

The Top End region encompasses most of the Daly-Tiwi-West Arnhem region extending from Wadeye in the west to Maningrida in the east.

About 18,100 people live in the region with major population centres in Wadeye and Jabiru.

The region's population is relatively young, with about 39% aged 24 years and under, and around 8% aged 65 years or older.

Major industries in the region include tourism, horticulture and forestry. Tourism is a significant contributor to economic activity in the Top End, with world-renowned attractions such as Litchfield and Kakadu national parks, as well as the Daly River for recreational fishing and camping.

Peppimenarti Police Complex

The community of Peppimenarti is physically cut off by road for a large portion of the wet season, restricting the ability of the neighbouring police stations at Daly River and Wadeye to attend the location and provide a police response.

Budget 2023 invests \$19 million to construct a new contemporary police complex in Peppimenarti to replace the existing temporary structure erected during the Commonwealth's Northern Territory Emergency Response.

The new complex will include a police station, detention facilities, government employee housing and visiting officers' quarters to support a permanent police presence in Peppimenarti.



Gunbalanya Health Centre

Budget 2023 invests \$20 million for the construction of a new health centre with morgue facilities at Gunbalanya to meet the health care needs for the community and surrounding areas.

The new centre has been designed to include culturally appropriate internal and external areas, including fit-for-purpose consulting rooms, emergency bays, dental facilities, X-ray facilities, hearing booth, renal facilities and morgue.

The project also includes decommissioning and demolishing the existing health centre, which will remain operational until the new facility is complete to minimise disruptions to current services. Mortuary works will commence after the existing centre has been demolished.

Once constructed, the new health centre will be transferred to Red Lily Health to support the transition of Gunbalanya to community control. Following transfer to Red Lily, all West Arnhem health centres will be managed by Aboriginal community controlled health organisations.

Tiwi Island road upgrades

Budget 2023 includes \$69.3 million for works to upgrade and seal sections of the access roads on the Tiwi Islands, including Paru Road. This project aims to:

- support economic growth opportunities, particularly those associated with the potential export of plantation timber
- create local employment opportunities
- provide all-weather access to Tiwi College on Melville Island.

Stage 1 of the road upgrades project was awarded to Tiwi Partners for commencement of works in May 2023 and includes construction of a bridge over a notoriously muddy section of road.

Jabiru Health Centre

The Commonwealth and Territory governments have committed \$411.5 million to deliver a strong and sustainable future for Jabiru and Kakadu, including supporting transition of Jabiru from a mining town to a sustainable tourism hub and service centre for Kakadu National Park and the West Arnhem region.

Key works include \$67.3 million for road upgrades in Kakadu National Park to support tourism growth, as well as the \$20 million Jabiru Health Centre, to service Jabiru, surrounding communities and visiting tourists. Construction commenced in 2022 and is expected to be completed in late 2023.

The health centre will include eight consulting suites with dedicated male, female and paediatric rooms, four multipurpose allied health examination rooms, a four-chair renal room and a dental surgery (including sterilisation and work rooms).

It will also include specialised facilities such as an audiology consulting room with a hearing booth, an X-ray room, a medication store and private pharmacy, a four-berth morgue with a viewing area and an external, culturally appropriate ceremony area adjacent to the morgue.

Adelaide River to Wadeye corridor

Budget 2023 includes \$60.2 million to continue upgrades on the Adelaide River to Wadeye corridor, including sealing Port Keats Road between Wadeye and Palumpa.

Upgrades around the Saddle Rail Creek crossing have been completed, with works on the Wadeye to Palumpa section expected to commence in 2023.

Renewable power in Wurrimuyanga

The Territory Government continues to advance the delivery of clean and reliable electricity to remote communities across the Territory under the Renewable Remote Power Program.

The program aims to transition remote power systems in 72 remote communities to renewable-based systems by 2030.

Budget 2023 invests \$6.1 million towards the Wurrimuyanga solar infill and energy storage pilot project as part of the Renewable Remote Power Program.

Wurrimuyanga is already operating some solar technology, with this investment expected to increase the percentage of renewable energy delivered to the community to almost 50%.

The project will replace some of Wurrimuyanga's current diesel generated power supply with renewable technology through the installation of additional solar panels and a new battery energy storage system, with works expected to be completed by April 2024.

Major works overview

	Capital works
	\$000
Transport	252 761
Economic affairs	67 929
Public order and safety	35 110
Health	21 390
General public services	1 000
Recreation, culture and religion	456
Total Top End	378 645

Photograph courtesy of the Department of Health