

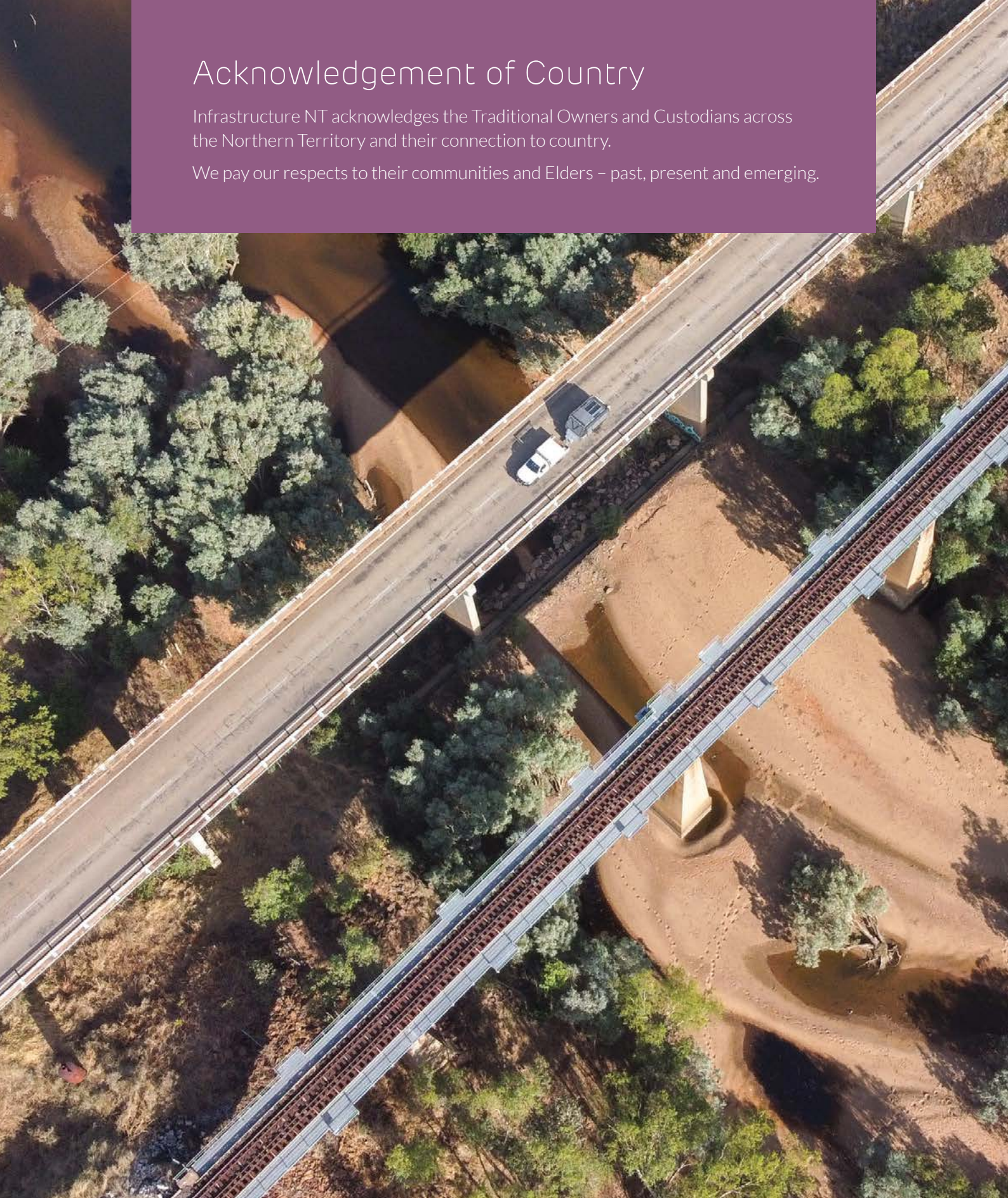


NT Infrastructure Plan and Pipeline **2023** **BIG RIVERS**

Acknowledgement of Country

Infrastructure NT acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians across the Northern Territory and their connection to country.

We pay our respects to their communities and Elders – past, present and emerging.



Above: Stuart Highway bridge and railway crossing. Credit: Territory Families, Housing and Communities Central Australia.

Cover: Looking over Katherine Gorge. Credit: Tourism NT.



Big Rivers

An abundance of natural resources, vast land mass and unique landscapes drive opportunities in agriculture, energy, resources and tourism.

The Big Rivers region:

- > is a critical service hub to develop the Beetaloo Sub-basin and defence
- > is home to Katherine, the fourth largest township in the Northern Territory
- > has 25 national parks
- > has 105 pastoral properties equating to more than 56% of the total region land mass
- > has one of the highest average daily solar exposure rates in Australia, with up to 11 hours of sunshine per day.

Contents

Regional overview	2
Investment portfolio	4
Key projects, programs and proposals	5
Nationally significant	6
Territory-wide	17
Regionally significant	23
NT Infrastructure Audit	35

Major industries and growth sectors in Big Rivers



Agribusiness



Resources

The Big Rivers region is made up of over 340 000 square kilometres and includes 2360 kilometres of coastline. The region is approximately 200 kilometres south of Darwin and extends over 500 kilometres south, stretching across the full width of the Territory from the Western Australia border in the west and the Gulf of Carpentaria along the Queensland border to the east.

The region is home to approximately 21 000 people of which about 50% are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people.

Over 33% of the region's land mass is Aboriginal-owned freehold land. There are 12 major and 11 minor communities, 9 town camps and 110 homelands.

The Big Rivers region includes the remote Roper Gulf and Victoria Daly regions based on 3 major rivers – Daly River, Victoria River and Roper River – as well as the pioneering gold town of Pine Creek, and Timber Creek, Borroloola and Mataranka.

The township of Katherine, the fourth largest town in the Territory, serves as the region's economic hub. Katherine is strategically located at the juncture of the Darwin to Adelaide north-south transcontinental rail route and the Stuart Highway – the Territory's main arterial highway connecting the regional road network to major trade routes from Australia's east, south and west coasts.

The region enjoys a large range of key industries including resources, agriculture, tourism and defence with some of the most significant economic activity in northern Australia.

Agribusiness in the region encompasses aquaculture, forestry, agriculture and pastoral. In 2020–21, the agribusiness sector contributed approximately \$270.5 million to the region's economy and employed 734 people.

With a rich abundance of minerals commodities and vast areas underexplored, the resources industry is a significant driver of economic growth in the region. The industry employs 854 people.

The region has one of the largest deposits of zinc-lead in the world at McArthur River Mine, near Borroloola, and a world-class shale gas resource in the Beetaloo Sub-basin.

The Beetaloo Sub-basin lies between Katherine in the Big Rivers region and Tennant Creek in the Barkly region and covers 28 000 square kilometres. It is estimated to contain 500 trillion cubic feet of gas. Resource estimations are equivalent to more than 1000 times the current annual domestic consumption in Australia.

The tourism sector is a significant contributor to the region's economy with approximately 340 000 visitors per annum visiting the region's 25 national parks and reserves (including the Judbarra/Gregory and Limmen national parks – the second and third largest national parks in the Territory) and 64 expansive river systems.

There is an opportunity to support the creative industries as an emerging industry in the region. Visitors to the region are often interested in a range of experiences providing them with a greater understanding of the unique connection Aboriginal people have to country. In 2020–21, the creative industries contributed over \$32 million to the Big Rivers regional economy.

Due to its strategic location, the defence sector has a long history in the region. RAAF Base Tindal provides the Royal Australian Air Force's major strategic base in northern Australia. The Delamere Air Weapons Range is 140 kilometres south west of Katherine and Bradshaw Field Training Area is 150 kilometres west of Katherine.



Tourism



Defence

The Katherine Logistics and Agribusiness Hub, a large-scale industrial land development, will include a 255 hectare industrial subdivision strategically located at the junction of the north– south transcontinental railway line and national highway links. The site location is intended to serve as an inland port for the Northern Territory’s logistical capability.

The development will provide opportunities for manufacturing, processing, multi-user warehousing and storage facilities, freight networks and logistical connectivity for industry.

Challenges and opportunities

- Increase housing supply to meet current and future industry demands in the region. Scarcity of housing is a significant barrier to attracting and growing new industry and supporting existing private sector employers to grow or diversify.
- Increase short-stay accommodation options for community members visiting Katherine for medical and cultural reasons and also for worker’s accommodation.
- Improve the mobile network coverage, which is primarily through 4G and 3G networks and limited to population centres, and improve rural and remote satellite connectivity to access the national broadband network (NBN) services.
- Grow the population and workforce to service several major projects coming to fruition in the region, such as defence and Beetaloo Sub-basin.
- Increase the availability of titled general and light industrial land to meet future industry demands.

The Northern Territory Government undertook the Big Rivers Liveability Project in 2022 to gain an understanding of the perceptions and reality of living in the region, to identify what is desired in a regional lifestyle to attract and retain people in the region and to create a regional baseline to inform planning, monitoring and evaluation.

The liveability attributes identified as the highest priority for improvement included quality education, protection of the natural environment and quality of health care.



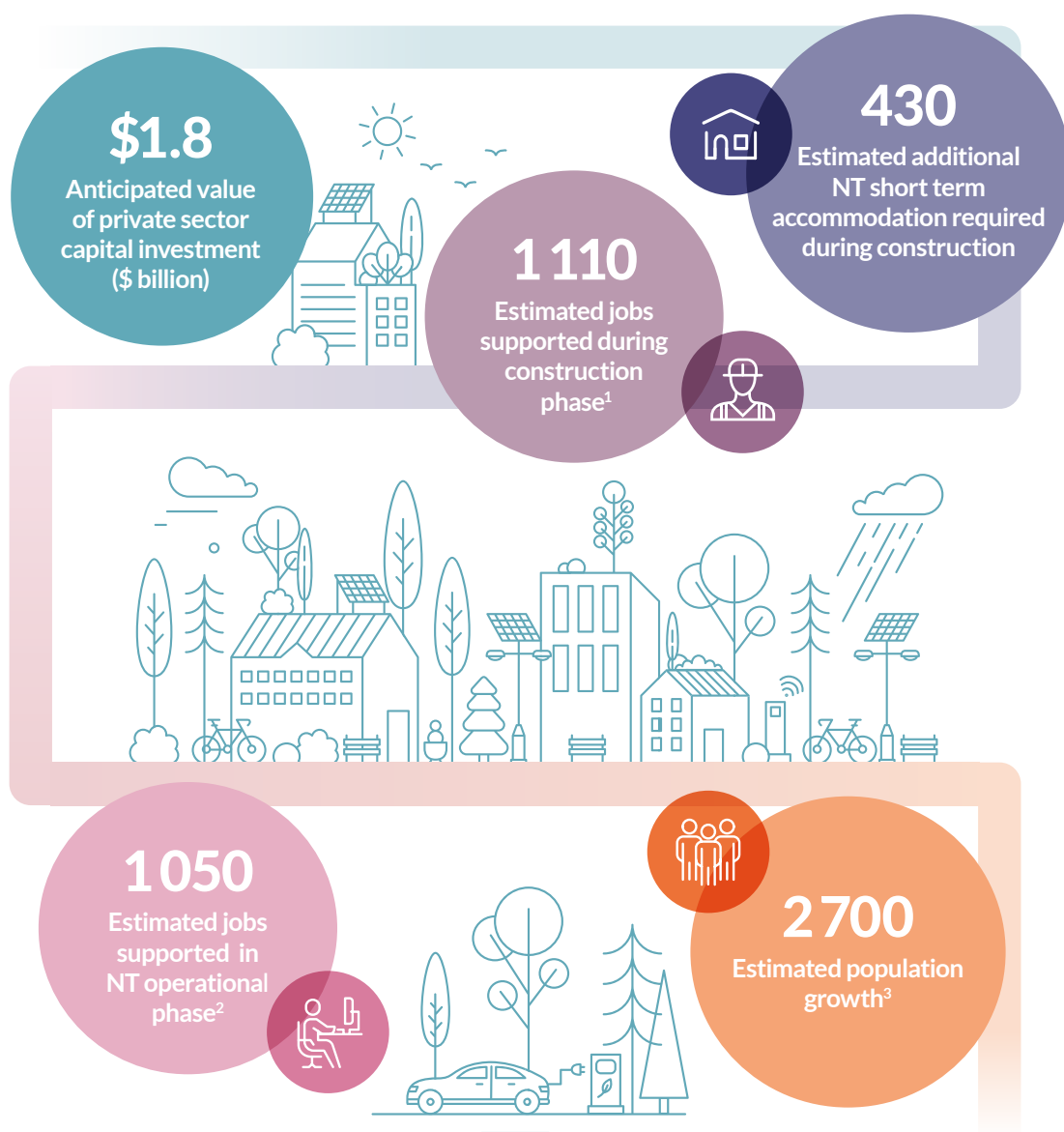
Above: Kentish Early Learning Centre, Big Rivers. Credit: Aspire Design Construct.

Investment portfolio

The total Big Rivers investment portfolio has a direct impact on economic and population growth. It is important to understand the magnitude of economic and population growth to inform the enabling infrastructure plan.

Infrastructure NT has worked closely with Investment Territory to determine the total investment portfolio. This analysis determined the following total investments anticipated for the Big Rivers region, subsequent jobs, accommodation needs and population growth.

Analysis is based on Investment Territory 2022–2023 Progress and Outlook: May 2023

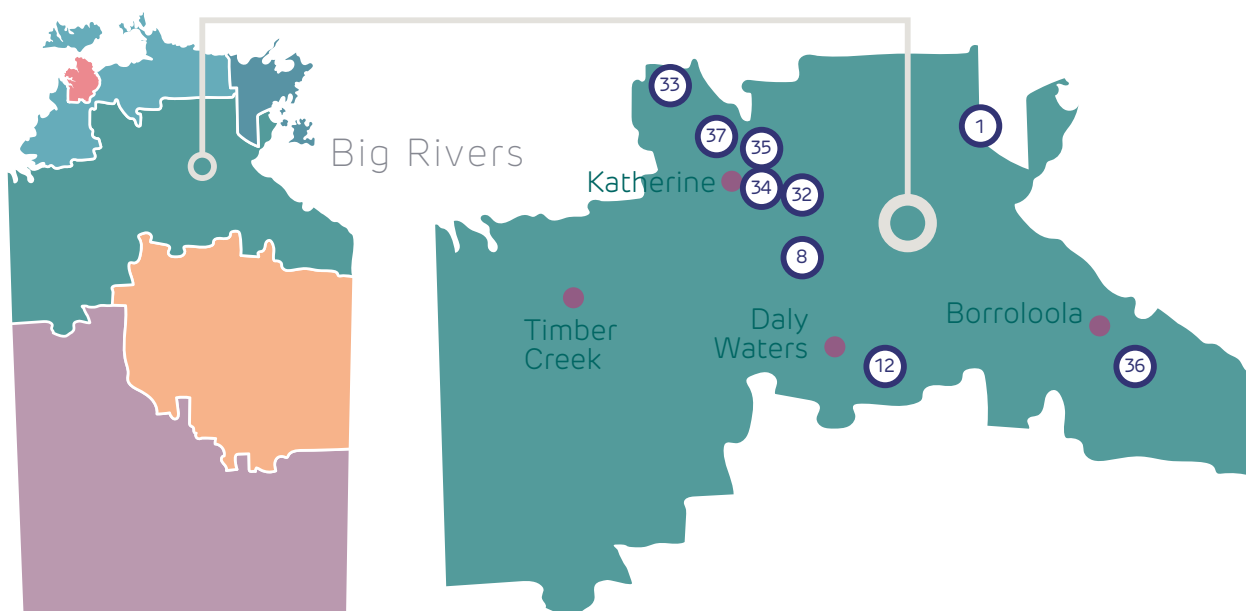


Note 1: Includes direct and indirect where provided by proponents

Note 2: Includes direct and indirect where provided by proponents in the NT only

Note 3: Based on 2.6 multiplier (ABS average persons per household NT regional)

Note: Numbers are approximate over 10 years. Further refined analysis is ongoing.



KEY

● Town/city

① Project

Locations are indicative

TERRITORY-WIDE PROJECTS

④ DCI data centres

⑤ Inlingo Network Unite

⑥ HyperOne

⑦ NEXTDC

⑩ Northern Territory freight and logistics capacity improvements (regional logistics hubs)

⑪ Northern Territory remote community power generation program

⑫ Aurizon – Railway service expansion

Nationally significant

The following projects, programs and proposals identify and articulate the infrastructure investment that will impact the national economy or achieve national policy objectives and outcomes.

Central Arnhem Road upgrade ¹

Transport and
Logistics



Tourism



The Central Arnhem Road is a critical piece of infrastructure that enables social and economic development in the East Arnhem region and the Northern Territory.

The Central Arnhem Road is located predominantly on Aboriginal land, it spans 685 kilometres including the Central Arnhem (645 kilometres), Dhupuma Road (17.3 kilometres) and Melville Bay Road (23.2 kilometres).

The Central Arnhem Road links the Stuart Highway (national network) to Nhulunbuy and communities in East Arnhem Land, connecting over 12 000 residents and supporting multiple industries including agriculture, tourism and mining.

Nhulunbuy remains the only large regional centre in the Northern Territory not connected to the National Highway network via a sealed road. The road quality is poor, with over 568 kilometres (88%) of the road unsealed. Road users experience frequent restrictions or closures throughout the wet season from December to May each year. Although 77 kilometres (12%) is sealed, the majority of this seal is narrow and only 4 metres wide (old Beef Road standard).

Upgrading and sealing the Central Arnhem Road will further help unlock the economic potential of the region and open a range of new long term economic and social opportunities. This will be achieved through reduced transit times, improved reliability of supply chains, safer road conditions and overall improved accessibility to and in the region. It will contribute to Closing the Gap by improving access to health and

educational services, facilitating social and cultural connections and reducing barriers to development, including operating costs for business.

Additional benefits to sealing the Central Arnhem Road include:

- increased liveability
- economic development
- increased tourism and trade
- land tenure
- access to gravel
- access to water
- Aboriginal employment.

Although not included on the National Infrastructure Priority List, the Australian Government committed \$180 million in its 2019-20 Budget to upgrade the Central Arnhem Road. This funding is matched by a 20% co-contribution of \$45 million from the Northern Territory Government. The Northern Territory Government also invested a further \$5 million to upgrade approximately 4 kilometres near Bulman, taking the initial funding to \$230 million to upgrade the Central Arnhem Road over 10 years.

The Australian Government committed a further \$100 million in its 2023-24 Budget, with the Territory co-contributing \$25 million. This brings the total current funding program to \$355 million.

To date, a total of 24.7 kilometres has been upgraded for sections near Beswick, Goyder and Bulman.



Connectivity in northern Australia will be faster and more reliable and resilient following the launch of Darwin's first ever direct connection to the global network of high-capacity subsea telecommunications cables.

Vocus' Darwin-Jakarta-Singapore Cable (DJSC) system is a major leap forward in Australia's global connectivity, bridging the digital divide and unlocking new opportunities for growth, innovation and development in the Northern Territory.

The 7700 kilometres DJCS cable system was completed following deployment of a final 1000 kilometre cable, which linked Vocus' existing North-West Cable System, running from Port Hedland to Darwin, to its Perth-based Australia-Singapore Cable – resulting in the first international submarine cable connection into Darwin.

The cable was supported by a \$7.9 million investment from the Northern Territory Government as part of its Terabit Territory strategy.

The project is a significant milestone towards Darwin becoming a major digital hub for the region. It will provide substantial direct and indirect benefits for northern Australia by supporting the connectivity needs of local businesses and communities with more reliable communications. This will benefit a wide range of stakeholders from remote Indigenous communities through to resource operators in the Pilbara by providing low-latency connectivity directly into Asia and enable locals to connect on a global scale.

The cable will also enhance the resilience and security of Australia's international cable network, ensuring uninterrupted and reliable connectivity, including during natural disaster and faults on other cables. This will provide businesses, governments, and individuals with greater confidence and assurance that their communication needs will be met – even in challenging circumstances.

The launch of the Darwin-Jakarta-Singapore Cable will deliver 40 terabits per second of internet capacity between Australia and Asia and pave the way for new data centres in Darwin to put us on the map as a key digital hub.

Further large scale networks are in development.

HyperOne's \$1.5 billion data super highway will be Australia's first hyper scale national fibre network, currently proposed to incorporate 3 routes connecting Darwin to:

- Adelaide, stage 1, (through the spine of the Northern Territory)
- Brisbane (along the Barkly Highway via Townsville)
- Perth (via a subsea connection).

HyperOne's planned network, once complete, will comprise over 20 000 kilometres of new high speed fibre cable across Australia including approximately 2200 kilometres through the Territory, capable of carrying over 10 000 terabits per second.

Hawaiki Nui is a 26 000 kilometre submarine cable connecting New Zealand, Australia, Indonesia, Singapore and the United States.

With a design capacity of 240 terabits, the Spatial Division Multiplexing (SDM) cable system will include up to 20 fibre pairs and link Singapore, Jakarta, Darwin, eastern Australia, the South Island of New Zealand, Hawaii and Los Angeles. The cable is intended to be ready for service in 2027.



Inligo Network Asia Connect (ACC-1) Cable 1 is a privately funded international subsea cable connecting Darwin to South East Asia (Singapore, Medan, Jakarta, Makassar, Dili, Manado and Guam), Japan and the United States. The ACC-1 Cable has 16 fibre pairs with a combined capacity of circa 256 terabits per second. The network will support a minimum of 40×400 gigabit per second wavelengths per fibre pair. This new system will provide an alternate, low latency, high capacity transmission service path between customers in Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, Adelaide and Darwin with connections into South East Asia and the north Pacific, all delivered on a unified optical platform across the terrestrial and subsea cable systems.

Inligo Network Unite Cable System (Unite) is a private terrestrial fibre network, which will provide additional links:

- Phase 1 is a new link between Darwin and Adelaide
- Phase 2 will extend links from Adelaide to Melbourne, Canberra and Sydney
- Possible subsequent phases are a branch connecting to Papua New Guinea (with potential opportunities to connect Nhulunbuy and Groote Eylandt).

Unite will connect directly into Inligo's ACC-1 Cable system.

The total integration between the international ACC-1 Cable system and the domestic Unite terrestrial system will provide customers seamless connectivity between Darwin, South East Asia, Japan and the United States while also enabling connectivity to the southern capitals, all on the one, fully integrated platform. This functionality will provide Darwin based data centre operators and their customers the shortest routes available into South East Asia and southern Australia, opening up new industries supported by the leading edge connectivity provided by ACC-1 and Unite.

NEXTDC will construct its \$80 million premium grade (D1) data centre in the Darwin CBD. This centre is the key enabler of the Territory Government's Digital Territory Strategy that is aimed at positioning Darwin as a highly competitive location to maximise growth and investment in the local digital economy.

DCI is developing a TIER-Ready III, secure cloud edge data centre, called DRW01, able to support an IT load of up to 10 megawatt with the initial development on a 2.7 hectare site in the Darwin, Palmerston and Litchfield region with an option to expand to 5 hectares. DCI recognises the Northern Territory's position as the digital gateway to Australia's forward-facing defence and space industries, as well as Asia to the north. Darwin is a strategic location in Australia and has already created a digital ecosystem with key elements such as a renewable energy, international and Australia-wide network connectivity.

“All digital highways lead into or through Darwin and that will equal jobs of the future, while growing our digital industry. Driving digital investment in the Territory will open the door to new opportunities for advanced manufacturing, data-centres and cloud-based computing services for Territorians and investors.”

Enabling infrastructure for developing the Beetaloo Sub-basin 8



The Beetaloo Sub-basin is one of the most prospective areas for shale gas and liquids in Australia.

Beetaloo onshore gas has the potential to be one of the lowest cost gas sources in the country. It could reduce Australia's dependency on petroleum product imports, facilitate downstream processing and manufacturing industries in the Northern Territory and potentially support energy security and provide gas to the east coast gas market.

Developing the Beetaloo basin will require public and private investment in new infrastructure to get gas to market. This will include pipelines and additional compression facilities to increase existing pipeline capacity, waste and waste-water treatment facilities, upgrades to roads and an aerodrome.

Supporting infrastructure will also include road, rail aviation and utility infrastructure that could also benefit other users in the region.

We have over 500 trillion cubic feet of gas in place in one layer of the Beetaloo Sub-basin, which is currently being appraised.

The Beetaloo Sub-basin is situated in a very remote and sparsely populated area of the Territory which has a very low standard of infrastructure, with little capacity to support new industry development and provide reliable supply chains to market.

Early infrastructure investment is required to capture the potential for the Beetaloo Sub-basin to be a new globally significant gas resource. This infrastructure investment will target supporting a multi-user environment, not only for the development of the basin but also for potential downstream manufacturing in northern Australia and other industries in the Territory.

The public road network within the Beetaloo Sub-basin consists of the Stuart Highway, Carpentaria Highway, Buchanan Highway, Western Creek Road and Gorrie Dry Creek Road.

The Australian and Northern Territory governments have jointly committed \$367 million to plan and deliver priority road upgrades throughout the Beetaloo Sub-basin. The road upgrade projects will provide crucial enabling infrastructure for the growing gas sector and support existing road users, industry and communities by providing more reliable transport and freight links. This in turn will improve safety and travel times, reduce vehicle operating costs and improve flood immunity to increase year round access.

The Northern Territory Government is currently upgrading the Carpentaria Highway, which will be a key road that services the Beetaloo Sub-basin as it moves through exploration, appraisal and development.

Investment in road upgrades will unlock significant job creation and economic potential for the Northern Territory.



Above: Workers camp for Carpentaria Highway.
Credit: Exact Contracting.

Northern Territory freight rail and logistics capacity improvements (Regional logistics hubs) 16



Logistics and supply chains are fundamental to supporting the viability of projects key to the Northern Territory's economic growth. They also have significant employment and investment impacts in local communities.

Community resilience and social benefits will result from improved local supply chains for consumer and essential goods. This will support the living standards in remote and regional towns needed to support growth and the delivery of private projects.

Improving rail efficiency and intermodal capacity in supply chains will support the NT Government's objective to achieve a \$40 billion economy by 2030 by developing mining, agriculture and energy projects.

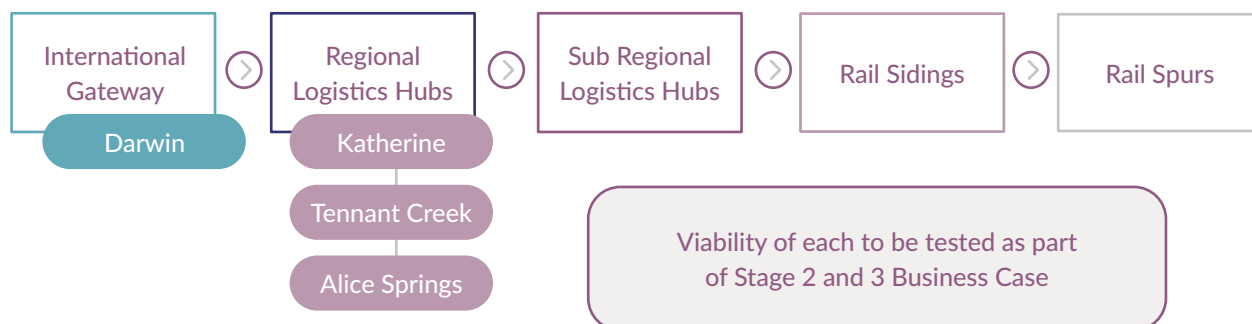
The Northern Territory Government is implementing actions to ensure logistics support rather than constrain industry and economic growth.

The Northern Territory Government has established a solid evidence base of demand for freight and supply chain capacity across agribusiness, minerals and energy, manufacturing, defence, digital and social sectors and is working with the Australian Government and the private sector to meet this demand.

Increases in capacity of port, rail, road, storage and warehousing will be needed to facilitate the growing freight task.

In the Northern Territory's larger communities across the main freight corridor, regional logistics hubs will be developed to consolidate, store and transfer freight between road and rail networks between project and port. These regional logistics hubs will include:

- community distribution facilities to increase resilience in supply chains to distribute food and essential supplies across remote Northern Territory
- skills training facilities to provide real employment opportunities in these communities
- waste recycling facilities, which are essential to enabling a circular economy across the Northern Territory
- strategic staging facilities to enable laydown areas at strategic sites and more capacity and flexibility across the National Land Transport Network
- fuel facilities to enable hub and spoke logistics arrangements to reduce constraints on the road transport industry.



These regional logistics hubs will create the focal points for an increasingly efficient and resilient supply chain to foster a range of benefits.

- **Economy:** every project and development across the Northern Territory relies on transport of goods for construction, production and trade. The time and cost efficiency of this transport flows through to every sector of the economy.
- **Community:** a resilient transport network results in less frequent and less impactful disruption of supply chains. Increasing the proportion of freight that can travel by rail reduces the interface between private road users and heavy freight vehicles.
- **Environment:** reducing the distance freight travels and utilising the optimal freight mode contributes to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The Australian Government committed \$440 million in October 2022 in planned equity to support the delivery of the network of regional logistics hubs. The Northern Territory and Australian governments recognise the

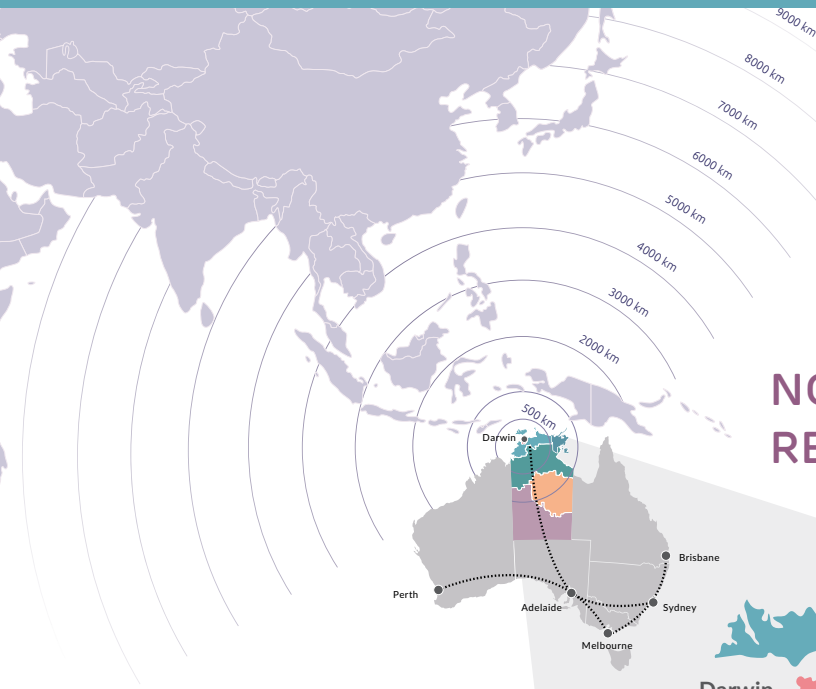
significant opportunity to grow the freight catchment area and increase the proportion of freight transported internationally via Darwin.

The Northern Territory freight rail and logistics capacity improvements Early Stage Proposal (Stage 1) Business Case was provided to and accepted by Infrastructure Australia in 2023 for inclusion on the Australian Infrastructure Priority List. Work is underway to develop the Potential Investment Options (Stage 2) Business Case.

The estimated total investment proposed from projects in mining, minerals and energy industries across the Northern Territory is over \$38 billion. This investment is estimated to support more than 6 000 construction jobs. Much of the investment and employment increase will occur in remote and very remote regions with higher proportions of First Nations people.



Above: Railway crossing. Credit: Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics.



NORTHERN TERRITORY REGIONAL LOGISTICS HUBS

Northern Territory freight rail and logistics
capacity improvements (Regional logistics hubs)



Disclaimer: This map is to be used as a guide only.



Northern Territory remote community power generation program ⁽¹⁷⁾

Renewables



Solar



Lifestyle



The Northern Territory Government, through the Power and Water Corporation's not-for-profit subsidiary Indigenous Essential Services (IES), provides electricity to 72 remote communities and 66 outstations across the Northern Territory.

Power and Water delivers these services through the Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities on behalf of the Northern Territory Government. This network includes 9093 customer connections across 51 power stations.

Diesel engines are the main technology used to generate electricity for regional and remote communities, with about 25 million litres of diesel used each year.

With the operating costs of transporting diesel to remote communities continuing to increase, the Office of Sustainable Energy is working on strategies to deliver 70% renewable energy penetration to all 72 remote communities.

As the largest isolated off-grid solar program in remote communities, the Solar Energy Transformation Program (SETuP) is a world-first.

Delivery of this strategy is also an action under the Territory Government's Climate Change Response and a recommendation of the Territory Economic Reconstruction Commission to transition Indigenous Essential Service communities to renewable-based systems by 2030.

The strategy builds on the success of the Solar Energy Transformation Program (SETuP). The \$60 million program is co-funded by the Territory Government and the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and delivered 10 megawatts of solar generation to 25 remote communities.

Planning activities are underway to facilitate external investment in renewable remote power systems in communities to maximise opportunities for local industries, create jobs for Territorians and strengthen local skills and expertise.

The Northern Territory Government is progressing detailed analysis of each community to map the optimal renewables development pathway, considering existing energy assets, community aspirations, electricity demand profiles and forecast growth.

In addition to the community focused detailed analysis, the project will identify available land for solar development in each community. It will also include pilot projects and studies to facilitate greater levels of distributed energy supplies and emerging technologies, such as hydrogen and microgrids.



Tamboran is an ASX listed (TBN) natural gas company with a vision of supporting the energy transition in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region by developing low reservoir CO₂ unconventional gas resources in the Northern Territory.

Tamboran's pure focus is the Beetaloo/McArthur Basin in the Northern Territory. Tamboran is one of the largest acreage holders in the Territory with an estimated 1.9 million net prospective acres in the Beetaloo Sub-basin, held through 100% owned properties and two joint ventures – one with Santos and the other with Falcon Oil & Gas and Daly Waters Energy LP (Sheffield).

The Beetaloo Sub-basin is located approximately 600 kilometres south of Darwin, which has the potential to grow into a major industrial hub linked to the Beetaloo via key infrastructure such as roads, gas pipelines and rail.

Tamboran and its joint venture partners are proposing a staged development of the Beetaloo Sub-basin. Stage 1 will involve supplying natural gas into the NT gas market, with first gas expected in early 2026. Stage 2 will supply gas into Australia's east coast gas market, and Stage 3 will deliver LNG to our regional trading partners via a new LNG export facility located in Darwin.

In May 2023, the Northern Territory Government provided Tamboran 12 months exclusivity over 170 hectares (420 acres) of land within the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct (Middle Arm) for a proposed LNG development, Northern Territory LNG (NTLNG).

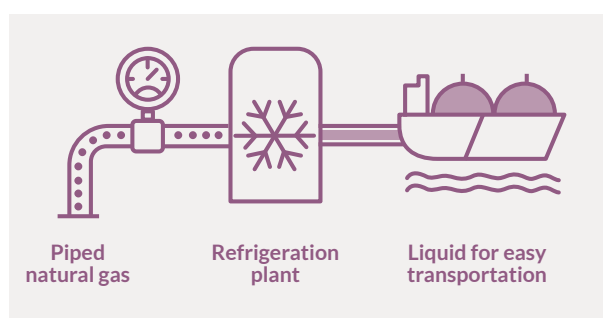
Gas from Tamboran's proposed NTLNG facility will play an important role in the decarbonisation plans of our trading partners in Asia and beyond.

To support Tamboran's vision to developing the Beetaloo Basin, the company has entered into several strategic partnerships and agreements with major international energy corporations and infrastructure companies.

- In April 2023, Tamboran welcomed the arrival of Helmerich & Payne's super-spec FlexRig® Flex Rig 3 in Australia from the United States and the new rig has already delivered significant improvements in drilling efficiency. H&P has invested directly into Tamboran and is a significant shareholder. The rig allows Tamboran to drill longer horizontal sections within the shale, which is expected to reduce Tamboran's environmental footprint in the basin.
- Tamboran has selected APA Group as its preferred transmission pipeline partner for its Beetaloo Sub-basin development, with the intent of connecting the Beetaloo to Australia's east coast gas market and the proposed NTLNG development.
- Tamboran has signed six non-binding Letters of Intent with Australia's largest gas and energy retailers for 220 – 320 petajoules per annum for up to 10 – 15 years into Australia's east coast gas market.
- Tamboran has entered into two non-binding memorandums of understanding with BP Singapore and Shell Eastern Trading regarding the potential purchase of 4.4 million tons of LNG from NTLNG. Tamboran is targeting formal execution of the LNG Sale and Purchase Agreements in 2025.












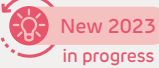
Important to the overall integrated development, Tamboran aspires to deliver a Net Zero Scope 1 and 2 project at the commencement of commercial production through the integration of renewable energy, carbon capture and storage, and carbon offsets.

Low Co₂ energy transition



Implementation pathway

The suggested implementation pathway are actions that can be taken to respond to anticipated economic and population growth challenges and opportunities.

Implementation pathway	Prioritisation action	Progress
Nationally significant projects, programs and proposals		
Progress Stage 2 submission (Potential Investment Options) to Infrastructure Australia for enabling infrastructure to develop the Beetaloo Sub-basin (as all road upgrades are now funded, this will be for the remaining infrastructure required)	 Reform	 In progress
Submit Stage 1 submission (Early Stage Proposal) to Infrastructure Australia for Northern Territory freight rail and logistics capacity improvements	 Reform	 Achieved
Progress Stage 2 submission (Potential Investment Options) and Stage 3 submission (Investment Ready Proposal) to Infrastructure Australia for Northern Territory freight rail and logistics capacity improvements	 Reform	 In progress
Submit Stage 1 submission (Early Stage Proposal) to Infrastructure Australia for Central Arnhem Road	 Reform	 In progress
Accelerate planning for and delivery of residential, commercial and industrial land	 Reform	 In progress
Support job creation and business growth across the economy through developing waste recycling facilities in the network of regional logistics hubs, reducing the reliance on interstate waste processing and waste going to landfill	 New	 New 2023 in progress

Territory-wide

The following projects and proposals identify and articulate the infrastructure investment that will have a Territory-wide impact including an impact on the Big Rivers region.

Transport and
Logistics

Rail

Aurizon – Railway service expansion 20



Aurizon, an Australian company with more than 150 years of rail experience, is the nation's largest rail freight business and transports about 250 million tonnes for customers each year. Aurizon brings its scale and capability to the Northern Territory and looks forward to contributing to the NT Government's goal of building a \$40 billion economy by 2030.

In mid-2022, Aurizon invested \$1.4 billion to acquire the One Rail business in the Northern Territory and South Australia, including the Tarcoola to Darwin rail corridor. This investment recognises the strategic value and potential of the business in serving rapidly growing markets for resources, agribusiness, renewable energy and general freight.

The 2240-kilometre Tarcoola to Darwin railway is a nationally significant corridor with direct connection to the Port of Darwin, the closest port to Australia's largest trading partners in Asia. Aurizon is committed to improving the efficiency and capacity of this corridor, with targeted

investment to benefit existing customers and to boost the viability of adjacent agricultural, mineral and energy projects under development.

In the first 12 months of operation, Aurizon has committed investment of more than \$50 million in new assets for the region, as well as preparing plans to increase the number of services along the railway as we respond to increasing customer demand. This also includes the potential opportunity to construct additional passing loops on the rail corridor and to build additional capacity in the Darwin/Berrimah rail terminal at the port.

As well as supporting customer growth and development of regional projects, these investments have the flow-on benefits of increasing local employment and supporting local communities and business. More than 80% of Aurizon's nationwide workforce of 5800 employees live and work in regional communities.



Above: NT railway near Alice Springs. Credit: Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics.

Enabling infrastructure plan

The enabling infrastructure plan for across the Territory lists the infrastructure proposals that are not yet funded, are in the planning phase and have been identified as enabling an outcome. Proposals listed respond to economic and/or population growth or address the cross cutting objectives in the NT Infrastructure Strategy 2022 – 2030.

Proposals	Estimated Total \$m	Challenges/opportunities	Timeframe (Years)
Access road upgrades to barge landings and all-weather aerodromes	50	Improve all weather air and sea access to support accessibility, visitor growth and community safety	0-15
Across the Territory upgrade and new bores	•	Support improved water management	0-10
Aerodrome and airstrip upgrades	30	Support connectivity and improve all weather access to improve community safety, accessibility and support future growth	0-15
AFLNT facilities upgrade to support growth in girls and womens football	1	Strengthen a healthy, active lifestyle by improving recreation opportunities and enhance visitor experience	0-5
Barge landing upgrades	150	Support economic development by improving all weather access and goods handling facilities	0-15
Football ovals install lighting	4	Strengthen a healthy, active lifestyle by improving recreation opportunities and enhance visitor experience	0-5
Logistics Network continued expansion	•	Enable economic development by improving supply chains and transport	0-10
Mobile and/or broadband services	33	Enable connectivity and create digital opportunities	0-10
National highways bridge upgrades	40	Improve flood resilience and support accessibility, connectivity and amenity	0-10
Network of fast charging points for electric vehicles at key tourist and rural locations	5	Enable economic development and population growth through tourism led economy	0-10
Park facilities to enhance experience and access for visitors with limited mobility	•	Support accessibility, connectivity and amenity for all visitors	0-10

• indicates value is either commercial in confidence or to be confirmed.

Timeframe					
0-5	0-5 Years	0-10	0-10 Years	0-15	0-15 Years
5-10	5-10 Years	10-15	10-15 Years	15+	15+ Years

Proposals	Estimated Total \$m	Challenges/opportunities	Timeframe (Years)
Rail passing loops	•	Enable economic development by improving supply chains, processing and transport	0-10
Remote Infrastructure Fund upgrade 40+ community facilities to support AFL	200	Strengthen a healthy, active lifestyle by improving recreation opportunities and enhance visitor experience	0-10
Tennant Creek to Darwin common user infrastructure corridor	•	Support the continued development of our regions by providing an infrastructure corridor to enable future services including gas, water, communications and other utilities	0-5
Territory Parks develop new visitor hubs in the Top End, Savannah Gulf, Barkly and Central Australia regions	•	Value, preserve and expand access to parks, increase visitation opportunities and visitor experience	0-15
Territory Parks two-wheel drive access improvements	•	Value, preserve and expand access to parks, increase visitation opportunities and visitor experience	0-15
Territory Parks water security projects	•	Ensure water security to enable commercial opportunities	0-10
Territory Schools air-conditioning mechanical and electrical upgrades	50	Upgrade ageing infrastructure to support the continued delivery of quality education	0-15
Upgrade roads to communities	•	Improve all weather access to support accessibility, growth and community safety	0-15

Implementation pathway

The suggested implementation pathways outline actions that can be taken to respond to anticipated economic and population growth challenges and opportunities.

Implementation pathway	Prioritisation action	Progress
Territory-wide		
Plan for regional waste facilities	 Reform	 In progress
Develop options to ensure that entry level and affordable housing are in the market, including options to accelerate market participation by community housing providers	 Reform	 In progress
Complete Infrastructure Audit	 Reform	 Achieved

Infrastructure pipeline

The following is a list of committed Territory-wide projects, funded by either government or the private sector.

Project	Estimated \$m				Challenges/opportunities
	Total	2023-24	2024-25	Outer Years	
Across all regions upgrade critical water tanks	15.2	1.5	6.0	•	Support population growth by improving access to quality water
Across all regions water main replacement	14.4	2.9	4.5	•	Support population growth by improving access to quality water
Across all regions water services minor works	33.0	13.0	15.0	•	Support population growth by improving access to quality water
Alice Springs to Darwin corridor (Stuart Highway) road safety improvements	62.3		50.0	•	Increase road capacity, safety, support accessibility, connectivity and amenity
Community Housing Provider housing projects	7.0	•			Provide safe, secure and affordable housing for people on low incomes
Community Housing Provider redevelopment projects	4.4	4.4			Provide safe, secure and affordable housing for people on low incomes
Darwin-Katherine Transmission Line (DKTL) secondary systems upgrade	9.0	6.0			Asset renewal to support growth, compliance and improve service efficiency
Digital Connectivity Program	7.5	•	•	•	Enabling connectivity and creating digital equality
Government Employee Housing Build Program	186.0	48.0	30.0	•	Provide Government employees with safe, secure and appropriate housing while performing duties in remote locations
Government managed Remote Women's Safe House upgrades and remote play equipment	1.4	1.0			Support vulnerable people by improving community service facilities
Homeland housing and infrastructure upgrade program	77.0	•	•	•	Capital grant to upgrade ageing infrastructure to support communities
Homeland Learning Centres infrastructure upgrades	1.0		1.0		Upgrade ageing infrastructure to support the continued delivery of quality education
Indigenous Essential Services asset replacement	84.0	21.0	21.0	•	Support remote communities by improving essential services efficiency

A lesser figure in the 2023-24 and 2024-25 columns than in the Total column indicates either previous year expenditure or expenditure in outer years.

• indicates value is either commercial in confidence or to be confirmed.

Project	Estimated \$m				Challenges/opportunities
	Total	2023-24	2024-25	Outer Years	
Indigenous Essential Services capital improvements	21.0	7.0	7.0		Support remote communities by improving essential services efficiency
Indigenous Essential Services headworks to support development	70.0			•	Support population growth by increasing land availability
Information communications technology (ICT) cabling upgrades in schools	8.0	1.0			Enable connectivity and create digital opportunity
Infrastructure to support Territory Families, Housing and Communities remote services expansion	11.3	11.2			Improve outcomes for children and families
Mobile oral health dental unit replacement	0.7	0.7			Strengthen liveability by improving infrastructure to support oral health services
Planning works to support the development of land infrastructure planning, concept development and detailed design	41.0	4.0	4.0	•	Enable economic development and population growth by increasing land availability
Power Networks augmentation and capital projects	164.0	43.0	36.0	•	Asset renewal to support growth, compliance and improve service efficiency
Public Housing new builds	8.5	•			Provide safe, secure and affordable housing for people on low incomes
RAAF Base Darwin and Mt Bunder Training Area – National Airfields Works	351.0			•	Maintenance to maximise existing infrastructure
Rail upgrades to support growth	•	25.0	25.0	•	Maintenance to maximise existing supply chain and transport infrastructure
Regional Logistics Hubs	440.0	10.0	50.0	•	Enable economic development by improving supply chains and transport
Remote Women's Safe House upgrades managed by Non-Government Organisation (NGO)	1.6	•			Capital grants to support vulnerable people by improving community service facilities
Replace critical asset elements in various hospitals, remote health clinics, schools and police stations	20.0	•	•	•	Ensure a safe and healthy work environment and best practice in the delivery of government services
Road Safety Program, including intersection upgrades, improvements for pedestrian safety, street lighting, truck parking bays, rest areas	267.0	15.0	80.0	•	Support connectivity, regional development and safety by improving key arterial and secondary roads

Project	Estimated \$m				Challenges/opportunities
	Total	2023-24	2024-25	Outer Years	
Roads to Recovery Program targeted local road upgrades	24.7	•	•		Enhance road infrastructure to support accessibility, connectivity, safety and amenity
Security enhancements to police facilities	9.0	2.0	2.0	•	Support the continued delivery of quality police services
Targeted road safety projects, local roads and community infrastructure shovel ready projects	67.5	20.0	7.6		Australian and Northern Territory governments supporting infrastructure construction jobs across the Territory
Territory Schools air-conditioning mechanical and electrical upgrades	4.0	2.0			Upgrade ageing infrastructure to support the continued delivery of quality education
Training areas and ranges – United States Force Posture Initiative	711.0	•	•	•	Upgrade infrastructure to enhance defence capability and operations



Above: An Air Force F-35A Lightning II aircraft, operated by No 81 Wing, in the hangar at sunset during Exercise Arnhem Thunder held at RAAF Base Tindal in the Northern Territory. Credit: Department of Defence. © Commonwealth of Australia, Department of Defence.

Regionally significant

The following projects, proposals and programs identify and articulate the infrastructure investment that will have an impact on the Big Rivers region.

Defence

Defence strategic capital works ³²



The following Defence projects are taking place in the Big Rivers region:

- RAAF Base Tindal Stage 6 Redevelopment
- United States Force Posture Initiatives Airfield Works
- AIR7000 Phase 1B Triton Hangar Facilities
- USFPI Training Areas and Ranges Project (Bradshaw Field Training Area).

The RAAF Base Tindal is located 15 kilometres outside Katherine and 320 kilometres south-east of Darwin.

The RAAF Base Tindal redevelopment will address functional deficiencies and capacity constraints in existing facilities and infrastructure. The project aims to address

risks associated with non-compliant facilities to reduce ongoing operating costs by replacing under-utilised or redundant facilities.

The United States Force Posture Initiative (USFPI) Airfield Works project will increase the capacity of RAAF Base Tindal to support KC-30A Multi Role Tanker Transport operations. This forms a key part of the core Air Power role of air mobility, including air-to-air refuelling and air logistics support missions. The project will support the USFPI by improving accessibility for United States Air Force aircraft.

Additional USFPI infrastructure projects being delivered at RAAF Base Tindal include the construction of Earth Covered Magazines and Jet Fuel Storage Tanks.

Minerals

Fountain Head Gold and Hayes Creek projects – PNX Metals ³³



Fountain Head and Hayes Creek are located approximately 170 kilometres south of Darwin in the Pine Creek region of the Northern Territory. PNX Metals Limited (PNX) is proposing to re-open the historic Fountain Head gold mine 55 kilometres from Pine Creek, with environmental approval already granted for the 100% PNX Metals owned project areas.

PNX completed the pre-feasibility study in 2021, envisaging staged development of Fountain Head Gold Project as stage 1, followed by gold-silver-zinc development at Hayes Creek as stage 2.

Transport and
Logistics

Agribusiness

Katherine Agribusiness and Logistics Hub (34)



A network of regional logistics hubs will be part of an efficient supply chain across the Northern Territory to support community development and resilience, trade and industry growth. Each of these hubs will reflect the trade and opportunities specific to that region, and will support priorities such as community distribution facilities and waste consolidation facilities.

One of these hubs will be located at Katherine. The Katherine Agribusiness and Logistics Hub will support the supply chain by moving freight to and from Darwin Port for import and export, and will be designed specifically to cater to the

trade task in and around the Big Rivers region. This will include agribusiness projects in the Territory and the north of Western Australia such as cotton, timber, aquaculture and beef.

It will encompass the services that support a logistics hub including fuel distribution and biosecurity functions.

Consolidating freight at strategic locations across the Northern Territory will create efficiencies and reduce the cost of freight to all industries using the supply chain. In the Big Rivers region, the hub will primarily support developing agribusiness opportunities.

Katherine East – land development (35)

Land

Lifestyle

Housing

Retail



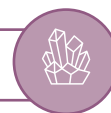
Work is progressing in Katherine East, with construction underway to support residential development opportunities that will include a mix of housing types, together with land for community purpose, commercial and retail uses. The first stage of the subdivision works is expected to be completed by the end of 2023 and will support the release of land for a mixed use commercial development.

The Northern Territory Government provided \$26 million over 2 years in Budget 2022–23 to support the development of the Katherine East Neighbourhood Centre to provide servicing for the future release of residential/community purpose land.



Above: Concept design of Katherine East (Englobo is a term for an undeveloped lot, generally a large parcel of land that has the potential for further subdivision). Credit: Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics.

Merlin Diamond Project – Lucapa Diamond Company Limited 36



The Merlin Diamond Project is one of only 3 diamond mines that previously operated in Australia and is located approximately 70 kilometres south of Borroloola. The Merlin Mineral Lease comprises 11 kimberlite pipes, of which 8 were subject to open pit mining, mainly between 1999 and 2003, producing over 500 000 carats of diamonds.

Diamonds from Merlin have a high value compared to the global average due to the high percentage of gem quality stones and relatively high proportion of white gems.

In December 2021, Lucapa Diamonds completed the acquisition of Merlin, through its wholly owned subsidiary, Australia Natural Diamonds Pty Ltd. Merlin is a historic Australian mine containing a 4.4 million carat Joint Ore Reserves Committee (JORC) compliant mineral resource with significant exploration upside.

Following the closure of the Argyle and Ellendale Diamond Mines, Merlin will be the only operating commercial diamond mine in Australia.

Mount Todd – Vista Gold 37



The Mt Todd Gold Project is Australia's largest undeveloped gold project and is located approximately 50 kilometres north of Katherine and 250 kilometres south-east of Darwin. The site covers a mine tenement of more than 153 700 hectares, which includes the Batman

and Quigley's gold deposits. The 2022 Mt Todd feasibility study resulted in a 7 million ounce gold reserve and a 16 year mine life. The brownfield development project is 100% owned by Vista Gold and has the potential to be one of Australia's largest gold producers.

Enabling infrastructure plan

The enabling infrastructure plan for the Big Rivers region lists the infrastructure proposals that are not yet funded, are in the planning phase and have been identified as enabling an outcome.

Proposals listed respond to economic and/or population growth or address the cross cutting objectives in the NT Infrastructure Strategy 2022 – 2030.

Proposals	Estimated Total \$m	Challenges/opportunities	Timeframe (Years)
Across the region new or refurbished health clinics	•	Strengthen liveability by improving infrastructure to support health services	0-15
Across the region Remote School Renewal program	•	Upgrade ageing infrastructure to support the continued delivery of quality education	0-10
Beswick new police complex	15	Support the continued delivery of quality police services in remote communities	0-5
Borroloola new police complex	18	Support the continued delivery of quality police services in remote communities	5-10
Borroloola regional town development residential and industrial land release	21	Enable economic development and population growth by increasing land availability	0-15
Buchanan Highway upgrade selected sections	25	Increase road capacity, safety, support accessibility, connectivity and amenity	5-10
Buntine Highway improve the road standard and extend the seal towards Western Australia	460	Increase road capacity, safety, support accessibility, connectivity and amenity	0-15
Carpentaria Highway upgrade October Creek to Surprise Creek	250	Increase road capacity, safety, support accessibility, connectivity and amenity	10-15
Casuarina Street Primary School (Katherine) refurbish student support hub	2	Upgrade ageing infrastructure to support the continued delivery of quality education	0-10
Central Arnhem Road upgrade remaining road within the Big Rivers region (Stuart Highway to Bulman)	200	Improve all weather access to support accessibility, growth and community safety	0-15
Daly Waters regional town development residential land release	21	Enable economic development and population growth by increasing land availability	0-5
Douglas Daly Connector Road	•	Support agriculture and tourism industries and the community	10-15

• indicates value is either commercial in confidence or to be confirmed.

Timeframe					
0-5	0-5 Years	0-10	0-10 Years	0-15	0-15 Years
5-10	5-10 Years	10-15	10-15 Years	15+	15+ Years

Proposals	Estimated Total \$m	Challenges/opportunities	Timeframe (Years)
Douglas Daly roads flood immunity improvements lift pavement through floodplain and upgrade to 2 lane seal on selected sections	33	Support economic development of the cattle industry and improve community connectivity	0-15
Eley National Park new and upgraded facilities	2	Value, preserve and expand access to parks, increase visitation opportunities and visitor experience	5-10
Gorge Road upgrade Maud Creek Crossing	6	Improve year round accessibility, supporting the tourism industry	0-10
Hodgson River/Nutwood Road selected upgrade and seal	10	Support economic development of the cattle industry and improve community connectivity	5-10
Kalkarindji new police complex and refurbish existing houses	15	Support the continued delivery of quality police services in remote communities	5-10
Kalkarindji regional town development residential, commercial, community and industrial land release	38	Enable economic development and population growth by increasing land availability	0-5
Katherine Airport cold stores, warehousing and loading facilities	6	Support economic development by improving goods handling facilities	0-10
Katherine Airport tourist facilities upgrade in passenger terminal, baggage handling facilities and hospitality elements	6	Improve infrastructure to enhance visitor experience	0-5
Katherine Airport upgrade strength of airside pavement and taxiway	4	Increase safety, support accessibility, connectivity and amenity	0-10
Katherine Airport upgrade the civilian aircraft parking to support larger aircraft	•	Meet visitor demand and respond to requirements in the aviation sector	0-10
Katherine Aquatic Centre with olympic size pool and nature splash adventure zone	10	Strengthen a healthy, active lifestyle by improving sporting opportunities and enhance visitor experience	0-5
Katherine Court House upgrade	7	Strengthen equitable access by improving infrastructure to support judicial services	0-10
Katherine East Neighbourhood Centre retail and commercial developments including supermarket	30	Provide a variety of contemporary, affordable and sustainable housing options to suit the Territory lifestyle	0-10
Katherine Heavy Vehicle Alternate Route	•	Enhance road infrastructure to increase safety and support accessibility, connectivity and amenity	5-10
Katherine Hospital upgrades	•	Strengthen liveability by improving infrastructure to support health services	0-15
Katherine hotel development	•	Provide quality, affordable accommodation	0-10

Proposals	Estimated Total \$m	Challenges/opportunities	Timeframe (Years)
Katherine Power Station fire system upgrade	1	Asset renewal to support growth, compliance and improve service efficiency	0-5
Katherine short-stay accommodation	•	Provide quality, affordable accommodation to meet current demands and future demand expected in the region as construction phases ramp up	0-5
Katherine tri-services hub	52	Support the continued delivery of quality police, fire and emergency services	0-15
Katherine upgrade to office accommodation and depot sheds	•	Improve staff facilities	0-10
Katherine Waste Management Facility upgrade transfer station and recycled goods shop	1	Support improved waste management and recycling processes	0-5
Keep River National Park improve northern boundary access	•	Improve accessibility and enhance experience for visitors and Territorians	10-15
Keep River, Judbarra, Gregory National Parks Visitor Experience Development Implementation	•	Value, preserve and expand access to parks, increase visitation opportunities and visitor experience	0-10
Kidman Springs Research Station micro grid hybrid solar system	•	Improve energy efficiency by increasing renewable energy	0-5
Kintore Street School (Katherine) new special school from preschool to year 12	25	Relocate to non-flood area with new and improved infrastructure to support educational programs and services	0-5
Lajamanu new NT Emergency Services (NTES) volunteer and storage facilities	2	Strengthen emergency support services in remote communities	0-15
Lajamanu new police station and visiting officer quarters	12	Support the continued delivery of quality police services in remote communities	0-15
Lajamanu police housing	3	Support the continued delivery of quality police services in remote communities	0-5
Lajamanu Road progressive sealing and upgrades	25	Enhance road infrastructure to support accessibility, connectivity, safety and amenity	0-10
Larrimah regional town development residential and industrial land release	22	Enable economic development and population growth by increasing land availability	0-5
Leliyn (Edith Falls) Master Plan	•	Value, preserve and expand access to parks, increase visitation opportunities and visitor experience	0-10
Mataranka regional town development residential and commercial/industrial land release	25	Enable economic development and population growth by increasing land availability	5-10

Proposals	Estimated Total \$m	Challenges/opportunities	Timeframe (Years)
Mataranka tri-services hub	19	Support the continued delivery of quality police, fire and emergency services	5-10
Minyerri new police complex	15	Support the continued delivery of quality police services in remote communities	5-10
Nathan River Road improve flood immunity (Savannah Way)	60	Improve year round accessibility, supporting the tourism industry	5-10
Ngukurr emergency shelter sites for improved disaster management	20	Strengthen emergency support services in remote communities	5-10
Ngukurr multi-purpose sporting complex/ cyclone shelter	20	New recreational infrastructure to support liveability and resilience	0-10
Numbulwar emergency shelter sites for improved disaster management	12	Strengthen emergency support services in remote communities	5-10
Numbulwar new NT Emergency Services (NTES) volunteer and storage facilities	2	Strengthen emergency support services in remote communities	0-10
Numbulwar police housing	1	Support the continued delivery of quality police services in remote communities	0-10
Pine Creek new police station, visiting officer quarters and associated infrastructure	15	Support the continued delivery of quality police services in remote communities	0-5
Revitalise Katherine CBD public art, covered walkways, revised car and caravan parking	5	Unlock business and industry development opportunities and create a safe and vibrant place for people to enjoy	0-5
Roper Highway complete seal and widening to 2 lanes (Savannah Way)	200	Support economic development of the cattle, mining and mineral exploration industries	0-15
Short stay accommodation for Aboriginal people visiting Katherine	15	Provide safe, secure and affordable short stay housing for people visiting from community	0-5
Stuart Highway duplication of priority sections	•	Enhance road infrastructure to support accessibility, connectivity, safety and amenity	0-10
Timber Creek regional town development residential and commercial/industrial land release	16	Enable economic development and population growth by increasing land availability	0-10
Timber Creek tri-services hub	18	Support the continued delivery of quality police, fire and emergency services	0-10
Tjuwaliyn (Douglas Daly) Hot Springs revitalise campground and establish a new bore	2	Strengthen a healthy, active lifestyle by improving recreation opportunities and enhance visitor experience	0-10
Wollogorang Road improve road standard	15	Support economic development of the cattle industry	0-15

Implementation pathway

The suggested implementation pathways outline actions that can be taken to respond to anticipated economic and population growth challenges and opportunities.

Implementation pathway	Prioritisation action	Progress
Big Rivers		
Undertake infrastructure planning to enable major private sector projects	Reform	In progress
Identify actions to alleviate accommodation pressures	Reform	In progress
Identify infill opportunities for accommodation, including consolidating existing government footprints by co-locating government services to free up land for development in Katherine	Reform	In progress
Continue to progress Katherine Logistics and Agribusiness Hub*	New	In progress

* also included in Transport and Logistics implementation pathway – Establish a network of regional logistics hubs



Above: Casuarina Park Estate. Credit: Northern Territory Government.

Infrastructure pipeline

The following is a list of committed projects, funded by either government or the private sector, for the Big Rivers region.

Project	Estimated \$m				Challenges/opportunities
	Total	2023-24	2024-25	Outer Years	
Across the region HomeBuild new homes	•	•	•	•	Reduce overcrowding and improve health outcomes while providing employment and training opportunities for local Aboriginal people
Across the region land servicing headworks scoping, design and construction	40.9	20.3	13.5		Expand utilities networks to support land development
Across the region residential infill lots, design and construct power and water infrastructure, upgrades and network extensions to service nominated infill lots	9.7	0.4		•	Enable economic development and population growth through expanded utilities networks for new land development
Across the region residential subdivision planning, design and construction	30.7	0.4	•		Enable economic development and population growth through expanded utilities networks for new land development
Across the region Room to Breathe home extensions	16.6	•		•	Reduce overcrowding and improve health outcomes while providing employment and training opportunities for local Aboriginal people
Bitter Springs upgrade ablutions facilities	0.1	0.1			Value, preserve and expand access to parks, increase visitation opportunities and visitor experience
Borroloola child and family centre (Starting Early for a Better Future)	0.5	•			Strengthen early years learning and engagement of students and parents
Borroloola multi-purpose sporting complex/cyclone shelter	11.0	11.0			Build resilient communities and enhanced liveability by improving community facilities
Borroloola new community, retail and commercial development	3.0		3.0	•	Increase liveability of remote Aboriginal communities by providing infrastructure to support a strong regional centre through the Community Benefits Trust
Borroloola recycling depot	0.5		•		Support improved waste management and recycling processes
Borroloola regional town development residential land release	3.5		3.5	•	Enable economic development and population growth by increasing land availability
Buntine Highway improve the road standard and extend the seal towards Western Australia	125.0		30.0	•	Increase road capacity, safety, support accessibility, connectivity and amenity

A lesser figure in the 2023-24 and 2024-25 columns than in the Total column indicates either previous year expenditure or expenditure in outer years.

• indicates value is either commercial in confidence or to be confirmed.

Project	Estimated \$m				Challenges/opportunities
	Total	2023-24	2024-25	Outer Years	
Carpentaria Highway upgrades	150.0	40.0	50.0	•	Roads of Strategic Importance – support economic development of the mining, cattle and tourism industries and improve community access
Casuarina Park residential estate stage 3	•	•	•	•	Enable economic development and population growth by increasing land availability
Casuarina Park residential estate stage 4	•			•	Enable economic development and population growth by increasing land availability
Casuarina Street Primary School (Katherine) convert library to early learning centre	0.5	•			Master planned infrastructure to provide contemporary educational facilities to support growth in early years learning enrolments
Central Arnhem Road upgrade road within the Big Rivers region (Stuart Highway to Bulman)	110.0	1.0	19.0	•	Improve all weather access to support accessibility, growth and community safety
Douglas-Daly region Regional Connectivity Program Round 2 – deploy one new Telstra macro cell base station	0.9	•	•	•	Enabling connectivity and creating digital equality
Edith locality, along the Stuart Highway, Regional Connectivity Program Round 2 – deploy a new Telstra macro cell mobile site	1.2	•	•	•	Enabling connectivity and creating digital equality
Elsy National Park upgrades at Rainbow Springs	1.7	1.7			Value, preserve and expand access to parks, increase visitation opportunities and visitor experience
Gas Industry Roads in the Beetaloo	214.7	5.0	50.0	•	Roads of Strategic Importance – support economic development of the mining, gas, cattle and tourism industries and improve community access
Giwining/Flora River Nature Park upgrade viewing platforms at Djarrung Falls and Kathleen Falls	0.1	0.1			Value, preserve and expand access to parks, increase visitation opportunities and visitor experience
Godinymayin Yijard Rivers Art and Culture Centre (GYRACC) stage and amphitheatre	7.4	1.0			Value, preserve and expand art and cultural places in Katherine, through the Arts Trail Gallery Extension Program
Kalkarindji Families as First Teachers Building security upgrade	0.1	•			Strengthen early years learning and engagement of students and parents
Kalkarindji oval lighting	1.4	1.4			Capital grant to strengthen a healthy, active lifestyle by improving recreation facilities

Project	Estimated \$m				Challenges/opportunities
	Total	2023-24	2024-25	Outer Years	
Kalkarindji regional town development residential and commercial/industrial land lots	4.0	3.8	•		Enable economic development and population growth by increasing land availability
Katherine Crisis Centre upgrades	3.0	•			Support vulnerable people by improving community service facilities
Katherine East infrastructure headworks to support residential land release	26.0	14.0	•	•	Enable economic development and population growth by increasing land availability
Katherine East infrastructure to support the neighbourhood centre and new infrastructure to mitigate flooding	22.0	13.0	•	•	Enable economic development and population growth by increasing land availability
Katherine High School STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) centre	9.7	9.7	•		Upgrade ageing infrastructure to support the continued delivery of quality education
Katherine Hospital Central Sterilising Department	8.0		8.0	•	Strengthen liveability by improving infrastructure to support health services
Katherine Logistics and Agribusiness Hub infrastructure headworks to support industrial land release	35.0	32.3	•	•	Enable economic development by improving supply chains, processing and transport
Katherine new infrastructure to mitigate flooding (southern levee)	9.4	9.4			Improve community safety and reduce the damage, disruption and costs associated with major flood events
Katherine new multi-purpose sporting facilities	•		•	•	New recreational infrastructure to support liveability
Katherine office for Northern Land Council	•		•	•	Support NLC to consult with Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
Katherine Power Station 22kV tie feeder cables upgrade	0.3		0.3		Asset renewal to support growth, compliance and improve service efficiency
Katherine Power Station black start capability	9.5	3.5			Asset renewal to support growth, compliance and improve service efficiency
Katherine Power Station diesel storage tank B repair	0.6	0.6			Asset renewal to support growth, compliance and improve service efficiency
Katherine tyre recycling plant	6.3		6.3	•	Support improved waste management and recycling processes
Larrimah Agricultural Precinct	20.0	10.0	10.0	•	Develop production area to take advantage of good quality agricultural land and available water resources

Project	Estimated \$m				Challenges/opportunities
	Total	2023-24	2024-25	Outer Years	
Nitmiluk and Elsey National Parks upgrade disability access	0.2	0.2			Value, preserve and expand access to parks, increase visitation opportunities and visitor experience
Nitmiluk National Park upgrades to Jatbula Trail	0.4	0.4			Value, preserve and expand access to parks, increase visitation opportunities and visitor experience
Numbulwar Road Phelp River crossing	20.0			•	Support delivery of essential services to regional and remote communities
Pine Creek water source augmentation	1.5	0.1	0.1		Support population growth by improving access to quality water
RAAF Base Tindal jet fuel storage tanks as part of the United States Force Posture Initiative	60.0	•			Enhance facilities for US Air Force operations at RAAF Base Tindal
RAAF Base Tindal MQ-4C Triton Forward Operating Base facilities and infrastructure	250.0	•	•	•	Enhance defence capability and operations
RAAF Base Tindal Redevelopment Stage 6 and United States Force Posture Initiative airfield works and associated infrastructure	1588.0	•	•	•	Enhance defence capability and operations
RAAF Base Tindal US Defence Force aircraft maintenance support facility	38.0			•	Enhance facilities for US Air Force operations at RAAF Base Tindal
RAAF Base Tindal US Defence Force bomber apron	95.0			•	Enhance facilities for US Air Force operations at RAAF Base Tindal
RAAF Base Tindal US Defence Force squadron operations facility	38.0			•	Enhance facilities for US Air Force operations at RAAF Base Tindal
Roper Highway sealing selected sections (Savannah Way)	30.0	20.0	10.0		Support economic development of the cattle, mining and mineral exploration industries
SILL80 Ilmenite Project upgrade process plant and water supply	•	•			Meet global demand for critical minerals used for new and emerging technologies
Stuart Highway intersection upgrade to the Cotton Gin	6.7	6.7	•		Increase road capacity, safety and accessibility to support the cotton industry
Tindal Zone Substation third 22kV line and capacity upgrade	•	•			Asset renewal to support growth, compliance and improve service efficiency
Victoria Highway Newman to Katherine corridor upgrades	47.9		20.0	•	Roads of Strategic Importance – economic enabler and key national freight route between the Territory and the rest of Australia
Weaber Plains Agricultural Development	20.0	10.0	10.0	•	Develop production area to take advantage of good quality agricultural land and available water resources

NT Infrastructure Audit

Reliable infrastructure is a vital part of maintaining and improving our quality of life. It provides us with essential services we rely on like transport, energy, water and telecommunications, as well as social infrastructure such as hospitals and health centres, schools, policing and parks and access to goods and services.

In 2022 and 2023, Infrastructure NT conducted a strategic audit of Territory infrastructure to provide an evidence base to guide future infrastructure investment decision making. The outcomes of the audit focus attention on the investments and reforms that will improve our living standards and local and national productivity.

The audit revealed a number of potential infrastructure needs for the Big Rivers region. Where these needs were already in the planning phase, they have been included in the Enabling Infrastructure Plan or Infrastructure Pipeline tables in this document. The remaining Big Rivers region audit items are listed below. These potential infrastructure needs are for projects that could be considered for possible inclusion in the Plan and Pipeline over time as scoping, feasibility analysis and business case development determines viability. Industry, business and community stakeholders are encouraged to let Infrastructure NT know if they progress with planning and delivery of those needs and proposals.



Transport and Logistics

- Katherine Airport pilot's lounge
- Katherine upgrade bicycle path network



Utilities

- Across the region improved digital connectivity
- Big Rivers Off-stream Water Storage



Social Infrastructure

- Amanbidji sport and recreation facilities
- Bulman refurbish sports court
- Community shelter sites for improved disaster management
- Daguragu replace oval infrastructure
- Heat mitigation all sport, recreation and lifestyle facilities in the region
- Kalkarindji new recreation hall
- Katherine indoor sports centre including netball, basketball, volleyball, squash and cricket
- Katherine Museum upgrades
- Katherine outdoor sport and recreation upgrades
- Katherine Sportsground camping facilities
- Naiiyu multipurpose recreation centre, fencing to existing playgrounds
- Nitmiluk Jawoyn Resort
- Numbulwar oval upgrades
- Pine Creek playground rubber surfacing installed and hard cover shade erect
- Supported accommodation
- Veterinary hub
- Yarralin new multipurpose hall

The Big Rivers region is one of 6 regions in the Northern Territory.

To download the full NT Infrastructure Plan and Pipeline or the NT Infrastructure Audit visit

<https://infrastructure.nt.gov.au>





Above: Ngukurr new housing subdivision. Credit: Northern Territory Government.

About Infrastructure NT

Infrastructure NT is the Northern Territory's infrastructure body. Infrastructure NT undertakes strategic infrastructure planning and development that co-ordinates and aligns infrastructure needs with economic and population growth.

Connect with us

If you would like to connect with Infrastructure NT on the NT Infrastructure Plan and Pipeline 2023 or any other infrastructure matters, you can contact us via:

Email: Infrastructure.NT@nt.gov.au

Phone: +61 8 8936 5696

Post: Infrastructure NT
GPO Box 2520, Darwin, NT, 0801

Published by the Department of Infrastructure,
Planning and Logistics

© Northern Territory Government 2023

E: Infrastructure.NT@nt.gov.au

T: +61 8 8936 5696

Web page: <https://Infrastructure.nt.gov.au>

Address: Infrastructure NT, Department of
Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics,
Level 3, 18-20 Cavenagh Street, Darwin City

ISSN: 2653-4266

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence, with the exception of the Northern Territory Government logo and images. Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence is a standard form licence agreement that allows you to copy, communicate and adapt this work provided that you attribute the work to the Northern Territory Government (Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Logistics) and abide by the other licence terms <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

The material contained in this document is made available for your use, but the Northern Territory Government and its employees do not guarantee that the document is without flaw of any kind and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence that may arise from your use. The document is made available on the understanding that the Northern Territory Government is not providing professional advice, and that users exercise their own skill and care with respect to its use, and seek independent advice as necessary.

