

The Greater Darwin region includes the cities of Darwin and Palmerston, the Litchfield Shire, East Arm and Robertson Barracks.

The region is home to about 149,600 people, representing about 60% of the Territory's population.

Greater Darwin has the lowest proportion of young people among the regions, with about 32% aged 24 years and under, and the highest proportion of population aged 65 years and over, at about 10%.

Darwin is the Territory's capital city and the main administrative centre. Major industries include construction, defence, retail, tourism, education and training, public administration, community safety and health care. Darwin is a key gateway to the Territory's regional centres and tourist attractions, and an important strategic hub for trade and defence.

Major industries in Palmerston and the Litchfield Shire include construction, aquaculture, horticulture, cattle and crocodile farming, defence, and LNG and helium production. The Robertson Barracks army base, located near Palmerston, hosts the ongoing rotations of United States marines in the Territory.

The development of East Arm, including the Marine Industry Park and the Darwin ship lift facility, will support the defence, logistics and freight sectors, and facilitate future oil and gas activity in the Territory.

Greening and cooling

Budget 2023 includes \$3 million to construct the next stage of the Smith Street greening and cooling project in the Darwin CBD.



The project will use a combination of strategically located and connected shading and landscape initiatives to reduce the heat in the city centre, with the aim of increasing pedestrian traffic, lowering energy usage and encouraging people to stay longer in well-vegetated commercial, retail and recreational areas.

Bundilla Park

Budget 2023 includes \$3 million for the Bundilla Park Activation project to enhance liveability and attract local residents and tourists to explore the tourist trail from the Darwin Waterfront, through the Darwin CBD to East Point.

The upgrades include installation of lighting along walkways, irrigation of grassed areas, powered sites for food vans and a half basketball court to activate the area and deter antisocial behaviour, while protecting the unique green space.

Master planning of the area will be progressed to optimise the entire Bundilla Park Reserve and improve the social infrastructure while maintaining the unique green space. Planning will also incorporate two local clubs to further enhance the liveability and sustainability of Fannie Bay and surrounding suburbs.

Civic and State Square revitalisation

The Civic and State Square revitalisation project aims to create a vibrant and liveable city centre that will attract new residents, students and businesses to Darwin, and encourage them to stay for the long term.

Budget 2023 includes \$132.3 million for the next stages of the project, which include:

- Northern Territory Art Gallery – featuring four large galleries with high ceilings, spacious foyer and dedicated space for community activities, shop and café, and landscaped gardens
- a shaded, flexible and active centrally located space that can enable special community events
- tropical tree walk – a pedestrian-friendly Smith Street with tall shelters for all year sun and rain protection
- expansive lawns – fully serviced for an array of festivals and events
- pedestrian-friendly forecourts to Parliament House and the Supreme Court with cooling water features.

Education and community precinct

Budget 2023 provides \$7 million to relocate the Territory Library to the new Darwin city campus.

The \$250 million Charles Darwin University campus, funded under the Darwin City Deal, is the largest construction project underway in Darwin's CBD. The new campus, located on the corner of Cavenagh Street and Garramilla Boulevard, will bring new staff and students into the Darwin CBD and is supporting a substantial number of jobs during construction. Construction of the nine-level structure, including installation of the external façade, fitout and landscaping, is expected to be completed in early 2024.

Northern suburbs youth hub

Budget 2023 commits \$10.5 million for construction of a new purpose-built youth hub facility at the former Casuarina fire station site to support young Territorians.

The fit-for-purpose facility will provide a youth-friendly and accessible space, locating a range of services and activities to support young people and their families.

The works include site remediation as well as relocation and construction of a new Darwin men's shed, which is currently located at the former Casuarina fire station.

Photograph courtesy of the Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet

Delivering for all Territorians.

Royal Darwin Hospital

Budget 2023 includes significant investment for new and continuing upgrades to Royal Darwin Hospital to increase capacity and service delivery, including:

- \$39.4 million to continue expanding the mental health in-patient unit
- \$25 million for a new 32-bed modular multipurpose facility
- \$23.7 million to upgrade the forensic mortuary, pathology and bereavement facility
- \$7.1 million to continue expanding clinical spaces
- \$6.8 million to continue establishing mental health stabilisation assessment and referral area unit.

Economic infrastructure

Budget 2023 invests in infrastructure to support the growth of the Greater Darwin region including:

- \$515 million to progress the Darwin ship lift facility
- \$108.2 million to continue works on the new overpass at the Tiger Brennan Drive and Berrimah Road intersection
- \$44 million for headworks and subdivision works to support the development of Holtze and Kowandi
- \$19.8 million to support development of Berrimah North and industrial and renewable energy hubs in Weddell
- \$13 million for design and preliminary works for the Middle Arm Sustainable Development Precinct.

Major works overview

	Capital works
	\$000
Transport	547 694
Housing and community amenities	117 386
Health	105 502
Recreation, culture and religion	98 172
Economic affairs	56 586
Environmental protection	19 669
Public order and safety	14 970
Education	9 600
Social protection	6 000
General public services	1 274
Total Greater Darwin	976 851