

Angurugu key points

This report provides information about Angurugu's strengths, challenges confronting the community, as well as government and non-government services in Angurugu. The information was largely collected during 2009, but often relates to earlier points in time (in particular, the Census data is from 2006).

This section of the report provides a summary of key topics identified about Angurugu. It begins by discussing background information about the community. This is followed by strengths in the community. Next are the challenges confronting the community, and consideration of issues with service provision in the community. Finally, a list of recent investments in the community is provided.

Background community information

People

- In 2006 the population of Angurugu is estimated to have been 1,045 people, of whom 1,013 were Indigenous (97%).
- In 2006, 46 per cent of Angurugu's Indigenous population was younger than 20 years of age.

Population projections

- The Indigenous population of Angurugu is projected to increase from 1,013 people in 2006 to 1,372 in 2026, an increase of 36 per cent.
- The number of Indigenous people of working age (15–64 years) is projected to increase by 36 per cent, from 656 to 893 over this period.
- Angurugu's Indigenous 50 and over population is expected to increase by 146 per cent over the next 20 years, from 102 in 2006 to 251 in 2026.
- The changing size and age composition of the Indigenous population of Angurugu will increase the need for housing, employment opportunities, and aged care and health services.

Geography

- Angurugu is located on Groote Eylandt, which is situated on the western side of the Gulf of Carpentaria, about 50 km from the eastern coast of Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory.
- Angurugu has a humid tropical climate, and 80 per cent of annual rainfall occurs in the wet season (between December and March).

Community strengths

Language, culture and tradition

- The people of Angurugu maintain strong links to traditional Aboriginal languages, culture, art and practices.
- There is a robust attachment to the environment, wildlife and fauna, which is evidenced by initiatives such as the Anindilyakwa Indigenous Protected Area plan.
- Around 89 per cent of people in Angurugu speak the traditional language of Anindilyakwa (for many this is their first language).

Land, country and natural resources

- The islands in the Groote Eylandt archipelago are managed under the Anindilyakwa Indigenous Protected Area plan, by Indigenous rangers based at Alyangula, Umbakumba, Angurugu and other partners to the plan.
- The archipelago's land and sea country is owned and managed by the Anindilyakwa clans and has been recognised as an international site for threatened species, wildlife aggregation and national significance for flora.
- Manganese is abundant in the Groote Eylandt archipelago. In 1963, the Groote Eylandt Mining Company (GEMCO) began mining manganese in the area, and it is estimated that GEMCO now produces more than 15 per cent of the world's total production of manganese.

Challenges facing the community

Employment

- In 2006, only 17 per cent of Angurugu's working-age Indigenous population (15–64 years) were employed.
- If the figure is adjusted so that Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) positions are not considered as employment, Angurugu's Indigenous employment rate (5%) is approximately one-eighth of the national Indigenous employment rate excluding CDEP (42%).
- According to a data collection by the Northern Territory Government, there were 120 jobs (including vacancies) in Angurugu in March 2010, of which 15 were CDEP positions. Excluding vacancies, there were 103 non-CDEP jobs in Angurugu in March 2010, of which 62 were held by Indigenous people and 41 were held by non-Indigenous people.
- Most non-CDEP jobs were in the public sector (100) with the remainder (3) in the private sector. Of the three private sector jobs, all were held by Indigenous Australians.

Education

- The average yearly attendance rate at Angurugu School has declined since 2001 (when the attendance rate was 50 per cent). By 2009, the attendance rate had fallen to 34 per cent, the lowest rate over 2001–2009.
- Only a very small number of results were at or above national minimum standards, in the 2009 NAPLAN tests for students at Angurugu School.
- In 2006, Angurugu's Indigenous population had a very low rate of educational qualification. Only 1 per cent of Indigenous 20- to 64-year-olds attained at least a Certificate II.

Disengaged youth

- The Angurugu population has a relatively young age profile: one-fifth of the Angurugu Indigenous population is aged between 15 and 24 years.
- In 2006 less than one-tenth (9%) of this large group (Angurugu Indigenous 15- to 24-year-olds) were engaged in full-time study or employment.
- Thirty per cent of all Angurugu residents who commenced a period of imprisonment between 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2009 were aged between 18 and 24 years.

Community safety

- In the period from 2006–07 to 2008–09, there were 332 offences committed in Angurugu. Nearly 26 per cent of these were traffic offences.
- There was a marked decline in the number of offences across this period, dropping by 60 per cent between 2006–07 and 2008–09.
- In the period from 2006–07 to 2008–09, only 1 in 16 offences was alcohol related.

Health

- Between 2003–04 and 2007–08, Indigenous people in the Angurugu statistical local area (SLA) (which includes Angurugu) were most often hospitalised for dialysis, at a rate five times the national average (after adjusting for age differences).
- Over the same period, the hospitalisation rate for Indigenous Australians in the Angurugu SLA for diabetes was seven times, and for assault was five times, the national average (after adjusting for age differences).
- Seven- to 12-year-olds in Angurugu have an average of 3.2 permanent teeth affected by decay. Decay experience in permanent teeth in seven- to 11-year-olds is between 3.1 and 6.5 times the Northern Territory average and between 2.9 and 4.5 times the Australian average depending on age.

Healthy homes and environmental health

- In 2006, over 65 per cent of Indigenous households in Angurugu experienced overcrowding.
- This is nearly twice the rate for Indigenous households in the Northern Territory and nearly five times the rate for Indigenous Australia.
- There are no current animal control by-laws and existing animal and pest control programs are below base level standards.

Early childhood

- In 2009 the proportion of Indigenous children in the East Arnhem Australian Early Development Index region (which incorporates Angurugu) considered to be developmentally vulnerable in the language and cognitive skills domain is the same as for all Northern Territory Indigenous children (47%) but greater than for all Australian Indigenous children (29%) and all Australian children (8%).
- Of the total births in Angurugu SLA during the period 2004–2008, 32 per cent were to teenage mothers. This was eight times the equivalent proportion for the Australian population as a whole during this period (4%).

Potential issues with service delivery

Accessibility

- The main access road from Alyangula to Angurugu is sealed. However, the majority of roads within 50 km of Angurugu and Umbakumba are unsealed, with large potholes and in need of repair.
- Poor road conditions on Groote Eylandt are perceived to be a contributing factor to road accidents.

- The community is regularly serviced by air. These alternative forms of transport are not without issue; for example, the cost of air travel is prohibitive.

Emergency services

- Emergency services in Angurugu are minimal. Angurugu currently relies on the emergency response capacity based in Alyangula, 18 km from Angurugu.

Water supply system

- During the 2009 Municipal and Essential Services Audit, the water supply system was found to have insufficient capacity to meet the community peak daily demand.
- Since the audit of these services was undertaken it is worth noting that, as part of a \$51.7 million funding program (by the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts announced on 23 April 2010), \$3,610,000 has been allocated to supply new water storage tanks, construct a new water treatment facility and improve day-to-day water supply service.

English as a second language (ESL) teachers

- All students speak Anindilyakwa and will be learning English for the first time at school.
- Of 20 teaching staff, the school has two teachers with formal qualifications in ESL.

Significant new investments

Investments in education

- Under the Building the Education Revolution, Angurugu School will benefit from construction projects worth \$2,125,000, including a multi-purpose hall.
- Angurugu School is also expected to benefit from the Low Socio-economic Status School Communities National Partnership.
- The Families as First Teachers program has also funded Angurugu School with \$150,000 for an early learning and family space next to the preschool, and \$6500 for an Access to Early Learning upgrade to the library building.

Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island Regional Partnership Agreement

- A Regional Partnership Agreement between the Australian Government, the Northern Territory Government, the Anindilyakwa Land Council, Groote Eylandt Mining Company and the East Arnhem Shire Council has been signed for the Groote Eylandt region, including Angurugu.
- The total value of the Regional Partnership Agreement will exceed \$80 million.
- The Regional Partnership Agreement also provides \$20 million for sealing the road between Angurugu and Umbakumba.
- A fluoride treatment plant for Angurugu is planned under Stage 2 of the Regional Partnership Agreement.

National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing

- Over \$60 million has been allocated to Groote Eylandt communities (Angurugu, Umbakumba and Milyakburra) for housing. This includes construction of 80 new houses and at least 75 rebuilds and refurbishments of existing dwellings across the three communities under the

National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing. At Angurugu 60 new dwellings will be constructed.

Communities for Children Plus

- On 29 June 2010, the Commonwealth Government announced it will provide almost \$1.5 million in additional funding to Anglicare NT to deliver the Communities for Children Plus program in East Arnhem over the next three years.
- Anglicare NT will employ four family support workers based in Angurugu, Milingimbi, Numbulwar and Nhulunbuy, who will also provide outreach services to Alyangula, Ramingining, Galiwin'ku, Gapuwiyak, Yirkala, Gunyangara, Milyakburra, Umbakumba and other nearby outstations.

Community Development Employment Projects conversions

- The Northern Territory Government has announced that it will extend Community Development Employment Projects conversions for local government until 30 June 2011 with a funding increase in the total package of available funds from \$20 million to \$24.2 million.

Galiwin'ku key points

This report provides information about the strengths and challenges confronting the community of Galiwin'ku, as well as government and non-government services in Galiwin'ku. The information was largely collected during 2009, but often relates to earlier points in time (in particular, the census data is from 2006).

This section of the report provides a summary of key topics identified about Galiwin'ku. It begins by discussing background information about the community. This is followed by strengths in the community. Next are the challenges confronting the community, and consideration of issues with service provision in the community. Finally, a list of recent investments in the community is provided.

Background community information

People

- The population of Galiwin'ku in 2006 was estimated to be 2,290 people of whom 2,158 were Indigenous (94%).
- In 2006, 49 per cent of Galiwin'ku's Indigenous population was younger than 20 years of age.
- The major language spoken on Galiwin'ku is Djambarrpuyngu (80%). Galpu, Gumatj, Wangurri and Gapapuyngu are also spoken.

Population projections

- The Indigenous population of Galiwin'ku is projected to increase from 2,158 people in 2006 to 2,930 in 2026, an increase of 36 per cent.
- The number of Indigenous people aged 15 to 64 (the working-age population) is projected to increase from 1,397 to 1,905 over this period.
- The Indigenous population aged 50 years and above in Galiwin'ku is projected to double from 217 to 535 people, between 2006 and 2026.
- The changing size and age composition of the Indigenous population of Galiwin'ku will increase the need for housing, employment opportunities, and aged care and health services.

Geography

- Galiwin'ku is located on the south-western side of Elcho Island, which lies just north of the Arnhem Land mainland.
- Galiwin'ku is the main township on Elcho Island, supporting numerous outstations.

Community strengths

Culture and environment

- There is a robust attachment to traditional culture and art in Galiwin'ku.
- The Marthakal Arts Hub has been operated by the community since 1992. It provides Yolngu artists with a workshop, two galleries and a retail outlet to promote their work and share their culture.
- The Elcho Island group is recognised as a site of international conservation significance.

Educational initiatives

- Due to a directed recruitment drive by the council and school, Galiwin'ku has a comparatively high number of teachers trained in English as a second language, with the number of teachers having increased from three to 13 over the last few years.
- Literacy and numeracy sessions implemented in primary and middle school, and a secondary school art program, have both been successful. The art program culminated in a successful exhibition in Darwin.

Accessibility

- The aerodrome and barge landing provide year-round access to the community, and are considered to meet the needs of the community.
- Galiwin'ku Airport is maintained by Mathakal Yolngu Airlines, with a regular service between Galiwin'ku and Darwin.

Challenges

Employment

- The percentage of Indigenous people in Galiwin'ku aged 15 to 64 who had a job (the employment rate) in 2006 was relatively low (45%).
- If Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) positions are not included as employment, this percentage drops to 14 per cent, which is around one-third of the national Indigenous rate of employment excluding CDEP (42%).
- According to a data collection by the Northern Territory Government, there were 396 jobs (including vacancies) in Galiwin'ku in March 2010, and of these jobs 158 were CDEP positions. Excluding vacancies, there were 237 non-CDEP jobs in Galiwin'ku in March 2010 of which 137 were held by Indigenous people and 100 were held by non-Indigenous people.
- Most non-CDEP jobs were in the public sector (175) with the remainder (62) in the private sector. Of the 62 private sector jobs, 45 were held by Indigenous Australians and 17 were held by non-Indigenous people.

Education

- There was a low rate of school attendance (53%) among students at Shepherdson College in 2009, influenced by the high turnover and temporary mobility of students.
- The average yearly attendance rate at Shepherdson College has declined since 2001 from 57 per cent to 53 per cent in 2009. After a peak of 67 per cent in 2002, the attendance rate dropped to 51 per cent in 2008, the lowest attendance rate between 2001 and 2009.
- While the majority of students from Galiwin'ku participated in 2009 NAPLAN testing, few students achieved the national minimum standard in any subject.
- The rate of Indigenous 15- to 24-year-olds participating in full-time employment or study in 2006 was 23 per cent. This is similar to the rate in the Nhulunbuy Indigenous Region (22%) but lower than the national Indigenous rate (44%).

Health

- Indigenous Australians in the East Arnhem – Balance statistical local area (SLA) (which includes Galiwin'ku) were most often hospitalised for dialysis (between 2003–04 and 2007–08).

After adjusting for age differences, the hospital separation rate for dialysis for Indigenous Australians in this SLA was seven times the national average.

- Over the same period, the hospitalisation rate for Indigenous Australians in the East Arnhem – Balance SLA for assault was nine times the national average (after adjusting for age differences).
- On average for every 10 children seen by the Northern Territory Department of Health and Families in Galiwin'ku, six have a filling and one has a tooth extracted. On average for every 10 adults seen, each will have a filling and nine will have a tooth extracted.

Environmental health

- The majority (78%) of Indigenous households in Galiwin'ku experienced overcrowding in 2006. This was higher than the Northern Territory Indigenous average (38%) and the national Indigenous average (14%).
- Indigenous people in the East Arnhem – Balance SLA were hospitalised for diseases associated with poor environmental health at three times the national average rate (after adjusting for age differences) between 2003–04 and 2007–08.
- There are no current animal control by-laws and existing animal and pest control programs are below base level standards.

Early childhood

- In 2009 the proportion of Indigenous children in the East Arnhem Australian Early Development Index region (including Galiwin'ku) considered developmentally vulnerable in the language and cognitive skills domain was 47 per cent. This compares to a rate for all Australian Indigenous children of 29 per cent, and for non-Indigenous children in Australia of 8 per cent.
- Of the total births on East Arnhem – Balance SLA during the period 2004–2008, 22 per cent were to teenage mothers. This was five times the equivalent proportion for the Australian population as a whole during this period (4%).

Potential issues with service delivery

Educational facilities

- The preschool facility in Galiwin'ku is currently one room, but there were over 50 students enrolled in 2009.
- The library is of limited size for the number of students at Galiwin'ku. The school also has a lack of science facilities.
- With a high number of middle to senior students currently not attending school, the facilities are not sufficient to cater for the student population if attendance improves.

Emergency services

- Emergency services in Galiwin'ku are limited.
- Galiwin'ku has an Emergency Services Volunteer Unit, with a facilities shed at the police station. There are five buildings that can be used as cyclone shelters (the school, the Marthakal Badurru workshop, the store, the council building and the education centre).
- The major response capacity for emergencies in Galiwin'ku (on Echo Island), is based in Nhulunbuy (on the mainland).

Water supply

- The water in the community is not fluoridated.

Municipal services

- There are shortfalls in both the quality and quantity of staff accommodation in Galiwin'ku. Staff accommodation needs to be improved in order to provide a reasonable level of service to the community.

Water supply and sewerage systems

- The 2009 Municipal and Essential Services Audit found that while an effective water supply is generally provided, additional bores are required to meet current demands. Ground-level and elevated tanks, the transfer pump and the reticulation system also require upgrading to meet minimum service levels.
- The gravity reticulation sewerage system and waste stabilisation ponds are adequately maintained; however, the overall system is under capacity and suffers regular blockages and outflows.
- The sewer pump stations are of insufficient capacity for current system loadings, and require major upgrades. The primary and secondary ponds do not have adequate operating capacity, and additional ponds and irrigation area are required.
- Since the audit, the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts has announced as part of a \$51.7 million funding program that \$1.82 million has been allocated to Galiwin'ku to equip and upgrade production bores.

Significant new investments

Education

- Under the Building the Education Revolution, the Galiwin'ku Shepherdson College has been funded for a multi-purpose hall, a covered outdoor learning area and a science centre.
- Shepherdson College is also expected to benefit from the Low Socio-economic Status School Communities National Partnership Agreement.
- As part of the National Partnership on Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory, Galiwin'ku has been identified to receive eight new teacher houses.
- A paid cultural advisory position for the school will be established in 2010.

Community safety

- A Themis police station and custodial facilities became operational in Galiwin'ku in November 2007. A permanent police station has been established within the community, and was officially opened on 9 March 2009.

Land administration

- The Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated \$3.6 million in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to conduct a three-year project to survey new and existing housing and infrastructure in the Territory Growth Towns.

National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing

- Under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing, which concludes in 2018, 90 new dwellings are being constructed, 22 existing dwellings will be rebuilt and 83 will be refurbished.
- A major investment in power, water and sewerage is being undertaken within the community to provide adequate services to meet future growth.

Communities for Children Plus

- On 29 June 2010, the Commonwealth Government announced it will provide almost \$1.5 million in additional funding to Anglicare NT to deliver the Communities for Children Plus program in East Arnhem over the next three years.
- Anglicare NT will employ four family support workers based in Angurugu, Milingimbi, Numbulwar and Nhulunbuy, who will also provide outreach services to Galiwin'ku, Alyangula, Ramingining, Gapuwiyak, Yirrkala, Gunyangara, Milyakburra, Umbakumba and other nearby outstations.

Community access

- The Department of Lands and Planning has recently completed a transport infrastructure survey and a gap analysis of transport assets and infrastructure in each of the 20 Territory Growth Towns (including Galiwin'ku). This included condition assessments on internal roads, major access roads, outstation access roads within a 50 km radius, aerodromes and barge landings.
- Ninety-seven per cent of these roads were unsealed and 60 per cent of these roads were classified as being in a poor condition.
- As a result of the local transport infrastructure survey, the Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated funding of \$6.2 million in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to upgrade barge landings across the Northern Territory over a three-year program. The Galiwin'ku barge landing is an identified site.
- The Department of Lands and Planning has also been allocated funding \$890,000 in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget for a remote aerodrome safety program in the Northern Territory.

Emergency services

- Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency has been allocated funding of \$4.9 million in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to build cyclone shelters in remote communities across the Northern Territory. Galiwin'ku has been identified in this program.
- Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services has been allocated \$1 million in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to improve existing, or raise new, Northern Territory Emergency Service Volunteer Units based upon emergency and hazard risk profiles across the Territory Growth Towns.

National Partnership on Digital Regions

- As part of the National Partnership on Digital Regions, Galiwin'ku has been identified to receive e-Health services as part of a \$7 million project.

Youth services

- As part of the National Partnership on Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory, Galiwin'ku has been identified to share \$341,640 for infrastructure upgrades to youth services in Ramingining, Angurugu, Galiwin'ku, Milingimbi, Umbakumba and Gapuwiyak.
- East Arnhem Shire Council has been allocated \$1.1 million over a three-year period to employ two youth workers and two youth worker trainees in Galiwin'ku.
- NT AFL has been awarded \$390,000 to implement an NT AFL regional development program over a two-year period in Wadeye and Galiwin'ku.

Community Development Employment Projects conversions

- The Northern Territory Government has announced that it will extend Community Development Employment Projects conversions for local government until 30 June 2011 with a funding increase in the total package of available funds from \$20 million to \$24.2 million.

Gapuwiyak key points

This report provides information about Gapuwiyak's strengths, challenges confronting the community, as well as government and non-government services in Gapuwiyak. The information was largely collected during 2009, but often relates to earlier points in time (in particular, the census data is from 2006).

This section of the report provides a summary of key topics identified about Gapuwiyak. It begins by discussing background information about the community. This is followed by strengths in the community. Next are the challenges confronting the community, and consideration of issues with service provision in the community. Finally, a list of recent investments in the community is provided.

Background community information

People

- The population of Gapuwiyak is estimated to have been 1,258 people in 2006, of whom 1,208 were Indigenous (96%).
- In 2006, 46 per cent of Gapuwiyak's Indigenous population was younger than 20 years of age.
- The population is predominantly Yolngu, with people from 11 different Yolngu groups.

Population projections

- The Indigenous population of Gapuwiyak is projected to increase from 1,208 people in 2006 to 1,637 in 2026, an increase of 36 per cent.
- The number of Indigenous people aged 15 to 64 (the working-age population) is also projected to increase by 36 per cent over this period, from 782 people to 1,065 people.
- The Indigenous population aged 50 years and over is projected to more than double from 122 to 299, between 2006 and 2026.
- The changing size and age composition of the Indigenous population of Gapuwiyak will increase the need for housing, employment opportunities, and particularly aged care and health services.

Geography

- Gapuwiyak is located in north-east Arnhem Land in the Northern Territory near Lake Evella, about 120 km west-south-west of Nhulunbuy.
- Gapuwiyak has a humid tropical climate and most of the annual rain falls between December and March.

Community strengths

Language, culture and tradition

- The people of Gapuwiyak maintain strong links to traditional Aboriginal languages, culture, art and practices.
- Most people in the community speak an Indigenous language, with the main language being Djambarrpuyngu, a form of Yolngu Matha, which is spoken by 76 per cent of the Indigenous population.

Health and education initiatives

- The Gapuwiyak Men's Health Centre was opened in 1997. Currently, there are over 200 men accessing this service a month.
- There are several successful educational programs which have been implemented, including a Learning Disposition Program and an English as a second language (ESL) program.

Accessibility

- The aerodrome and barge landing provide year-round access to the community, and are considered to meet the needs of the community.

Challenges

Employment

- In 2006, the proportion of Indigenous 15- to 64-year-olds in Gapuwiyak who had a job (the employment rate) was 34 per cent.
- If Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) positions are not included as employment, only 11 per cent of Gapuwiyak's Indigenous working-age population were employed in 2006. This is around one-quarter of the national Indigenous employment rate excluding CDEP (42%), and less than one-sixth of the total national employment rate (71%).
- According to a data collection by the Northern Territory Government, there were 160 jobs (including vacancies) in Gapuwiyak in March 2010, of which 17 were CDEP positions. Excluding vacancies, there were 139 non-CDEP jobs in Gapuwiyak in March 2010, of which 96 were held by Indigenous people and 43 were held by non-Indigenous people.
- Most non-CDEP jobs were in the public sector (103) with the remainder (36) in the private sector. Of the 36 private sector jobs, 29 were held by Indigenous Australians and 7 were held by non-Indigenous people.

Education

- There was a low rate (59%) of school attendance at Gapuwiyak School in 2009. This is influenced by the high turnover and temporary mobility of students in Gapuwiyak.
- Since 2001, the average yearly attendance rate has fluctuated around 50 per cent to 60 per cent, with a peak rate of attendance of 66 per cent in 2008.
- Most students enrolled at Gapuwiyak School took part in NAPLAN testing in 2009, resulting in a far greater participation rate than in 2008, but few students achieved national minimum standards.
- Twelve per cent of Indigenous people in Gapuwiyak aged 20 to 24 had completed Year 12 or gained a Certificate II or higher post-school qualification in 2006. This was lower than the national Indigenous rate (47%) and the national average (83%).
- The proportion of 15- to 24-year-olds participating in full-time employment or study in 2006 was 37 per cent. This is higher than the Nhulunbuy regional rate (22%) but lower than the national Indigenous rate (44%).

Health

- In the East Arnhem – Balance statistical local area (SLA) (which includes Gapuwiyak), in the period 2003–04 to 2007–08, Indigenous people were most often hospitalised for dialysis. After

adjusting for age differences, the hospital separation rate for dialysis for Indigenous Australians in the East Arnhem SLA was 7 times the national average.

- Over the same period, the hospitalisation rate for assault for Indigenous Australians in the East Arnhem – Balance SLA was 9 times the national average (after adjusting for age differences).
- Seven- to 12-year-olds in Gapuwiyak have an average of 2.6 permanent teeth affected by decay. Decay experience in permanent teeth in 7- to 11-year-olds is between 3.5 and 7.0 times the Northern Territory average and between 2.4 and 5.4 times the Australian average depending on age.

Healthy homes and environmental health

- The majority (86%) of Indigenous households in Gapuwiyak experienced overcrowding in 2006.
- Indigenous people in the East Arnhem – Balance SLA were hospitalised for diseases associated with poor environmental health at three times the total national average rate (after adjusting for age differences) between 2003–04 and 2007–08.
- There are problems with dogs within the community, with nuisance noise and biting being the main issues.

Early childhood

- In 2009 forty-seven per cent of Indigenous children in the East Arnhem Australian Early Development Index region (which includes Gapuwiyak) were considered developmentally vulnerable in the language and cognitive skills domain. This compares to 29 per cent of all Australian Indigenous children, and 8 per cent of non-Indigenous children in Australia.
- Of the total births in the East Arnhem – Balance SLA during the period 2004 to 2008, 22 per cent were to teenage mothers. This was 5 times the equivalent proportion for the Australian population as a whole during this period (4%).

Potential issues with service delivery

Accessibility

- The main access road to Gapuwiyak is mostly unsealed, with 54 per cent of the road deemed to be in poor condition. It can be closed for months during the wet season.
- There is community concern that due to the inadequate condition of the road, this may impact on service delivery and the economic development in remote towns.
- The community is regularly serviced by barge; however, there is no regular air passage, and travel costs to either Nhulunbuy or Darwin are high.

Water supply

- The water in the community is not fluoridated.

Emergency services

- Emergency services in Gapuwiyak are limited. The officer in charge of the Nhulunbuy police station has responsibility for overall coordination of emergency response in the region, which includes Gapuwiyak.

English as a second language (ESL) teachers

- Most students (97%) in Gapuwiyak speak an Indigenous language and will be learning English for the first time at school.
- Of the 30 teaching staff, the school has one general support ESL teacher and three teachers with some training in ESL.

Services and facilities

- The 2009 Municipal and Essential Services Audit notes that sewerage infrastructure has insufficient capacity to meet current system requirements and will become overloaded if not updated to meet the needs of the expanding community.
- Similarly, the tip is nearly full and needs expansion.
- None of the 17 government employee housing units comply with the Core Amenity Design Standards, although new police accommodation will be constructed in association with the new police station.

Significant new investments

Educational investments

- Several projects for Gapuwiyak are funded under the Building the Education Revolution program, including a multi-purpose hall, school refurbishment and a science centre.
- Gapuwiyak School is expected to benefit from the Low Socio-economic Status School Communities National Partnership.
- Funding for a vocational education and training (VET) centre, including accommodation for trainers, has also been approved under the VET Infrastructure for Indigenous People Program.
- As part of the National Partnership on Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory, Gapuwiyak has been identified to receive two new teacher houses.

Communities for Children Plus

- On 29 June 2010, the Commonwealth Government announced that it will provide almost \$1.5 million in additional funding to Anglicare NT to deliver the Communities for Children Plus program in East Arnhem over the next three years.
- Anglicare NT will employ four family support workers based in Angurugu, Milingimbi, Numbulwar and Nhulunbuy, who will also provide outreach services to Galiwin'ku, Alyangula, Ramingining, Gapuwiyak, Yirrkala, Gunyangara, Milyakburra, Umbakumba and other nearby outstations.

National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing

- A lease is currently being finalised to enable the rollout of new housing, rebuilding and refurbishment of houses under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing, but targets for this community have not been set.
- A major investment in power, water and sewerage is being undertaken within the community to provide adequate services to meet future growth.

Land administration

- The Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated \$3.6 million in funding in the Northern Territory Government budget to conduct a three-year project to survey new and existing housing and infrastructure in the Territory Growth Towns.

Community access

- The Department of Lands and Planning has recently completed a transport infrastructure survey and a gap analysis of multi-modal transport assets and infrastructure in each of the 20 Territory Growth Towns. This included condition assessments on internal roads, major access roads, outstation access roads within a 50 km radius, aerodromes and barge landings.
- As a result of the local transport infrastructure survey, the Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated \$6.2 million in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to upgrade barge landings across the Northern Territory over a three-year program. Gapuwiyak barge landing is an identified site.
- Also as a result of the local transport infrastructure survey, the Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated \$14 million in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to upgrade the Central Arnhem Road.
- The Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated funding \$890,000 in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget for a remote aerodrome safety program in the Northern Territory.
- The Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated \$4.5 million over a five-year period in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to support an aerodrome reporting officer. Gapuwiyak Aerodrome is an identified site.

Emergency services

- Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services has been allocated \$1 million in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to improve existing, or raise new, Northern Territory Emergency Service Volunteer Units based upon emergency and hazard risk profiles across the Territory Growth Towns.

Safe communities

- As part of the National Partnership on Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory, Gapuwiyak has been allocated \$7.8 million in funding to construct a permanent police station.
- A Themis station and custodial facilities became operational in Gapuwiyak in January 2008, with three officers currently deployed to the station.
- A night patrol has also been established in Gapuwiyak as part of the Northern Territory Emergency Response.

National Partnership on Digital Regions

- As part of the National Partnership on Digital Regions, Gapuwiyak has been identified to receive e-Health services as part of a \$7 million project.

Youth services

- East Arnhem Shire Council has been awarded \$2.4 million for a diversionary program in five remote service delivery towns over three years. Gapuwiyak has been identified in this program.

- Gapuwiyak has been identified to share \$341,640 for infrastructure upgrades to youth services in Ramingining, Angurugu, Galiwin'ku, Milingimbi, Umbakumba and Gapuwiyak.
- The Australian Sports Commission has been awarded \$500,000 to implement the Sports Demonstration Projects over a two-year period for Gapuwiyak, Wadeye, Yuendumu, Gunbalanya and Wurrumiyanga (Nguiu).

Community Development Employment Projects conversions

- The Northern Territory Government has announced that it will extend Community Development Employment Project conversions for local government until 30 June 2011 with a funding increase in the total package of available funds from \$20 million to \$24.2 million.

Gunbalanya key points

This report provides information about Gunbalanya's strengths, challenges confronting the community, as well as government and non-government services in Gunbalanya. The information was largely collected during 2009, but often relates to earlier points in time (in particular, the census data is from 2006).

This section of the report provides a summary of key topics identified about Gunbalanya. It begins by discussing background information about the community. This is followed by strengths in the community. Next are the challenges confronting the community, and consideration of issues with service provision in the community. Finally, a list of recent investments in the community is provided.

Background community information

People

- The population of Gunbalanya in 2006 is estimated to have been 1,226 people, of whom 1,141 (93%) were Indigenous.
- In 2006, 42 per cent of Gunbalanya's Indigenous population was under 20 years of age.

Population projections

- The Indigenous population of Gunbalanya is projected to grow by 39 per cent, from 1,141 in 2006 to 1,584 in 2026.
- The number of Indigenous people aged 15 to 64 (workforce age) is projected to increase by 39 per cent, from 698 people in 2006 to 1,027 people in 2026.
- The number of Indigenous people aged over 50 is expected to more than double from 105 to 261 over this period (150 per cent increase).
- The changing size and age composition of the Indigenous population of Gunbalanya will increase the need for housing, employment opportunities, and particularly aged care and health services.

Geography

- Gunbalanya (or Oenpelli) is located 300 km east of Darwin, on the Arnhem Land plateau in the Northern Territory.

Community strengths

Language, culture and tradition

- The community is traditionally oriented and traditional languages and cultural practices are a matter of course.
- The primary language spoken in the Gunbalanya community is Kunwinjku, which is spoken by 65 per cent of the population. Various Arnhem Land and Daly River Region languages are also spoken, as are Tiwi and English.

School initiatives

- Students living on homelands are still serviced by the Gunbalanya School, which currently provides education services to 65 students at three Homeland Learning Centres (Gumarrirbang, Manmoyi and Marmadawerre).
- Many effective school programs have been identified by the school community. These include substantial allocated time for literacy and numeracy each day (8.30–11.30 am),

swimming at the local pool as a reward for attendance, separation by gender of middle years classes, buddy reading programs and hands-on science projects.

- The school community also identified effective approaches regarding staff—for example, learning sessions held weekly for all staff, cross-cultural awareness training and experiences, and staff action committees.

Challenges

Employment

- In 2006, the proportion of Indigenous people aged 15 to 64 who had a job (the employment rate) in Gunbalanya was 42 per cent.
- If Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) positions are not counted as employment, the 2006 Indigenous employment rate would have been 9 per cent. This is less than one-quarter the national Indigenous employment rate excluding CDEP (42%), and less than one-seventh the total national rate (71%).
- According to a data collection by the Northern Territory Government, there were 227 jobs (including vacancies) in Gunbalanya in March 2010, of which 6 were CDEP positions. Excluding vacancies, there were 220 non-CDEP jobs in Gunbalanya in March 2010, of which 142 were held by Indigenous people and 78 were held by non-Indigenous people.
- Most non-CDEP jobs were in the public sector (124) with the remainder (96) in the private sector. Of the 96 private sector jobs, 65 were held by Indigenous Australians and 31 were held by non-Indigenous people.

Education

- Very few students at Gunbalanya School reached national minimum standards in 2009 NAPLAN testing.
- Mobility of students at the school is very high: during the past two years enrolment has varied from a high of 345 to a low of 237. In 2009, between the beginning of the year and week 2 of term 4, 243 students enrolled while 99 left.
- Since 2001, the average yearly attendance rate at Gunbalanya School has declined overall, since a peak in that year of 62 per cent. After declining to 48 per cent in 2008, the attendance rate reached 50 per cent in 2009.
- In 2006, the proportion of Indigenous 20- to 24-year-olds who had attained Year 12 or equivalent qualification in Gunbalanya was 11 per cent, compared to the total national rate of 83 per cent.

Health

- Between 2003–04 and 2007–08 Indigenous people in the Kunbarllanjnja (CGC) statistical local area (SLA), which includes Gunbalanya, were most commonly hospitalised for dialysis, at 11 times the national rate (after adjusting for age differences).
- Over the same period, the rate of assault-related hospital separations for Indigenous people in Kunbarllanjnja (CGC) SLA, after adjusting for age differences, was more than 5 times the national average.
- Eight- to 12-year-olds in Gunbalanya have an average of 2.1 permanent teeth affected by decay. Decay experience in permanent teeth in 7- to 11-year-olds is between 4.1 and 8.8

times the Northern Territory average and between 3.1 and 6.8 times the Australian average depending on age.

Healthy homes and environmental health

- In 2006, 74 per cent of Indigenous households in Gunbalanya experienced overcrowding (92 homes).
- Between 2003–04 and 2007–08, Indigenous people in Kunbarllanjnja (CGC) SLA were hospitalised for diseases associated with poor environmental health at over three times the national rate (after adjusting for age differences).
- There is a need for improved animal management as there are significant numbers of dogs roaming the community. The shire has no dog registration or control measures, and relies on the community to self-manage, and the police to intervene when required. There are no current animal control by-laws and existing animal and pest control programs are below standard.

Early childhood

- In 2009 thirty-seven per cent of Indigenous children in the Darwin Australian Early Development Index region (which includes Gunbalanya) were considered developmentally vulnerable in the language and cognitive skills domain. This compares to 29 per cent of all Australian Indigenous children, and 8 per cent of non-Indigenous children in Australia.
- Of the total births in Kunbarllanjnja (CGC) SLA during the period 2004 to 2008, 28 per cent were to teenage mothers. This was 7 times the equivalent proportion for the Australian population as a whole during this period (4%).

Potential issues with service delivery

Water supply

- The water in the community is not fluoridated.

Municipal and essential services

- The 2009 Municipal and Essential Services Audit reports that the water supply (from a bore field) currently struggles to meet the current peak daily demand.
- The sewerage system pipes sewage via treatment ponds to a low-lying area which floods during the wet season. The pump stations and treatment ponds are below the needs of the community.
- Neither telephone services nor public lighting meets community needs.
- There is a reported shortage of staff housing in Gunbalanya, with current housing varying in levels of compliance with the Building Code of Australia. Lack of housing is impacting on the ability of the local shire to fill job vacancies.

Access to community

- The community is serviced by partly sealed roads, which are prone to flooding in the wet season. In the past 12 months, the major access road has been cut off at least five times, and the longest period was four months.
- Seventy-seven per cent of Gunbalanya's access roads are unsealed. Forty-eight per cent are identified as being in poor condition.

- There is no public transport between Gunbalanya and the nearest major centre, Jabiru. When the road is cut off, access to Gunbalanya is via air. Flights to and from Gunbalanya do not currently receive subsidy through the Remote Air Services Subsidy Scheme, and a return flight to Jabiru costs \$325, or to Darwin \$1,300.
- The isolation of Gunbalanya adds significantly to the costs of all goods and services, and the local economy and workforce participation are not strong enough to readily offset these costs.

Schooling

- At the Gunbalanya School, 94 per cent of students have Kunwinjku as their first language. Of the 18 teachers, one has an English as a second language (ESL) qualification, three have some ESL training, and one more is studying a formal ESL course.
- Teaching, administrative and staff rooms at Gunbalanya School are in poor condition.

Significant new investments

Investments in education

- Under the Building the Education Revolution program, the Gunbalanya School will receive a new science centre and a new multi-purpose hall, as well the refurbishment of the school canteen, in projects worth over \$4.6 million.
- As part of the National Partnership on Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory, Gunbalanya has constructed two new teacher houses.
- The Gunbalanya School is expected to benefit from the Low Socio-Economic Schools National Partnership Agreement.

Land administration

- The Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated \$3.6 million in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to conduct a three-year project to survey new and existing housing and infrastructure in Territory Growth Towns.

National Partnership on Remote Indigenous Housing

- Under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing, a 40-year housing precinct lease to Territory Housing was finalised in August 2009 to enable the rollout of the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program (SIHIP). The SIHIP Alliance Partners have commenced capital works for the community and 62 new houses and a minimum of 60 rebuilds and refurbishments will be delivered.
- Under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing, a major investment in power, water and sewerage is being undertaken in the community to provide adequate services to meet future growth.

Community safety

- The Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated \$890,000 in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget for a remote aerodrome safety program.
- Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services has been allocated \$1 million in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to improve existing, or raise new, Northern Territory Emergency Service Volunteer Units based upon emergency and hazard risk profiles across the Territory Growth Towns.

- A Safe Place service is being established at Gunbalanya with Commonwealth and Territory funding.
- As part of the National Partnership on Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory, Gunbalanya has recently seen the replacement of Australian Federal Police with permanent Northern Territory Police.

National Partnership on Digital Regions

- As part of the National Partnership on Digital Regions, Gunbalanya has been identified to receive e-Health services as part of a \$7 million project.

Children and Family Centre

- A Children and Family Centre will be established in Gunbalanya through the National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Early Childhood Development.
- It is intended that the centre will bring together important services for children and families, including childcare, early learning, parent and family support programs.
- The centre is expected to connect with other services in the community to ensure families can easily access the services they need, such as maternal and child health services, playgroups and family literacy programs.

Youth services

- The Australian Red Cross has been awarded funding of approximately \$5 million over a three-year period for one fully qualified youth worker and two Indigenous trainee youth workers in Daly River, Wurrumiyanga (Nguiu), Gunbalanya, Angurugu and Wadeye.
- The Australian Sports Commission has been awarded \$500,000 to implement the Sports Demonstration Projects over a two-year period for Gapuwiyak, Wadeye, Yuendumu, Gunbalanya and Wurrumiyanga (Nguiu).
- West Arnhem Shire Council was awarded \$105,602 for the construction of the extension and upgrade to a dedicated youth diversion activity space for Indigenous males in 2009–10 for Gunbalanya.

Community Development Employment Projects conversions

- The Northern Territory Government has announced that it will extend Community Development Employment Projects conversions for local government until 30 June 2011 with a funding increase in the total package of available funds from \$20 million to \$24.2 million.

Hermannsburg (Ntaria) key points

This report provides information about Hermannsburg's strengths, challenges confronting the community, as well as government and non-government services in Hermannsburg. The information was largely collected during 2009, but often relates to earlier points in time (in particular, the census data is from 2006).

This section of the report provides a summary of key topics identified about Hermannsburg. It begins by discussing background information about the community. This is followed by strengths in the community. Next are the challenges confronting the community, and consideration of issues with service provision in the community. Finally, a list of recent investments in the community is provided.

Background community information

People, language and history

- There were an estimated 999 people in Hermannsburg in 2006, of whom 938 were Indigenous (94%).
- The community has a relatively young age profile, with nearly half of the population under 20 years of age.
- Hermannsburg is located in the traditional lands of the Western Arrernte people. The primary language spoken at home is Arrernte. Other languages spoken include Warlpiri and Luritja.
- The community and the Aboriginal land surrounding the community are held under seven different Aboriginal land trusts.
- There are over 40 outstations located in the vicinity of the community. They are serviced by Tjuwanpa Outstation Resource Centre, which is managed by an Indigenous board.
- The community was formerly a Lutheran mission, established in 1877. Seventy-nine per cent of residents in 2006 identified as Lutheran.

Community governance

- In July 2008 the Ntaria Council Incorporated, along with 11 other community councils, was amalgamated into the new MacDonnell Shire as part of reforms to local government areas in the Northern Territory. Hermannsburg makes up about 9 per cent of the MacDonnell Shire population.

Population projections

- The Indigenous population of Hermannsburg is projected to grow by 34 per cent, from 938 in 2006 to 1,261 in 2026.
- The number of Indigenous people aged over 65 is projected to grow by 103 per cent, from 35 in 2006 to 71 in 2026.
- The working-age population is projected to grow by 36 per cent, from 600 in 2006 to 817 in 2026.
- The changing size and age composition of the Indigenous population of Hermannsburg will increase the need for housing, employment opportunities, and particularly health care and aged services.

Geography and climate

- Hermansburg is located approximately 126 km west of Alice Springs by road, on the Finke River. Hermansburg is situated between the West MacDonnell National Park to the north and the Finke Gorge National Park to the south. The Kirchauff Ranges are located nearby.
- Hermansburg is accessed via Larapinta Drive, which is a major tourist road that leads to several national parks. Larapinta Drive provides access to Areyonga community, the Mereenie oil and gas fields, and Kings Canyon.
- There are 29 annual days of rain in Hermansburg. During periods of heavy rain, roads can occasionally become impassable. Hermansburg was cut off twice in the past year for one day each time.

Community strengths

Culture, landcare and natural resources

- The spiritual significance of the land is integral to the cultural identity of the Western Arrernte people.
- The people of Hermansburg maintain strong links to their traditional land, language and culture. They have strong kinship connections to people within the community and other nearby communities.
- Hermansburg is located in an area that is renowned for its natural beauty. Over 20,000 visitors pass through the area every year en route to several major national parks.
- The Palm Valley gas fields and a natural gas pipeline that passes across Western Arrernte land bring some royalty payments to the community.
- Hermansburg is part of the Greater MacDonnell Ranges, which are listed as a site of conservation significance. The Finke Gorge National Park is home to over 400 plant types, of which more than 30 are considered rare.
- The community and most of the land around the community, extending west to the Western Australian border, is inalienable Aboriginal freehold land. There are many opportunities for land management/care enterprises.
- The Tjuwanpa Rangers group won the Northern Territory 2007 Alcan Landcare Indigenous Merit Award.

Community safety and wellbeing

- Since the introduction of the Northern Territory Emergency Response, a night patrol and women's safe house have been operating. The Ntaria-Ingintja Male Wellbeing Centre also operates in the community.

Emergency services

- The Hermansburg Volunteer Unit is responsible for providing a fire and rescue team when required. In the event of an emergency, the community is one of the better prepared and responsive out of the 29 RSD communities. However, some additional capacity may need to be built around fire responsiveness.

Community challenges

Early childhood

- In 2009 the proportion of Indigenous children in the Alice Springs AEDI region (which incorporates Hermannsburg) considered to be developmentally vulnerable in the language and cognitive skills domain (54%) is greater than for all NT Indigenous children (47%), all Australian Indigenous children (29%) and all Australian children (14%).
- Of the total births during the period 2004–2008 in the Tanami statistical local area (SLA), which includes Hermannsburg, 30 per cent were to teenage mothers. This was seven times the equivalent proportion for the Australian population as a whole during this period (4%).

Health

- Over the five-year period 2003–04 to 2007–08, after adjusting for age differences, Indigenous Australians in the Tanami SLA were hospitalised for care involving dialysis at a rate around 70 times the total national average.
- Over the same period, after adjusting for age differences, Indigenous Australians in the Tanami SLA were hospitalised for alcohol-related conditions at more than seven times the national average.
- Seven- to 12-year-olds in Hermannsburg have an average of 2.8 permanent teeth affected by decay. Decay experience in permanent teeth in 7- to 11-year-olds is between 3.4 and 8.9 times the NT average and between 2.6 and 6.5 times the Australian average depending on age.

Healthy homes

- In 2006, 54 per cent of Indigenous households in Hermannsburg experienced overcrowding.
- For diseases associated with poor environmental health, after adjusting for age differences, Indigenous Australians in the Tanami SLA were hospitalised at a rate around 11 times the national average (2003–04 to 2007–08).

Education

- Hermannsburg's Indigenous population has a relatively low rate of educational attainment—14 per cent of Indigenous 20- to 24-year-olds in 2006 had attained at least Year 12 or a Certificate II or higher. This compares to a national Indigenous rate of 47 per cent.
- The qualification rate (Certificate II or higher) for 20- to 64-year-olds at Hermannsburg was 8 per cent, which was lower than the Northern Territory Indigenous rate of 11 per cent, the national Indigenous rate of 22 per cent and the total population rate of 45 per cent.
- The 2009 NAPLAN results indicate that the majority of students at Ntaria School tested did not meet the national minimum standards.

School attendance

- New educational programs and projects at Ntaria School have shown improvements in the engagement of both students in the classroom and Indigenous teachers.
- Since 2001, the average yearly attendance rate at Ntaria School has increased overall, from 65 per cent in 2001. In 2009, the attendance rate was 73 per cent, the highest during the period, having increased from the lowest attendance rate of the period, of 52 per cent in 2002.

Employment

- In 2006, the employment rate of Indigenous people aged 15 to 64 in Hermannsburg was 33 per cent.
- Changes to the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) program mean that by June 2011 CDEP will no longer be considered employment. If CDEP positions are discounted for the 2006 data, the employment rate (7%) is one-sixth of the national Indigenous rate excluding CDEP (42%).
- Since 2008 a total of 31.2 jobs were converted from CDEP in Hermannsburg through Australian Government funding.
- According to a data collection by the Northern Territory Government, there were 175 jobs (including vacancies) in Hermannsburg in March 2010, of which 12 were CDEP positions. Excluding vacancies, there were 161 non-CDEP jobs in Hermannsburg in March 2010, of which 103 were held by Indigenous people and 58 were held by non-Indigenous people.
- Most non-CDEP jobs were in the public sector (96) with the remainder (65) in the private sector. Of the 65 private sector jobs, 42 were held by Indigenous Australians and 23 were held by non-Indigenous people.

Children and child care

- There is only a limited childcare capacity of 10 places in Hermannsburg, whereas the community need is for 60 to 70 places (to cater for 70 to 100 children aged 0 to 4 years in the wider Hermannsburg area).

Young people and recreation

- Only 13 per cent of young Indigenous people in Hermannsburg (15- to 24-year-olds) were engaged in full-time study or employment in 2006.
- A coronial inquest into the death of several people from Hermannsburg called for more diversionary programs.
- The community does not have a public library, a swimming pool or adequate recreational facilities for children and young people.

Community safety

- In the three-year period from 2006–07 to 2008–09, a total of 919 offences occurred in Hermannsburg. The number of recorded offences fluctuated over the three financial years.
- Traffic offences accounted for the highest proportion of offences—28 per cent in 2008–09.
- During the 2006–07 to 2008–09 period, 40 per cent of all offences were recorded as alcohol related.
- Alcohol-related offences were found in acts intended to cause injury (62%), other offences against the person (100%), public order offences (88%) and justice procedure offences (55%).
- Over the three-year period, only 4 per cent of all offences in Hermannsburg were considered by police to be drug or substance abuse related. Those offences spanned many categories of offence.
- Over the three-year period, of the 919 offences recorded 18 per cent were identified as domestic/family violence incidents. Domestic/family violence was found in 62 per cent of acts intended to cause injury, 17 per cent of sexual offences, 68 per cent of 'other' offences and 77 per cent of justice procedure offences.
- Over the same period, after adjusting for age differences, Indigenous Australians in Tanami SLA were hospitalised for assault at a rate nearly 65 times the national average.

Potential issues with service delivery

Health

- There is a need for improved access to health specialists and associated services (such as dialysis treatment) not available in the community.
- There is a need for increased maternity services such as a community-based midwife and a Strong Women, Strong Babies, Strong Culture worker.
- The health centre design is not conducive to the delivery of contemporary primary health care services.
- An oral health truck and van is on-site, but due to lack of staffing the level of service is insufficient to establish preventive oral health practices and to meet community need.
- The community has expressed concern about the range of fresh foods available and has suggested that the role of the nutritionist be extended to provide targeted intervention to people with chronic disease.
- There is a need for follow-up on issues associated with the Healthy School-Age Kids program.

Water supply

- The water in the community is not fluoridated.

Accommodation

- There is a shortage of temporary accommodation for visiting community and health workers.

Physical infrastructure

- The community has expressed a wish for a swimming pool, a public library and a range of recreational facilities for children and youth.

Municipal services

- Staff accommodation meets the base level standards. However, there is still a shortage of staff accommodation and none of the houses meet the Core Amenity and Design Standards.
- The MacDonnell Shire Council is progressively taking control of the current problems of overpopulation of dogs and wild horses, and also responding to pest outbreaks. However, there are no current animal control by-laws and existing animal and pest control programs are below standard.
- The existing community facilities are in reasonable condition except for the public toilet, which is regularly vandalised. The community also needs additional landscaped public open spaces and a football oval irrigation system.
- Landscape and dust management in Hermannsburg fails to meet the base level standards and the community lacks sufficient shaded playgrounds. There are also concerns about wind- and vehicle-generated dust around the community.
- The street lighting in Hermannsburg does not meet the lighting level and maintenance requirements.
- There is no public internet service in the community.

Essential services

- While the air infrastructure meets the base level standards, the community can lose its medical emergency evacuation capability at night and during wet weather.

- The power supply and reticulation system and existing sewerage system are in good operating condition. However, the sewerage system is undersized to meet current community capacity demands.
- The water supply system does not meet the base level standards as the bore supply and elevated storage presently do not meet existing demand capacity requirements of the community.

Schooling

- The speed of internet access is not reliable at Ntaria School. The low bandwidth experienced by the school is often too slow to carry out everyday tasks.
- Improvements are needed in the provision of vocational education and training (VET) courses and secondary school courses. Provision of VET courses by providers from outside organisations has been intermittent, without strong structures for ongoing, sustained training.
- Current levels of access to relief teaching staff are a significant inhibitor to improving the instructional practices of staff and the development of suitably adapted curricula.

Police and community safety

- Although there are alcohol restrictions in place, there may be a need for services designed to reduce the illegal smuggling of alcohol into the community and other services, programs and resources to support police efforts.
- The night patrol operates six hours a night, five days a week.
- A new women's safe house opened in 2009 as part of the Northern Territory Emergency Response appears to have had a favourable response from women in the community and from police. However, it has been reported that it is underutilised, and there is no domestic and family violence worker in Hermannsburg.

Employment

- A new Centrelink Remote Access Service is being trialled.

Significant new investments

Investments in education

- Ntaria School is undergoing rapid growth with upgrades of school buildings and facilities. Under the Building the Education Revolution program, Ntaria School will receive \$2 million for construction including classroom block, and a further \$125,000 for outdoor teaching and learning environment.
- The Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations is funding the construction of a 40-place childcare facility to be built on school grounds.
- The Department of Education and Training has been allocated \$1.25 million in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to upgrade Ntaria School.

Investments in staff accommodation

- Funding has been provided for capital expenditure to provide staff housing for the doctor (\$418,000) and other building works (\$163,205).

Investments in housing

- Under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing, Hermannsburg will benefit from new construction and or/refurbishment and repairs; however, targets for the community have not yet been set.
- A major investment in power, water and sewerage is being undertaken within the community to provide adequate services to meet future growth.

Safe community

- The Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated \$890,000 in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget for the implementation of a remote aerodrome safety program.
- NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services has been allocated \$1 million in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to improve existing, or raise new, Northern Territory Emergency Service Volunteer Units based upon emergency and hazard risk profiles across all Territory Growth Towns.

Community access

- The Northern Territory Government has recently completed condition surveys of local transport infrastructure including major access roads, outstation access roads within a 50 km radius, aerodromes and barge landings.
- As a result of the local transport infrastructure survey, the Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated \$160,000 to upgrade the Red Centre Way.

Land administration

- A total of \$3.6 million has been allocated in the Northern Territory Government budget to the Department of Lands and Planning to conduct a three-year project to survey new and existing housing and infrastructure in the Territory Growth Towns.

National Partnership on Digital Regions

- As part of the National Partnership on Digital Regions, Hermannsburg has been identified to receive e-Health services as part of a \$7 million project.

Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory National Partnership Agreement

Youth Services

- Under the Youth in Communities measure, MacDonnell Shire Council is receiving \$4.7 million (2009–10 to 2011–12) for youth workers and Indigenous trainee workers in Areyonga, Papunya, Haasts Bluff, Hermannsburg, Kintore and Mt Liebig, and staff for headquarters.

Teacher housing

- As part of the National Partnership on Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory, Hermannsburg has been identified to receive five new teacher houses.

Policing

- As part of the National Partnership on Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory, Hermannsburg has recently seen the replacement of Australian Federal Police with permanent Northern Territory Police.

Community Development Employment Projects conversions

- The Northern Territory Government has announced that it will extend Community Development Employment Projects conversions for local government until 30 June 2011 with a funding increase in the total package of available funds from \$20 million to \$24.2 million.

Lajamanu key points

This report provides information about Lajamanu's strengths, challenges confronting the community, as well as government and non-government services in Lajamanu. The information was largely collected during 2009, but often relates to earlier points in time (in particular, the census data is from 2006).

This section of the report provides a summary of key topics identified about Lajamanu. It begins by discussing background information about the community. This is followed by strengths in the community. Next are the challenges confronting the community, and consideration of issues with service provision in the community. Finally, a list of recent investments in the community is provided.

Background community information

People

- The population of Lajamanu in 2006 was estimated to be 845 people of whom 735 were Indigenous (87%).
- In 2006, 49 per cent of Lajamanu's Indigenous population was younger than 20 years of age.
- The major language spoken in Lajamanu is Warlpiri (77%). English is also spoken.

Population projections

- The Indigenous population of Lajamanu is projected to increase from 735 people in 2006 to 1,010 in 2026, an increase of 38 per cent.
- The number of Indigenous people of working age (15–64 years) is projected to increase from 441 to 649 over this period.
- The greatest proportional increase is expected to be in the 50 year and over population, which is expected to double over the next 20 years from 75 in 2006 to 167 in 2026.

Geography

- Lajamanu is located 870 km south of Darwin and 560 km south-west of Katherine by road in the central desert of the Northern Territory.
- There are 11 smaller communities and outstations associated with the Lajamanu RSD location.

Community strengths

Language and culture

- The Central Land Council has worked closely with the Warlpiri people and the Indigenous education organisation Warlpiri-patu-kurlangu Jaru to develop education and media programs through the Walpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) Project.

- The Warnayaka Arts Centre, a major art and craft centre of desert dot painting of the Warlpiri people, receives supportive funding from the Australian Government.
- Six positions for art workers have been created in Lajamanu through the conversion of positions previously funded through the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) program.

Community safety

- Lajamanu introduced innovations in the late 1990s as part of the Northern Territory's Law and Justice Strategy and the available data indicates this has been effective in reducing family violence.
- The tribal council created a law and justice committee, and youth diversion and community justice mechanisms, which have remained resilient because they are community-owned and embedded in law and culture.

Educational initiatives

- The Aboriginal Literacy Strategy is effective and is supported by use of the First Steps program.
- The Warlpiri Three-Year Learning Cycle, which includes law, ceremony, culture, arts and stories, is incorporated into the main school curriculum and linked to literacy and numeracy.
- The onsite staff member supporting the Indigenous Teacher Upgrade Program is assisting with the professional growth of Indigenous staff.

Environmental health

- The services audit found Lajamanu to be a relatively tidy town with limited visible signs of rubbish.
- The community has a reasonable power supply, but while the water supply and sewerage system are reliable, they do not meet applicable guidelines.

Challenges facing the community

Health

- After adjusting for age differences, the observed number of hospital separations for diabetes for Indigenous Australians in the Lajamanu statistical local area (SLA) was nearly 12 times the national average (2003–04 to 2007–08).
- After adjusting for age differences, the observed number of hospital separations relating to assault for Indigenous Australians in the Lajamanu SLA was nearly 11 times the national average.
- After adjusting for age differences, the rate of Indigenous hospital separations for total ambulatory care sensitive conditions for residents of the Lajamanu SLA was nearly twice the national rate. Ambulatory care sensitive conditions are those that could be addressed by better access to primary health care and conditions that relate to avoidable chronic diseases.

Education

- The rate of Indigenous 15- to 24-year-olds participating in full-time employment or study in Lajamanu in 2006 was 16 per cent. This is lower than the Northern Territory rate (26%) and less than half the national Indigenous rate (44%).
- Almost all students from Lajamanu participated in the 2009 NAPLAN tests. Most year cohorts did not meet the threshold for reporting, but of those that did, few students met the national minimum standards.
- The average yearly attendance rate at Lajamanu School declined from 60 per cent in 2001 to 53 per cent in 2009.

Employment

- In the 2006 Census, 24 per cent of Indigenous people aged between 15 and 64 years in Lajamanu were employed.
- When CDEP is not included as employment this drops to 5 per cent, which is around one-eighth of the national Indigenous rate of non-CDEP employment (42%).
- Since 2008 a total of 35.6 jobs have been converted from CDEP in Lajamanu through Australian Government funding.
- According to a data collection by the Northern Territory Government, there were 212 jobs (including vacancies) in Lajamanu in March 2010, of which eight were CDEP positions. Excluding vacancies, there were 197 non-CDEP jobs in Lajamanu in March 2010, of which 117 were held by Indigenous people and 80 were held by non-Indigenous people.
- Most non-CDEP jobs were in the public sector (104) with the remainder (93) in the private sector. Of the 93 private sector jobs, 56 were held by Indigenous Australians and 37 were held by non-Indigenous people.

Community safety

- From 2006–07 to 2008–09, just under one in four offences (24%) were alcohol related.
- Ninety-five per cent of offences against the person and 70 per cent of public order offences were alcohol related over the same period.
- Between 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2009, 91 persons with an address in Lajamanu underwent a period of imprisonment in Alice Springs and/or Darwin Correctional Centres. The 91 persons underwent a total of 181 periods of imprisonment during the five-year period. Most of those imprisoned were male, and most were under 40 years of age.

Early childhood

- In 2009 the proportion of Indigenous children in the Katherine Australian Early Development Index region (including Lajamanu) considered developmentally vulnerable in the language and cognitive skills domain was 55 per cent. This compares to a rate for all Australian Indigenous children of 29 per cent, and for non-Indigenous children in Australia of 8 per cent.

- Of the total births in Lajamanu SLA during the period 2004–2008, 38 per cent were to teenage mothers. This was nine times the equivalent proportion for the Australian population as a whole during this period (4%).

Environmental health

- Fifty-four per cent of Indigenous households experienced overcrowding in Lajamanu in 2006. This is much higher than the Indigenous national average (14%) and the total national average (3%).
- Aggressive dog packs roaming the streets are a concern for some community members. Feral horses are also causing damage to infrastructure (mainly fences) throughout Lajamanu.
- For diseases associated with poor environmental health, the observed number of hospital separations for Indigenous Australians in the Lajamanu SLA was four times the national average, after adjusting for age differences.

Potential issues with service delivery

Water supply

- The water in the community is not fluoridated.

Staff recruitment and accommodation

- Staff accommodation in Lajamanu is generally in a reasonable condition. However, there is a shortage of staff accommodation, particularly for teachers, and one of the existing staff houses needs renovation.
- Funding is available for health service expansion through the Expanding Health Service Delivery Initiative but due to limited staff accommodation, services have been limited to a drive-in/drive-out or fly-in/fly-out service from Alice Springs.
- Assistance for people with a disability seems to be inadequate and some need appears not to be met. The availability of visiting services, for example, is limited by inadequate staffing levels, cost of travel and difficulties in recruiting to Katherine as the regional service centre (let alone to Lajamanu). Accommodation for resident and visiting carers and professionals is limited or rental is too costly.

Accessibility

- The impassability of roads due to heavy rain and flooded crossings during the wet season, and the high cost of transport by air, contribute significantly to the isolation of the community.
- During the wet season, both the runway and adjacent access roads at the Lajamanu aerodrome can be closed for several days.

Emergency services

- Emergency services in Lajamanu are limited to basic fire response from the volunteer unit. Further training and equipment are required to mitigate the emergency risks in Lajamanu.

School infrastructure

- The majority of buildings are old and deteriorating and the school requires significant refurbishment. Classroom spaces are small and in general need of maintenance. Access, storage and acoustics are issues in many classrooms.
- Early childhood is a growth area for the school, and there are currently no appropriate venues for playgroups and a crèche.

Teaching staff

- There are consistent problems with retaining staff and maintaining community trust due to the high level of staff turnover.
- All students at the school are learners of English as another language but only two executive staff and one support staff have formal training in ESL.

Significant new investments

Investments in education

- Planned upgrades under the Closing the Gap, Primary School Upgrade and Building the Education Revolution funding include a new multi-purpose hall and replacing all asbestos demountables with new teaching and learning facilities, including specialist facilities for middle and senior years.

National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing

- To enable the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program to roll out in Lajamanu, in-principle agreement to a 40-year housing precinct lease to Territory Housing was reached.
- Once the lease is finalised, scoping and construction activity will commence before the end of 2010. Targets for new houses, rebuilt houses and refurbishments will be confirmed following detailed scoping undertaken by the alliance partner.

Victim support and community safety services

- A women's safe house was established and became operational in February 2009.

Community access

- The Northern Territory Government recently completed condition surveys of local transport infrastructure including major access roads and outstation access roads within a 50 km radius, aerodromes and barge landings.
- As a result of the local infrastructure transport survey, the Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated \$2.5 million as part of the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to continue improvements to the Lajamanu airstrip.
- The Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated funding as part of the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to continue upgrades to the Buntine Highway (\$6.63 million) and Tanami Road (\$2.14 million).

Safe community

- The Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated \$890,000 in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget for the implementation of a remote aerodrome safety program.
- Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services has been allocated \$1 million in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to improve existing, or raise new, Northern Territory Emergency Service Volunteer Units based upon emergency and hazard risk profiles across all Territory Growth Towns.
- The Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated \$4.5 million over a five-year period in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to support an aerodrome reporting officer. Lajamanu Aerodrome is an identified site.

Land administration

- A total of \$3.6 million has been allocated in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to the Department of Lands and Planning to conduct a three-year project to survey new and existing housing and infrastructure in the Territory Growth Towns.

National Partnership on Digital Regions

- As part of the National Partnership on Digital Regions, Lajamanu has been identified to receive e-Health services as part of a \$7 million project.

Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory National Partnership Agreement

Youth services

- Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation has been awarded \$254,281 to employ one outreach coordinator who will act as a supervisor for the existing outreach youth worker team. The outreach coordinator will be based in Yuendumu but deliver services to Lajamanu, Nyirripi, Willowra and Yuendumu over a three-year period (2009–10 to 2011–12).
- Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation has also been awarded \$226,024 for one youth worker who will work in conjunction with an existing youth worker funded by Kurra Corporation over a three-year period (2009–10 to 2011–12) in Lajamanu.
- Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation has been awarded \$1.2 million for the construction of a duplex for youth worker accommodation (2009–10).

Community Development Employment Projects conversions

- The Northern Territory Government has announced that it will extend Community Development Employment Projects conversions for local government until 30 June 2011 with a funding increase in the total package of available funds from \$20 million to \$24.2 million.

Maningrida key points

This report provides information about Maningrida's strengths, challenges confronting the community, as well as government and non-government services in Maningrida. The information was largely collected during 2009, but often relates to earlier points in time (in particular, the census data is from 2006).

This section of the report provides a summary of key topics identified about Maningrida. It begins by discussing background information about the community. This is followed by strengths in the community. Next are the challenges confronting the community, and consideration of issues with service provision in the community. Finally, a list of recent investments in the community is provided.

Background community information

People

- The population of Maningrida in 2006 was estimated to have been 2,781 people of whom 2,600 were Indigenous (93%).
- In 2006, 48 per cent of Maningrida's Indigenous population was younger than 20 years of age.
- The traditional landowners of the country in Central Arnhem Land are the Kunbidji people whose language is Ndjébbana.

Population projections

- The Indigenous population of Maningrida is projected to grow by 39 per cent from 2,600 in 2006 to 3,610 in 2026.
- The number of Indigenous people aged 15 to 64 (workforce age) is projected to increase from 1,592 people in 2006 to 2,340 people in 2026.
- The number of Indigenous people aged over 65 (post-working age) is projected to more than triple from 55 to 172 over this period.
- The changing size and age composition of the Indigenous population of Maningrida will increase the need for housing, employment opportunities, and particularly aged care and health services.

Geography

- Maningrida is located in the Northern Territory, 370 km east of Darwin, on the Central Arnhem Land coast at the mouth of the Liverpool River.
- Maningrida has a humid tropical climate with 80 per cent of annual average rainfall in the wet season between December and March.

Community strengths

Language and culture

- Thirteen different languages are spoken in Maningrida. The main languages spoken in the community are Burarra and Ndjébbana. Eastern Kunwinjku, Na-

Kara and Wurlaki are also spoken. Most people in the community have a command of three or more of these languages.

- Students living on homelands are still serviced by Maningrida School, which currently provides education services to 65 students at 12 Homeland Learning Centres.

Emergency services

- Maningrida is well prepared to respond to emergencies, with adequate staff and equipment and an Emergency Response Volunteer Unit.
- The volunteer unit also has potential to develop diversionary strategies for young adults who could be recruited into various training and team activities.

Challenges facing the community

Employment

- In 2006, the proportion of Indigenous people aged 15 to 64 in Maningrida who had a job (the employment rate) was 33 per cent.
- The majority of these positions were in Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP). If CDEP positions are not included as employment, the Indigenous employment rate drops to 5 per cent (in 2006). This is approximately one-eighth of the national Indigenous rate excluding CDEP (42%), and considerably less than the total national rate (71%).
- Since 2008, a total of 62 jobs were converted from CDEP in Maningrida, through Commonwealth Government funding and a funding program agreement between the Commonwealth and Northern Territory governments.
- According to a data collection by the Northern Territory Government, there were 734 jobs (including vacancies) in Maningrida in March 2010; however, a large number of these jobs (373) were CDEP positions. Excluding vacancies, there were 352 non-CDEP jobs in Maningrida in March 2010, of which 215 were held by Indigenous people and 137 were held by non-Indigenous people.
- Most non-CDEP jobs were in the public sector (196). However, there were also 156 private sector non-CDEP jobs, which is high compared to many Indigenous communities. Of the 156 private sector jobs, 109 were held by Indigenous Australians and 47 were held by non-Indigenous people.

Education

- The proportion of Indigenous people in Maningrida aged between 20 and 64 years who had either never attended school or left before completing Year 10 was 70 per cent in 2006. This was higher than the Northern Territory Indigenous rate (58%), and more than six times higher than the total national rate (11%).
- Similarly, the proportion of Indigenous people in Maningrida aged between 15 and 24 years who were engaged in full-time study or training in 2006 was 20 per cent. This was comparable to the Indigenous Northern Territory rate (26%), but well below the total national rate (72%).

- Average yearly attendance at Maningrida School has declined since 2001. The highest average attendance rate between 2001 and 2009 was 54 per cent (in 2001), and in 2008 and 2009 was at a low of 38 per cent.
- Although participation in NAPLAN testing was relatively high for all year levels at Maningrida School, the majority of students did not meet the national minimum standards.

Health

- Indigenous people in the West Arnhem statistical local area (SLA)—which includes Maningrida—were most often hospitalised for dialysis (2003–04 to 2007–08). After adjusting for age differences, the hospital separation rate for dialysis for Indigenous Australians in this SLA was nearly five times the national average.
- Similarly, between 2003–04 and 2007–08, the hospitalisation rate for assault for Indigenous Australians in the West Arnhem SLA was six times the national average (after adjusting for age differences).
- Seven- to 12-year-olds in Maningrida have an average of 1.7 permanent teeth affected by decay. Decay experience in permanent teeth in 7- to 11-year-olds is between 2.6 and 5.8 times the Northern Territory average and between 1.8 and 4.2 times the Australian average depending on age.

Water supply

- The water in the community is not fluoridated.

Environmental health

- The majority (78%) of Indigenous households in Maningrida experienced overcrowding in 2006. This was higher than the national Indigenous average (14%) and the total national average (3%).
- Between 2003–04 and 2007–08, Indigenous people residing in West Arnhem SLA were hospitalised for diseases associated with poor environmental health at a rate more than two times the national average.
- There are a large number of completely uncontrolled dogs that are sick and malnourished and present a health hazard to the residents of the community. There are no current animal control by-laws and existing animal and pest control programs are below standard.

Early childhood

- In 2009 thirty-seven per cent of Indigenous children in the Darwin Australian Early Development Index region (which includes Maningrida) were considered developmentally vulnerable in the language and cognitive skills domain. This compares to 29 per cent of all Australian Indigenous children, and 8 per cent of non-Indigenous children in Australia.
- Of the total births in West Arnhem SLA during the period 2004–2008, 28 per cent were to teenage mothers. This was seven times the equivalent proportion for the Australian population as a whole during this period (4%).

Potential issues with service delivery

Education

- The condition of Maningrida's school infrastructure varies greatly. Some sections have been refurbished within the last five years, but there are buildings that are not up to standard, partly due to their age. If there is growth in school attendance and/or enrolment, resources will be stretched.
- Two of the 40 teachers at Maningrida School have a qualification which includes teaching English as a second language (ESL). Currently less than 10 per cent of the school's population is directly involved in an Indigenous-specific ESL program. However, in Maningrida's extremely complex linguistic environment, all students are learners of English.
- Maningrida has 14 verified special needs students ranging across physical impairment, intellectual impairment and hearing impairment, and there are likely to be more students with undiagnosed disabilities. There is currently one dedicated special needs teacher for hearing support who also provides support to other individual students and to teachers through information and strategies.

Accessibility

- Most forms of service provision are affected by difficulty of access to the community. The access roads to Jabiru and Darwin are generally impassable for months in the wet season (December to April).
- Access roads to outstations/homelands are also unreliable. Many of these roads are cut off for five to six months every year during the wet season, and residents are forced to live with family and friends in Maningrida. This results in additional social pressures in the community, and increased demands on health, welfare and recreational services.
- There are one to two air services a day between Maningrida and Darwin, with flights costing between \$200 and \$330 each way. Daily flights to Milingimbi cost approximately \$120 each way.

Health care

- The existing health centre requires significant upgrade, with additional staff housing required to reduce fly-in/fly-out or drive-in/drive-out services.
- Dental and mental health services have been identified to be inadequate.

Community facilities

- The existing childcare centre does not have sufficient capacity for the community's population.
- The women's safe house consists of four bedrooms and shared facilities housed in two dongas and two sea containers. It is reported that up to 40 people have been accommodated in this facility at any one time.
- There is no community library.

- There are no amenities at the sports oval for players and spectators.

Accommodation

- There was a reported lack of staff accommodation in Maningrida. The current housing stocks vary in meeting the standards of the Building Code of Australia and Core Amenity and Design Standards.

Significant new investments

School

- Maningrida School will benefit from the Building the Education Revolution program, with over \$5 million of funding for construction, including a library and language centre, and building refurbishment.
- Maningrida School is also expected to benefit from the Low Socio-economic Status School Communities National Partnership, and the Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory National Partnership Agreement which provides funding for construction of teacher dwellings in the Northern Territory.

National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing

- Under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing, Maningrida will have 109 new dwellings constructed, 16 existing dwellings will be rebuilt, and another 79 will be refurbished.
- Under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing, a major investment in power, water and sewerage is being undertaken in the community to provide adequate services to meet future growth.

Safe community

- The Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated funding of \$890,000 in the 2010–2011 Northern Territory Government budget for a remote aerodrome safety program in the Northern Territory.
- Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services has been allocated \$4.9 million in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to build cyclone shelters in remote communities across the Territory. Maningrida has been identified in this project.
- Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services has been allocated \$1 million in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to improve existing, or raise new, Northern Territory Emergency Service Volunteer Units based upon emergency and hazard risk profiles across all Territory Growth Towns.
- The Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated \$4.5 million over a five-year period in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to support an aerodrome reporting officer. Maningrida Aerodrome is an identified site.

Community access

- The Department of Lands and Planning has recently completed a transport infrastructure survey and a gap analysis of multi-modal transport assets and infrastructure in each of the 20 Territory Growth Towns. This included condition assessments on internal roads, major access roads and outstation access roads within a 50 km radius, aerodromes and barge landings.
- As a result of the local transport infrastructure survey, the Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated \$6.2 million in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to upgrade barge landings across the Northern Territory over a three-year program. Work on the Maningrida barge landing is scheduled to commence in 2012–13.

Land administration

- A total of \$3.6 million has been allocated in the Northern Territory Government budget to the Department of Lands and Planning to conduct a three-year project to survey new and existing housing and infrastructure in all Territory Growth Towns.

National Partnership on Digital Regions

- As part of the National Partnership on Digital Regions, Maningrida has been identified to receive e-Health services as part of a \$7 million project.

Indigenous early childhood

- A Children and Family Centre will be established in Maningrida through the National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Early Childhood Development.
- It is intended that the centre will bring together important services for children and families, including child care, early learning, and parent and family support programs.
- The centre is expected to connect with other services in the community to ensure families can easily access the services they need—for example, maternal and child health services, playgroups or family literacy programs.

Health

- The Department of Health and Families has been allocated \$4 million in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to continue upgrades to facilities across the Northern Territory, including a renal haemodialysis room at the Maningrida Health Centre.

Education

- The Department of Education and Training has been allocated \$1.25 million in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to upgrade Maningrida School.

Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory National Partnership Agreement

Youth services

- AMSANT Incorporated/Malabam Health Board Aboriginal Corporation has been awarded funding of \$875,000 to employ a coordinator, manager and two youths workers for a period of three years.

Teacher housing

- As part of the Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory National Partnership, Maningrida has been identified to receive seven new teacher houses.

Policing

- As part of the Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory National Partnership, Maningrida has recently seen the replacement of Australian Federal Police with permanent Northern Territory Police.

Community Development Employment Projects conversions

- The Northern Territory Government has announced that it will extend Community Development Employment Projects conversions for local government until 30 June 2011 with a funding increase in the total package of available funds from \$20 million to \$24.2 million.

Milingimbi key points

This report provides information about Milingimbi's strengths, challenges confronting the community, as well as government and non-government services in Milingimbi. The information was largely collected during 2009, but often relates to earlier points in time (in particular, the census data is from 2006).

This section of the report provides a summary of key topics identified about Milingimbi. It begins by discussing background information about the community. This is followed by strengths in the community. Next are the challenges confronting the community, and consideration of issues with service provision in the community. Finally, a list of recent investments in the community is provided.

Background community information

People

- In 2006 the population of Milingimbi was estimated to have been 1,141 people of whom 1,086 were Indigenous (95%).
- In 2006, 33 per cent of Milingimbi's Indigenous population was younger than 20 years of age. This is substantially less than the proportion of the national Indigenous population that was aged under 20 (48%).

Population projections

- The Indigenous population of Milingimbi is projected to grow from 1,086 in 2006 to 1,506 in 2026, an increase of 39 per cent.
- The number of Indigenous people aged between 15 and 64 (the working-age population) is projected to grow from 665 people to 977 people over the same period—an increase of 47 per cent.
- There is expected to be a large increase in the 50 and over age group, which is projected to increase from 99 people to 249 people from 2006 to 2026.
- The changing size and age composition of the Milingimbi population will increase the need for housing, employment opportunities, and particularly aged care and health services.

Geography

- Milingimbi community is the main settlement on Milingimbi Island, which forms part of the Crocodile Island Group.
- The island is approximately half a kilometre off the north coast of Central Arnhem Land.
- Milingimbi is around 440 km (585 km by road) east of Darwin and 200 km (470 km by road) west of Nhulunbuy.

Land tenure

- Milingimbi is the only location in the Northern Territory where a 'sea closure' applies. This closure extends around 2 km seawards and prohibits people who

would not traditionally be entitled to use the area from entering or remaining in the area without permission.

Community strengths

Community initiatives

- Indigenous leaders have worked for many years to combat the potential impacts of alcohol.
- The community has requested adequate policing for Milingimbi to help prevent the smuggling of alcohol into the community.
- Reported alcohol-related offences in Milingimbi are very low; however, this may also be related to the lack of police presence on the island.

School programs and initiatives

- There are some very successful programs operating at the school that are designed to improve engagement and enthusiasm of the students, including sport, secondary multimedia studies, and culturally relevant content.
- Music is also a standout subject at the school and is an award-winning program.

Early childhood

- There are three avenues for early childhood education in the community: a kindergarten, Families as First Teachers—Indigenous Parenting Support Service (FaFT-IPSS) and an informal playgroup.
- FaFT-IPSS Involves two Yolngu staff (an Aboriginal and Islander Education Worker and a library assistant) taking toys and books to camps in the afternoons to link with families. In 2010, it is hoped that this will increase to at least once per week.

Challenges

Employment

- Census data for Milingimbi (including employment data) was not well recorded. However, available data indicates that the proportion of Indigenous people aged 15 to 64 with a job (the employment rate) in the Nhulunbuy region was much lower than the national Indigenous rate. It also indicates that a large proportion of these jobs were in Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP).
- Since 2008 a total of 28.5 jobs have been converted from CDEP in Milingimbi through Australian Government funding, and also under an Australian Government and Northern Territory Government Funding Program Agreement.
- According to a data collection by the Northern Territory Government, there were 187 jobs (including vacancies) in Milingimbi in March 2010, of which jobs 43 were CDEP positions. Excluding vacancies, there were 142 non-CDEP jobs in

Milingimbi in March 2010, of which 97 were held by Indigenous people and 45 were held by non-Indigenous people.

- Most non-CDEP jobs were in the public sector (106) with the remainder (36) in the private sector. Of the 36 private sector jobs, 30 were held by Indigenous Australians and 6 were held by non-Indigenous people.

Education

- In 2006, 70 per cent of 20- to 64-year-olds in Milingimbi had never attended school or had left before completing Year 10. This rate is much higher than the national Indigenous rate of 32 per cent.
- While most students at Milingimbi School participated in the 2009 NAPLAN testing, few students achieved national minimum standards.
- The average yearly attendance at Milingimbi School increased from 58 per cent in 2001 to a peak of 68 per cent in 2009. The lowest yearly attendance rate at Milingimbi School was recorded in 2004 (57%).
- At collections points 4–6 during 2009, there was a marked improvement in attendance, which jumped from 63 per cent to just over 80 per cent. During this period, Milingimbi School had employed extra staff from various camps to bring children to school in an effort to improve attendance.

Health

- Indigenous people in the East Arnhem – Balance statistical local area (SLA), where Milingimbi is located, were most often hospitalised for dialysis between 2003–04 and 2007–08, at a rate seven times the national average (after adjusting for age differences).
- The hospitalisation rate in this period for Indigenous Australians in the East Arnhem – Balance SLA for assault was nine times the national average (after adjusting for age differences).
- On average, for every 10 children seen by the NT Department of Health and Families Oral Health Service in Milingimbi, each will have a filling and four will have a tooth extracted. Five children have had dental care under general anaesthetic in the past two years. On average for every 10 adults seen, each will have two fillings and a tooth extracted.

Water supply

- The water in the community is not fluoridated.

Early childhood

- In 2009 the proportion of Indigenous children in the East Arnhem Australian Early Development Index region (which incorporates Milingimbi) considered to be developmentally vulnerable in the language and cognitive skills domain is the same as for all NT Indigenous children (47%) but greater than for all Australian Indigenous children (29%) and for all Australian children (8%).

- Of the total births on East Arnhem – Balance SLA during the period 2004–2008, 22 per cent were to teenage mothers. This was five times the equivalent proportion for the Australian population as a whole during this period (4%).

Access and transport costs

- Milingimbi is one of the most isolated remote Indigenous communities in Australia. Air service fares are expensive (over \$300 one way to Darwin).
- There is no passenger ferry service to and from Milingimbi. However, there is considerable traffic by small, private open boat across a significant tidal flow. There are no navigational lights or indicators to mitigate risks of crossing the channel.
- The cost of barge freight in particular impacts on the cost of upgrading community infrastructure.

Healthy homes and environmental health

- In 2006, over 70 per cent of Indigenous households in Milingimbi were classified as being households that experience overcrowding.
- Indigenous people in the East Arnhem – Balance SLA were hospitalised for diseases associated with poor environmental health at three times the national average rate (after adjusting for age differences) between 2003–04 and 2007–08.
- There is a shortage of allocated resources for environmental health issues and there is no full-time environmental health worker position in the community.
- There are no formalised plans for animal and insect control. Dog bites are reasonably frequent, and mosquitoes and other insects are not well controlled. There are no current animal control by-laws and existing animal and pest control programs are below standard.

Youth recreation programs

- Youth sport activities are limited in Milingimbi as there is only one male sport and recreation officer. This has limited the recreational activities available for girls and young women.

Potential issues with service delivery

Police

- There are no police stationed in the community. Police officers travel from Ramingining (they previously travelled from Maningrida) and it can take up to two hours for police to respond.
- The lack of police presence on the island may explain the low number of crimes recorded in Milingimbi.
- There is a night patrol service that was established under the Northern Territory Emergency Response measures.

Victim support services

- There are very limited community safety–related services in Milingimbi.
- No formal victim support services exist in Milingimbi, and support services in Ramingining and Maningrida are limited and difficult to access.

Emergency services

- There is no emergency response capacity to deal with fire, flood, transport accident or sea rescue in Milingimbi. There are no police officers stationed in the community, and no trained and organised volunteers.
- Responsibility for overall coordination of an emergency response in Milingimbi resides with the officer in charge of the Maningrida police station, despite Milingimbi and Maningrida being separated by a substantial distance and a body of water.

Municipal services

- There are insufficient staff houses to meet needs. A detailed inspection of individual properties would be required to quantify the extent of remedial works needed to bring all houses to current standard.
- However, a reasonable level of maintenance appears to be achieved, which should maintain the occupied properties in a safe and serviceable condition.
- The barge landing ramp is functional for freight delivery; however it is in poor condition with sections of concrete damaged and/or missing and requires maintenance.
- The extent of street lighting does not fully comply with the current Australian Standard. The lighting fittings have been mounted on the incorrect side of the poles in some locations. Maintenance procedures need to be implemented to repair unserviceable lights to improve lighting and then an assessment of the adequacy can be conducted.
- Internal community roads are generally in poor condition.
- There is an issue with the sustainability of the supply of water, as currently there is only limited potential yield at other sites and the existing bore sites are close to maximum capacity.

Significant new investments planned

Building the Education Revolution

- The Building the Education Revolution program is providing Milingimbi School with over \$4.5 million for construction, including a new classroom and science centre.

National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing

- Under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing, Milingimbi will benefit from new construction and/or refurbishments and repairs; however, targets for the community have not yet been set.

- A major investment in power, water and sewerage systems is being undertaken in the community to provide adequate services to meet future growth.

Roads to Recovery

- Under the Roads to Recovery program, Milingimbi Island is set to benefit with the allocation of funding (\$362,000) to improve 3.6 km of the Gadapu Road.

Communities for Children Plus

- On 29 June 2010, the Commonwealth Government announced that it will provide almost \$1.5 million in additional funding to Anglicare NT to deliver the Communities for Children Plus program in East Arnhem Land over the next three years.
- Anglicare NT will employ four family support workers based in Milingimbi, Angurugu, Numbulwar and Nhulunbuy, who will also provide outreach services to Galiwin'ku, Alyangula, Ramingining, Gapuwiyak, Yirkala, Gnyangara, Milyakburra, Umbakumba and other nearby outstations.

Safe community

- The Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated funding \$890,000 in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget for a remote aerodrome safety program in the Northern Territory.
- Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services has been allocated \$1 million in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to improve existing, or raise new, Northern Territory Emergency Service Volunteer Units based upon emergency and hazard risk profiles across all Territory Growth Towns.
- The Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated \$4.5 million over a five-year period in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to support an aerodrome reporting officer. The Milingimbi aerodrome is an identified site.
- Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency has been allocated \$4.9 million in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to build cyclone shelters in remote communities across the Territory. Milingimbi has been identified in this project.

Community access

- The Department of Lands and Planning has recently completed a transport infrastructure survey and a gap analysis of multi-modal transport assets and infrastructure in each of the 20 Territory Growth Towns. This included condition assessments on internal roads, major access roads, outstation access roads within a 50 km radius, aerodromes and barge landings.

Land administration

- A total of \$3.6 million has been allocated in the Northern Territory Government budget to the Department of Lands and Planning to conduct a three-year

project to survey new and existing housing and infrastructure in all Territory Growth Towns.

National Partnership on Digital Regions

- As part of the National Partnership on Digital Regions, Milingimbi has been identified to receive e-Health services as part of a \$7 million project.

Health

- The Department of Health and Families has been allocated \$4.5 million in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to continue upgrades to the Milingimbi Health Centre.

Youth services

- East Arnhem Shire Council has been awarded \$2.4 million for diversionary programs over three years (2009–10 to 2011–12) in Milingimbi, Yirrkala, Ramingining, Gapuwiyak and Umbakumba.
- Milingimbi has been identified to share \$341,640 for infrastructure upgrades to youth services in Ramingining, Angurugu, Galiwin'ku, Milingimbi, Umbakumba and Gapuwiyak.

Community Development Employment Projects conversions

- The Northern Territory Government has announced that it will extend Community Development Employment Projects conversions for local government until 30 June 2011 with a funding increase in the total package of available funds from \$20 million to \$24.2 million.

Nguiu key points

This report provides information about Nguiu's (Wurrumiyanga's) strengths, challenges confronting the community, as well as government and non-government services in Nguiu. The information was largely collected during 2009, but often relates to earlier points in time (in particular, the census data is from 2006).

In 2010, the community name was altered from Nguiu to Wurrumiyanga, as requested by the Tiwi Land Council, on advice from traditional land owners. Nguiu remains an alternative name for Wurrumiyanga, as acknowledged by the Northern Territory Government Place Names Register.

This section of the report provides a summary of key topics identified about Nguiu. It begins by discussing background information about the community. This is followed by strengths in the community. Next are the challenges confronting the community, and consideration of issues with service provision in the community. Finally, a list of recent investments in the community is provided.

Background community information

People

- There were an estimated 1,543 people in Nguiu in 2006, of whom 1,463 (95%) were Indigenous.
- The largest numbers of people were aged between 20 and 44 years. Over a third of all Indigenous people in the community were under 20 years of age.
- There is significant short-term mobility, with people moving to and from Indigenous communities associated with Nguiu, as well as to Darwin.

Population projection

- The Indigenous population of Nguiu is projected to increase by 39 per cent, from 1,463 in 2006 to 2,031 in 2026.
- The greatest proportional increase is expected in the post-working age group (65 and over) from 31 people in 2006 to 97 in 2026, a growth of 212 per cent.

Geography

- Nguiu is located on Bathurst Island approximately 70 km north of Darwin. Along with Melville Island, these are the two main islands that make up the Tiwi Islands.
- In 2010, the community name was altered from Nguiu to Wurrumiyanga, as requested by the Tiwi Land Council, on advice from traditional land owners. Nguiu remains an alternative name for Wurrumiyanga, as acknowledged by the Northern Territory Government Place Names Register.

Local government

- On 1 July 2008, the Tiwi Islands Shire Council was established as part of the Northern Territory local government reform program.

Community strengths

Language

- There is a unique Tiwi culture, language and tradition.
- A large majority of local people speak Tiwi as their primary language.
- Most Tiwi speak English as a second language.

Land, country and natural resources

- The Tiwi Islands are a site of regional, national and international conservation significance.
- The region is important for marine turtle nesting and seabird breeding.

Community safety and wellbeing

- Participation by men and women in early intervention programs appears to have reduced levels of family violence.
- Men's and women's safe houses and a night patrol are operational.

Community facilities and training services

- The community has a wide range of community and sporting facilities including men's and women's centres; aged care, childcare, arts and cultural facilities; Catholic school (primary and secondary); health centre and renal unit; supermarket; and grassed football oval, swimming pool and basketball court.
- The facilities are maintained by the Northern Territory Government, Tiwi Islands Shire Council, the Catholic Church and community groups.
- The community facilities generally meet base level standards. The facilities are well maintained and are in a reasonable condition and meet the reliability criteria.
- Nguui has a substantial and active training centre with attached accommodation. The training centre has two wings and has 12 full-time staff. Commonwealth and NT funded business programs are conducted all year round, and run by the Tiwi Islands Training and Employment Board.

School extracurricular activities

- The Murrupurtiyanuwu Catholic School employs a large number of Tiwi staff. It also provides a range of extra-curricular activities such as community camps, lifesaving, rangers, AUSTSWIM and life education.
- Xavier Community Education Centre (CEC) offers army cadets, the AFL sports program and financial literacy training in addition to schooling.

Health services

- Nguui primary health care services provide 24-hour emergency care, primary clinical care and population health programs. They also provide dialysis, essential medication, emotional health and wellbeing services and population

health programs and manage chronic illness. There are separate men's and women's areas.

Challenges facing the community

Health

- For care involving dialysis, after adjusting for age differences, the observed number of hospital separations for Indigenous Australians in the Tiwi Islands statistical local area (SLA) was just under 40 times the national average (2003–04 to 2007–08).
- Over the same period, after adjusting for age differences, Indigenous Australians in Tiwi Islands SLA were hospitalised for assault at 10 times the national average.
- Seven- to 12-year-olds in Nguiu have an average of 1.5 permanent teeth affected by decay. Decay experience in permanent teeth in 7- to 11-year-olds is between 1.7 and 4.0 times the NT average and between 1.3 and 2.9 times the Australian average depending on age.

Early childhood

- In 2009 the proportion of Indigenous children in the Darwin Australian Early Development Index region (which incorporates Nguiu) considered to be developmentally vulnerable in the language and cognitive skills domain (37%) is less than for all NT Indigenous children (47%) but greater than for all Australian Indigenous children (29%) and all non-Indigenous Australian children (8%).
- Of the total births in Tiwi Islands SLA during the period 2004–2008, 25 per cent were to teenage mothers. This was six times the equivalent proportion for the Australian population as a whole during this period (4%).

School attendance

- The attendance rate of 70 per cent at Murrupurtiyanuwu Catholic School in 2009 was the same as in 2002, but greater than in 2001 (68%). The lowest attendance rate during the period was in 2006 (61%).
- At Xavier CEC the average yearly attendance rate has declined since 2001. After reaching a peak in 2002 (73%), the attendance rate declined to 58 per cent in 2009. The 2009 rate was greater, however, than in 2007, when the attendance rate was at its lowest during the period (47%).

Education

- Attainment of Year 12, Certificate II or higher post-school qualifications by Indigenous 20- to 24-year-olds in Nguiu was 13 per cent in 2006, which was well below the national Indigenous attainment rate of 47 per cent.
- Qualification rates are similarly low. The qualification rate is the proportion of Indigenous 20- to 24-year-olds who have attained a Certificate II or higher post-school qualification. In Nguiu in 2006, this rate was 11 per cent, which was half the national Indigenous qualification rate of 22 per cent.

- Forty-five people aged 15 to 24 years were studying full-time and 14 people were full-time employed in 2006, out of a total of 298 people in this age group.
- The NAPLAN results indicate that the majority of Year 3 and Year 5 students tested at Murrupurtiyanuwu Catholic School were below the national minimum standard in most domains.
- The majority of Year 7 students at Xavier CEC were below the national minimum standard for reading. Year 9 students, however, performed substantially better in reading than statistically similar schools, with 64 per cent achieving at or above the national minimum standard.
- The NAPLAN results for other domains at Xavier CEC are not reported as these results did not meet the reporting threshold.

Healthy homes and environmental health

- In 2006, 43 per cent of Indigenous households in Nguiu experienced overcrowding.
- After adjusting for age differences, Indigenous Australians in Tiwi Islands SLA were hospitalised for diseases associated with poor environmental health at three times the national average (2003–04 to 2007–08).
- The community does not have an environmental health framework and environmental health worker positions are vacant. Proactive health promotion programs at household level remain limited.
- Asbestos management has been reported as an issue, with some derelict houses containing asbestos materials. Buildings that are more than 30 years old, and the walls, both internal and external, of the Catholic education buildings and accommodation facilities, have been reported to contain asbestos.

Employment

- In 2006, when participants in the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) program were counted as employed, the employment rate for the working-age population was 44 per cent. If CDEP positions are discounted from the 2006 data, the Indigenous employment rate (16%) is well below the national Indigenous rate excluding CDEP (42%).
- The median income (\$196 per week) was only three-quarters the national Indigenous rate (\$278 per week). This is in part due to low-paying, part-time CDEP employment.
- According to a data collection by the Northern Territory Government, there were 362 jobs (including vacancies) in Nguiu in March 2010, of which 61 were CDEP positions. Excluding vacancies, there were 299 non-CDEP jobs in Nguiu in March 2010, of which 191 were held by Indigenous people and 108 were held by non-Indigenous people.

- Most non-CDEP jobs were in the private sector (196) with the remainder (103) in the public sector. Of the 196 private sector jobs, 125 were held by Indigenous Australians and 71 were held by non-Indigenous people.

Community safety

- In the three-year period from 2006–07 to 2008–09, a total of 609 offences occurred in Nguiu, with no substantial decrease over that period. 'Other offences' constituted the greatest proportion of offences (23%), followed by public order offences (21%). Illicit drug offences and acts intended to cause injury each accounted for 12 per cent.
- Imprisonment mainly resulted from assault and related offences for males in the 18–29 year age group.

Potential issues with service delivery

Municipal services

- Tiwi Islands Shire Council has identified the need for additional staff accommodation.
- There is no public library.
- The community does not have an animal management plan. The Tiwi Islands Shire Council does not have a dedicated staff position to manage animals within the community.
- The shire council outsources quarterly veterinary services, which have made significant progress in addressing dog overpopulation and zoonosis problems. However, the council does not currently have appropriate by-laws to enforce dog management, including number limits and registration, and existing animal and pest control programs are below standard.
- The lack of adequate dust control on road verges and shading in front of the supermarket and around the football oval are notable areas for improvement.
- Street lighting does not meet the current Australian Standard for street lighting illumination levels. The maintenance of the lamps and fittings is within the reliability criteria.
- While the community rubbish collection is generally effective, the landfill sites for both household and industrial waste appear to have design flaws and are not properly managed. For example, stormwater control is limited and both runoff and ponding of stormwater is evident.
- The household waste landfill does not appear to be regularly covered with soil. This exacerbates health risks and rat breeding on Bathurst Island.

Management of essential services and infrastructure

- The power-generating capacity exceeds the current community needs. The system is reliable and well maintained.

- Tiwi Islands Shire Council and the Power and Water Corporation have clearly defined management and resource responsibilities for infrastructure and municipal services.
- Protecting the powerlines from the tree branches is an issue. The shire needs to trim the branches of trees near the distribution powerlines regularly to satisfy the reliability criteria.

Sewerage and water

- The sewerage system does not meet Power and Water Corporation guidelines for sizing, as three of the four pump stations and the waste stabilisation ponds are undersized for the current design loadings.
- Surcharging back to households in wet weather indicates a high level of stormwater and groundwater infiltration. Otherwise the service is reported as reliable and well managed.
- The water infrastructure does not meet some Power and Water Corporation guidelines for capacity and the elevated tanks at the town compound are in need of repair. Otherwise the service is reported as reliable and well managed.
- The water in the community is not fluoridated.

Accessibility

- Residents of Nguiu rely on air and sea transport for regular travel to Darwin and for most forms of service provision.
- The aerodrome adequately meets the needs of the community. The airstrip is sealed, and has lighting and security; however, it is only partially fenced posing a danger from straying animals.
- The barge and ferry landing area requires a major upgrade, which includes construction of a new jetty to provide a safe and secure area for managing passengers and freight. The current arrangements for landing passengers are dangerous, especially for older people and children.
- It is worth noting that the Northern Territory Government has allocated \$2 million for an upgrade of the Nguiu barge landing area.
- The condition of the internal roads is poor and roads are in an advanced state of deterioration in places. According to a road survey conducted by the NT Department of Lands and Planning, a large proportion of the road network within a 50 km radius of Nguiu was considered to be in poor condition.
- The pavements have failed in several areas due to poor drainage.

Emergency services

- Nguiu's preparation for and capacity to respond to fire, rescue and accident emergencies that might occur in the community or surrounding area are limited.

- There are no trained and organised emergency service volunteers in the community.
- There is a fire engine, which is locked in the police compound. In the event that police officers are unavailable at the time of an emergency, the fire engine cannot be operated. A fully equipped small boat is also available for sea search and rescue by the police.
- The Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service is contracting the construction of a facilities shed in Nguiu and there are plans to restart the volunteer fire brigade in the community.

Education

- While a number of teachers have received training in teaching English as a second language (ESL), there are no specialist ESL teachers at either Xavier CEC or Murrupurtiyanuwu Catholic School in Nguiu.

Youth

- Youth services are limited, with only one youth worker employed.

Significant new investment

Investments in housing

- Under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing, Nguiu is to receive 29 new dwellings, 28 existing dwellings are to be rebuilt and up to 150 refurbished.
- A major investment in power, water and sewerage is being undertaken in the community to provide adequate services to meet future growth.

Investments in education

- Under the Building the Education Revolution initiative, Nguiu is set to benefit from the following programs:
 - The National School Pride Program will provide Xavier CEC with the construction of covered walkways between buildings (Commonwealth Government funding: \$75,000).
 - Primary Schools for the 21st Century will provide Xavier CEC with the Construction of a library (Commonwealth Government funding: \$850,000).
 - The National School Pride Program will provide Murrupurtiyanuwu Catholic School with the refurbishment of buildings (Commonwealth Government funding: \$125,000).
 - Primary Schools for the 21st Century will provide Murrupurtiyanuwu Catholic School with refurbishment of the library (Commonwealth Government funding: \$110,000) and a new multi-purpose hall (Commonwealth Government funding: \$1,890,000).
- Xavier CEC is expected to benefit from the Low Socio-economic Status School Communities National Partnership Agreement.

- Murrupurtiyanuwu Catholic School is also expected to benefit from the Low Socio-economic Status School Communities National Partnership, and the Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory National Partnership Agreement provides funding for the construction of teacher dwellings in the Northern Territory.
- Nguiu is a trial site for the School Enrolment and Attendance Measure as part of a suite of initiatives to encourage parents to enrol children and ensure they attend school regularly.

Investments in water

- As part of a \$51.7 million funding program (by the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts announced on 23 April 2010), \$2,710,000 has been allocated to Nguiu to supply and install water tanks and associated equipment. This funding will also be used to equip and refurbish existing bores.

Investments in community access

- The Department of Lands and Planning has recently completed a transport infrastructure survey and a gap analysis of multi-modal transport assets and infrastructure in each of the 20 Territory Growth Towns. This included condition assessments on internal roads, major access roads, outstation access roads within a 50 km radius, aerodromes and barge landings.
- As a result of the local transport infrastructure survey, the Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated \$6.2 million in the 2010–11 NT Government budget to upgrade barge landings across the Northern Territory over a three-year program. A total of \$2 million of this funding has been allocated to upgrade the Nguiu barge landing, which is scheduled to commence in 2010–11.
- Between 2009 and 2014, \$624,000 will be provided through Roads to Recovery grants to benefit the Tiwi Islands.

Safe community

- The Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated funding of \$890,000 in the 2010–11 NT Government budget for a remote aerodrome safety program in the Northern Territory.
- Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services has been allocated \$1 million in the 2010–11 NT Government budget to improve existing, or raise new, Northern Territory Emergency Service Volunteer Units based upon emergency and hazard risk profiles across all Territory Growth Towns.
- The Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated \$4.5 million over a five-year period in the 2010–11 NT Government budget to support an aerodrome reporting officer. Nguiu Aerodrome is an identified site.

Land administration

- A total of \$3.6 million has been allocated in the 2010–11 NT Government budget to the Department of Lands and Planning to conduct a three-year

project to survey new and existing housing and infrastructure in all Territory Growth Towns.

National Partnership on Digital Regions

- As part of the National Partnership Agreement on Digital Regions, Nguiu has been identified to receive e-Health services as part of a \$7 million project.

Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory National Partnership Agreement

Youth Services

- The Australian Red Cross has been awarded \$4.9 million for one fully qualified youth worker and two Indigenous trainee youth workers over a three-year period in Daly River, Nguiu, Gunbalanya, Angurugu and Wadeye.
- The Australian Sports Commission has been awarded \$500,000 to implement the Sports Demonstration Projects over a two-year period for Gapuwiyak, Wadeye, Yuendumu, Gunbalanya and Nguiu.

Community Development Employment Projects conversions

- The Northern Territory Government has announced that it will extend Community Development Employment Projects conversions for local government until 30 June 2011 with a funding increase in the total package of available funds from \$20 million to \$24.2 million.

Ngukurr key points

This report provides information about Ngukurr's strengths, challenges confronting the community, as well as government and non-government services in Ngukurr. The information was largely collected during 2009, but often relates to earlier points in time (in particular, the census data is from 2006).

This section of the report provides a summary of key topics identified about Ngukurr. It begins by discussing background information about the community. This is followed by strengths in the community. Next are the challenges confronting the community, and consideration of issues with service provision in the community. Finally, a list of recent investments in the community is provided.

Background community information

People

- The population of Ngukurr in 2006 was estimated to be 1,137 people, of whom 1,055 were Indigenous (93%).
- Nearly half of the Indigenous population of Ngukurr is aged under 20 (47%).
- The major language spoken by Indigenous people in Ngukurr is Kriol (84%). Other Indigenous languages and English are spoken by a small number of people.

Population projections

- The Indigenous population of Ngukurr is projected to increase from 1,055 in 2006 to 1,446 in 2026, an increase of 37 per cent.
- The number of Indigenous people of working age (15–64 years) is projected to increase from 634 in 2006 to 931 in 2026.
- The greatest proportional increase is expected to be in the older Indigenous population of 50 years and above, which is expected to more than double over the next 20 years from 108 in 2006 to 240 in 2026.
- The changing size and age composition of the Indigenous population of Ngukurr will increase the need for housing, employment opportunities, as well as aged care and health services.

Geography

- Ngukurr is located on the banks of the Roper River in the south-eastern corner of Arnhem Land.

Community strengths

Education

- Year 3 results in all subjects tested in the 2009 NAPLAN tests at Ngukurr School were generally at or above those in statistically similar schools.
- Accelerated Literacy and the new vocational education and training programs are considered to be the most successful programs at the school

and the effectiveness of Quick Smart is supported by improving numeracy results.

Nutrition program

- Ngukurr School's nutrition program provides three significant meals a day (breakfast, recess and lunch) to approximately 180 children and there are plans for the three Indigenous staff to receive training in health and nutrition in 2010.

Mutual respect agreement

- The Yugul Mangi Aboriginal Corporation group of elders (the peak body for all the language and clan groups in Ngukurr) and the Northern Territory Police have formed a mutual respect agreement to improve relationships between the Ngukurr community and police and yield substantial safety benefits for the community.

Challenges facing the community

Crime and justice

- Recorded offences fell from 236 offences in 2006–07 to 113 in 2007–08, a drop of 52 per cent. In 2008–09 they increased to 130.

Education

- The proportion of Indigenous 15- to 24-year-olds participating in full-time employment or study in 2006 was 19 per cent.
- To equal the national Indigenous attainment rate of 44 per cent, 32 additional people aged 15 to 24 years at Ngukurr would have needed to have been engaged in full-time employment or study in 2006.
- Ngukurr's Indigenous population has a relatively low rate of educational attainment—14 per cent of Indigenous 20- to 24-year-olds attained at least a Year 12 (or equivalent) qualification.
- This is just under one-third of the national Indigenous education attainment rate (47%) but is equal to the Indigenous attainment rate for the region (14%).
- The percentage of students achieving the national minimum standards for all domains tested in the 2009 NAPLAN tests decreased from Year 3 to Year 7. Around 90 per cent of Year 7 students tested were below the national minimum standard for reading, writing, grammar and punctuation, and numeracy.

Employment

- In the 2006 Census, almost 50 per cent of Indigenous people aged between 15–64 years in Ngukurr were employed.
- When Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) positions are not included as employment, this drops to 7 per cent, which is around one-sixth of the national Indigenous rate of employment excluding CDEP (42%).

- According a data collection by the Northern Territory Government, there were 222 jobs (including vacancies) in Ngukurr in March 2010, of which four were CDEP positions. Excluding vacancies, there were 213 non-CDEP jobs in Ngukurr in March 2010, of which 165 were held by Indigenous people and 48 were held by non-Indigenous people.
- Most non-CDEP jobs were in the public sector (170) with the remainder (43) in the private sector. Of the 43 private sector jobs, 32 were held by Indigenous Australians and 11 were held by non-Indigenous people.

Disengaged youth

- There were an estimated 70 Indigenous young people aged 15 to 19 not engaged in education or training in Ngukurr in 2006. The Roper Gulf Shire Council has just begun planning some targeted activities for a small number of students not engaged in education or training.

Healthy homes

- Sixty-six per cent of Indigenous households experienced overcrowding in Ngukurr in 2006.
- This is much higher than the Northern Territory Indigenous average (38%) and the national Indigenous average (14%), although it is similar to many other Northern Territory Indigenous communities.
- Between 2003–04 and 2007–08, Indigenous people in the Yugul Mangi statistical local area (SLA) (which includes Ngukurr) were hospitalised for diseases associated with poor environmental health at a rate of more than twice the national average (after adjusting for age differences).

Health

- Ngukurr has issues such as adult chronic disease, including diabetes, heart disease and renal health problems. Childhood health problems such as anaemia and aural health problems are significant.
- Between 2003–04 and 2007–08, Indigenous people in the Yugul Mangi SLA were most often hospitalised for dialysis, at nearly seven times the national average (after adjusting for age differences).
- Over the same period, Indigenous people in Yugul Mangi SLA were hospitalised for diabetes at a rate of more than four times the national average (after adjusting for age differences).
- There are also problems associated with youth-related alcohol and drug misuse and occasionally petrol sniffing.
- The Alcohol and Other Drugs Program runs in the community, and develops policies, strategies and programs to respond to the misuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. The program incorporates community development, education, training and intervention, treatment and care options.
- In Ngukurr, 8- to 12-year-olds have an average of 1.4 permanent teeth affected by decay. Decay experience in permanent teeth in 7- to 11-year-olds

is between 0.5 and 5.9 times the Northern Territory average and between 0.4 and 4.6 times the Australian average depending on age.

Early childhood

- In 2009 the proportion of Indigenous children in the Katherine Australian Early Development Index region (including Ngukurr) considered developmentally vulnerable in the language and cognitive skills domain was 55 per cent. This compares to a rate for all Australian Indigenous children of 29 per cent, and for non-Indigenous children in Australia of 8 per cent.
- During the period 2004–2008, 26 per cent of total births in the Yugul Mangi SLA were to teenage mothers. This was six times the equivalent proportion for the Australian population as a whole during this period (4%).

Potential issues with service delivery

Environmental health

- Existing animal and pest control programs are below standards.

Accessibility

- Ngukurr is cut off by road during the wet season, which lasts for four to five months of the year, and transport by sea or air to Katherine and Darwin is expensive.
- The barge facility's freight unloading area is unsealed and unusable when wet, which is very problematic as the barge is the primary source of supplies during the wet season.
- A survey of road conditions conducted by the NT Department of Lands and Planning found a large proportion of the road network within a 50 km radius of Ngukurr was considered to be in fair condition (nearly 61%) and 39 per cent was in poor condition.

Emergency services

- Ngukurr's preparation for and capacity to respond to emergencies that might occur in the community or surrounding area are limited.
- Deficiencies exist in land search and rescue, stormwater damage, flood and inland water rescue, road accident rescue, basic fire response and emergency facilities.

Water supply

- The water supply comes from a mix of bore and river sources. The bore water is of poor quality with a high concentration of solids and chlorides causing damage to buildings, equipment and piping. The river water has high turbidity (river mud and organics) during the wet season.
- Due to poor water quality, the majority of the community does not drink the water, preferring soft drinks, which contributes to the high incidence of diabetes.

- The water in the community is not fluoridated.

Educational services

- The vast majority of students (96%) have Kriol as their first language and will be learning English for the first time at school.
- There were 266 students enrolled in the school early in 2010 and one teacher with a formal qualification in teaching English as a second language out of a staff of 16 teachers.
- Teacher retention is an issue for Ngukurr School.

Significant new investments

Investments in health

- Funding has been provided for a new vehicle for the aged care facility, for five Community Aged Care Packages and for a visiting ophthalmologist, obstetrician, gynaecologist and optometrist.
- Capital works funding has been provided since 2007–08 for the renovation of the Ngukurr Health Centre and its extension.
- The Department of Health and Ageing has provided more than \$150,000 for a new carport and bathroom facilities for the Ngukurr aged care centre.

Investments in education

- Under the Building the Education Revolution, Ngukurr School will benefit from a number of projects, including the refurbishment of buildings and construction including a classroom block and a trade training centre.
- Construction of a new canteen and the upgrade of school facilities have commenced, with Closing the Gap and Primary School Upgrade funding.
- Ngukurr has received funding for 16 computers under the National Secondary School Computer Fund.
- Four two-bedroom dwellings will be constructed in Ngukurr to provide housing for teachers.

Investments in housing

- To enable the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Program to roll out in Ngukurr, a 40-year housing precinct lease to Territory Housing was reached in November 2009.
- Scoping and construction activity is expected to commence before the end of 2010. Targets for new houses, rebuilt houses and refurbishments will be confirmed following detailed scoping undertaken by the alliance partner.

Safe community

- The Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated funding of \$890,000 in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget for a remote aerodrome safety program in the Northern Territory.

- Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services has been allocated \$1 million in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to improve existing, or raise new, Northern Territory Emergency Volunteer Units based upon emergency and hazard risk profiles across all Territory Growth Towns.
- The Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated \$4.5 million over a five-year period in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to support an aerodrome reporting officer. Ngukurr's aerodrome is an identified site.
- Women's and men's safe houses became operational in Ngukurr in January 2009.

Land administration

- A total of \$3.6 million has been allocated in the Northern Territory Government budget to the Department of Lands and Planning to conduct a three-year project to survey new and existing housing and infrastructure in all Territory Growth Towns.

Health

- The Department of Health and Families has been allocated \$646,000 to continue upgrades to the Ngukurr Health Centre in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget.

Indigenous Early Childhood National Partnership Agreement

- Under the National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Early Childhood, \$17.6 million has been allocated to build four new child and family centres in the Northern Territory. One of these centres will be constructed in Ngukurr.

Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory National Partnership Agreement

Youth Services

- Roper Gulf Shire Council has been awarded \$1.8 million for training Indigenous youth for certified youth worker positions over three years (2009–10 to 2011–12) for Ngukurr, Numbulwar and Borroloola.

Community Development Employment Projects conversions

- The Northern Territory Government has announced that it will extend Community Development Employment Projects conversions for local government until 30 June 2011 with a funding increase in the total package of available funds from \$20 million to \$24.2 million.

Numbulwar key points

This report provides information about Numbulwar's strengths, challenges confronting the community, as well as government and non-government services in Numbulwar. The information was largely collected during 2009, but often relates to earlier points in time (in particular, the census data is from 2006).

This section of the report provides a summary of key topics identified about Numbulwar. It begins by discussing background information about the community. This is followed by strengths in the community. Next are the challenges confronting the community, and consideration of issues with service provision in the community. Finally, a list of recent investments in the community is provided.

Background community information

People

- The population of Numbulwar in 2006 is estimated to have been 783 people, of whom 713 were Indigenous (91%).
- The most common languages spoken in Numbulwar are Kriol (48%), Wubuy (14%), English (11%) and Anindilyakwa (6%).

Population projections

- The Indigenous population of Numbulwar is projected to increase from 713 people in 2006 to 968 in 2026, an increase of 36 per cent.
- The number of Indigenous people of working age (15–64 years) is projected to increase from 461 to 629 over this period.
- The greatest proportional increase is expected to be in the post-working age population of 65 years and above, which is expected to triple over the next 20 years from 16 in 2006 to 54 in 2026.
- The changing size and age composition of the Indigenous population of Numbulwar will increase the need for housing, employment opportunities, as well as aged care and health services.

Geography

- Numbulwar is one of the most isolated of the main Arnhem Land communities. It is located on the sandhills of the far south-eastern coast of the Rose River estuary, approximately 750 km east of Darwin by road.

Community strengths

Culture and environment

- There is a very strong attachment to culture in Numbulwar, which recently hosted two successful large cultural ceremonies.
- Two positions for art workers and five positions for rangers in Numbulwar were created through the conversion of positions previously funded through the Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) program.

Policing

- Numbulwar has a police post which was opened in 2006. In 2007, as part of the Northern Territory Emergency Response, it became a Themis station. Police have received positive feedback from the community about their presence: many community members say they feel much safer knowing that police are accessible 24 hours a day.

Nutrition program

- Numbulwar School's nutrition program provides breakfast daily to approximately 20 to 30 students and lunch and second break snacks to approximately 150 students. All students who attend are provided with food.
- There is a high level of parent engagement in the provision of the nutrition program.
- The nutrition program has improved health overall, as determined through health centre monitoring.

Education programs

- The QuickSmart Maths program commenced in 2009. All participating students showed improvement.
- Wubuy language is taught as a language revitalisation program. It strengthens students' identity and culture and also supports English as a second language development.

Challenges facing the community

Crime and justice

- From 2006–07 to 2008–09, there was a marked decline in the number of offences recorded by NT Police in Numbulwar (dropping from 150 to 53).
- The number of restraining and domestic violence orders also decreased in 2008–09 compared to previous years.
- No juveniles from Numbulwar served prison terms or commenced community work orders during the period 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2009. No juveniles commenced or completed other community-based orders during that period.

Education

- In Numbulwar, 69 per cent of Indigenous 20- to 64-year-olds either never attended school or left school before completing Year 10. This is more than double the national Indigenous minimal schooling rate (32%).
- The proportion of Indigenous 15- to 24-year-olds participating in full-time employment or study in 2006 was 30 per cent. This is similar to the Northern Territory Indigenous rate (26%) but lower than the national rate (72%).

School attendance

- The average yearly attendance rate for Numbulwar School has declined overall, from 56 per cent in 2001 to 49 per cent in 2009. The attendance rate in

2009 was the lowest in the period (2001 to 2009), after a peak of 62 per cent in 2006.

- Low attendance is influenced by the high turnover and temporary mobility of students.
- There is a sharp drop in school attendance from Year 9, with poor retention through to Year 12. However, the school is planning programs and structures to engage this group of students. This includes a focus on sport/recreation and programs that encourage participation and self-esteem.

Employment

- Including CDEP positions as employment, 13 per cent of Indigenous people aged between 15 and 64 years in Numbulwar were employed, according to the 2006 Census.
- When CDEP is not included as employment the figure drops to 4 per cent, which is about one-tenth the national Indigenous rate of employment excluding CDEP (42%).
- According to a data collection by the Northern Territory Government, there were 137 jobs (including vacancies) in Numbulwar in March 2010, of which three were CDEP positions. Excluding vacancies, there were 131 non-CDEP jobs in Numbulwar in March 2010, of which 89 were held by Indigenous people and 42 were held by non-Indigenous people.
- Most non-CDEP jobs were in the public sector (97) with the remainder (34) in the private sector. Of the 34 private sector jobs, 22 were held by Indigenous Australians and 12 were held by non-Indigenous people.

Healthy homes

- Seventy-six per cent of households experienced overcrowding in Numbulwar in 2006.
- This is much higher than the Northern Territory Indigenous average (38%) and the national Indigenous average (14%), although it is similar to many other Northern Territory Indigenous communities.
- Between 2003–04 and 2007–08, Indigenous people in the Numbulwar Numburindi statistical local area (SLA) (which includes Numbulwar) were hospitalised for diseases associated with poor environmental health at twice the national average (after adjusting for age differences).

Health

- A significant percentage of children in Numbulwar suffer from mild to moderate hearing loss at any given time. The health centre has a designated person who monitors all students with ear infections, or those who are scheduled for or in recovery from ear surgery. Regular check-ups take place at the school for these students.
- There are also problems associated with youth-related alcohol and drug misuse and occasionally petrol sniffing.

- Between 2003–04 and 2007–08, Indigenous people in the Numbulwar Numburindi SLA were most often hospitalised for dialysis, at 12 times the national average (after adjusting for age differences).
- Over the same period, Indigenous people in the Numbulwar Numburindi SLA were hospitalised for diabetes at a rate more than four times the national average (after adjusting for age differences).
- In Numbulwar, 7- to 12-year-olds have an average of two permanent teeth affected by decay. Decay experience in permanent teeth in 7- to 11-year-olds is between 2.6 and 6.4 times the Northern Territory average and between 2.5 and 4.4 times the Australian average depending on age.

Early childhood

- In 2009 the proportion of Indigenous children in the East Arnhem Australian Early Development Index region (including Numbulwar) considered developmentally vulnerable in the language and cognitive skills domain was 47 per cent. This compares to the rate for all Australian Indigenous children of 29 per cent, and for non-Indigenous children in Australia of 8 per cent.
- Of the total births in Numbulwar Numburindi SLA during the period 2004–2008, 26 per cent were to teenage mothers. This was six times the equivalent proportion for the Australian population as a whole during this period (4%).

Recreation and culture facilities

- Numbulwar does not have a swimming pool or arts and crafts centre.
- Although Numbulwar has a football oval, it cannot be used during the wet season due to flooding.

Potential issues with service delivery

Accessibility

- Numbulwar is only accessible by road for four to five months of the year during the dry season and transport to Katherine and Darwin is expensive.
- This limits access to outside employment, services and facilities as well as limiting social and community connections.
- A survey of road conditions conducted by the NT Department of Lands and Planning found that a large proportion of the Numbulwar road network within a 50 km radius of Numbulwar was considered to be in poor condition (nearly 70%).
- During the wet season the fortnightly barge service is the only means of freight transport, including fresh food deliveries.

Youth services

- There is no youth worker in Numbulwar, although there is a sports and recreation officer.

- Youth activities in Numbulwar are limited for people aged under 20 years, who make up 42 per cent of the Numbulwar population.

Educational facilities and services

- There are no sports facilities attached to the school.
- The number of classrooms is inadequate, and refurbishment (including rewiring and cabling) is required to improve the acoustic and functional performance of the school, as buildings are generally in a dilapidated condition.
- Gulf Kriol is the first language for almost all the students at Numbulwar School.
- None of the 17 teachers at the school have training in English as a second language, although two have attended an 'ESL in the mainstream' short course.

Water supply

- The water in the community is not fluoridated.

Animal management

- Numbulwar has a significant problem with the number and condition of dogs in the community. There have been attacks on community members by dogs.
- The shire does not have anyone dedicated to animal management and does not have an animal management framework.
- The shire also has responsibility for mosquito control, but lacks the chemicals to conduct effective mosquito control activities. There are no current animal control by-laws and existing animal and pest control programs are below standard.

Emergency services

- Numbulwar's preparation for and capacity to respond to emergencies that might occur in the community or surrounding areas are limited.
- When an emergency occurs in Numbulwar, the local police are responsible for organising a response. There is a police station in Numbulwar, with three police officers and provision for two Aboriginal Community Police Officers.
- There are no trained and organised emergency service volunteers in the community.
- The designated cyclone shelters are the Numbulwar police station, Numbulwar School and the council office.

Significant new investments

Investments in health

- Funding has been provided for the Numbulwar Health Centre for a visiting optometrist, as well as an ear, nose and throat surgeon, general surgeon, obstetrician and gynaecologist.

- Numbulwar has also been identified as a priority community under the expanded Visiting Optometrists Scheme (Ear and Eye Health Initiative).

Investments in education

- There are a number of building initiatives occurring at Numbulwar School (Rose River) under the Building the Education Revolution, including a multi-purpose hall and building refurbishment.
- Numbulwar School is expected to benefit from the Low Socio-economic Status School Communities National Partnership.

Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory

- A police station and custodial facility were established in Numbulwar in September 2007.
- A night patrol has been established in Numbulwar, as well as a women's safe house.
- There are also plans to build a new library and literacy centre complex.

National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing

- Under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing, Numbulwar will benefit from new construction and/or refurbishments and repairs, although targets for the community have not yet been set.
- A major investment in power, water and sewerage is being undertaken within the community to provide adequate services to meet future growth.

Communities for Children Plus

- On 29 June 2010, the Commonwealth Government announced that it will provide almost \$1.5 million in additional funding to Anglicare NT to deliver the Communities for Children Plus program in East Arnhem Land over the next three years.
- Anglicare NT will employ four family support workers based in Numbulwar, Angurugu, Milingimbi, and Nhulunbuy, who will also provide outreach services to Galiwin'ku, Alyangula, Ramingining, Gapuwiyak, Yirkala, Gunyangara, Milyakburra, Umbakumba and other nearby outstations.

Safe community

- The Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated funding of \$890,000 in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget for a remote aerodrome safety program in the Northern Territory.
- Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services has been allocated \$1 million in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to improve existing, or raise new, Northern Territory Emergency Service Volunteer Units based upon emergency and hazard risk profiles across all Territory Growth Towns.

- Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services has been allocated \$1.5 million in the 2010–11 Northern Territory budget to complete the Numbulwar Police Station.
- The Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated \$4.5 million over a five-year period in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to support an aerodrome reporting officer. Numbulwar Aerodrome is an identified site.

Community access

- The Department of Lands and Planning has recently completed a transport infrastructure survey and a gap analysis of multi-modal transport assets and infrastructure in each of the 20 Territory Growth Towns. This included condition assessments on internal roads, major access roads, outstation access roads within a 50 km radius, aerodromes and barge landings.

Land administration

- A total of \$3.6 million has been allocated in the Northern Territory Government budget to the Department of Lands and Planning to conduct a three-year project to survey new and existing housing and infrastructure in all Territory Growth Towns.

Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory National Partnership Agreement

Youth services

- Roper Gulf Shire Council has been awarded funding for training Indigenous youth into certified youth worker positions (\$1.8 million) over three years for Ngukurr, Numbulwar and Borroloola.

Community Development Employment Projects conversions

- The Northern Territory Government has announced that it will extend Community Development Employment Projects conversions for local government until 30 June 2011 with a funding increase in the total package of available funds from \$20 million to \$24.2 million.

Umbakumba key points

This report provides information about Umbakumba's strengths, challenges confronting the community, as well as government and non-government services in Umbakumba. The information was largely collected during 2009, but often relates to earlier points in time (in particular, the census data is from 2006).

This section of the report provides a summary of key topics identified about Umbakumba. It begins by discussing background information about the community. This is followed by strengths in the community. Next are the challenges confronting the community, and consideration of issues with service provision in the community. Finally, a list of recent investments in the community is provided.

Background community information

People

- The population of Umbakumba in 2006 is estimated to have been 459 people, of whom 434 were Indigenous (94%).
- In 2006, nearly half the Indigenous population (43%) were under 20 years of age.
- Umbakumba is in the traditional lands of the Warinindilyakwa people.

Population projections

- The Indigenous population of Umbakumba is projected to increase from 434 people in 2006 to 589 in 2026, an increase of 36 per cent.
- The number of Indigenous people aged 15 to 64 (the working-age population) is projected to increase from 281 to 383 over this period.
- The number of Indigenous people aged over 50 is expected to increase by 146 per cent over this period, from 44 people in 2006 to 108 people in 2026.
- The changing size and composition of the Indigenous population in Umbakumba will increase the need for housing, employment opportunities, and aged care and health services.

Geography

- Umbakumba is located on Groote Eylandt in the Gulf of Carpentaria. It has a humid tropical climate. Eighty per cent of annual rain falls during the wet season (between December and March).

Community strengths

Language, culture and tradition

- In Umbakumba the primary language spoken at home is Anindilyakwa, with English and Miriam Mir also spoken in the community.
- The Anindilyakwa-speaking clans maintain traditions and have close ties with people on the mainland, particularly in the communities of Bickerton Island and Numbulwar.

- Umbakumba has had a community-led ban on alcohol since October 2006.

Land, country and natural resources

- The islands in the Groote Eylandt archipelago are managed under the Anindilyakwa Indigenous Protected Area plan by Indigenous rangers based at Alyangula, Umbakumba, Angurugu and other partners to the plan.
- The archipelago's land and sea country is owned and managed by the Anindilyakwa clans and has been recognised as an international site for threatened species, wildlife aggregation and national significance for flora.
- Manganese is abundant in the Groote Eylandt archipelago (Umbakumba). In 1963, the Groote Eylandt Mining Company began mining manganese in the area, and it is estimated that the company now produces more than 15 per cent of the world's total production of manganese.

Animal management

- Dog controls and health programs have been established by the community, with assistance from the shire and visiting veterinary services.
- Northern Territory Parks staff also run a feral cat trapping and eradication program.
- Umbakumba is one of the few RSD communities with an effective animal management plan.

Challenges

Employment

- The proportion of Indigenous people in Umbakumba aged between 15 and 64 who had a job (the employment rate) was 46 per cent in 2006.
- All but three of the 202 people who had a job in 2006 were employed in Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) positions.
- Since 2009 a total of three jobs have been converted from CDEP in Umbakumba through Australian Government funding, and also under a Commonwealth Government and Northern Territory Government Funding Program Agreement.
- According to a data collection by the Northern Territory Government, there were 159 jobs (including vacancies) in Umbakumba in March 2010, 13 of which were CDEP positions. Excluding vacancies, there were 146 non-CDEP jobs in Umbakumba in March 2010, of which 97 were held by Indigenous people and 49 were held by non-Indigenous people.
- Most non-CDEP jobs were in the private sector (75) with the remainder (71) in the public sector. Of the 75 private sector jobs, 44 were held by Indigenous Australians and 31 were held by non-Indigenous people.

Education

- The proportion of Indigenous people in Umbakumba aged 20 to 64 years who either never attended school, or who left before attaining Year 10 or equivalent, was 31 per cent in 2006. This is less than half the rate for the Nhulunbuy Indigenous Region (69%), but is nearly three times higher than the total national rate (11%).
- The proportion of Indigenous people in Umbakumba aged 20 to 24 years who had completed Year 12, or a Certificate II or equivalent qualification, was 9 per cent in 2006. This was half the Indigenous rate in the Northern Territory (18%), and one-ninth the total national rate (83%).
- The proportion of Indigenous people in Umbakumba aged 15 to 24 who were engaged in full-time study or employment was 10 per cent in 2006. This was under half the Indigenous rate in the Northern Territory (26%), and seven times lower than the total national rate (72%).
- Since 2001, the average yearly attendance rate at Umbakumba School has fluctuated between 48 per cent in 2008 and a peak of 72 per cent in 2005. In 2009, the attendance rate was 55 per cent.
- Most year groups at Umbakumba School were below the reporting threshold in the 2009 NAPLAN testing. However, of the 62 per cent of Year 5 students who participated, 100 per cent were at or above the national minimum standard in reading, and 60 per cent were at or above the national minimum standard in numeracy.

Community safety

- Umbakumba is serviced by the police station in Alyangula which is well staffed but located nearly two hours away by car on mostly unsealed roads. Police visit Umbakumba on regular patrols.
- Between 2003–04 and 2007–08, Indigenous people in the Groote Eylandt statistical local area (SLA), which includes Umbakumba, were hospitalised for assault at nearly 10 times the total national rate (after adjusting for age differences).
- Between 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2009, 26 people with an address in Umbakumba underwent a period of imprisonment, all of whom were men. The 26 persons underwent a total of 44 periods of imprisonment during the five-year period (18 periods were on remand).
- Nearly 40 per cent of the periods of imprisonment were commenced by people aged 18 to 24 years.

Health and healthy homes

- Between 2003–04 and 2007–08, Indigenous people in the Groote Eylandt SLA were most often hospitalised for dialysis, at 20 times the total national rate (after adjusting for age differences).

- Between 2003–04 and 2007–08, Indigenous people in the Grootte Eylandt SLA were hospitalised for diseases associated with poor environmental health at more than four times the total national rate.
- Sixty-three per cent of Indigenous households experienced overcrowding in Umbakumba in 2006, which is consistent with the high rate in the Nhulunbuy region (69%), but is higher than the Indigenous national rate (14%) and the total national rate (3%).

Early childhood

- Of the total births in Grootte Eylandt SLA during the period 2004–2008, 20 per cent were to teenage mothers. This was five times the equivalent proportion for the Australian population as a whole during this period (4%).
- In 2009 the proportion of Indigenous children in the East Arnhem Australian Early Development Index region (which incorporates Umbakumba) considered to be developmentally vulnerable in the language and cognitive skills domain is the same as for all Northern Territory Indigenous children (47%) but greater than for all Australian Indigenous children (29%) and all Australian children (8%).

Potential issues with service delivery

Access

- The road from Umbakumba to Angurugu is unsealed and in poor condition, and can be unusable during the wet season. Funding has been approved to seal the road.
- While there is an airstrip close to Umbakumba, it is small and only usable during daylight hours by small aircraft. The closest regular air services are in Angurugu.
- The community is regularly serviced by barge but the port is small and can only be used in certain conditions. There is insufficient lighting on the port to allow unloading at night.

English as a second language (ESL) teachers

- Almost all students speak Anindilyakwa and will be learning English for the first time at school.
- There are no formally qualified ESL teachers in Umbakumba, although several have undergone some form of ESL training.

Municipal and essential services

- The sewerage system is currently meeting the needs of the community but has been assessed as being under capacity.
- Approximately 90 per cent of the street lighting was not working and does not meet the needs of the community or the base level standards.
- The aerodrome is well maintained but is unlit, is unusable in wet conditions, and has no fuel facilities or other services.

Emergency services

- Umbakumba's preparation for and capacity to respond to emergencies that might occur in the community are very limited.
- Preparedness and response are needed for tropical cyclones, transport incidents (aircraft, motor vehicles, marine), hazardous chemical incidents, marine pollution and fire.
- Umbakumba currently relies on the emergency response capacity of the Groote Eylandt Mining Company at Alyangula, which should be assessed more closely as to its potential for response over such a large area as Groote Eylandt.

Community access

- The Department of Lands and Planning has recently completed a transport infrastructure survey and a gap analysis of multi-modal transport assets and infrastructure in each of the 20 Territory Growth Towns. This included condition assessments on internal roads, major access roads, outstation access roads within a 50 km radius, aerodromes and barge landings.
- This survey found that 82.6 per cent of roads around Umbakumba were in fair to good condition and 17.5 per cent of roads were in poor condition.

Significant new investments

Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island Regional Partnership Agreement

- A Regional Partnership Agreement between the Commonwealth Government, the Northern Territory Government, the Anindilyakwa Land Council, Groote Eylandt Mining Company and the East Arnhem Shire Council has been signed for the Groote Eylandt region, including Umbakumba.
- The total value of the agreement will exceed \$80 million. This investment will include the construction of a new health centre in Umbakumba, and an improved/increased police presence.
- The agreement also provides \$20 million for sealing the road between Umbakumba and Angurugu, and will give Umbakumba residents improved access to education, employment, medical services and social/sporting events.
- A fluoride treatment plant for Umbakumba is planned under Stage 2 of the Regional Partnership Agreement.
- The health centre is to be replaced under Stage 2 of the agreement with funding from the Anindilyakwa Land Council (\$3 million), the NT Department of Health and Families (\$2 million) and the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing (\$1 million). Construction of the new health centre is due to start in December 2010.

Investments in education

- Under the Building the Education Revolution initiative, Umbakumba School will benefit from construction and refurbishment projects collectively worth \$925,000.
- Umbakumba School is also expected to benefit from the Low Socio-economic Status School Communities National Partnership.

Communities for Children Plus

- On 29 June 2010, the Commonwealth Government announced that it will provide almost \$1.5 million in additional funding to Anglicare NT to deliver the Communities for Children Plus program in East Arnhem over the next three years.
- Anglicare NT will employ four family support workers based in Angurugu, Milingimbi Numbulwar and Nhulunbuy, who will also provide outreach services to Umbakumba, Galiwin'ku, Alyangula, Ramingining, Gapuwiyak, Yirkala, Gungyangara, Milyakburra and other nearby outstations.

Investments in water supply and wastewater infrastructure

- Since the audit of the water services in Umbakumba was undertaken, the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts has announced that as part of a \$51.7 million funding program, \$1.19 million has been allocated to Umbakumba to refurbish existing bores and construct a new production bore. A new ground-level tank will also be installed under this funding.

National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing

- Over \$60 million has been allocated to Groote Eylandt communities (Angurugu, Umbakumba and Milyakburra) for housing. This includes construction of 80 new houses and at least 75 rebuilds and refurbishments of existing dwellings across the three communities under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing. At Umbakumba 18 new dwellings will be constructed.

Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory National Partnership Agreement

Youth services

- East Arnhem Shire Council has been awarded \$2,384,233 to implement diversionary programs over a three-year period in Umbakumba, Yirkala, Milingimbi, Ramingining and Gapuwiyak.
- The shire council has also been awarded \$341,640 to implement youth services infrastructure upgrades in these communities, with the addition of Angurugu and Galiwin'ku.
- Groote Eylandt and Bickerton Island Enterprises Aboriginal Corporation has been funded with \$250,000 over three years to develop a youth strategy in Umbakumba and Angurugu.

Community Development Employment Projects conversions

- The Northern Territory Government has announced that it will extend Community Development Employment Projects conversions for local government until 30 June 2011 with a funding increase in the total package of available funds from \$20 million to \$24.2 million.

Wadeye key points

This report provides information about Wadeye's strengths, challenges confronting the community, as well as government and non-government services in Wadeye. The information was largely collected during 2009, but often relates to earlier points in time (in particular, the census data is from 2006).

This section of the report provides a summary of key topics identified about Wadeye. It begins by discussing background information about the community. This is followed by strengths in the community. Next are the challenges confronting the community, and consideration of issues with service provision in the community. Finally, a list of recent investments in the community is provided.

Background information

People

- In 2006 the population of Wadeye is estimated to have been 2,222 people, of whom 2,074 were Indigenous (93%).
- The Wadeye population has a very young age profile: more than one-half of the Wadeye Indigenous population is under 20 years of age.
- The majority of Indigenous people under the age of 50 speak Murrinhpatha, which is one of five traditional Aboriginal languages spoken at Wadeye.

Population projections

- The Indigenous population of Wadeye is estimated to have been 2,472 in 2009. This is projected to increase by 63 per cent to 4,032 in 2029.
- The number of Indigenous people aged 15 to 64 is expected to increase from 1,388 to 2,399 over this period (an increase of 73%).
- The number of Indigenous people aged over 50 is expected to increase by 108 per cent, from 179 people in 2009 to 372 people in 2029.
- The changing size and age composition of the Indigenous population at Wadeye will increase the need for housing, employment opportunities, and aged care and health services.

Mobility

- Twenty-nine per cent of Wadeye residents move frequently between associated communities and Darwin town camps, staying for short periods of time and then moving again.
- There is population movement into Wadeye during the wet season due to accessibility issues and the need to access essential services.

Geography

- Wadeye is located in the Daly River Port Keats Land Trust area in the north of the Northern Territory, 270 km south-west of Darwin by air.

- The Mayle River floodplain is recognised for its natural resources, and is managed by the Thamarrurr rangers and the Northern Territory Government.

Community strengths

Language and culture

- The people of the Thamarrurr region maintain strong links to their traditional land, language and culture.
- Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Thamarrurr Catholic School has a high number of Indigenous teachers that provide a strong Indigenous presence within the school.
- The school is the largest employer of Indigenous staff among Northern Territory schools. Of the 37 teachers, nine are qualified local Indigenous teachers and are upgrading their qualifications. There are 66 teaching support staff in total, of whom 64 are Indigenous.

Community governance

- Community governance in Wadeye is founded on the centrality of traditional clan affiliation and the role of clan elders.
- This model supports the Thamarrurr Development Corporation and Thamarrurr Incorporated.
- The Thamarrurr governance structure provides a framework for making decisions about the region, both traditional and contemporary.

School initiatives

- The school nutrition program is having a positive impact on the health of students.
- The school in Wadeye targets Indigenous employment wherever possible, and positions range from groundsmen through to office staff, teachers, teaching assistants and liaison officers.
- The school has a music program. The appointment of a specialist music teacher led to a community band being formed.

Community initiatives

- The Thamarrurr ranger program is a successful community initiative that engages young men and women in 'looking after country' projects.
- The Indigenous Family Violence Offender Program offers support for offenders to understand and develop ways to deal with issues that lead to anger and violence.

Challenges facing the community

Education

- Average yearly school attendance at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Thamarrurr Catholic School declined from 66 per cent in 2001 to 47 per cent in 2009 (the

lowest rate over the period). It is currently a participating school in the School Enrolment and Attendance Measure (SEAM) trial.

- Of the students who participated in 2009 NAPLAN tests, only a small number were at or above national minimum standards.
- A majority of Year 7 and 9 students did not participate in any of the NAPLAN test domains.
- A large majority (86%) of Indigenous people aged 20 to 64 in Wadeye either never attended school or left before completing Year 10 or equivalent (2006), compared to 32 per cent of Indigenous people nationwide.

Early childhood

- In 2009 the proportion of Indigenous children in the Darwin Australian Early Development Index region (where Wadeye is located) considered to be developmentally vulnerable in the language and cognitive skills domain (37%) is less than for all NT Indigenous children (47%) but greater than for all Australian Indigenous children (29%) and all Australian children (7.9%).
- Of the total births in Thamarrurr statistical local area (SLA) (which includes Wadeye) during the period 2004–2008, 26 per cent were to teenage mothers. This was six times the equivalent proportion for the Australian population as a whole during this period (4%).

Disengaged youth

- Wadeye's young Indigenous population has a relatively low rate of educational attainment. In 2006, only 8 per cent of Indigenous 20- to 24-year-olds had completed Year 12 or Certificate II or equivalent. This is under one-fifth of the national Indigenous rate (47%) and under one-tenth of the total national rate (83%).
- Similarly, less than one-fifth (18%) of Wadeye's Indigenous 15- to 24-year-olds were engaged in full-time study or employment in 2006. This was less than half of the national Indigenous rate (44%) and one-quarter of the total national rate (72%).
- Forty per cent of Wadeye residents who commenced a period of imprisonment by a person between 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2009 were aged between 18 and 24 years. Almost all were men.

Employment

- In 2006, the percentage of Indigenous people in Wadeye aged 15 to 64 who had a job (the employment rate) was low (16%).
- If Community Development Employment Project (CDEP) positions are not included as employment, this percentage drops to 4 per cent, which is less than one-tenth of the national Indigenous rate of employment without CDEP (42%).

- Since 2008, 76 jobs were converted from CDEP in Wadeye through Australian Government funding, and also under an Australian Government and Northern Territory Government Funding Program Agreement.
- According to a data collection by the Northern Territory Government, there were 572 jobs (including vacancies) in Wadeye in March 2010, of which 122 were CDEP positions. Excluding vacancies, there were 449 non-CDEP jobs in Wadeye in March 2010, of which 284 were held by Indigenous people and 165 were held by non-Indigenous people.
- Most non-CDEP jobs were in the public sector (294) with the remainder (155) in the private sector. Of the 155 private sector jobs, 86 were held by Indigenous Australians and 69 were held by non-Indigenous people.

Health

- Between 2003–04 and 2007–08, Indigenous people in the Thamarrurr SLA were most often hospitalised for pregnancy and childbirth. During this period the hospitalisation rate for Indigenous Australians in the Thamarrurr SLA for pregnancy and childbirth was one and a half times the national average (after adjusting for age differences).
- Over the same period, the hospitalisation rate for Indigenous Australians in the Thamarrurr SLA for dialysis was three times the national average (after adjusting for age differences).
- Seven- to 12-year-olds in Wadeye have an average of 1.2 permanent teeth affected by decay. Decay experience in permanent teeth in 7- to 11-year-olds is between 0.7 and 4.2 times the Northern Territory average and between 0.5 and 3.1 times the Australian average depending on age.

Healthy homes

- Over 85 per cent of Indigenous households in Wadeye experience overcrowding, which is six times the national Indigenous rate (14%).
- Staff accommodation in the community is in short supply, and much of what exists does not meet current standards for disability access or environmental sustainability. Lack of housing is impacting on the ability of the local shire to fill job vacancies.

Environmental health

- There are reports of large numbers of dogs in Wadeye. There are also problems with ants, mosquitoes, cockroaches, acid beetles and sandflies. There are no current animal control by-laws and existing animal and pest control programs are below base level standards.
- The water supply in Wadeye does not meet either the water pressure or water quality standards.
- Between 2003–04 and 2007–08, Indigenous people in Thamarrurr SLA were hospitalised for diseases associated with poor environmental health at a rate twice the national average (after adjusting for age differences).

Community safety

- In 2008–09, there were 439 recorded offences in Wadeye. The most common offences were traffic violations, public order offences, other offences¹ and break and enter.
- Between 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2009, almost one-third of people from Wadeye serving a sentence had been convicted of assault.

Emergency services

- Emergency service capability is inadequate for responding to most emergency situations, except limited responses for road accidents and fire.

Potential issues with service delivery

Municipal services

- The main access road to Wadeye, although regularly maintained, is mostly unsealed and can be closed for months during the wet season.
- Internal roads in Wadeye suffer from erosion damage which leads to dust problems as the surface breaks apart.
- There is a reported shortage of accommodation for staff in Wadeye, with 78 staff accommodation units available for 250 staff members and their families. This leads to workers living elsewhere and travelling in from outside of Wadeye to perform their duties.
- The community is regularly serviced by barge and air. These forms of transport are not without issue—for example, the cost of air travel is prohibitive.
- Aircraft night landing is not currently possible because airport landing facilities are not operational at night.
- Vandalism means that public toilets at the football oval and airstrip, public telephones, and lighting for streets and the barge landing are not always available and public facilities such as the school have been extensively damaged.

Water supply

- The water in the community is not fluoridated.

Education

- The preschool and primary school facilities are more than 30 years old and in an unsatisfactory condition.
- If all school-age students (approximately 900) came to school regularly it would place a considerable strain on the community's educational resources.
- At Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Thamarrurr Catholic School, 38 students have been identified as having disabilities. It is apparent that the number of students

¹ Other offenses include firearms offences, criminal damage, domestic disturbances not otherwise classified, trespass, and arson not involving injury.

with disabilities is understated because of the lack of access to professional assessment and verification procedures. There is difficulty finding inclusion support officers in the local community with adequate training.

Youth

- Youth services in Wadeye will need to be prioritised and will require further development and resources in the coming decade if they are to meet the needs of the youth population.
- Community resources and facilities are inadequate to meet the needs of the youth population. There is a need for more facilities and programs to engage the youth of Wadeye.
- For a population of more than 1,000 people under the age of 20, Wadeye has a basketball court at the school and a community swimming pool. A community football oval is being developed that will be accessible to the school on completion.
- With the exception of Centrelink and a Job Services Australia provider, only a small number of welfare, including disability, programs are readily available in Wadeye.

Justice

- For justice to be administered in the most thorough and appropriate way, the court needs to have suitable facilities for court personnel and witnesses as well as defendants.
- The current court facilities need upgrading. There is a need for improvements to witness facilities, provision of drinking water and public toilets. There is no shelter for defendants or witnesses waiting for their cases to be heard, and no interview rooms.
- Being able to ensure the safety of witnesses is important if people are to be encouraged to come forward and report victimisation.

Significant new investments

Water

- Since the Municipal and Essential Services Audit was undertaken it is worth noting that, as part of a \$51.7 million funding program (by the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts announced on 23 April 2010), \$10,920,000 has been allocated to Wadeye to construct ground-level water storage that will hold three megalitres.

Educational investments

- Under the Building the Education Revolution initiative, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Thamarrurr Catholic School will benefit from a number of building projects including an outdoor covered area, refurbishment including the library, a science centre and multi-purpose area and a trade training centre.

- The school is expected to benefit from the Low Socio-economic Status School Communities Partnership and the Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory National Partnership Agreement funding to provide teacher dwellings.

National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing

- In Wadeye under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing, 105 new dwellings are being constructed.
- Targets for further refurbishments and rebuilding of houses will be confirmed once a scoping exercise has been undertaken.
- A major investment in power, water and sewerage is being undertaken within the community to provide adequate services to meet future growth.

Community access

- The Department of Lands and Planning has recently completed a transport infrastructure survey and a gap analysis of multi-modal transport assets and infrastructure in each of the 20 Territory Growth Towns. This included condition assessments on internal roads, major access roads, outstation access roads within a 50 km radius, aerodromes and barge landings.
- As a result of the local transport infrastructure survey, the Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated \$18.2 million in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to upgrade the Port Keats Road and the Daly River Road.

Land administration

- A total of \$3.6 million has been allocated in the Northern Territory Government budget to the Department of Lands and Planning to conduct a three-year project to survey new and existing housing and infrastructure in all Territory Growth Towns.

National Partnership on Digital Regions

- As part of the National Partnership on Digital Regions, Wadeye has been identified to receive e-Health services as part of a \$7 million project.

Safe communities

- Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services has been allocated \$1 million in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to improve existing, or raise new, Northern Territory Emergency Service Volunteer Units based upon emergency and hazard risk profiles across all Territory Growth Towns.
- The Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated funding of \$890,000 in the 2010–2011 Northern Territory Government budget for a remote aerodrome safety program in the Northern Territory.
- The Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated \$4.5 million over a five-year period in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to support an aerodrome reporting officer. Wadeye Aerodrome is an identified site.

Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory National Partnership Agreement

Youth services

- AFL Northern Territory has been awarded \$390,000 to implement an AFL Regional Development Program over a two-year period in Wadeye and Galiwin'ku.
- The Australian Red Cross has been awarded \$4.9 million for one fully qualified youth worker and two Indigenous trainee youth workers over a three-year period in Daly River, Wurrumyanga (Nguiu), Gunbalanya, Angurugu and Wadeye.
- The Australian Sports Commission has been awarded \$500,000 to implement the Sports Demonstration Projects over a two-year period for Gapuwiyak, Wadeye, Yuendumu, Gunbalanya and Wurrumyanga (Nguiu).

Community Development Employment Projects conversions

- The Northern Territory Government has announced that it will extend Community Development Employment Projects conversions for local government until 30 June 2011 with a funding increase in the total package of available funds from \$20 million to \$24.2 million.

Yirkala key points

This report provides information about Yirkala's strengths, challenges confronting the community, as well as government and non-government services in Yirkala. The information was largely collected during 2009, but often relates to earlier points in time (in particular, the census data is from 2006).

This section of the report provides a summary of key topics identified about Yirkala. It begins by discussing background information about the community. This is followed by strengths in the community. Next are the challenges confronting the community, and consideration of issues with service provision in the community. Finally, a list of recent investments in the community is provided.

Background community information

People

- In 2006, the population of Yirkala is estimated to have been 1,697 people, of whom 1,472 (87%) were Indigenous.
- The Indigenous population of Yirkala in 2006 was relatively young, with 44 per cent aged under 20 years (compared to 27 per cent in the total Australian population), and 11 per cent aged 50 years or more (compared to 31 per cent in the total Australian population).

Population projections

- The Indigenous population of Yirkala is projected to increase from 1,472 in 2006 to 2,005 in 2026.
- The number of Indigenous people aged 15 to 64 (the working-age population) is projected to increase from 953 people in 2006 to 1,301 in 2026.
- The number of Indigenous people aged 65 years and over is expected to more than triple, from 33 in 2006 to 112 in 2026.
- The increasing size and ageing population of Yirkala will increase the need for housing, employment opportunities, and aged care and health services.

Community

- Yirkala is well known for the 1963 bark petition seeking the Australian Government's recognition of Aboriginal rights to traditional lands.
- Although unsuccessful, the bark petition led the way for the eventual recognition of Indigenous rights in Commonwealth law.

Geography

- Yirkala is located around 17 km from Nhulunbuy (Gove) with easy access via a sealed road.
- Many people live intermittently between Yirkala and the homelands.

Local governance

- Yirkala was incorporated into the new East Arnhem Shire in July 2008.

- The Yirkala Dhanbul Association carries out the functions of the local government within Yirkala.
- The Yirkala Dhanbul Association has a strong reputation for being well organised and a role model to other communities. It actively promotes and works towards training and employing Indigenous people.
- Currently 33 per cent of the council staff are Indigenous.

Community strengths

Community involvement in school governance and function

- The community is strongly involved in the running of the school. In particular, they prompted the addition of cultural programs to the school program.
- A senior community elder works at the school as a cultural adviser. In addition, a Yolngu Action Group advises the school council.
- The school is a major employer of Indigenous people in the community.

Arts centre

- The Yirkala Arts Centre (Buku-Larrnggay Mulka Centre) is strong and prosperous.
- It provides the community with much-needed economic stimulus.
- The artists have been winning national awards for many years.

Accessibility

- Yirkala is well serviced by air and sea freight from Nhulunbuy.
- Yirkala residents have year-round access via an all-weather sealed road to all the services available in Nhulunbuy.
- In a survey of roads around Yirkala, all sealed roads were judged to be in good condition; however, more than half (51.8%) of roads, all unsealed, were judged to be in poor condition.

Challenges

Early childhood

- In 2009 the proportion of Indigenous children in the East Arnhem Australian Early Development Index region considered to be developmentally vulnerable in the language and cognitive skills domain is the same as for all NT Indigenous children (47%) but greater than for all Australian Indigenous children (29%) and all Australian children (8%).
- Of the total births in the statistical local area (SLA) of East Arnhem – Balance (which includes Yirkala) during the period 2004–2008, 22 per cent were to teenage mothers. This was five times the equivalent proportion for the Australian population as a whole during this period (4%).

Employment

- In 2006, the proportion of Indigenous people aged 15 to 64 in Yirrkala who had a job (the employment rate) was 52 per cent.
- If Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) positions are not included as employment, this rate drops to 10 per cent, which is about one-quarter of the national Indigenous rate excluding CDEP (42%), and one-seventh of the total national rate (71%).
- Since 2008 a total of 29 jobs were converted from CDEP in Yirrkala through Commonwealth Government funding, and also under a Funding Program Agreement between the Commonwealth and Northern Territory governments.
- According to a data collection by the Northern Territory Government, there were 317 jobs (including vacancies) in Yirrkala in March 2010, of which five were CDEP positions. Excluding vacancies, there were 311 non-CDEP jobs in Yirrkala in March 2010, of which 148 were held by Indigenous people and 163 were held by non-Indigenous people.
- Most non-CDEP jobs were in the private sector (191) with the remainder (120) in the public sector. Of the 191 private sector jobs, 101 were held by Indigenous Australians and 90 were held by non-Indigenous people.

Education

- The proportion of Indigenous people in Yirrkala aged 20 to 64 years who either never attended school or left school before completing Year 10 was 70 per cent in 2006. This compares to a national Indigenous rate of 32 per cent and a total national rate of 11 per cent.
- The NAPLAN results indicate that students attending Yirrkala School and Yirrkala Homelands School are below the national minimum standard in most domains.
- The yearly average attendance at Yirrkala School increased from 50 per cent in 2001 to 55 per cent in 2009. The highest attendance in the period was in 2006 (60%).
- The yearly average attendance at Yirrkala Homelands School declined from 85 per cent in 2001 to 74 per cent in 2009. The highest attendance in the period was in 2002 (92%).

Crime and justice

- The number of recorded offences in Yirrkala almost doubled from 2006–07 to 2008–09.
- The increase was largely attributed to a rise in break and enters, which almost tripled from 2006–07 to 2008–09.
- This may not necessarily reflect an actual increase in the level of crime—it could reflect improvements in the reporting and detection of crime.

- Ninety-eight per cent of break and enter offences were not related to alcohol. Conversely, interpersonal offences, such as offences 'against the person', were alcohol related more than 90 per cent of the time.
- Between 2003–04 and 2007–08, the hospitalisation rate for Indigenous Australians in the East Arnhem – Balance SLA for assault was nine times the national average (after adjusting for age differences).

Environmental health

- In 2006, close to 78 per cent of Indigenous households in Yirrkala experienced overcrowding, compared to a national Indigenous rate of 14 per cent.
- Between 2003–04 and 2007–08, Indigenous people in the East Arnhem – Balance SLA were hospitalised for diseases associated with poor environmental health at a rate three times the national average (after adjusting for age differences).
- There are a large number of uncontrolled dogs roaming the community and attacks on people have been reported. There are no current animal control by-laws and existing animal and pest control programs are below standard.

Health

- Indigenous Australians in the East Arnhem – Balance SLA were most often hospitalised for dialysis (between 2003–04 and 2007–08), at a rate seven times the national average (after adjusting for age differences).
- Over the same period, the hospitalisation rate for Indigenous Australians in the East Arnhem – Balance SLA for diseases of the skin and subcutaneous tissue was five times the national average (after adjusting for age differences).
- In Yirrkala, 7- to 12-year-olds have an average of 3.1 permanent teeth affected by decay. Decay experience in permanent teeth in 7- to 11-year-olds is between 4.1 and 13.8 times the Northern Territory average and between 3.2 and 13.2 times the Australian average depending on age.

Potential issues with service delivery

Municipal services

- Staff housing generally appeared to be well maintained and suitable for purpose; however, the housing is old and requires upgrade.
- There is no animal management plan in place. There are an insufficient number of veterinarian visits to Yirrkala, which has resulted in the spread of disease and poor animal condition. There are also reports of unprovoked dog bitings.
- No formal environmental health plan is in place at Yirrkala. The council has identified a need for one full-time employee to fill the environmental health worker role to implement and manage the operation of plans.

- The structure and management responsibilities of infrastructure and municipal services between the various service providers are clearly defined and well executed. The staff training is adequate and appropriate for their duties.
- The street lighting generally provides a reasonable service to the community. Remedial works required would be to provide additional lighting to areas that are not lit to the current standards.

Municipal and essential services

- Due to its remote location from the community and as the power station is owned and operated by Rio Tinto, a detailed assessment of its details has not been conducted. However, it is expected that the requirement to maintain supply to the operational mine site and the substantial town of Nhulunbuy result in a reasonable service for Yirkala.
- Internal roads generally comply with base level standards, although several areas of the roads in Yirkala require maintenance and pothole repairs. Approximately 70 per cent of the internal roadways are sealed.
- The sewage pumps are operating at very low efficiency due to the very high duty pressure. The pump stations will require an upgrade to improve efficiency and to cope with demand. The system is generally at a level that meets base level requirements.
- Additional bores are required to meet current demands. The community's water tanks are approaching the end of their service life and require replacement. The storage capacity does not meet the base level standards and therefore needs substantial upgrade.
- Some parts of the community experience low water pressure; however, the quality of water and reliability of service meet the base level standards.
- The water in the community is not fluoridated.

Emergency services

- Yirkala's preparation for and capacity to respond to fire, rescue and accident emergencies that might occur in the community or surrounding area are very limited.
- The officer in charge of the Nhulunbuy police station has responsibility for overall coordination of emergency response in the region (which incorporates Galiwin'ku and Gapuwiyak).
- The community has two buildings that can be used as cyclone shelters (the Yirkala Women's Resources Centre and the Yirkala Dhanbul Community Association Store).
- All response capacity for emergencies is based in Nhulunbuy. This includes capacity to respond to incidents involving aircraft (Nhulunbuy has an average of 1,200 aircraft movements per month), other passenger transport (e.g. buses), fuel tankers and hazardous material cartage, and marine vessels, with

a large number of recreational fishing boats, yachts, ore tankers and trawlers all operating in the area.

- It usually takes around 15 minutes for Nhulunbuy police officers to arrive in Yirkala in response to an emergency.

Police

- Yirkala does not have a permanent police presence within the community.
- Police from Nhulunbuy patrol the Yirkala community daily. There is also a night patrol that was established under the Northern Territory Emergency Response.
- When the Nhulunbuy station is closed, non-serious incidents reported from Yirkala may take up to 24 hours to respond too.

Community facilities and public services

- There is no formalised cemetery area and no public library facility available in Yirkala.
- At the time of writing, there was no public transport between Yirkala and Nhulunbuy.
- Minimal shade areas have been provided throughout the community. There is little shade at the playground, which is a significant deficiency.
- The football oval has a small roof structure available on the western side. Very little shade is available throughout the town apart from some trees in private yards.

English as a second language (ESL) teachers

- The vast majority (96%) of students have a Yolngu language as their first language, with many students speaking more than one Yolngu language.
- Despite the majority of students at Yirkala School learning English as a second language (ESL), only three of the 17 staff at the school have formal ESL training.

Youth and student services

- Limited support is available for the estimated 70 per cent of students who have hearing impairments.
- Activities for youth in Yirkala are limited by the lack of a youth worker and facilities for youth.

Significant new investments planned

School infrastructure

- The Department of Education and Training has been allocated \$2 million in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Budget to upgrade Yirkala School.
- The Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory National Partnership provided four new teaching and learning spaces replacing demountables nearly 40 years old, with a next stage of construction to replace a further four.

- The Building the Education Revolution program is providing additional teaching and learning spaces at Yirkala School at a cost of approximately \$2.125 million.
- The program is also providing \$2.125 million to the Yirkala Homelands School for refurbishment and construction, including multi-purpose education centres for the four homelands schools.

National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing

- Negotiations are currently underway to achieve a 40-year housing precinct lease to enable the rollout of housing in Yirkala under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing.
- A major investment in power, water and sewerage systems is being undertaken within the community to provide adequate services to meet future growth.

Communities for Children Plus

- On 29 June 2010, the Commonwealth Government announced that it would provide almost \$1.5 million in additional funding to Anglicare NT to deliver the Communities for Children Plus program in East Arnhem over the next three years.
- Anglicare NT will employ four family support workers based in Angurugu, Milingimbi Numbulwar and Nhulunbuy, who will also provide outreach services to Yirkala, Galiwin'ku, Alyangula, Ramingining, Gapuwiyak, Gunyangara, Milyakburra, Umbakumba and other nearby outstations.

Community access

- The Department of Lands and Planning has recently completed a transport infrastructure survey and a gap analysis of multi-modal transport assets and infrastructure in each of the 20 Territory Growth Towns. This included condition assessments on internal roads, major access roads, outstation access roads within a 50 km radius, aerodromes and barge landings.
- The Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated \$3.1 million to trial a regional bus passenger service throughout the Northern Territory over two years. The Yirkala bus trial is scheduled to commence in late 2010.
- As a result of the local transport infrastructure survey, the Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated \$14 million in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to upgrade the Central Arnhem Road.

Safe communities

- Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services has been allocated \$1 million in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to improve existing, or raise new, Northern Territory Emergency Service Volunteer Units based upon emergency and hazard risk profiles across all Territory Growth Towns.

Land administration

- A total of \$3.6 million has been allocated in the Northern Territory Government budget to the Department of Lands and Planning to conduct a three-year project to survey new and existing housing and infrastructure in all Territory Growth Towns.

National Partnership Agreement on Digital Regions

- As part of the National Partnership Agreement on Digital Regions, Yirrkala has been identified to receive eHealth services as part of a \$7 million project.

Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory National Partnership Agreement

Youth services

- East Arnhem Shire Council has been awarded \$2.3 million for a youth diversionary program over three years for Yirrkala, Milingimbi, Ramingining, Gapuwiyak and Umbakumba.

Teacher housing

- As part of the National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory Yirrkala has been identified to receive six new teacher houses.

Community Development Employment Projects conversions

- The Northern Territory Government has announced that it will extend Community Development Employment Projects conversions for local government until 30 June 2011 with a funding increase in the total package of available funds from \$20 million to \$24.2 million.

Yuendumu key points

This report provides information about Yuendumu's strengths, challenges confronting the community, as well as government and non-government services in Yuendumu. The information was largely collected during 2009, but often relates to earlier points in time (in particular, the census data is from 2006).

This section of the report provides a summary of key points identified about Yuendumu. It begins by discussing background information about the community. This is followed by strengths in the community. Next are the challenges confronting the community, and consideration of issues with service provision in the community. Finally, a list of recent investments in the community is provided.

Background community information

People

- Yuendumu is on the traditional country of the Anmatyerre people. The two main languages spoken are Anmatyerre and Warlpiri. There are also a number of people from the Pintupi language group living at Yuendumu.
- The population of Yuendumu in 2006 is estimated to have been 794, of whom 701 (88%) were Indigenous.

Population projections

- The Indigenous population of Yuendumu is projected to increase from 701 in 2006 to 946 in 2026.
- The number of Indigenous people aged 15 to 64 (the working-age population) is projected to increase from 448 people in 2006 to 612 people in 2026.
- The number of Indigenous people aged 65 years and over is expected to double from 26 in 2006 to 53 in 2026.
- The changing size and age composition of the Indigenous population of Yuendumu will increase the need for housing, employment opportunities, and aged care and health services.

Geography and climate

- Yuendumu is approximately 300 km north-west of Alice Springs. It is located on and surrounded by inalienable Aboriginal freehold land.
- Yuendumu is in a tropical summer rainfall region, with around 75 per cent of annual rainfall occurring between November and April.
- Yuendumu is accessed via the Tanami Highway (or Tanami Track, as it is better known), which starts 20 km north of Alice Springs and heads in a north-west direction via Yuendumu to the Kimberley region in Western Australia. The road is the main service route to two of Australia's largest gold mines, the Granites mine and the Tanami mine, which are located in Warlpiri country to the north-west of the community.

Community strengths

Community organisations and partnerships

- The Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation (WYDAC) (formerly known as the Mt Theo – Yuendumu Substance Misuse Aboriginal Corporation, or simply the Mt Theo Program or Centre) is managed by 62 elected Indigenous people from the community. It runs a variety of youth development and leadership programs, and also manages the swimming pool and indoor basketball court.
- The community has a long history of working with the Central Land Council on community development projects funded through mining royalties. Currently the community is working closely with the Central Land Council to develop education, training and media programs through the Warlpiri Education and Training Trust (WETT) Project.
- Yuendumu is the home of Warlpiri Media, which includes the Pintubi, Anmatjerre, Warlpiri (PAW) Radio Network, a service that reaches 11 communities.
- Warlukurlangu Artists Aboriginal Corporation is a fully Indigenous-owned and -governed art centre. One hundred per cent of the proceeds from the sale of all artworks go directly back to the artists and their community projects.
- The community has a vibrant art movement centred around the Warlukurlangu art centre. Yuendumu artists having taken part in more than 1,000 exhibitions in galleries both in Australia and overseas.
- There is strong involvement in Indigenous cultural events. People come together regularly to participate in traditional ceremonies and to attend sporting events such as AFL football regional competitions. The community also plays host to the annual Yuendumu Sports Weekend.

Community safety

- Senior women in the community run the women's night patrol, which has been operating since 1993. There is also a men's night patrol. Both assist people at risk of either causing or becoming the victims of harm to break the cycle of violence and crime in the community. There is a strong relationship between the night patrols and the police.
- Other community safety programs and community justice mechanisms include a safe house, women's shelter and men's cooling-off place.
- WYDAC runs an extremely successful substance misuse program and the Jaru Pirjirdi (Strong Voices) Program.
- New cooperative arrangements by way of a memorandum of understanding between Yuendumu Police and the night patrol are to be signed off in the near future which will enhance the working relationships between the two parties. The Safer Places team will also be signatories to the agreement, with the aim of improved dialogue leading to the services being utilised more effectively.

Educational initiatives

- Between 2001 and 2009, the average yearly attendance rate at Yuendumu School fluctuated greatly between 44 per cent in 2007 and a peak of 77 per cent in 2004. By 2009, the attendance rate was 53 per cent, which is lower overall than in 2001 (65%).
- Yuendumu School is participating in the pilot for the Tri-border Attendance Strategy to lessen the disruption to schooling experienced by students with high levels of mobility.
- The school council has a long history with and actively participates in Walpiri Triange meetings to discuss culture and language maintenance at the school.

Natural resources

- Two large gold mines owned by Newmont Mining Company operate in the Tanami Desert and royalties from the mines flow to people living at Yuendumu and to numerous community development projects.

Challenges

Early childhood

- In 2009 more than half (54%) of Indigenous children in the Alice Springs Australian Early Development Index region (which includes Yuendumu) were considered to be developmentally vulnerable in the languages and cognitive skills domain in 2009. This was nearly twice as high as the national average for Indigenous children (29%), and nearly seven times higher than the total national average (8%).
- Of the total births in the Yuendumu statistical local area (SLA) during the period 2004–2008, 46 per cent were to teenage mothers. This was 11 times the equivalent proportion for the Australian population as a whole during this period (4%).

Health

- Indigenous people in Yuendumu SLA were most often hospitalised for dialysis, at a rate more than 30 times the national average (after adjusting for age differences) (2003–04 to 2007–08).
- Between 2003–04 and 2007–08, Indigenous people in Yuendumu SLA were hospitalised for assault at a rate nearly 45 times the national average (after adjusting for age differences).
- For alcohol-related conditions, Indigenous people in Yuendumu SLA were hospitalised at a rate nearly four times the national average (after adjusting for age differences) (2003–04 to 2007–08).
- In Yuendumu, 8- to 12-year-olds are likely to have an average of approximately 2.8 permanent teeth affected by decay. Decay experience in permanent teeth in 7- to 11-year-olds is likely to be between 3.4 and 8.9 the NT

average and between 2.6 and 6.5 times the Australian average depending on age.²

Healthy homes and environmental health

- In 2006, 67 per cent of Indigenous households in Yuendumu experienced overcrowding.
- Indigenous people in Yuendumu SLA were hospitalised for diseases associated with poor environmental health at nine times the national average rate after adjusting for age differences (2003–04 to 2007–08).
- Dust is a serious environmental health problem in the community. More landscaping works and road sealing are required to combat this problem.
- There are no current animal control by-laws but existing animal and pest control programs meet the base level standard; however, they are below standard with respect to reliability due to the voluntary nature of the dog management control.
- Street lighting installation currently does not meet base level standards, and extensive upgrades to its basic poles and the installation of light fixtures are required.

Education

- In 2006 there were no Indigenous 20- to 24-year-olds in Yuendumu who had attained at least Year 12 or equivalent. The national Indigenous rate was 47 per cent, and the total national rate was 83 per cent.
- The proportion of Indigenous 15- to 24-year-olds in full-time employment or study (19%) was less than half the national Indigenous rate (44%), and around one-quarter of the total national rate (72%).
- There was a high level of participation in NAPLAN testing in 2009 at Yuendumu School, but few students achieved national minimum standards in any domain.
- Diagnosed disabilities of some students at Yuendumu School include hearing impairment and intellectual disabilities.

Employment

- The percentage of Indigenous people in Yuendumu aged 15 to 64 who had a job (the employment rate) in 2006 was very low (28%).
- If Community Development Employment Projects (CDEP) positions are not included as employment, this percentage drops to 13 per cent, which is around one-third of the national Indigenous rate of employment excluding CDEP (42%), and less than one-fifth of the total national rate (71%).

² Reliable data for Yuendumu is not currently available but will be available in the future. The disease profile is likely to be similar to other communities in the region. These figures are estimates only.

- According to a data collection by the Northern Territory Government, there were 378 jobs (including vacancies) in Yuendumu in March 2010, of which 29 were CDEP positions. Excluding vacancies, there were 344 non-CDEP jobs, of which 244 were held by Indigenous people and 100 were held by non-Indigenous people.
- Of those Indigenous people who were employed in a non-CDEP job, 44 per cent were employed in the private sector, which is quite unusual for a remote community.
- Most non-CDEP jobs were in the private sector (213) with the remainder (131) in the public sector. Of the 213 private sector jobs, 165 were held by Indigenous Australians and 48 were held by non-Indigenous people.
- Since 2009, 35 jobs were converted from CDEP in Yuendumu through Commonwealth Government funding, and also under a Funding Program Agreement between the Commonwealth and Northern Territory governments.

Community safety

- In the three-year period from 2006–07 to 2008–09, a total of 706 offences occurred in Yuendumu. The number of offences across financial years fluctuated considerably.
- Nearly one-third (30%) of all offences in Yuendumu from 2006–07 and 2008–09 were recorded as alcohol related. Ninety-eight per cent of offences against the person, and 84 per cent of public order offences, were alcohol related.
- Twenty-five per cent of all Yuendumu residents who commenced a period of imprisonment between 1 July 2004 and 30 June 2009 were aged between 18 and 24 years. Almost all were men. Around a quarter of the periods of imprisonment were on remand.
- Between 2006–07 and 2008–09, 50 per cent of acts intended to cause injury were domestic violence related.

Potential issues with service delivery

Education

- Current access to relief teaching staff for the school is a significant barrier to improving staff skills and curriculum development and adaptation.
- Six of the nine teachers and none of the five non-Indigenous teaching support staff at Yuendumu School have qualifications in teaching English as a second language.

Youth services

- WYDAC provides a range of highly successful youth programs in Yuendumu (including a substance abuse prevention program), which are almost entirely funded through mining royalties.
- However, 40 per cent of the Indigenous population of Yuendumu were aged between 15 and 24 years in 2006, with the population expected to increase.

Targeted youth services (whether health, recreation, arts, education or employment) will require further development and resources in the coming years to meet need.

Health

- There is a need for improved access to health specialists and associated services currently not available in the community.
- Staff accommodation in Yuendumu is needed to provide housing for health staff so they can be based in the community where they work. Currently key staff are regularly transported in to Yuendumu.
- There will be an increasing demand for health services as the population ages, in particular for dialysis treatment and aged care services.

Water supply

- The water in the community is not fluoridated.

Emergency services

- Yuendumu's preparation for and capacity to respond to emergencies that might occur in the community or surrounding area are very limited.
- Potential emergency incidents that may require emergency response from Yuendumu include transport, fire and hazardous material incidents.
- The Yuendumu Volunteer Unit does not have any facilities, and equipment is stored at the Yuendumu police station. The nearest Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service is located in Alice Springs, 290 km away.

Significant new and planned investments

Education

- Under the Building the Education Revolution program, classroom refurbishment and ground beautification works worth \$925,000 will be completed at Yuendumu School.
- Yuendumu School is also expected to benefit from the Low Socio-economic Status School Communities National Partnership.
- As part of the National Partnership on Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory, Yuendumu has been identified to receive four new teacher houses.

Children and Family Centre

- A Children and Family Centre will be established in Yuendumu through the National Partnership Agreement on Indigenous Early Childhood Development.
- It is intended that the centre will bring together important services for children and families, including childcare, early learning, and parent and family support programs.

- The centre is expected to connect with other services in the community to ensure families can easily access the services they need, such as maternal and child health services, playgroups or family literacy programs.

Safe community

- The Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated funding of \$890,000 in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget for a remote aerodrome safety program in the Northern Territory.
- Northern Territory Police, Fire and Emergency Services has been allocated \$1 million in the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to improve existing, or raise new, Northern Territory Emergency Service Volunteer Units based upon emergency and hazard risk profiles across all Territory Growth Towns.

Community access

- The Department of Lands and Planning has recently completed a transport infrastructure survey and a gap analysis of multi-modal transport assets and infrastructure in each of the 20 Territory Growth Towns. This included condition assessments on internal roads, major access roads, outstation access roads within a 50 km radius, aerodromes and barge landings.
- As a result of the local transport infrastructure survey, the Department of Lands and Planning has been allocated \$2.14 million as part of the 2010–11 Northern Territory Government budget to continue upgrades to the Tanami Road.

Land administration

- A total of \$3.6 million has been allocated in the Northern Territory Government budget to the Department of Lands and Planning to conduct a three-year project to survey new and existing housing and infrastructure in the Territory Growth Towns excluding Groote Eylandt and Wurrumiyanga.

National Partnership on Remote Indigenous Housing

- Negotiations are currently underway to achieve a 40-year housing precinct lease to enable the rollout of housing under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing; however, targets for this community have not been set.

Health

- As part of the National Partnership on Digital Regions, Yuendumu has been identified to receive e-Health services as part of a \$7 million project.
- A Yuendumu Dialysis Project will be established from a joint community and Northern Territory Government investment. The project will provide a dialysis unit, renal nurse and staff accommodation and is expected to be completed in 2010.

Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory National Partnership Agreement

Youth services

- The Australian Sports Commission has been awarded \$500,000 to implement the Sports Demonstration Projects over a two-year period for Gapuwiyak, Wadeye, Yuendumu, Gunbalanya and Wurrumiyanga.
- Warlpiri Youth Development Aboriginal Corporation has been awarded \$254,281 to employ one outreach coordinator who will act as a supervisor for the existing outreach youth worker team. The outreach coordinator will be based in Yuendumu and deliver services to Lajamanu, Nyirripi, Willowra and Yuendumu over a three-year period.

Policing

- As part of the National Partnership on Closing the Gap in the Northern Territory, Yuendumu has recently seen the replacement of Australian Federal Police with permanent Northern Territory Police.

Community Development Employment Projects conversions

- The Northern Territory Government has announced that it will extend Community Development Employment Projects conversions for local government until 30 June 2011 with a funding increase in the total package of available funds from \$20 million to \$24.2 million.