com.au/central-arnhem-road](http://eastarnhem-land.com.au/central-arnhem-road).

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Telecommunications are vital to the development of the region, which is serviced by the Arnhem Fibre Network and provides broadband telecommunication services. 4G mobile phone service is also available in all major towns and communities in East Arnhem.

The Arnhem Fibre Network was completed in 2009. This \$34 million investment was jointly funded by Telstra, the Northern Territory Government and Rio Tinto Alcan.

The 800 kilometre fibre optic network, which links Jabiru and Nhulunbuy, was initially built to support and connect Nhulunbuy township and nine Aboriginal communities in broader Arnhem Land (Gunbalanya, Maningrida, Ramingining, Gapuwiyak, Yirrkala, Minjilang, Waruwi, Milingimbi and Galiwin'ku) and serve a potential 8,000-10,000 Aboriginal people. Subsequently, Nhulunbuy has benefited from the rollout of Fibre to the Premises for residential and commercial properties. Yirrkala and Gunyarrara on the Gove Peninsula, along with all other East Arnhem communities have access to NBN Co services through the Skymuster satellite services.

The single 24-fibre cable and 2.5 Gb transmission replaced radio infrastructure (microwave towers).

Presently providing a typical speed of 45Mbps, planning is underway to improve the reliability and diversity of the network. This includes investigations to provide network redundancy in the event of a line failure.

For more information about connecting to the Arnhem Fibre, or Skymuster network, please visit [nbnco.com.au/business](http://nbnco.com.au/business)



Central Arnhem Road



## ACCESS TO LAND AND SEA

A critical part of East Arnhem's history is the historic bark petition sent by clan leaders to the Australian Government in response to mining operations commencing on the Gove Peninsula in the 1960s. The bark petition played a key role in the development and introduction of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act 1976* (Land Rights Act), which enables the recognition and granting of Aboriginal freehold land to traditional owners. Since the enactment of the Land Rights Act, all land in East Arnhem has been recognised by law as Aboriginal land.

The Northern Land Council represents the Yolŋu landowners across the region and has statutory obligations under the Land Rights Act to support traditional owners to make informed decisions about their land and seeks their consent for development on country and enter agreements over Aboriginal land. For more information, please visit [nlc.org.au](http://nlc.org.au)

As the front door for investment in the East Arnhem region, DEAL is well situated to assist and support partners to unlock creative opportunities for development on Aboriginal Land.

## NHULUNBUY TOWNSHIP AND INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

The Nhulunbuy township and Industrial Estate are located on Special Purpose Leases held by Rio Tinto Gove Operations. Individual lots within the Special Purpose Lease areas of the Nhulunbuy township and the Industrial Estate are managed via subleases of the Special Purpose Leases.

These subleases work in much the same way as a typical real estate market and can be bought and sold along with any improvements to the land for the term of the Special Purpose Lease.

The areas of the Gove Peninsula subject to mining leases and associated Special Purpose Leases have already been recognised as Aboriginal land, and the land will be granted to the Arnhem Land Aboriginal Land Trust to hold on behalf of traditional owners when the mining lease and associated leases terminate in approximately 2030 (based on current estimations). Accordingly, the traditional owners will be the decision makers about the future of the Gove Peninsula beyond mining.

For further information on work underway on the post-mining future of Nhulunbuy, refer to Gove Peninsula Futures Reference Group (GPFRG) section on page 49, and for further information on accessing commercial and residential property in Nhulunbuy, see page 43.

## EAST ARNHEM REGION

(EXCLUDING NHULUNBUY TOWNSHIP AND INDUSTRIAL ESTATE)

The granting of Aboriginal land is an essential recognition of the ongoing cultural connection of Yolŋu to their country. In support of this, Aboriginal land cannot be sold in order to protect the underlying ownership of the land. There are, however, various other mechanisms to support using East Arnhem's land assets for economic development.

The Land Rights Act provides for the granting of leases, licences and other agreements of Aboriginal land, primarily through section 19 of the Land Rights Act. The Northern Land Council represents the interests of traditional owners and works with proponents of business and industry opportunities across the region to secure appropriate access to land.

The section 19 agreement process gives traditional owners an opportunity to consider, develop terms and conditions and the right to consent to or reject proposals on their land and seas. Once agreed, a section 19 agreement provides the holder with legal rights to occupy and use the relevant land for the agreed purpose such as business, service provision, government and community development activities.

For those looking to access Aboriginal land for investment or business development purposes, it is important to commence working with the Northern Land Council early in your planning stages. The Northern Land Council's responsibilities include overseeing more than 700 section 19 Land Use Agreements that are in place over 3,687 parcels of land.<sup>41</sup>

The Northern Land Council has an office in Nhulunbuy, with its head office located in Darwin, and its staff is available to discuss lease and access proposals, including terms and costs, with potential investors.

Further information on Northern Land Council processes and leasing of Aboriginal land is available at [nlc.org.au/our-land-sea/aboriginal-land-legislation](http://nlc.org.au/our-land-sea/aboriginal-land-legislation). DEAL can also discuss land tenure requirements with prospective proponents and facilitate introductions to relevant Northern Land Council staff on request.

## COMMERCIAL FISHING

Land Use Agreements are also required for any commercial fishing operators wishing to access tidal waters over Aboriginal land, except those areas where there is an existing agreement with the Northern Territory Government permitting commercial and recreational fishing. Agreements are also required for the two closed seas around the Crocodile Islands area and the Castlereagh Bay area in East Arnhem.

Commercial operators include any person holding a licence issued by the Northern Territory Government under the *Fisheries (Northern Territory) Act 1988* for any of the commercially harvested fisheries and for guided fishing tours.





# DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES

## NHULUNBUY TOWNSHIP AND INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Rio Tinto, via Nhulunbuy Corporation, manages the township of Nhulunbuy, including providing town services and operating and maintaining town infrastructure.

Nhulunbuy Corporation administers building and development applications to ensure that construction and building activities are in line with the requirements of the Special Purpose Leases.

The Nhulunbuy Corporation's Development and Compliance Officer ensures that all applications are compliant with the Corporation's requirements and the National Construction Code of Australia incorporating the latest Building Code of Australia.

For more information related to building permits and applications, please refer to [ncl.net.au/services/building](http://ncl.net.au/services/building)

## EAST ARNHEM REGION

(EXCLUDING NHULUNBUY TOWNSHIP AND INDUSTRIAL ESTATE)

For the purposes of the Northern Territory Planning Scheme, East Arnhem is unzoned land. On unzoned land consent is required for:

- The subdivision of land (including where the length of an intended lease, licence or other rights to occupy or use of the land exceeds 12 years; this is applicable to all section 19 agreements issued by the Northern Land Council in the East Arnhem region over 12 years in length).
- Clearing of more than one hectare of native vegetation.

The Northern Territory Government is committed to streamlining development processes and has established a Development One Stop Shop to facilitate development processes.

For the clearing of native vegetation and the subdivision of land outside Nhulunbuy, investors can draft, lodge and track the progress of an application entirely online at [ntlis.nt.gov.au/planning](http://ntlis.nt.gov.au/planning)

Information, including the statutory plans and associated guidance, can be found at:

- [nt.gov.au/property/land-planning-and-development/planning-professionals-and-applicants/develop-on-aboriginal-land](http://nt.gov.au/property/land-planning-and-development/planning-professionals-and-applicants/develop-on-aboriginal-land)
- [nt.gov.au/property/land-planning-and-development/our-planning-system/nt-planning-scheme](http://nt.gov.au/property/land-planning-and-development/our-planning-system/nt-planning-scheme)
- [nt.gov.au/property/land-clearing](http://nt.gov.au/property/land-clearing)



Gunyanara subdivision works

# POWER AND WATER

## NHULUNBUY TOWNSHIP AND INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Nhulunbuy's power is provided via Rio Tinto power generation facilities associated with the mine site, and retailed within the Nhulunbuy township and its Industrial Estate by Nhulunbuy Corporation.

The Nhulunbuy Corporation maintains and repairs the town's water mains and ancillary services. This includes the maintenance and repair of meters, feeder services, valves and hydrants. Nhulunbuy's water is supplied from local bore fields.

For more information related to power and water connection, please refer to [ncl.net.au/services/finance/water-and-electricity](http://ncl.net.au/services/finance/water-and-electricity)

## EAST ARNHEM REGION

(EXCLUDING NHULUNBUY TOWNSHIP AND INDUSTRIAL ESTATE)

For East Arnhem regional areas, Northern Territory Power and Water Corporation is both the retail and network provider of power and water services. Connections for the East Arnhem region are facilitated through the Nhulunbuy office which can be contacted on (08) 8987 0533.

For more information about connecting to power and water utilities, please refer to [powerwater.com.au/customers/commercial](http://powerwater.com.au/customers/commercial)

# RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

The coastal centre of Nhulunbuy offers a range of rental and purchase of long term lease options, including commercial and residential property, some of which are held by the private sector.

The Nhulunbuy Industrial Estate is a 22 hectare commercial and industrial hub comprising a diverse mixture of business and enterprise operators with existing land available for new infrastructure development.

Additionally, Nhulunbuy town centre boasts a range of commercial office and retail space opportunities.

Residential properties are available for rent and long-term lease purchase within the local Nhulunbuy private real estate market.

To find out more about commercial and residential property opportunities, please visit [eare.com.au](http://eare.com.au) and [goverealestate.com](http://goverealestate.com)

In addition to those available on the private market, DEAL has 250 residential rental properties, which include two bedroom flats and three, four and five bedrooms houses. DEAL manages and maintains these housing assets in Nhulunbuy to support ongoing economic and business growth.

DEAL housing assets are used to:

- Attract and encourage new and expanded economic activity; and
- Support the operation of existing business and service providers in the region.

To find out more, please visit [developingeastarnhem.com.au/housing](http://developingeastarnhem.com.au/housing)



# SUPPORTING FUTURE INVESTMENT

Dhupuma Road, near Nhulunbuy





# INVESTMENT AND BUSINESS SUPPORT

## DEVELOPING EAST ARNHEM LIMITED (DEAL)

DEAL facilitates planning and coordinated action to support emerging industries in the region and acts as a 'front door' for businesses and investors from Australia and around the world. This includes the following activities:

- facilitating the East Arnhem Landowner Prospectus to empower traditional owners with an opportunity to develop new industries
- actively promoting the region to facilitate investment and partnership opportunities
- leading pathways to develop industries such as tourism, forestry, fisheries and agriculture
- supporting businesses to navigate development, land tenure processes and test project feasibility
- exploring opportunities in emerging industries – including human services, renewable energy, space, and digital services, as well as leveraging new and improved supply lines arising from improved infrastructure.

DEAL also supports East Arnhem businesses establish themselves or expand by:

- assisting businesses with market intelligence, diversification options and capability development
- providing information and referrals to businesses to access existing support services and business planning, investment and networks
- supporting enterprise development in the region
- investing in businesses through our Economic Development Fund, leveraging the fund to secure additional investment
- managing a portfolio of 250 housing assets, which provides affordable accommodation to staff of local businesses, contributing to the regional economy through property management and maintenance contracts.

To learn more about DEAL, please visit [developingeastarnhem.com.au](http://developingeastarnhem.com.au)

### LANDOWNER PROSPECTUS

The East Arnhem Landowner Prospectus project is being led by DEAL and undertaken in partnership with traditional owners, the Northern Land Council and regional stakeholders. The Prospectus will provide a mechanism for industry, businesses and investors to explore investment and partnership opportunities with Yolŋu traditional owners.

The focus of this significant project is to empower Yolŋu to develop new industries based on evidence and enter new partnerships. Importantly, the project will:

- bring together existing evidence and knowledge about possible economic opportunities in East Arnhem
- provide feasibility information to assist investors and businesses to better understand the opportunities available
- support in connecting investors and businesses with Yolŋu traditional owners and communities who are interested in partnership opportunities on their country.

To find out more visit the project summary at [developingeastarnhem.com.au/assets/uploads/2020/11/East-Arnhem-Land-Owner-Prospectus-Overview](http://developingeastarnhem.com.au/assets/uploads/2020/11/East-Arnhem-Land-Owner-Prospectus-Overview)

### BUSINESS SUPPORT PATHWAY

The East Arnhem Business Support Pathway helps emerging and existing businesses in the region to identify support and funding opportunities to start, establish and grow.

With diverse regional opportunities and a wealth of regional stakeholders dedicated to economic and business development, there are significant opportunities to seek support for mentoring, skills training, guidance, as well as funding to support capital innovation and expansion.

To find out more, please visit [developingeastarnhem.com.au/business-support](http://developingeastarnhem.com.au/business-support)

## NORTHERN TERRITORY BUSINESS SUPPORT

There is a range of services available in the Northern Territory to support businesses in East Arnhem; these services are provided to the region from Darwin.

### BUSINESS ENTERPRISE CENTRE NT (BECNT)

BECNT works with individuals to assist them to enhance their business opportunities through adopting sound business strategies to meet their business and personal goals. The practical business advice is provided free of charge and covers business planning, strategic market development, technology adoption and enhancement, financial management practices, human resource management and business health diagnostics.

BECNT offers a range of services including business advice, business assistance, mentoring and coaching, survival, revival and growth, and interactive workshops.

To find out more, please visit [becnt.com.au](http://becnt.com.au)

### DARWIN INNOVATION HUB (DIH)

DIH is home to the Northern Territory's leading Incubator and is also home to Darwin's premier conference and co-working venue.

The Incubator at DIH focuses on the development of mutually beneficial investment between local and international markets. Programs range from supporting early and later stage Northern Territory companies seeking to commercialise their products or services into international markets, as well as programs to attract inbound high growth companies from international markets with technologies, products or services that have an industrial application in the Northern Territory.

To find out more, please visit [darwininnovationhub.com.au](http://darwininnovationhub.com.au)

### NORTHERN TERRITORY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Northern Territory Chamber of Commerce provides the Northern Territory business community with an effective platform for lobbying on issues that impact businesses. Businesses can also gain access to support across the areas of industrial relations, training, employment, education and networking, as well as attendance at premier business events.

To find out more, please visit [chambernt.com.au](http://chambernt.com.au)

### NORTHERN TERRITORY INDIGENOUS BUSINESS NETWORK (NTIBN)

NTIBN is an interconnected network of Indigenous businesses and enterprises across the Northern Territory. As the peak body representing Northern Territory Indigenous business, NTIBN exists to create more opportunities and greater potential for Indigenous business in the Northern Territory.

To find out more, please visit [ntibn.com.au](http://ntibn.com.au)

### INDUSTRY CAPABILITY NETWORK NORTHERN TERRITORY (ICNNT)

The Industry Capability Network Northern Territory (ICNNT) maximises procurement and supply opportunities for industry within the Northern Territory making it easier for buyers and suppliers to do business. ICNNT provide support services for buyers and suppliers in the region by identifying, developing, and matching opportunities for businesses to connect. ICNNT source competitive local suppliers for projects, and help local suppliers access national and international opportunities.

To find out more, please visit [icn.org.au/who-are-we/our-team/#nt](http://icn.org.au/who-are-we/our-team/#nt)



## TOURISM EAST ARNHEM

Tourism East Arnhem is the peak regional tourism body for the East Arnhem region, drawing membership from a diverse range of businesses.

Formed as the East Arnhem Land Tourist Association in 1988, Tourism East Arnhem has a long history of supporting the growth of the tourism industry. It assists businesses in the region through advocacy, regional marketing initiatives and tailored support to help businesses contribute to the prosperity of the region's future visitor economy.

To find out more, please visit [tourismeastarnhem.com.au](http://tourismeastarnhem.com.au)

## KEY PARTNERSHIPS

### REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE/REGIONAL RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

The East Arnhem Regional Economic Development Committee (REDC) assists the region to grow its economic base by providing independent advice to the Northern Territory Government and other stakeholders on the regional development needs and priorities of the region.

East Arnhem's REDC is comprised of representatives from the business community, for-purpose sector, Yolŋu organisations, industry and government. The REDC has developed its 10 year priorities and seeks to advocate on these on behalf of the region.

Following the establishment of the Territory Economic Reconstruction Commission in response to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, the REDC accepted responsibility for the East Arnhem Regional Reconstruction Committee functions to focus on prioritisation of projects to drive investment and long term growth.

To find out more, please visit [ntrebound.nt.gov.au/regional-committees](http://ntrebound.nt.gov.au/regional-committees)

### ARNHEM ABORIGINAL BUSINESS COUNCIL

The Arnhem Aboriginal Business Council has been established to represent Aboriginal businesses from a range of industries across Arnhem Land and the Groote Archipelago.

Its vision is to support Aboriginal businesses to achieve their aspirations in trade, commerce, employment and economic development through:

- Collective promotion of Aboriginal businesses and advocacy on matters of government and industry policy that affect their success
- Partnership, collaboration, information sharing and support between member organisations
- Dialogue around the opportunities and challenges facing Aboriginal businesses, including education, training, health, mentoring and capacity development.

The Arnhem Aboriginal Business Council acts as a broker between Aboriginal businesses and those looking to partner with them.

Through delivering on this vision and goal, the Arnhem Aboriginal Business Council's key purpose is to strive for greater economic and social participation, empowerment, and sustainability in the region through Aboriginal business and employment.

## GOVE PENINSULA FUTURES REFERENCE GROUP (GPFRG)

To achieve a positive future for Nhulunbuy and the Gove Peninsula post-mining, the GPFRG works to ensure collaboration through several potential transitional activities and facilitates planning for a strong future for Nhulunbuy and the Gove Peninsula.

Group members include traditional owner organisations Rirratjingu Aboriginal Corporation and Gumatj Corporation, the Northern Land Council, the Northern Territory Government, the Australian Government, and Rio Tinto. The GPFRG understands the importance of providing stakeholders certainty about the future land tenure arrangements for Nhulunbuy and the provision of essential services, as well as facilitating potential economic development opportunities for the region.

To learn more about the work of the GPFRG, please visit [dcm.nt.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0006/701547/future-gove-statement.pdf](http://dcm.nt.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/701547/future-gove-statement.pdf)

“

“The Gove Peninsula is one of the most special places in Australia. Our vision is to rejuvenate the region. It will be a place for us to share our culture, and a business and services hub for all of East Arnhem... With the mine closing, the Gove Peninsula will become a place for new business ideas and partnerships, building on our special history and location. We will create a diverse and innovative economy, with a choice of jobs...”

Nhulunbuy will remain as an open town. People will be able to come and go freely and buy and sell land in a commercial way. This will ensure there is a strong economy in Nhulunbuy, with certainty for businesses and investors in land... We want to work in partnership with existing businesses and bring new investment to the region. We seek partners that value our people's knowledge and want to work with Yolŋu in a commercial way.”

**Gumatj and Rirratjingu Traditional Owners of the Gove Peninsula**



# GOVERNMENT, FOR-PURPOSE, EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE



"East Arnhem Land has emerged as a vibrant and enterprising region of the Territory's economic landscape. With a strong and growing regional centre in Nhulunbuy, high quality services and infrastructure well positioned to support new and growing businesses, and a unique offering for investors and land owners across a range of sectors, East Arnhem has a bright future.

My Government stands ready to support land owners and investors to make the most of the rich natural resources and cultural assets of the region and to create jobs and opportunity for all."

Chief Minister of the Northern Territory Michael Gunner MLA

## THREE TIERS OF GOVERNMENT

East Arnhem has significant representation from across all three tiers of government, which ensures investors are well supported across any range of matters.

Australian Government	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>National Indigenous Australians Agency</li><li>National Disability Insurance Scheme</li><li>Australian Defence Force</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Department of Social Services</li><li>Australian Border Force</li></ul>
Northern Territory Government	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet (CM&amp;C)</li><li>Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade</li><li>Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security – via CM&amp;C office</li><li>Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities</li><li>Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Department of Education</li><li>Department of Health and Top End Health Services</li><li>Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services</li><li>Department of the Attorney General and Justice - Correctional Services and Community Corrections</li></ul>
Local Government	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>East Arnhem Regional Council (excluding Nhulunbuy township)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Nhulunbuy Corporation manages the township of Nhulunbuy, including providing town services and operating and maintaining town infrastructure</li></ul>

## FOR-PURPOSE SECTOR

The East Arnhem for-purpose sector is healthy and diverse, contributing an enormous amount of capacity in the pursuit of social, economic and community development goals.

Working in close partnership with government and community stakeholders, the for-purpose sector provides significant contributions towards projects that build resilience and drive future sustainability for the region and its people.

## WORKFORCE

East Arnhem has a skilled and diverse workforce with a range of skill sets available. This is the result of long-term involvement with large scale resource operations that have significant infrastructure, machinery, and workforce requirements.

Coupled with remote area working, this has contributed to a local workforce familiar in dealing with large projects and the associated challenging requirements.

There is a range of locally available construction trades, including industry qualified teams across the building, civil and other technical professions. A variety of commercial operations also offer a range of civil and mixed works services, including concrete batching plant, block manufacturing facility and timber mill located a short distance from Nhulunbuy.

There are also critical environmental, rehabilitation, and land management services provided by local Aboriginal organisations. These organisations leverage their unique knowledge of the land and provide customised training to interested parties wishing to gain insight and guidance regarding land care across the region.

The region is also well supported in workforce training and development through the Australian Government's Community Development Programme (CDP). The regional contracts for delivery of this program are held by Arnhem Land Progress Aboriginal Corporation (ALPA), and supported by their range of education and community and economic development programs. ALPA partners with a range of local Aboriginal organisations in various homelands to subcontract the delivery of CDP to ensure participants are well supported into employment.

## ACADEMIA

The East Arnhem region has made a substantial contribution to partnerships with leading academic institutions. It continues to benefit from those partnerships in the specific areas of health, community, and social development.

South Australia-based Flinders University has had a long association with the region establishing dedicated fit for-purpose infrastructure to support an innovative remote and rural interprofessional placement learning program.

The University of Melbourne works closely with the Yothu Yindi Foundation through a program of work focused on culture, leadership, education, health and research. This includes the implementation of a teaching program across Northeast Arnhem Land, in partnership with the Northern Territory Department of Education.



# EDUCATION

The breadth of education available in the East Arnhem region exceeds expectations for such a remote location. The region's larger schools offer a high standard of education, supplemented by impressive school infrastructure and equipment.

Some of the region's schools feature 'both ways' education for Yolŋu pupils. This learning system values students' language and cultural background while simultaneously building proficiency in English, maths and other learning areas. Most regional schools teach in both Yolŋu matha (local Aboriginal language) and English - building on the students' first language and developing English as a second language. These schools often employ Yolŋu teachers and assistant teachers.

Students of East Arnhem are very successful in a range of activities such as sporting events, music, Duke of Edinburgh's Awards, art, technology, innovation, student exchange programs, traineeships and apprenticeships.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD/CHILDCARE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY

- Nhulunbuy Community Child Care Centre
  - Arnhem Early Learning Centre
  - Nhulunbuy Pre-School
  - Gunyarjara Annex
  - Nhulunbuy Community Neighbourhood Centre
  - Yirrkala Child Care
  - Families as First Teachers (FAFT) programs
- Nhulunbuy Primary School
  - Nhulunbuy High School
  - Nhulunbuy Christian School (primary and secondary)
  - Dawurr Boarding Facility (Nhulunbuy)
  - Milingimbi School
  - Baniyala Garrangali School
  - Ramingining School
  - Laynhapuy Homelands School
  - Yirrkala School
  - Gapuwiyak School
  - Gawa Christian School (Elcho Island)
  - Galiwin'ku (Elcho Island) Shepherdson College

# VOCATIONAL

## Nhulunbuy High School (NHS)

NHS includes a special education annexe, a trade training centre, a maritime training facility and a 40-bed boarding facility for Aboriginal students from remote communities.

NHS's VET program includes Maritime Studies; Engineering; Conservation and Land Management; Construction; Hospitality and Business; with approval to deliver the following qualifications:

- Certificate II & III in Business
- Certificate I & II Engineering
- Certificate II Engineering Pathways
- Certificate II Conservation Land Management
- Certificate II Construction
- Certificate II Kitchen Operations
- Certificate II Hospitality

More information can be found at [nhulunbuyhighschool.com/vet](http://nhulunbuyhighschool.com/vet)

## ALPA Higher Educations Hubs

ALPA operates Higher Education Hubs, funded through the Australian Government's Department of Education, Skills and Employment Regional University Centres.

Currently, there are Higher Education Hubs in Nhulunbuy/Yirrkala, Galiwin'ku and Milingimbi, with Ramingining coming on as a fourth site in 2021. The Hubs provide support to members of the community engaging with VET and Higher Education (tertiary) studies.

In 2020, ALPA Higher Education Hubs are employing Yolŋu mentors to assist learners to further engage with the community and contribute to the structure of the program. Currently, over 150 members from the broader community are engaging support from the hubs studying health, cultural studies, business and governance, community services, education, and retail at ranging levels from Certificate II to Advanced Diploma.

## East Arnhem Land Consulting and Training (EALCT)

EALCT run a diverse range of skilled training options including but not limited to various licence qualifications such as Heavy Rigid; forklift; dozer; excavator and machinery; welding; small and large motor repairs; vehicle servicing; landscaping; tree harvesting; and Construction White Card. EALCT is also the only local car driver training and testing provider in Nhulunbuy.

# TERTIARY

## Flinders University

Flinders University Northern Territory has a Clinical Education Training Facility located within the Gove District Hospital grounds and facilitates learning and provides support for students on clinical placement.

The facility is an educational hub used by various stakeholders across the region for:

- education sessions via video conference for year three and four medical students
- courses and workshops run by Gove District Hospital
- CRANA plus Remote Emergency Care Course
- interdisciplinary days for students.

The facilities include a Clinical Skills/SimLab/Ward Space, a SimLab Tech Room, two consult rooms and tutorial rooms. Flinders student accommodation includes fully furnished houses and apartments.

For more information, please visit [flinders.edu.au/flinders-nt/where-we-are/nhulunbuy](http://flinders.edu.au/flinders-nt/where-we-are/nhulunbuy)





# GET IN TOUCH

If you are interested in exploring opportunities for your business or have innovative ideas for development, get in touch with the friendly team at Developing East Arnhem Limited.

We are ready and willing to assist with any enquiries you have and can facilitate introductions within the region, as well as provide assistance and advice based on our industry expertise and local knowledge.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

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# APPENDIX

## APPENDIX A – GOVE PORT TIDE LEVELS AND WHARF PARAMETERS

TIDE LEVELS AT GOVE HARBOUR	
Tide Level	Height
Mean High High Water (MHWS)	+2.9m LAT
Mean Low High Water (MHWN)	+2.4m LAT
Mean Sea Level (MSL)	+1.8m LAT
Mean High Low Water (MLWN)	+1.2m LAT
Mean Low Low Water (MLWS)	+0.7m LAT

GOVERNMENT WHARF	
Wharf type	Deck on piles
Nominal Depth (m LAT)	Approximately -2.0m LAT
Wharf Length/Width	Approximately 73m long, 4.4m wide3
Equipment and Facilities	Laydown yard approximately 1,300m2 in area with general lighting provided. Fenders are recycled tractor tyres.

RORO FACILITY	
Wharf type	Barge Ramp
Nominal Depth (m LAT)	The ramp extends out to water of approximate depth of -1.0m LAT
Wharf Length/Width	20m wide ramp with access on tides.
Equipment and Facilities	Laydown yard approximately 3,000m2 in area with general lighting provided.

GOVE BOAT CLUB FACILITY (NB: this facility is soon to receive an \$8m upgrade)	
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Wharf type	Boat Ramp
Nominal Depth (m LAT)	The ramp extends out to water of approximate depth of +0.5m LAT. Access to the boat ramp is achievable at tides of +0.5m LAT or above.
Wharf Length/Width	Two lane concrete boat ramp
Equipment and Facilities	Parking (unsealed) for 68 car and trailer units, as well as 45 single vehicles. Wash down facility. Toilets (in adjacent Gove Boat Club). Lighting and security cameras.

MUD WHARF BOAT RAMP FACILITY	
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Wharf type	Boat Ramp
Nominal Depth (m LAT)	The dual lane boat ramp only provides access for tides +0.5m and above, whilst the single lane boat ramp provides all tide access.
Wharf Length/Width	Two lane concrete boat ramp facing south-west. Single lane concrete boat ramp facing south-east.
Equipment and Facilities	Parking (unsealed) for 85 car and trailer units. Wash down facility, lighting and security cameras.

\* Nominal Depths are estimated from local navigation chart. Dimension needs to be confirmed.

\*\* Wharf Length / Width is scaled from Google earth. Dimension needs to be confirmed.

\*\*\* Approach Length / Width is scaled from Google earth. Dimension needs to be confirmed.

\*\*\*\* Above wharf examples are used to offer an illustration of port capabilities. Condition and usability of such wharfs are not guaranteed and should be taken as a guide to future opportunities.



# APPENDIX B – EAST ARNHEM AIRLINES AND FLIGHT SEGMENTS

AIRLINE	FLIGHT SEGMENT
<a href="#">Airnorth</a>	DRW – GOV – CNS – GOV – DRW
	DRW – GOV – GTE – DRW
	DRW – ELC – MNG – DRW
	DRW – MNG – MGT – DRW
	DRW – GTE – DRW
<a href="#">Fly Tiwi</a>	DRW – LEL – DRW
	DRW – LEL – MGT – DRW
	DRW – MGT – DRW
	DRW – RAM – DRW
<a href="#">Chartair</a>	DRW – GTE – DRW
<a href="#">Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF)</a>	GOV – LEL – ELC – LEL – GOV
	GOV – ELC – MGT – RAM – ELC – GOV – ELC – LEL – GOV
	GOV – LEL – ELC – RAM – MGT – ELC – GOV
	GOV – ELC – LEL – GOV
	GOV – LEL – ELC – RAM – MGT – ELC – LEL – GOV

CNS – Cairns International Airport  
DRW – Darwin International Airport  
ELC – Elcho Island Airport  
GOV – Gove Airport  
GTE – Groote Eylandt Airport

LEL – Lake Evella Airport  
MGT – Milingimbi Airport  
RAM – Ramingining Airport  
MNG – Maningrida Airport

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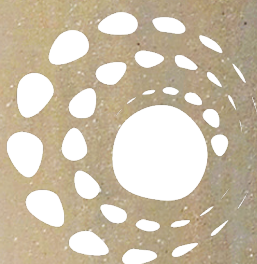
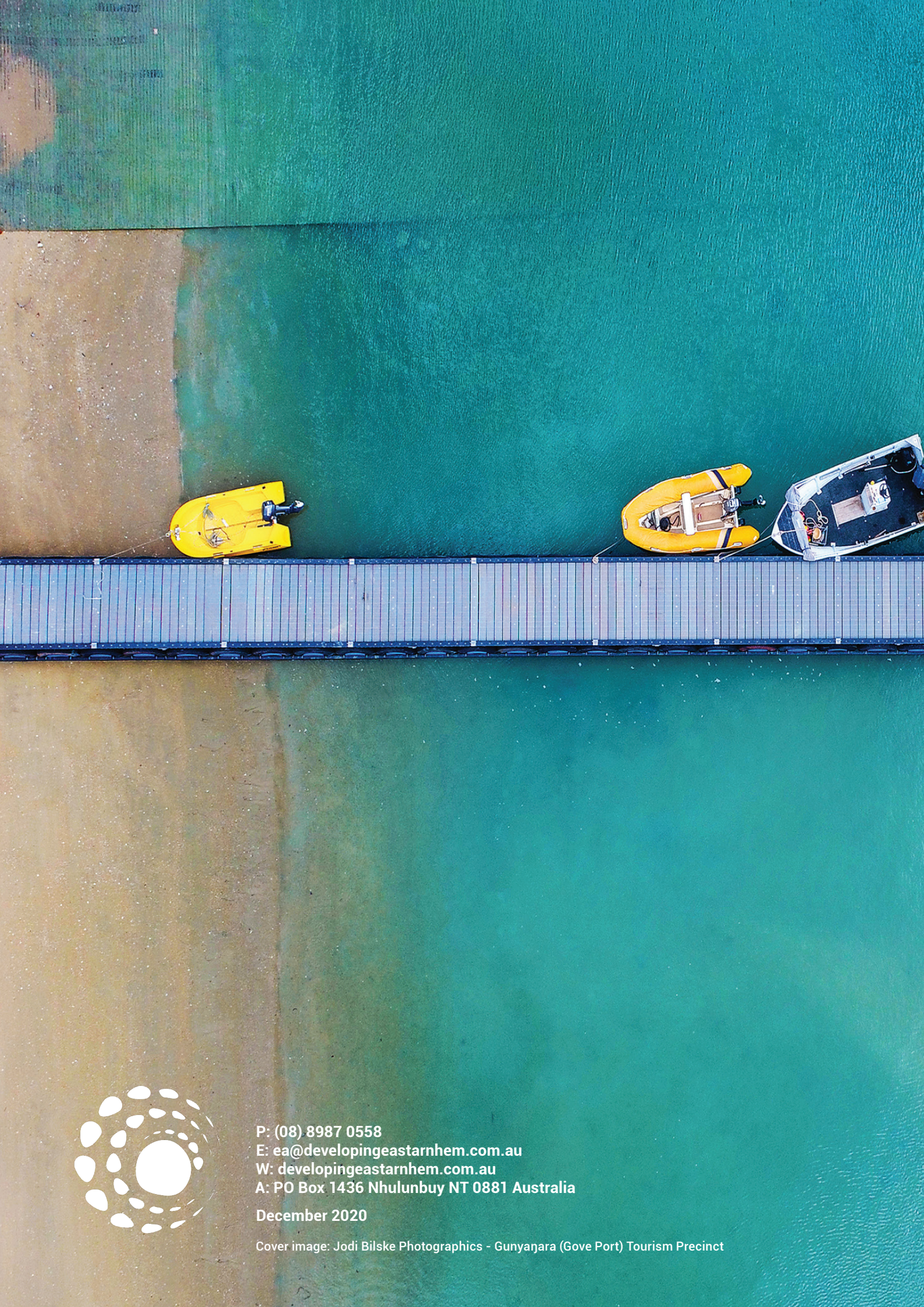
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58

59





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