



Centre for Appropriate
Technology Limited

The Northern Territory Homelands and Outstations Assets and Access Review

Final Report 2016



This report was written by the Centre for Appropriate Technology Ltd (CAT) for the Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Northern Territory Government Department of Local Government and Community Services.

The views expressed in this document are those of the Centre for Appropriate Technology Ltd.

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Abbreviations

Abbreviation	
CAT	Centre for Appropriate Technology Ltd
COAG	Council of Australian Governments
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
NT	Northern Territory
PV	photovoltaic

Definitions

central Australia region: In this report, it refers to the Homelands/Outstations in the Central Land Council region, in the southern half of the NT.

Homeland/Outstation: The National Partnership Agreement on Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory defines a Homeland/Outstation as “a small remote discrete community of Aboriginal peoples, usually less than 50-100, with a water supply and permanent accommodation, that is reliant on larger communities or hubs for many services such as schools and health centres”.

The NT Place Names Register defines a “Family Outstation” as “A small community of mostly Aboriginal people, usually less than 100, in permanent or semi-permanent residence with a water supply and permanent accommodation”.

improvised dwellings: Dwellings that do not have the full range of amenities available (e.g. power supply, cold/hot water, effluent disposal, bathroom, toilet, kitchen, laundry) and which are often built to a lower standard (materials and construction). A tin shed or a cabin are examples. Improvised dwellings are largely a response to inadequate housing options.

Top End region: In this report, it refers to the Homelands/Outstations in the Northern Land Council region, the Tiwi Land Council region and the Anindilyakwa Land Council region, in the northern half of the NT.

Acknowledgements

The Centre for Appropriate Technology Ltd (CAT) would like to acknowledge the following people and organisations for their help with the review:

- Homeland and Outstation Traditional Owners and residents who engaged willingly with CAT staff and took part in the survey.
- The Central Land Council, Northern Land Council, Tiwi Land Council and Anindilyakwa Land Council who approved access to Homelands/Outstations in their regions. The Central Land Council, through the Executive and Policy Unit, also provided additional assistance which is much appreciated.
- Service providers and resource agencies who provided information on the services they provide to Homelands/Outstations, and on who to contact and where they could be found.
- Representatives of the Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Northern Territory Government who were on the Project Steering Group.
- The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in Tennant Creek who provided support through their Indigenous Engagement officers.
- Many ex-CAT staff members who returned to work for CAT to undertake the field work, including Steve Patman, Stephen Purvis, Ron Talbot, Trish Tardrew, Robert Langer-Hann and Leigh Holdaway.
- The many CAT staff members who undertook field work, data entry, data analysis and report writing, including Ken Getawan, Sonja Peter, Kristy Schubert, Andrew Crouch, Murray Schneider, Will Riddell, Andre Grant, Matt Combe, Richard Bond, Peter Renehan, Mikaila Thwaites, Zyrah Bernadino, Harriet Stone, Bruce Walker, Steve Rogers and Metta Young. The project was managed by Robyn Grey-Gardner.

Summary

In remote locations across the Northern Territory (NT), Aboriginal people live in small communities known as Homelands or Outstations. Some have up to 150 residents but most have fewer than 50.

Many of these Homelands/Outstations receive funds from the Australian Government and/or the Northern Territory Government for infrastructure that gives residents access to basic services, such as water and sewerage—services that are often taken for granted in cities and towns.

The Homelands/Outstations Assets and Access Review Project was a joint initiative between the two governments to get an up-to-date picture of the state of infrastructure and people's access to services in Homelands/Outstations across the NT.

The results of the review will inform investment decisions by governments, land trusts, resource agencies, philanthropists and businesses—decisions about investing in new infrastructure, delivering services and maintaining infrastructure on Homelands/Outstations.

The Centre for Appropriate Technology Ltd was contracted to undertake the review and analyse the data. CAT is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander not-for-profit company with extensive experience working with small Aboriginal communities in the technology and infrastructure areas.

We sought appropriate permissions before visiting 401 of the 630 Homelands/Outstations across the NT, between January and August 2015, to interview residents and assess the infrastructure.

The willingness of Aboriginal people in the Homelands/Outstations to meet us, answer questions and, in many cases, guide us around their Homeland/Outstation, was exceptional. They shared information about their access to services, their relationships with support organisations, the activities that they are engaging in on their land, and their confidence in the services provided.

We also surveyed 33 resource agencies who are currently providing municipal and essential services to Homelands/Outstations.

It's important to note that the population of a Homeland/Outstation can fluctuate, reflecting the lifecycle transitions of its residents. An unoccupied Homeland/Outstation may still be people's principal place of residence, and/or it may be used as a base by rangers or for tourism ventures.

Our analysis of the data collected has revealed the following:

1. Governments and agencies now have reliable data to support investment decisions. The data is the most comprehensive set of information about infrastructure, social services and Aboriginal peoples' perspectives that has ever been collected for Homelands/Outstations in the NT.
2. Significant investment in physical infrastructure is evident.
3. Health is the most available and accessible of all services.
4. Most Homelands/Outstations have no mobile phone coverage and no internet access.
5. Nearly 40% of Homelands/Outstations have no energy supply or rely on small diesel/petrol generators.
6. Many residents are making a significant contribution to operations and maintenance of housing, water supply and rubbish collection.
7. 25% of Homelands/Outstations have a community water management plan and are actively implementing it.
8. Most residents pay their own electricity costs.
9. Almost all residents pay for their own transport costs.

10. Ageing infrastructure, poor technology choice and poor maintenance affect service levels and the condition of assets.
11. People want to return to some Homelands/Outstations that are no longer funded.
12. Some Homelands/Outstations have been funded by community development programs through non-government organisations such as land councils.
13. More localised service delivery arrangements are needed to complement and enhance the current regional arrangements.
14. Communication between residents and agencies could be improved through strategies broader than web-based reporting.
15. Enterprise activities exist and could be further stimulated with targeted support and enabling infrastructure.
16. People need to travel for many reasons, but most Homelands/Outstations are occupied most of the time.
17. In Homelands/Outstations where occupancy fluctuates, an investment model that emphasises infrastructure sustainability would be appropriate.

Background to the review

The Homelands and Outstations Assets and Access Review Project was a joint initiative between the Northern Territory and Australian Governments. Its objective was to enhance understanding of the current state of infrastructure and service access in Northern Territory Homelands and Outstations.

The history of Homelands – a return to country

Throughout the 1970s, Aboriginal people began to leave missions and Aboriginal settlements to move back to country where they had statutory ownership or laid claim to it based on their ancestral affiliations. On country, they could fulfil ceremonial obligations and care for the land. This 'return to country' movement saw the development of Homelands, sometimes referred to as Outstations, across NT. By 1972, Aboriginal families could apply to the Australian Government Department of Aboriginal Affairs for establishment grants for Homelands/Outstations and, with the passing of the *Aboriginal Land Rights (Northern Territory) Act* in 1976, the number of Homelands escalated (CAT 2004, Kerins 2009).

At that time, government policy on Homelands/Outstations identified proof of cultural significance and access to potable water as the primary determinants for support. After 1976, proof of cultural significance and the efficacy of claims of ownership or stewardship of the country identified for the establishment of a Homeland/Outstation was facilitated and documented by the land councils.

A moratorium on the establishment of new Homelands/Outstations came into effect in 1996. The Australian Government retained overarching responsibility for Homelands until 2008 when a memorandum of understanding was negotiated between the Australian and NT governments, delineating the nature of shared responsibility for municipal and essential services to Homelands/Outstations in the NT.

In 2009, the NT Government released its policy for Homelands/Outstations and in 2012 a 10-year National Partnership Agreement between the Australian Government and the NT Government was enacted, further outlining each government's contribution to providing municipal and essential services for Homelands/Outstations (Kerins 2009).

According to the National Partnership Agreement on Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory (COAG 2012, p. 24), a Homeland/Outstation is "a small remote discrete community of Aboriginal peoples, usually less than 50-100, with a water supply and permanent accommodation, that is reliant on larger communities or hubs for many services such as schools and health centres". The term 'Family Outstation' is also used. The NT Place Names Register defines a 'Family Outstation' as "A small community of mostly Aboriginal people, usually less than 100, in permanent or semi-permanent residence with a water supply and permanent accommodation".

Places of cultural significance

The current definitions of Homelands/Outstations as described above emphasise population size, residency status and the availability of water and shelter. However, Homelands/Outstations were formed based principally on considerations of cultural significance as mediated through the land councils, and the majority were established via these processes before the moratorium in 1996 (CAT 2004, Australian Human Rights Commission 2009). It is, therefore, recognised that all Homelands/Outstations are places of cultural significance where Aboriginal people can continue their ceremonial practices and care for country. The nature of ceremonial practices or the range of caring for country activities (apart from those represented by funded Land and Sea Ranger programs) associated with any particular Homeland/Outstation is not a focus of this report.

Keeping the data current – a key driver

Up until 2006, the Australian Government gathered information about infrastructure and service access on Homelands/Outstations (through the Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey) (Australian Bureau of Statistics 2006) and the NT Government has over time accumulated a range of information about municipal and essential services on Homelands/Outstations. The need to update and ensure the accuracy of this information was a key driver of this review.

Current service delivery arrangements

Delivering municipal and essential services to Homelands/Outstations in the Northern Territory is aligned with the principles and approach of the Northern Territory Homelands Policy. The services are delivered through contractual arrangements with regionally based resource centres. The policy mandates some financial or in-kind contributions from Homelands/Outstation residents which are outlined in service level agreements with the resource agencies, and defines the role of other contributors, including land trusts, philanthropists and the private sector in service and infrastructure delivery.

The contractual obligations of resource agencies are built upon principles of transparency and accountability, with minimum standards for service provision. Resource agencies are required to submit their implementation plans and delivery schedules to the NT Department of Local Government and Community Services, based on annual allocations per Homeland/Outstation and capital expenditure. The department then publishes this information on their website (<http://www.homelands.nt.gov.au/>).

Objectives and outputs of the review

The review had two main objectives:

- **Identify** the physical assets (infrastructure) and social assets (services) available to the community.
- **Assess** the ability of the asset to meet the needs of the community.

Physical assets are the infrastructure at each location. Physical assets comprise:

- houses
- community Buildings (e.g. clinics, schools, stores)
- drinking water source, storage, treatment and distribution
- waste water collection, treatment and disposal
- power generation and distribution
- hard waste disposal
- telecommunications (landline and mobile phone, and internet access)
- transport (roads, airstrips and barge landings).

Social assets relate to the people living in the community and their access to social services. Social assets may include:

- population and demographics
- community usage (e.g. homes, enterprises, cultural use, respite)
- access to education services
- access to health services including emergency services

- access to employment services
- access to enterprise services
- access to support networks (i.e. resource agencies, non-government organisations, religious groups).

The primary outputs of the review are:

- a description of the type and current state of infrastructure assets
- a description of demographics, community activities and access to social services (health, education, employment)
- an analysis of findings, highlighting recurring themes, emerging trends and observations about people's relationship with assets and their access to services.

The results of the review will inform investment decisions by governments, land trusts, resource agencies, philanthropists and businesses—decisions about investing in new infrastructure, delivering services and maintaining infrastructure on Homelands/Outstations.

[About the Centre for Appropriate Technology](#)

The Centre for Appropriate Technology Ltd (CAT) was contracted to undertake the review, analyse the data and produce an independent report based on this analysis. CAT is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander not-for-profit company with extensive experience working with small Aboriginal communities on technology and infrastructure issues. The review entailed visiting and completing surveys for 401 Homelands/Outstations across the NT (Figure 1). We first had to engage with residents, resource agencies and land councils to make sure appropriate permissions were granted. CAT's standing with Aboriginal communities and relevant agencies greatly facilitated this process.

Our approach

Our approach comprised the following steps, some of which overlapped:

1. Select the Homelands/Outstations to be surveyed.
2. Develop the survey instruments.
3. Seek permissions and arrange logistics for onsite visits.
4. Visit each selected Homeland/Outstation, interview residents and assess the infrastructure.
5. Survey resource agencies.
6. Analyse the data and draw conclusions.

The survey methodology is summarised in Figure 2.

Select the Homelands/Outstations to be surveyed

A total of 421 Homelands and Outstations were selected to be surveyed. The NT Government nominated 382 funded Homelands for the Review. Funding includes both Australian Government and NT Government funding. In addition 39 unfunded Homelands/Outstations were nominated by two methods. In the southern region of the NT, 10 Homelands/Outstations were nominated by the Central Land Council. The remaining 29 were either nominated by the Traditional Owner or were selected because they were nearby to a funded Homeland that was already scheduled to be visited.

We completed 401 surveys of which 366 were at funded Homelands/Outstations and 35 were at unfunded Homelands/Outstations (Figure 1). We tried to survey a further 20 Homelands/Outstations (16 funded and four unfunded) but could not complete these surveys for a range of reasons including extremely poor road conditions, flooding, cultural business, locked gates and permission not given.

The list of Homelands/Outstations that were visited is available in Appendix 2. The list consists of 401 Homelands/Outstations of which includes 231 in the Top End region and 170 in the central Australia region.

There are a 630 Homelands/Outstations in the NT (ABS 2006). The 401 surveys completed represents 94% of the funded Homelands/Outstations and approximately 15% of the total number of unfunded Homelands/Outstations. The purpose of the Review was to obtain a comprehensive understanding of funded Homelands/Outstations and to use the opportunity to capture an impression of the issues and state of infrastructure and access to services in unfunded Homelands/Outstations.

Develop the survey instruments

To carry out the review, we had to visit the selected Homelands/Outstations to record the type and condition of on-site infrastructure assets and interview residents about their perceptions of service availability and access.

We developed a survey instrument that enabled us to record data about each infrastructure asset.

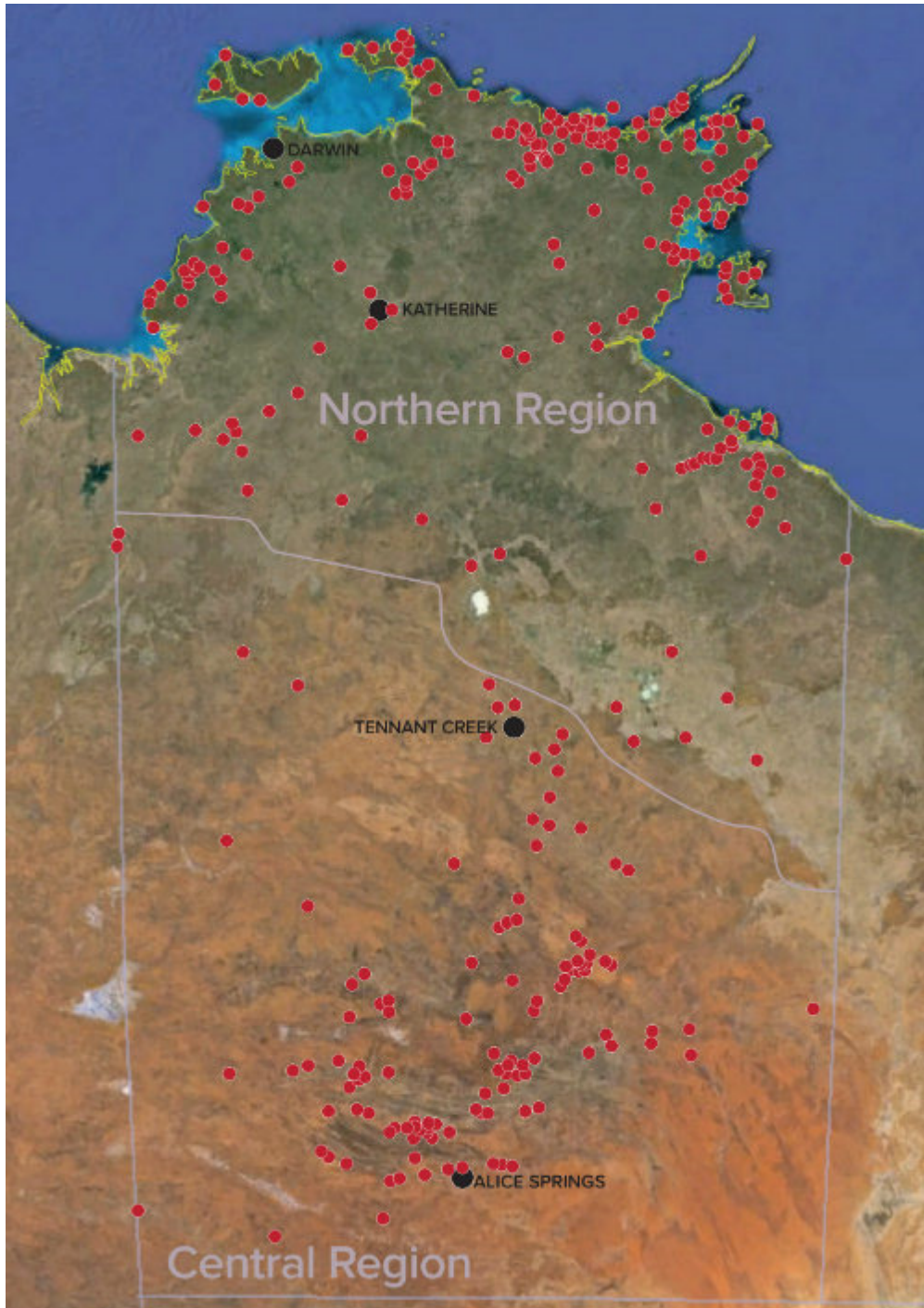


Figure 1: The location of the 401 sites surveyed

Defining the types of assets

We defined each of the following asset types, describing each component of the system, and the benefit they provide to a community:

Physical assets:

- Water
- Sewerage
- Energy

- Waste (landfill) management
- Telecommunications
- Access and transport
- Housing
- Community buildings
- Environmental management.

Social assets:

- Population and occupancy
- Education
- Health
- Employment and enterprise
- Support networks.

[Developing a system for rating the condition of physical and social assets](#)

We developed a system for rating the condition or availability of assets by type, simplifying the NT Government condition ratings of 'good', 'fair' and 'poor', as follows:

- | | |
|------|--|
| Good | - Acceptable performance <i>and/or</i>
- Low risk of failure within 5 years <i>and/or</i>
- Only routine or minor work is required to maintain the asset |
| Fair | - Adequate performance <i>and/or</i>
- Medium risk of failure within 5 years <i>and/or</i>
- May require more frequent maintenance |
| Poor | - Asset not functional <i>and/or</i>
- High risk of failure <i>and/or</i>
- Requires immediate maintenance |

For consistency and validity purposes, we structured the survey to enable yes/no observations and/or a condition rating based on our assessment of, for example, safety, operation and maintenance. We allowed room for additional comments and information.

We structured the survey instrument to streamline data entry and shape the development of an analysis tool for extracting information about the condition and functionality of particular asset types and service access.

The community information sheet we used when conducting surveys is available at Appendix 1.

[Seek permissions and arrange logistics](#)

The CAT team who conducted the surveys and analysis has extensive experience in working with Aboriginal people on their country and expertise in technical, infrastructure and service provision in remote isolated communities. We paid significant attention to logistics, clustering Homelands/Outstations into groups to maximise efficiency and effectiveness in each survey 'run' and timing the survey areas in stages to mitigate seasonal access issues as much as possible.

Before each site visit, we tried to contact the appropriate Aboriginal resident, Traditional Owner or person responsible for each Homeland/Outstation and the relevant resource agency. The purpose of this was to seek residents' permission to visit their Homeland/Outstation, make arrangements to meet them, and inform them and the resource agencies of the review.

Interview Homeland/Outstation residents and assess infrastructure

Between January and August 2015, we visited the 401 Homelands/Outstations and conducted surveys on site. We visited each Homeland /Outstation once and, in some circumstances, twice.

When on site, our process was as follows:

- We sought permission from residents and Traditional Owners to interview them, take photographs and survey the site.
- We conducted house surveys from the fence unless invited in by residents.
- We counted occupied structures such as sheds (excluding humpies and temporary structures)
- We inspected key infrastructure sites (e.g. bores, water storage tanks, generator sheds).

Where an asset was deemed to pose a high risk to residents' health and safety (e.g. live electrical wires, water contamination hazards), CAT immediately reported the issues to the relevant service provider and the NT Government.

To capture data on the social assets, we interviewed key people, face to face, either on the Homeland/Outstation or at a location convenient to them.

The information we gathered about social assets was elicited through interviews with 315 residents across the 401 Homelands/Outstations surveyed and, as such, portrays Aboriginal peoples' perceptions of service availability and access. Many social services are not physically located on a Homeland/Outstation and, therefore, are not directly observable—they may be accessible to residents through service provider outreach visits to the Homeland/Outstation, or residents may visit the nearest community where services are available. This underscores the importance of engaging with residents (where possible) to elicit their perceptions of service condition, access and availability.

We conducted the interviews with residents in accordance with the principles and approach of the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (Australian Government 2007). These principles recognise the importance of securing free, prior and informed consent and highlight the need to respect cultural and language diversity. In practice, this meant that we paid significant attention to contacting and seeking permission to visit from the people who are recognised as the owners or custodians of the Homelands/Outstations.

Interviews were largely conducted with those people accorded seniority or cultural authority and recognised by family members and other residents as the people who are able to speak for family and country.

The questions regarding the availability of and access to social services were asked 'in person' to the primary and, often, senior residents of each Homeland/Outstation. Surveys were conducted with the people that live in each Homeland/Outstation in order to understand the access they have to services and the realities and challenges they experience when living in Homelands/Outstations.

Separate and additional interviews were held with 20 senior Aboriginal people from a diverse array of Homelands/Outstations across both the central Australia and Top End regions, to elicit their perspectives on the services and facilities they considered most important. These interviews were used as a random sample to guide the framework for our analysis.

Survey resource agencies

We surveyed 33 resource agencies via an email-based survey instrument. One resource agency did not respond and information relating to this dataset and the five Homelands/Outstations without a resource agency were provided by NTG. These resource agencies are currently funded to provide municipal and essential services to Homeland/Outstations across the NT. Our questions aligned with the primary survey instrument we had developed. We evaluated the data collected through this electronic survey in conjunction with the data we collected in the field.

Analyse the data

A total of 401 individual surveys were completed. Four Homelands/Outstations had discrete and independent camps, often with separate water supplies or power generation. At these sites, we conducted separate surveys for each camp.

For verification purposes, we compared our survey data with existing data, including those datasets provided by the NT Government. In creating our primary dataset, we also compared and contrasted the data drawn from our interviews with residents about access to services with the information we collected from service providers.

We developed a data analysis tool that allowed us to assess both the physical infrastructure and the social assets. Physical assets are typically located within a Homeland/Outstation. Social assets tend to be located outside the Homeland/Outstation with the service being delivered onsite or at a local service hub. While we considered these physical and social dimensions independently, they each contribute to the how residents experience the amenity available to them and to the future sustainability of the Homeland/Outstation. The physical and social dimensions of a Homeland/Outstation and the nature of the relationship between these dimensions will affect the functionality of all assets.

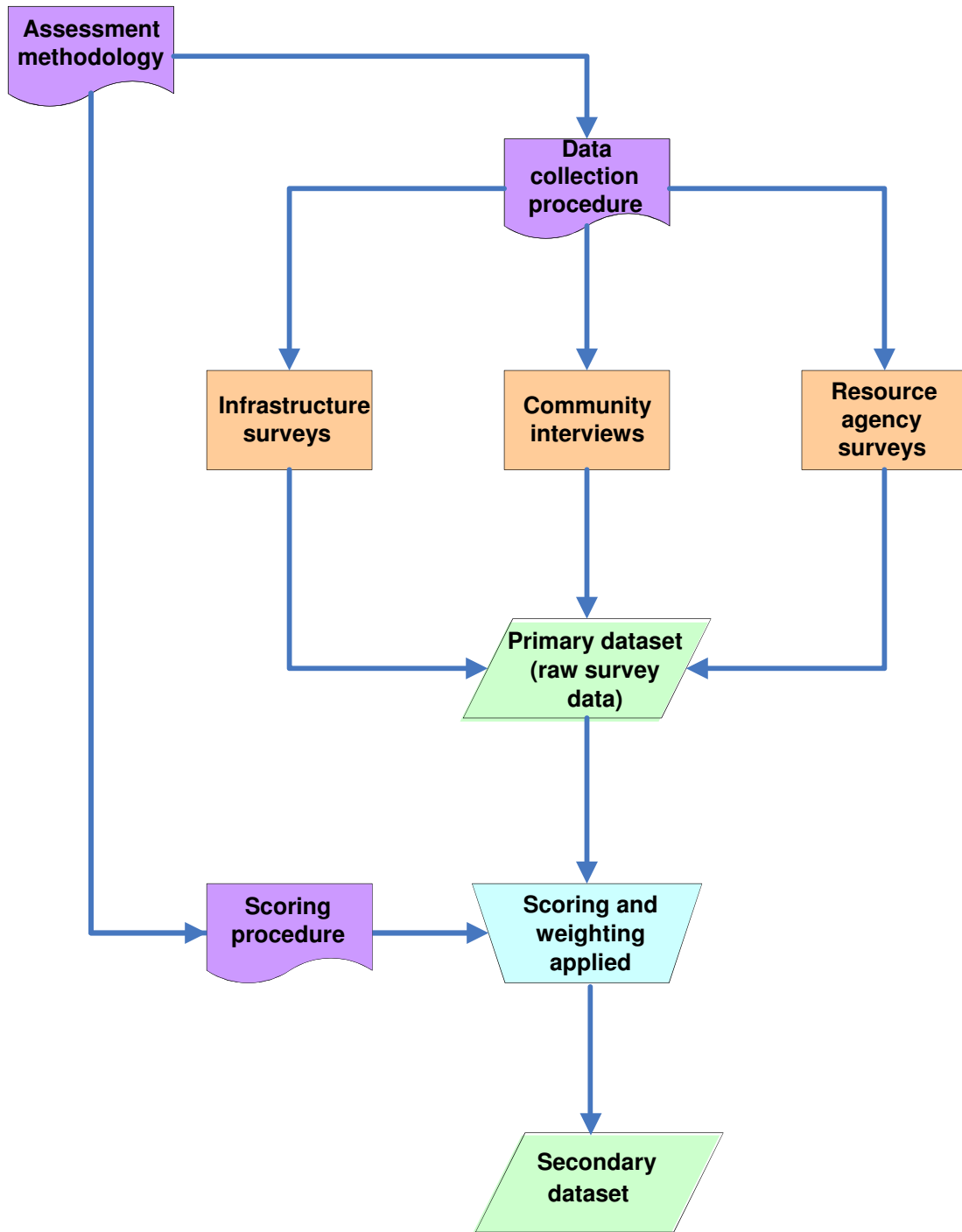


Figure 2: CAT's survey methodology

Scoring the quality of each asset

To allow us to assess the functional suitability, or quality, of each asset, we defined the functions that they should provide. Due to the review's timeline and budget constraints, our assessment was necessarily at a high level. And while the terms we used to describe the functions (e.g. safe) may be the same for different asset types, the meaning of that term may differ.

Physical assets – functions assessed

- **Water**
 - Safe
 - Accessible
 - Available
 - Operable
 - Maintained
- **Sewerage**
 - Safe
 - Accessible
 - Available
 - Operable
 - Maintained
- **Energy**
 - Safe
 - Accessible
 - Available
 - Operable
 - Maintained
- **Waste management**
 - Safe
 - Accessible
 - Available
 - Operable
 - Maintained
- **Telecommunications**
 - Accessible and available
 - Reliable
- **Access and transport**
 - Accessible
 - Available
 - Affordable
 - Maintained
- **Housing**
 - Suitable
 - Available
 - Utilised
 - Maintained
- **Community buildings**
 - Suitable
 - Available
 - Utilised
 - Maintained

- **Environmental management**
 - Effective
 - Practised
 - Maintained

Social assets – functions assessed

- **Community population**
 - Populated
 - Occupied
- **Education**
 - Available
 - Accessible
- **Health services**
 - Available
 - Accessible
 - Responsive
- **Enterprise and employment services**
 - Available
 - Engaging
 - Beneficial
- **Support networks**
 - Available
 - Accessible

We assessed each function of each asset type, scoring each function on an ordinal scale as follows:

- positive/acceptable function: score = +1
- neutral/unknown function: score = 0
- negative/unacceptable function: score = –1

[Weighting the quality scores of each asset](#)

To allow us to compare different Homelands/Outstations, we determined a relative weighting for each asset type and each function of each asset type. These weightings indicate the order of importance of individual asset types and their functions. The weightings were normalised and applied to the asset function score, giving a weighted score for each asset type and a total weighted score for both the physical and social dimensions of each Homeland/Outstation.

We plotted the total weighted scores for each Homeland/Outstation on a quadrant plot (see Figure 28 in the section: Comparative analysis and case studies).

The data can be analysed further to discover any patterns or variables that might cause Homelands/Outstations to fall within a certain quadrant; these variables may be funding status, geographic region, resource agency, or any other number of data elements collected throughout the survey.

Limitations of the data

The data is a snapshot in time

The information gathered through this review is a snapshot of the type and condition of infrastructure assets on Homelands/Outstations between January and August 2015. The veracity of the information about the types of assets will generally hold true over time but information will need updating as capital works are implemented. The information about the condition of assets will be more fluid as ongoing repairs and maintenance works are undertaken.

To inform or guide future investments in infrastructure or services for Homelands/Outstations, we sought information about both the physical and social assets because they each encapsulate different properties that benefit a community. Specific investment decisions will require further information and site surveys. Ongoing monitoring of the condition of assets and services and engagement with residents will be vital as will consultations with the relevant resource agencies.

The impact of Tropical Cyclones Lam and Nathan on the data

Tropical Cyclone Lam hit Elcho Island, off the coast of Arnhem Land, on 19 February 2015 and Tropical Cyclone Nathan hit the same region on 19 March 2015. Both cyclones traversed East Arnhem Land and adjacent islands. CAT staff were in the region when Cyclone Lam hit, and took shelter at Nhulunbuy. Homelands/Outstations surveyed before or in between the cyclones may have suffered subsequent damage. Those surveyed after the cyclones had severe damage and the data from these Homelands/Outstations does not reflect a 'normal' state. The condition of assets, access and occupancy rates will change as repairs are made.

Access to services may be under-reported

The survey incorporated interviews with residents in order to elicit information about their contribution towards the management and maintenance of assets as well as their perception of access to services. Usually, we interviewed only the 'main' (senior or Traditional Owner) resident. This approach resonated with cultural norms and expectations about the appropriate person to speak for country and family. However, we cannot assume that the main resident was able to fully report on the range of services accessed by other residents, and it is likely that this access has been under-reported. The social survey was an adjunct to the infrastructure survey and was not designed as a comprehensive social survey of Homeland/Outstation residents.

Analysing correlation and causation is beyond the scope of the review

At the request of the Project Steering Group, we imported all survey data (raw and analysed) into spreadsheets, which allows the data to be extracted by asset type. Some associations between asset types and geographic region have also been extracted although such associations cannot be ascribed to causality.

It should be noted that multivariate and/or correlational analysis of the data are beyond the scope of this report. However, the database has been designed to allow such analysis. Any observations we have made of relationships or associations between datasets should be treated as qualitative trends or hypotheses that require further statistical analysis and verification.

Protecting people's privacy

The small size and dispersed nature of Homelands/Outstations across the NT raises particular issues for capturing and managing data, including difficulty of access, the need to secure prior informed

consent to enter private Aboriginal lands, and the mobility of residents. Also, because of the small numbers of people associated with each place, we needed to pay particular attention to privacy issues, including ensuring compliance with the *Privacy Act (1988)*. As such, the data presented in this report is de-identified and aggregated in recognition that the identification of any particular Homeland/Outstation can in effect identify the people associated (by customary law or residence) with that place.

Instances of 'no data recorded'

In some instances, we state that we have recorded no data. This is because either we didn't interview anyone from that Homeland/Outstation, or we interviewed them but they were unable to comment or chose not to answer that question.

Survey results: Physical infrastructure

Buildings

Community residents can use buildings and structures for habitation and for community activities such as workshops, health clinics and schools. The range of building types is wide and includes houses, transportable buildings, shipping containers, sheds and shelters. It also includes the facilities and fixtures that allow people to access services such as water, wastewater, energy, waste management and telecommunications.

Housing

We counted the number of houses on each Homeland/Outstation and then correlated our numbers with the numbers in the NT Government's SLAP (Serviced Land Availability Program) map. Our database allows each house to be individually identified and the data can be interrogated to identify properties with issues that may need to be further investigated and rectified, and the nature of those issues (e.g. sewerage, power safety, structural problems).

The total number of houses across the 401 Homelands/Outstations surveyed was 1766.

Half of the Homelands/Outstations had 1–3 houses (Figure 3).

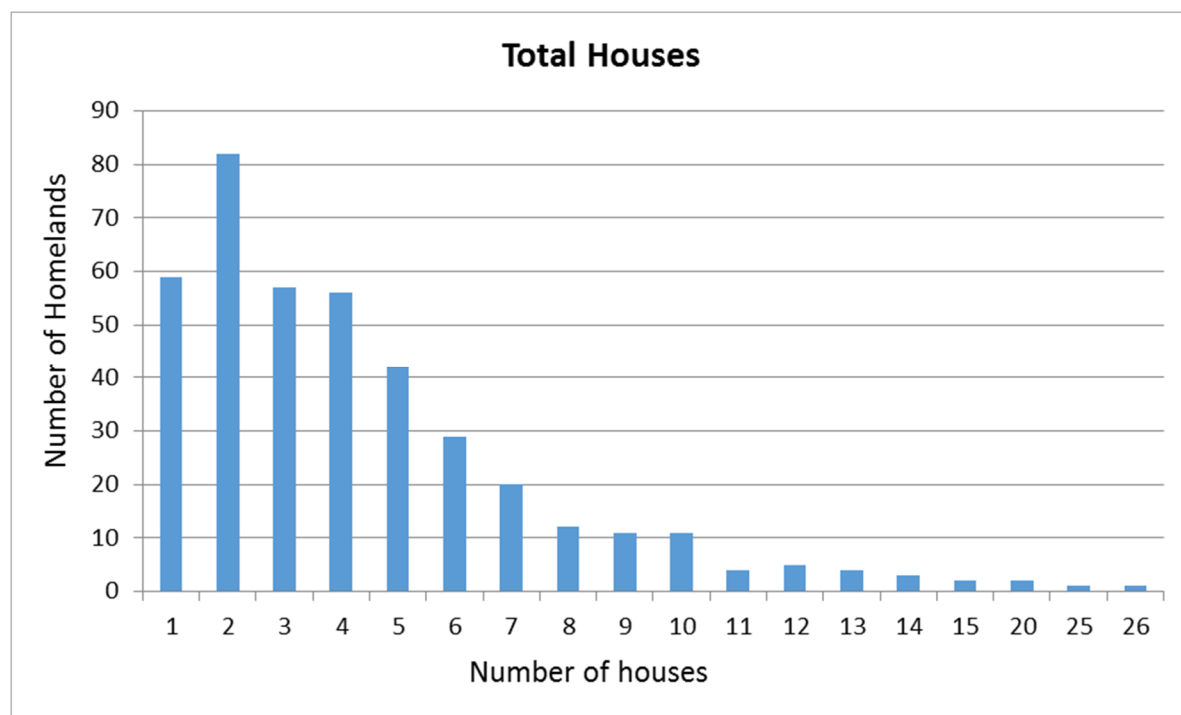


Figure 3: Total number of houses per Homeland/Outstation

Housing maintenance

In 327 Homelands/Outstations (81%), housing maintenance is the responsibility of the resource agency. Of these, the resource agency is funded for the housing maintenance for 316 (78%) and for the remaining 11 (3%) Homelands/Outstations the resource agency provides services without receiving funding.

In 40 Homelands/Outstations (10%), housing maintenance was reported as the responsibility of the community or the residents. For 32 (8%) of these 40 Homelands/Outstations, the resource agency receives funding to provide housing maintenance. In eight of these Homelands/Outstations, the resource agency agreed they did not provide housing maintenance despite receiving funds to do so. In these eight Homelands/Outstations, an organisation other than the resource agency was responsible for providing water, suggesting that an alternative arrangement had been agreed with the residents to provide services in these locations.

In the remaining 34 (8%) Homelands/Outstations, the responsibility for housing maintenance was reported as either 'no-one' (13, 3%) or 'unknown' (21, 5%). For the 13 Homelands/Outstations that reported no-one provided housing maintenance, nine were unfunded (eight of these were reported as being unoccupied 95–100% of the time). The remaining four were funded. Of these, three are always occupied according to the residents who were present at the time of the survey, and one is unoccupied 5% of the time. Further investigation is warranted; however, it could be that the residents of the funded Homelands/Outstations were suggesting that the maintenance was not of sufficient standard to warrant the term 'maintained'. There could also be some discrepancy in residents' understanding of what activities are currently in scope for housing maintenance, given that there has been some fluidity over time in terms of who is responsible and what they are responsible for.

The resource agencies confirmed that they provide house maintenance services in 352 Homelands/Outstations. In at least 23 Homelands/Outstations, the maintenance responsibilities are either unclear, unknown or not of a sufficient standard for the resident to believe that it has been completed. Discrepancies in the number of Homelands/Outstations where house maintenance is funded but not delivered are few, but it is evident that in some circumstances resource agencies cross-subsidise the delivery of services i.e. they sometimes use the funds allocated to one Homeland/Outstation to resolve issues at another Homeland/Outstation. They do this so that services can be delivered on a needs basis, particularly in situations where residents move between Homelands/Outstations, creating fluidity in the occupancy of houses and Homelands/Outstations within a region.

In 265 (66%) Homelands/Outstations, residents assist in the maintenance of houses even though in the majority of cases the resource agency is primarily responsible for maintenance. In 75 (19%) Homelands/Outstations residents do not assist with housing maintenance and in 61 (15%) Homelands/Outstations the residents' role in maintenance is recorded as unknown.

Overall, 268 Homelands/Outstations (67%) have a house maintenance service and had no houses exhibiting long term maintenance issues that might make any of the houses unsafe. A further 107 (27%) Homelands/Outstations either have inadequate maintenance or the houses have substantial and longstanding issues (e.g. rusted steel foundations) that require a rebuild rather than maintenance and that may make one or more houses unsafe; of these, 19 (5%) were unfunded and 88 (22%) were funded.

For 26 (6%) Homelands/Outstations, no information on housing maintenance was recorded.

Housing condition

There were a total of 1111 houses in the 170 Homelands/Outstations in the central Australia region and 655 houses in the 231 Homelands/Outstations in the Top End.

We visually inspected each house to determine its condition. We recorded structural issues such as wall condition, column post connection to the ground, concrete condition, roof sheeting, condition of foundations and damage to concrete edge beams.

Overall, 1339 (76%) of houses were intact, 377 (21%) had visible damage and 50 (3%) were unknown (Figure 4).

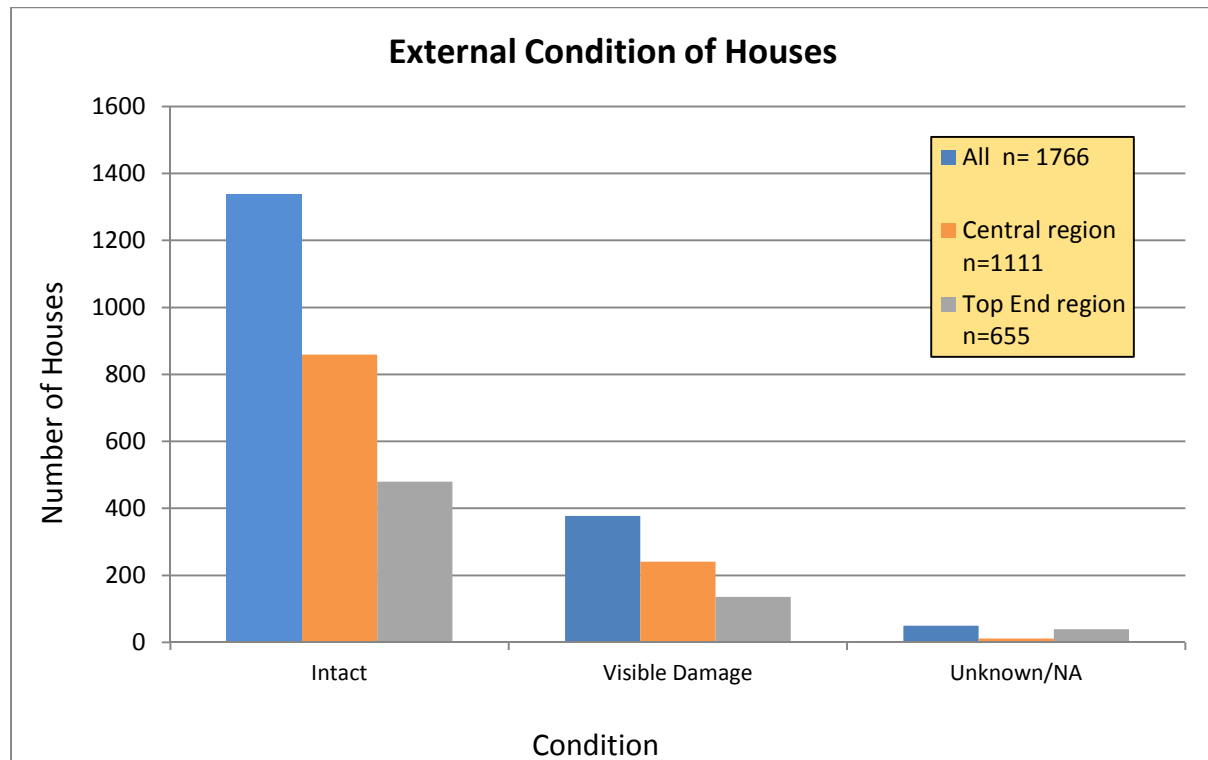


Figure 4: External condition of houses in Homelands/Outstations (n= number of houses in each region)

Figure 5 shows the number of Homelands/Outstations where the majority (> 80%) of houses are connected to power, water and sewerage. For a house to be classified as serviced, all three services must be installed (the functionality of each service is not included in this assessment). If a house is connected to power only, for example, it is in the 'No' category.

The total number of Homelands/Outstations where the majority of houses are serviced is 270 (67%), with 142 located in the Top End and 128 located in the central region. In 127 Homelands/Outstations, the majority of houses are not serviced—87 in the Top End and 40 in the central region. Results for four Homelands/Outstations are unknown. The Top End has more Homelands/Outstations with houses that are not connected to all three services; this reflects the greater emphasis on house design in tropical regions where outdoor living, consisting of communal kitchens and outdoor ablution blocks, is common. In the Top End region, sewerage is the main service not connected to houses because external pit toilets are provided.

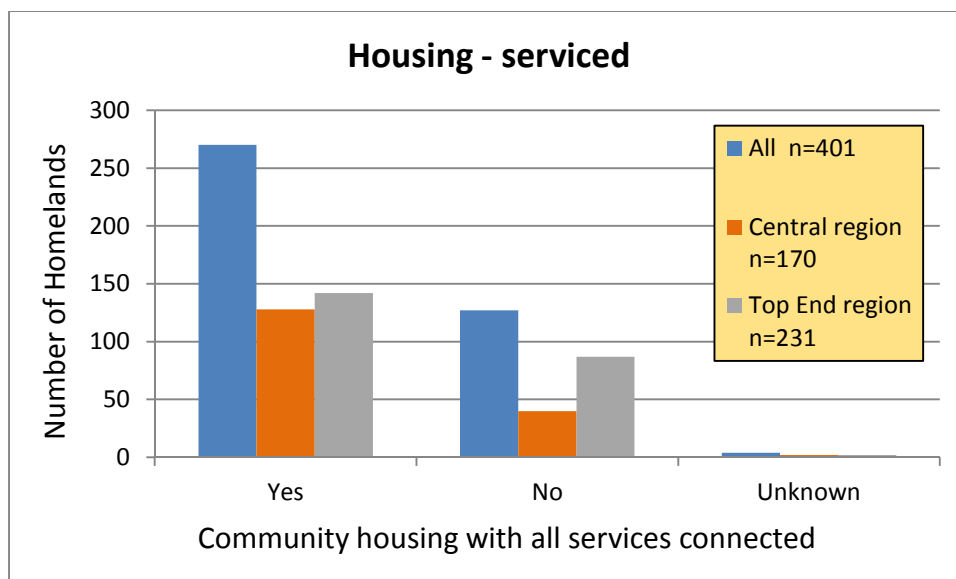


Figure 5: Number of Homelands/Outstations where more than 80% of houses are connected to power, water and sewerage (n = number of Homelands/Outstations in each region)

Housing availability

Housing availability was measured as enough bedrooms available for the minimum population at a rate of two or fewer people per bedroom. In total, 333 (83%) Homelands/Outstations had housing available for residents at this rate. Housing was unavailable at this rate at 16 (4%) Homelands/Outstations in the central Australia region and at 26 (6%) Homelands/Outstations in the Top End region. The availability of housing was unknown in 26 (1%) of Homelands/Outstations.

In general, we did not identify overcrowding as a significant problem across all Homelands/Outstations, although we did not inspect the houses inside and, therefore, the internal condition of houses is not included in this assessment.

Community buildings

Community buildings include churches, art centres, visitor accommodation, workshops, women's and men's centres, ablutions, laundries, training and recreation centres, offices, meeting places, ranger offices, and community kitchens. Community buildings may or may not have been in use at the time of the survey.

We recorded a total of 362 community buildings in 171 (43%) Homelands/Outstations. Of these, 54 were clinics, 77 schools and 18 stores, with the remaining buildings described as churches, art centres, visitor accommodation, workshops, women's or men's centres, ablutions, laundries, training or recreation centres, offices, meeting places, ranger quarters, and community kitchens. The number of buildings recorded includes those that were in use and not in use.

There were 51 community buildings in the 170 Homelands/Outstations in the central Australia region and 120 in the 231 Homelands/Outstations in the Top End. There were 230 Homelands/Outstations that did not have a community building. The majority of community buildings on Homelands/Outstations are located in the Top End (Figure 6).

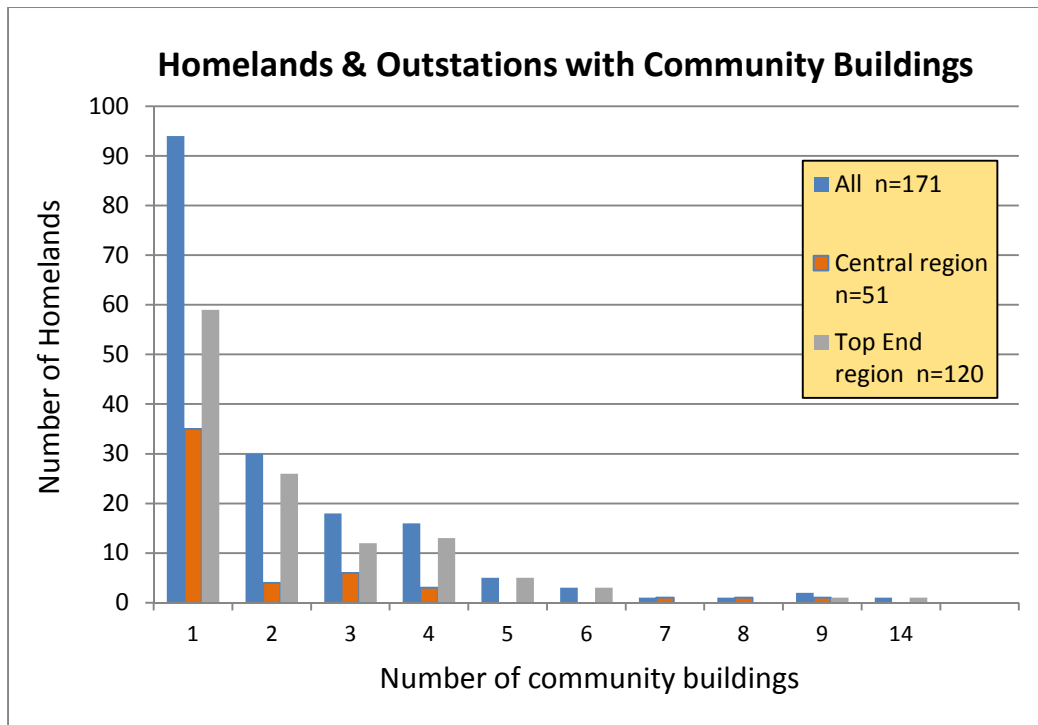


Figure 6: Number of community buildings per Homeland/Outstation (n =number of Homelands/Outstations with community buildings in each region)

The community buildings that were designated as clinics, schools, and stores (Figure 7) were recorded separately.

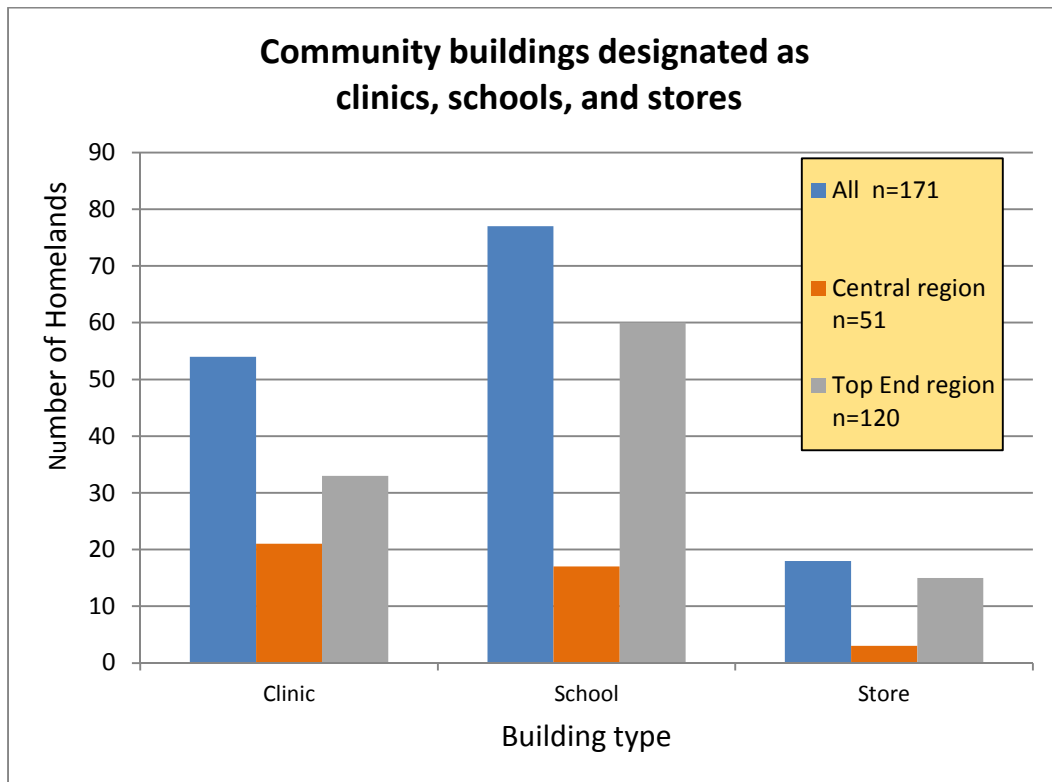


Figure 7: Number of Homelands/Outstations with designated clinics, schools, and stores (n =number of Homelands/Outstations with community buildings in each region)

Table 1 shows the number of community buildings in relation to the number of houses on each Homeland/Outstation. More than half, 230 (57%), of the Homelands/Outstations have no community buildings and 94 (23%) Homelands/Outstations have only one community building.

Table 1: Number of Homeland/Outstation community buildings in relation to number of houses.

As an example: 27 Homeland/Outstations have 4 houses and no community building.

Number of community buildings on Homeland/Outstation	Number of houses on Homeland/Outstation																	Total number of Homelands/Outstations	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	20	25		26
0	50	64	35	27	22	11	8	4	2	3	3			1					230
1	8	14	20	17	8	9	9	5	1	1		1			1				94
2	1	2	1	4	4	7	2	1	4	2	1			1					30
3		1		5	5	1		1	1	2		1	1						18
4		1	1	2	2	1	1		3	1			1	1	1	1			16
5								1		1		1	1			1			5
6												2	1						3
7					1														1
8				1															1
9										1							1		2
14																		1	1
Total number of Homelands/Outstations	59	82	57	56	42	29	20	12	11	11	4	5	4	3	2	2	1	1	401

Community building maintenance

The number of community buildings is the total number of buildings we observed at each Homeland/Outstation. The purpose of each community building and what it was used for was sometimes difficult to ascertain. Some buildings were clearly redundant; they may, for example, have been built in a time when an enterprise was operating, permanent staff were employed or young people were living in the community, and the purpose is no longer relevant. The purpose and use of community buildings often change over time as the residents' needs change. In some circumstances, community buildings that were no longer fit for purpose, such as schools and clinics, were being used to house families. In other examples, a recreation hall and a radio station were being used as temporary accommodation and a community ablution block was being used as a horse training facility.

In 127 (74%) Homelands/Outstations with community buildings, the buildings were assessed as being safe for their intended use and activities. This was easy to determine for buildings used as clinics, schools and stores.

In 69 (40%) of Homelands/Outstations with community buildings, the community buildings lacked one or more services—an energy supply, a reticulated water supply or a sewerage system. In many circumstances, this did not pose a problem because all three services were not required for the building to be fit for purpose; for example, a church or a workshop may have needed only electricity and water. Of all the community buildings we observed, 22% had no power supply.

In 154 (90%) Homelands/Outstations, the community buildings were being maintained by either the resource agency or community residents. Overall, responsibility for the maintenance of community buildings is unclear and seems to occur on an ad hoc basis. Information elicited from the relevant resource agency and NT Government officers during a recent project funded by the Aboriginals Benefit Account, delivered by CAT in the central region, suggests that maintenance is restricted to those buildings used for domestic living (CAT 2014). It may be that community buildings currently housing families are receiving some maintenance—residents may be using royalty monies to fund maintenance, or resource agencies may be using some discretion in some regions to maintain community buildings using funds allocated for housing maintenance. Where community buildings and other infrastructure are being built or refurbished through the Aboriginals Benefit Account, and through grants (such as tourism infrastructure grants or Indigenous Land Corporation grants), it is not clear who is responsible for maintaining this infrastructure over time and where the funds will come from.

Water

A water supply is defined as the main source of water to a community. A water service collects, transfers, stores, treats and distributes drinking water to the community. The water supply system may include bores; wells; dams; transfer and pressure pumps (and associated energy source); storage and header tanks; water treatment; control devices; pipework; access points; and ancillary components. A water service may be a stand-alone service for the community, or the community may be connected to a centralised town-water service.

We classified the purpose of the water supply at each Homeland/Outstation as either domestic or mixed (enterprise and domestic). In most cases, the main water supply was the drinking water supply. In some cases, a supplementary water supply, such as rainwater or carted water, was the drinking water supply.

Water supply source

Groundwater is the primary source of water supplied, with 290 (72%) of all Homelands/Outstations accessing their main water supply from a bore (Figure 8). In 40 (10%) Homelands/Outstations, water was piped from outside the community and this was managed by Power and Water Corporation; most of these water supplies are from bores. In 10 (2%) Homelands/Outstations, water was piped from outside the Homeland/Outstation and this was not managed by Power and Water Corporation. These Homelands/Outstations usually share the water supply with a nearby Homeland/Outstation and the supply is managed by a resource agency.

Eight (2%) Homelands/Outstations had no reliable water supply (mainly because of mechanical breakdown or missing pumps); however, these Homelands/Outstations were not occupied. Six of these eight Homelands/Outstations were unfunded.

Seven (2%) Homelands/Outstations, all in the one region, rely on carted water regularly delivered by the resource agency.

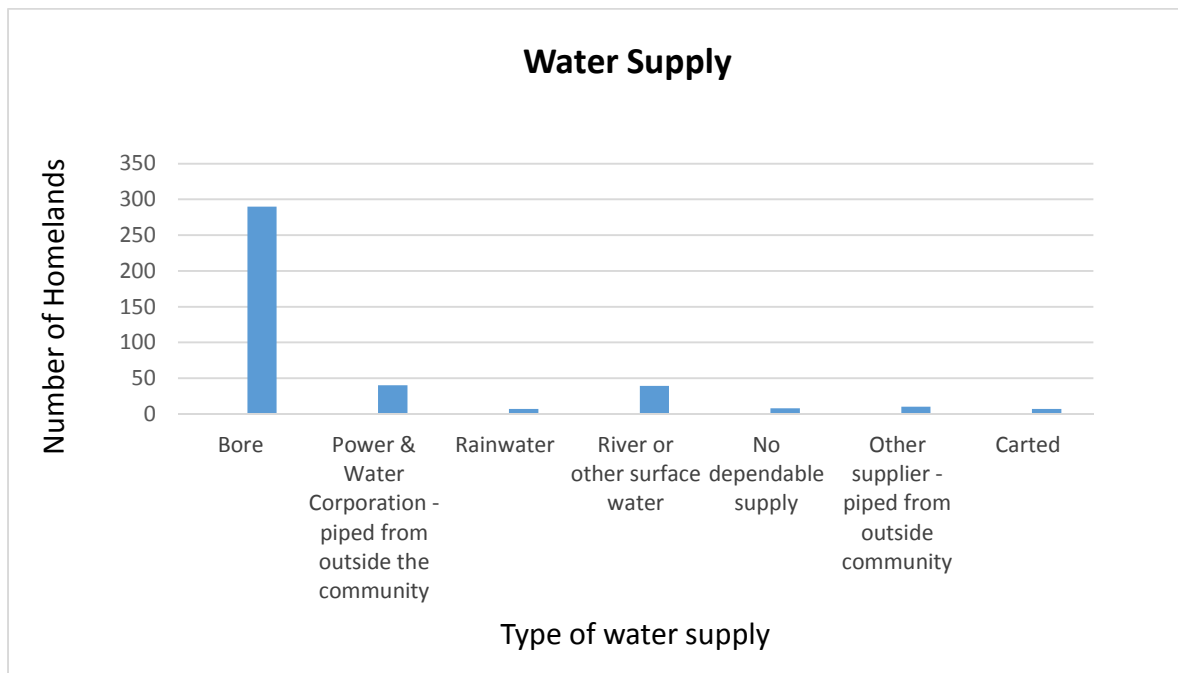


Figure 8: Number of Homelands/Outstations by type of water supply source

Table 2 shows the water supply source for those Homelands/Outstations with 1–3 houses and those with more than three houses. There is little difference in the water supply source with the exception of rainwater tanks, which are the main water source for only the smaller Homelands/Outstations.

Table 2: Water supply source per size of Homeland/Outstation

Water supply source	Homelands/Outstations with 1–3 houses	Homelands/Outstations with more than 3 houses	Total number of Homelands/Outstations
Bore	145	145	290
Carted	5	2	7
No dependable supply	6	2	8
Other supplier - piped from outside community	4	6	10
Power and Water Corporation - piped from outside community	18	22	40
Rainwater	7		7
River or other surface water	13	26	39
Total number of Homelands/Outstations	198	203	401

Water supply maintenance

Resource agencies and Power and Water Corporation maintain 372 (93%) of all the Homeland/Outstation water supplies in the 401 Homelands/Outstations surveyed. The residents of 228 (57%) Homelands/Outstations reported that they actively operate their water system (which includes starting and stopping flow, operating pumps as required). Residents from 205 (51%) Homelands/Outstations reported that they actively assist in managing the system by, for example, repairing leaks, maintaining a supply of pump fuel, keeping bores and valves clear of grass and debris, and keeping gutters clean for rainwater collection. Residents in 25 (6%) Homelands/Outstations reported that they contribute financially to the maintenance costs of the water supply.

Longstanding water supply maintenance issues, such as leaks and damage from feral horses, were reported in 132 (33%) Homelands/Outstations.

Bore infrastructure

There are 290 Homelands/Outstations that have a bore, some with a second bore. We inspected 323 individual bores. Of these, we rated 217 (67%) as being in good condition, 20 (6%) in fair condition and 27 (8%) in poor condition. We did not have enough information to be able to rate the remaining 59 (18%) bores. In general, the bore infrastructure is well protected with 274 (85%) bores being properly sealed. The issues that led to poor rating include:

- the bore being unsealed or caps damaged
- low or intermittent flow rate
- leaks in pipework
- damaged or missing pumps, PV (photovoltaic) solar panels, controllers and/or cables.

Water storage

Water storage tanks, either elevated or on the ground, were observed at 365 (91%) Homelands/Outstations, some of which had multiple tanks. Tanks provide buffer storage and those that are elevated increase pressure in the water distribution system. We saw no visible damage in 419 (77%) of the tanks we inspected, and only 83 (15%) of the tanks were leaking from damaged pipes and fittings.

Reticulation

Water distribution infrastructure was in a relatively good state of repair with no damage to the reticulation network observed in 348 (89%) Homelands/Outstations. The damage in the remaining 41 (10%) Homelands/Outstations included broken pipes and tree root damage. Feral animals, such as horses, were reported to be one of the main causes of damage to water pipes. At 12 (3%) Homelands/Outstations, there was no water reticulation network.

Water management plans

Water management plans equivalent to a 'community water plan' that meets the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (2011), were reported by the resource agencies to be in place for 99 (25%) Homelands/Outstations (Figure 9). Those water supplies requiring specialised management by the service provider, in particular carted water and rainwater, have management plans.

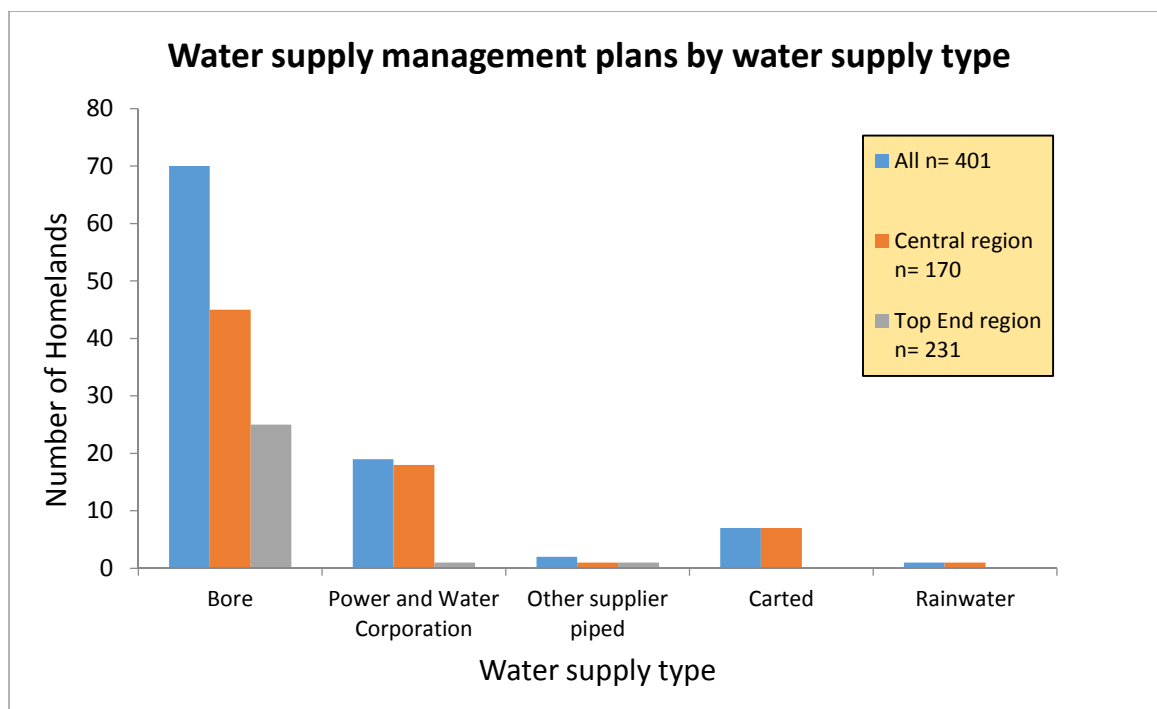


Figure 9: Number of Homelands/Outstations with water management plans, by water supply source (n = number of Homelands/Outstations in each region)

In contrast to what the resource agencies reported, residents from only 67 (17%) Homelands/Outstations reported that their Homeland/Outstation had a water management plan. Since water management planning should include the consumers, the discrepancy between what residents reported and what resource agencies reported suggests that service providers could communicate better about the water management plan with the residents and make sure that the plan is being implemented.

Of the 99 water supplies reported by resource agencies as having a community water plan, 40 of these are operated by Power and Water Corporation. The remaining 59 are being actively managed by resource agencies and residents for incremental improvement according to best practice. These water management plans are a result of investment by the National Water Commission and through the Aboriginals Benefit Account in building capacity to improve water management, specifically in small remote communities (National Water Commission 2006).

Water safety

We assessed the safety of each water supply according to risk management principles. We conducted a sanitary survey which identified all components of the water supply and hazards. We assessed the safety of a water supply by applying a weighting based on the following criteria:

- a water management plan was in place
- there were no known water quality issues
- water was being treated
- we recorded a low number of hazards at the time of our inspection.

Our assessment shows that:

- 234 (58%) water supplies were safe to drink
- 238 (59%) were safe to operate
- 137 (34%) were classified as low risk in terms of both quality and operation.

In 22 (5%) Homelands/Outstations, we observed potential sources of contamination—from animal faeces, graves, tips, septic tanks or pit toilets—within 100 metres of the bore, which greatly increases the risk of microbiological contamination. We also identified wildlife contamination risks at a number of bore sites. Both these issues warrant further investigation to fully assess the risk to water supply. CAT staff immediately reported all urgent issues to the relevant resource agency and the NT Government.

Energy

An energy service generates and distributes energy, mainly electricity, to the community. The energy system may include fuel storage, fossil fuel generators, renewable energy systems, storage devices, control devices, energy management devices, distribution components and ancillary components. Energy services typically deliver electrical energy but the community may also have access to alternative energy sources such as wood, liquid fuels and LPG. An energy service may be a stand-alone service for the community, or the community may be connected to a centralised town-energy service.

Energy supply source

There are four types of energy systems that deliver electricity to Homelands/Outstations in the NT:

- Diesel or petrol generator – A fixed generator is supplying multiple dwellings or a small portable generator is supplying an individual building.
- Hybrid – A combination of solar power and generators are used for energy supply. It may be a fully integrated automatic hybrid for the whole community, or a solar system with one or more backup generators that are turned on manually when the solar system is not working.
- Solar PV – A solar PV system is the only source of electrical power for the community. It may be a single house system or a community wide system such as the Bushlight system.
- Grid – A Homeland/Outstation may be connected to a grid that is managed by Power and Water Corporation or another agency. Individual households either pay a metered bill or, as is mostly the case, buy power cards from a nearby store.

There is a fairly even mix of energy supplies across the Homelands/Outstations (Figure 10) with 104 (26%) Homelands/Outstations having access to a hybrid power supply, 92 (23%) using generators only, 90 (22%) with access to a grid, and 58 (14%) relying on solar PV systems alone. The remaining 55 (14%) had no access to power at the time of the survey; many of these have some energy infrastructure in place but, due to low occupancy and/or lack of maintenance, the energy supply is no longer functional.

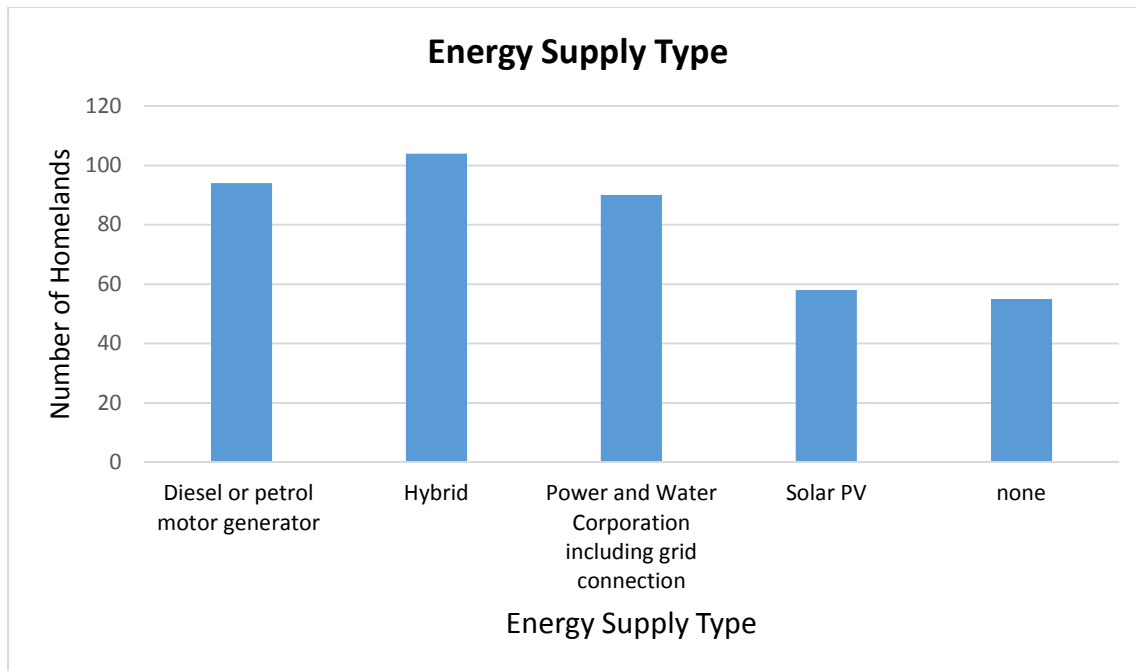


Figure 10: Number of Homelands/Outstations, by type of energy supply

In addition to electricity, 186 (46%) Homelands/Outstations reported use bottled gas for both cooking and/or heating and 378 (94%) reported using firewood as fuel for cooking.

Energy supply reliability

The reliability of power supply (Figure 11) varies across the different delivery modes.

The most reliable supply of power is the Power and Water Corporation grid and other grid systems. Apart from occasional loss of power, or households running out of power cards, 100% of Homelands/Outstations with grid supply have 24-hour access to power.

The next most reliable supply of power is a hybrid system, with 76 (73% of those with hybrid systems) Homelands/Outstations able to access 24-hour power.

‘Ad hoc’ access to power from a hybrid supply was reported in 18 (17% of those with hybrid systems) Homelands/Outstations. The supply can be ad hoc for a number of reasons, but it is usually associated with irregular supply of diesel for the generator side of the system and insufficient solar panels and/or battery storage to provide 24-hour power. Lack of maintenance (especially on the generator) can also reduce the reliability of this type of supply. We also observed parts of the system failing, such as generators, inverters, PV panels and batteries. Some system faults had been previously reported but not fixed at the time of the survey.

Of those Homelands/Outstations with a solar PV system, 41 (72%) of them who had only a solar system reported having access to 24-hour power. Eleven (19% of those with a solar PV system) Homelands/Outstations reported having ‘ad hoc’ access to power due to population increases for periods of time, failing battery banks, bad weather or lack of maintenance.

Five (9% of those with only a solar PV system) Homelands/Outstations reported having access to ‘regular but less than 24 hour power’. The primary cause of this was undersized solar systems that either work only during the day or for a predictable number of hours through the night.

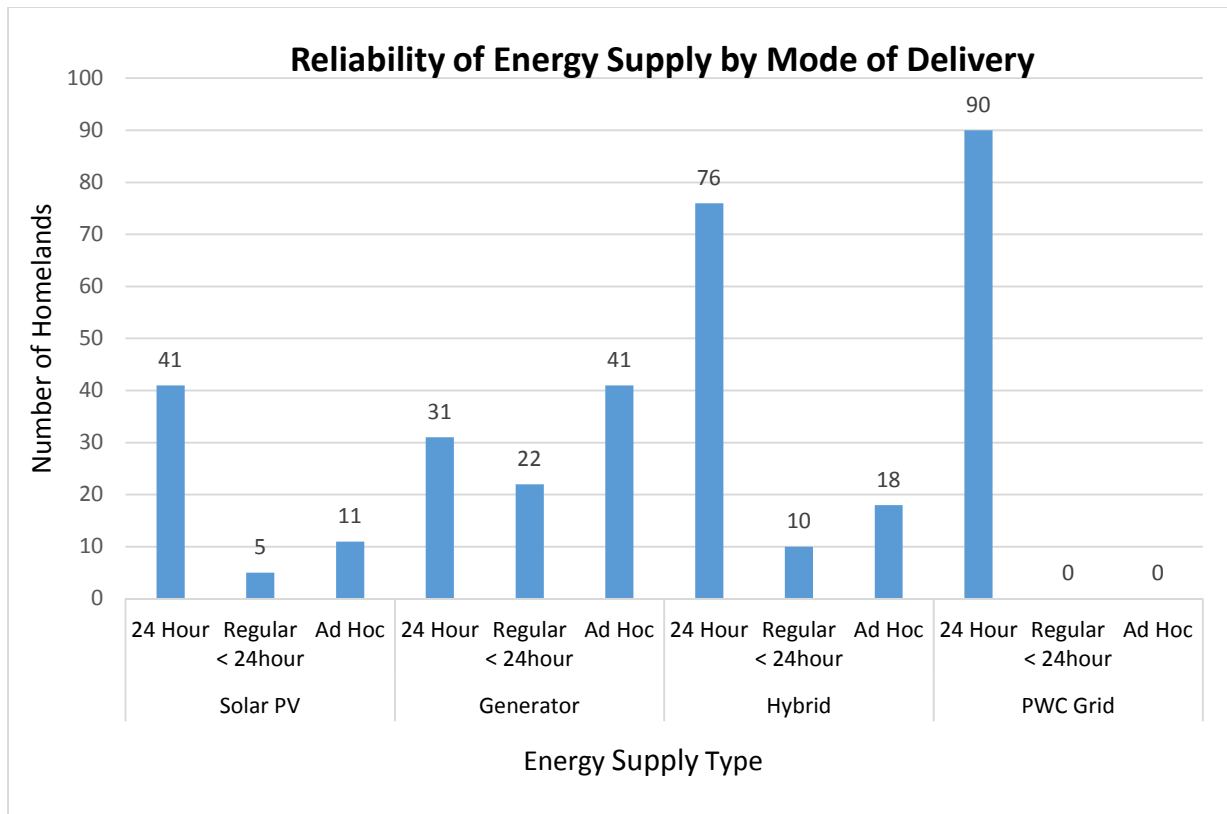


Figure 11: Reliability of power supply, by type of energy supply

Of those Homelands/Outstations with generators, 31 (33%) reported having access to 24-hour power. Another 31 (33%) reported having ‘ad hoc’ access due to lack of servicing of the generator or irregular access to fuel. Many people reported that they have a regular but less than 24-hour supply of energy. In many of these cases, the generator is turned off at night to reduce noise, and save fuel and money.

Cost of energy supply

Residents in 225 (56%) of Homelands/Outstations pay electricity usage costs. In 95 (24%) of the Homelands/Outstations, the use of power cards or metered bills was reported. In a further 130 (32%) Homelands/Outstations, the residents supply some or all of the diesel required for generators, and may also contribute to the costs associated with maintaining their systems. Cost is not applicable to the 58 (14%) of Homelands/Outstations that have solar only and the 55 (14%) Homelands/Outstations that had no access to power at the time of the survey.

In total, 338 (84%) Homelands/Outstations either contribute toward the cost of the energy supply or present no financial burden to energy service providers because they either have solar power or no power. The remaining 63 (16%) are, generally, hybrid systems where a third party provides the fuel to the community at no cost or through an undisclosed deduction from rent or other government payments.

Energy supply safety

We assessed the electrical safety of generating infrastructure and distribution) at each Homeland/Outstation. In total, 103 (26%) Homelands/Outstations have restricted access to the power generators and PV systems, 131 (33%) have unrestricted access to generators and PV systems (e.g. the generator shed is not locked), in 159 (42%) Homelands/Outstations it is not applicable and in 8 (2%) it was unknown.

In 281(70%) Homelands/Outstations, no electrical safety issues were detected, in 76 (19%) one or more electrical safety issues were detected, and in 44 it was not applicable or unknown (Figure 12). Common issues include bare and exposed wires on properties, damaged conduits, unsealed batteries, oil leaks and tripping circuit breakers. A common observation was the use of domestic extension cables to run power from generators to houses. CAT staff immediately reported all urgent issues to the relevant resource agency and the NT Government.

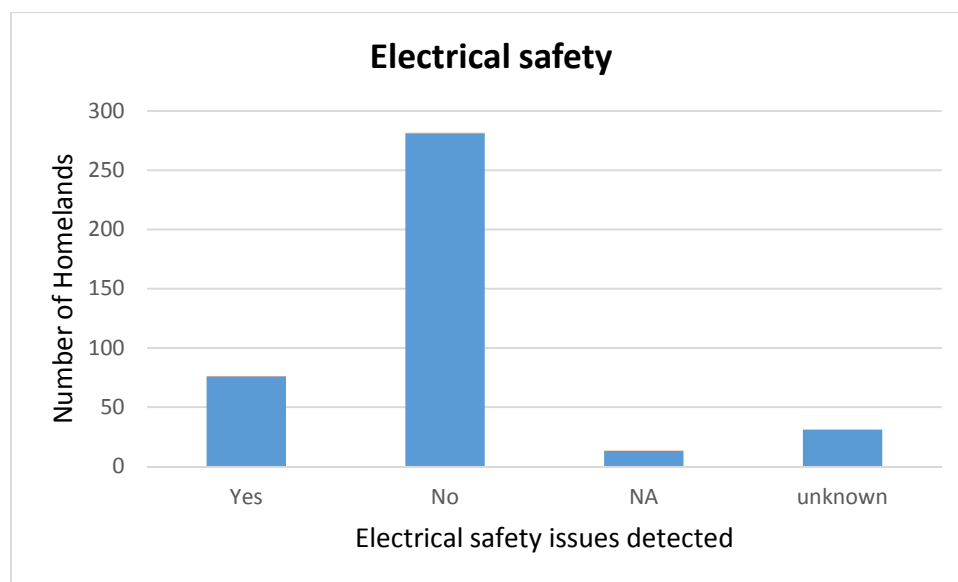


Figure 12: Number of Homelands/Outstations with electrical safety issues

Sewerage

A sewerage service collects, transfers, treats and disposes of all community wastewater—both ‘grey water’ from showers, sinks and washing machines, and ‘black water’ from toilets. The system may include pit toilets, composting toilets, septic tanks, aerated treatment systems, leach drains, transfer pumps (and associated energy source), control devices, pipework, access points and ancillary components. A sewerage service may be a stand-alone service for the community, or the community may be connected to centralised town-sewerage service.

Figure 13 shows the different sewerage systems in use, for black water only, by the houses surveyed.

There were 993 (56%) houses with septic systems, 141 (8%) with reticulated sewerage systems and 378 (21%) with ‘other systems’ which included composting toilets or pit toilets. There were 221 (13%) houses with no sewerage system—these are often improvised dwellings, without plumbing (or an internal toilet), or houses with communal ablution blocks.

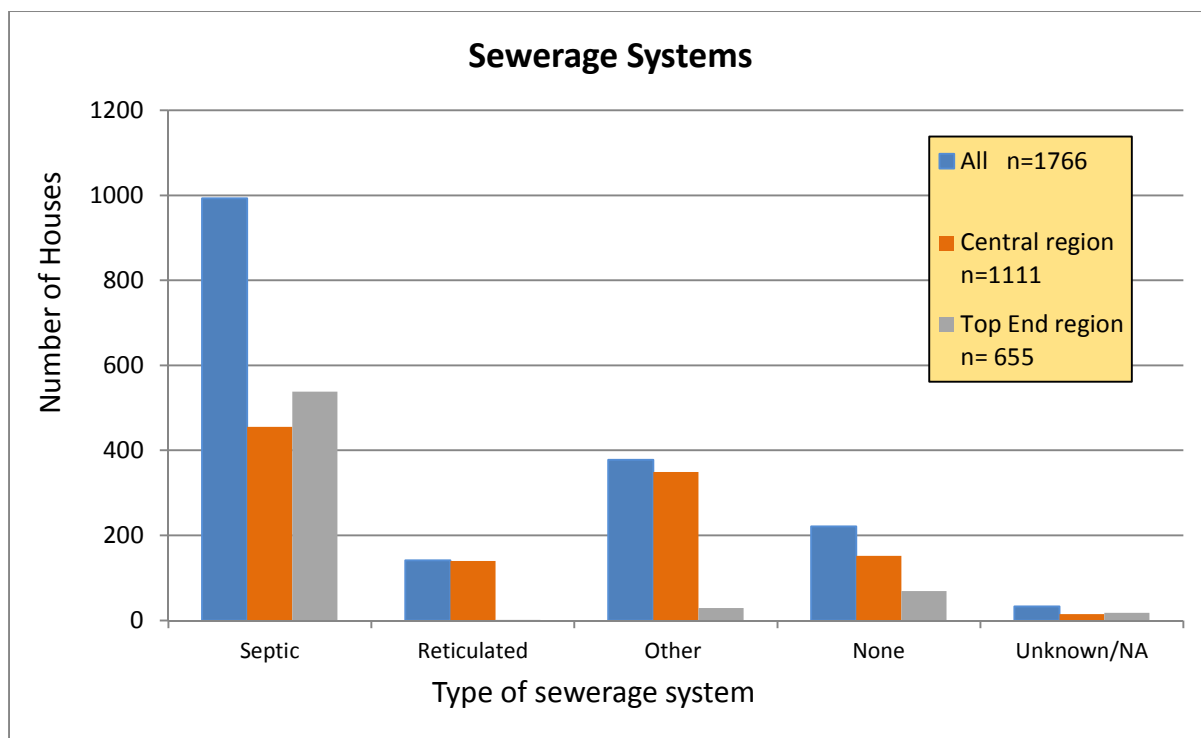


Figure 13: Number of houses by type of sewerage system for black water only (*n* = number of houses in each region)

Pit toilets were used in many Homelands/Outstations and were most evident in the Top End region. Many pit toilets are designed so that they can be dragged and relocated when the pit is full. Because they are not anchored down, many of them were blown over and damaged during the 2015 cyclones. A technical solution enabling strong anchoring but easy unclamping would improve their resilience. We observed that flush toilets were being steadily introduced across the Top End. While this will address some of the issues with pit toilet design, flush toilets will bring their own challenges, including the drawdown on water resources, the need for more sophisticated and, often, more costly sewage systems, and potentially higher rates of blockage.

Grey water disposal, where practiced, was mainly to septic systems. We observed ongoing and active management of sewage disposal systems in 329 (82%) of the Homelands/Outstations assessed:

- 329 (82%) Homelands/Outstations had a sewerage system connected to housing and buildings.
- In 274 (68%) Homelands/Outstations, the systems were classified as safe.
- In 279 (70%) Homelands/Outstations, the systems were classified as maintained.

We detected safety or maintenance issues related to septic systems at 101 (25%) Homelands/Outstations. We observed no issues with any sewerage system at 278 (69%) Homelands/Outstations. The condition of sewerage systems at 22 (5%) Homelands/Outstations was unknown. Figure 14 shows the total number of Homelands/Outstations with one or more problems with a septic or sewerage system.

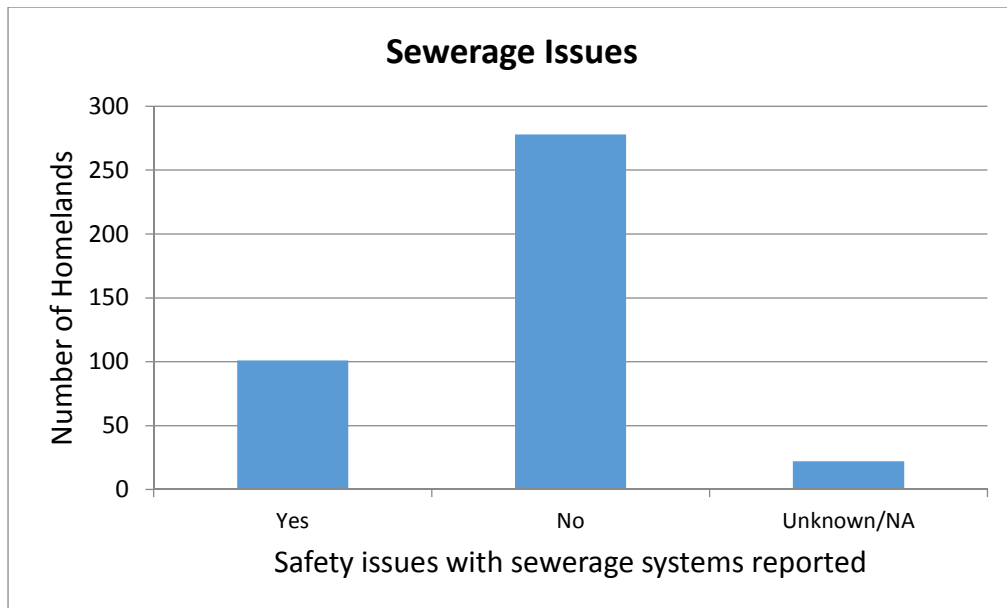


Figure 14: Number of Homelands with one or more sewerage system safety issues

Safety concerns included blockages, overflows, and broken or missing septic lids. CAT staff immediately reported all urgent issues to the relevant resource agency and the NT Government.

Overall, 236 (58%) Homelands/Outstations had sewerage systems that were classified as both safe and maintained. At 99 (25%) Homelands/Outstations, the sewerage systems were assessed as not maintained and for 23 (6%) Homelands/Outstations the condition of the sewerage system was not applicable or unknown.

Waste management

A waste management service collects, transfers, sorts and disposes of domestic and hazardous waste produced by the community. Waste includes car bodies and building materials. The system may include collection bins, collection vehicles, waste separation areas, waste transfer stations, landfill, hazardous material storage areas and ancillary components. A waste management service may be for a single community or an external service provided over a larger area.

Waste management relates to the collection and disposal of domestic refuse and other waste such as car bodies and building materials.

In most places, a tip was located near the Homeland/Outstation or there was a larger tip in a nearby town centre (Figure 15); however, collecting and transporting the rubbish was generally the responsibility of residents. We considered a collection service to be safe if a resource agency or funded service provider completed the pick-up and removal.

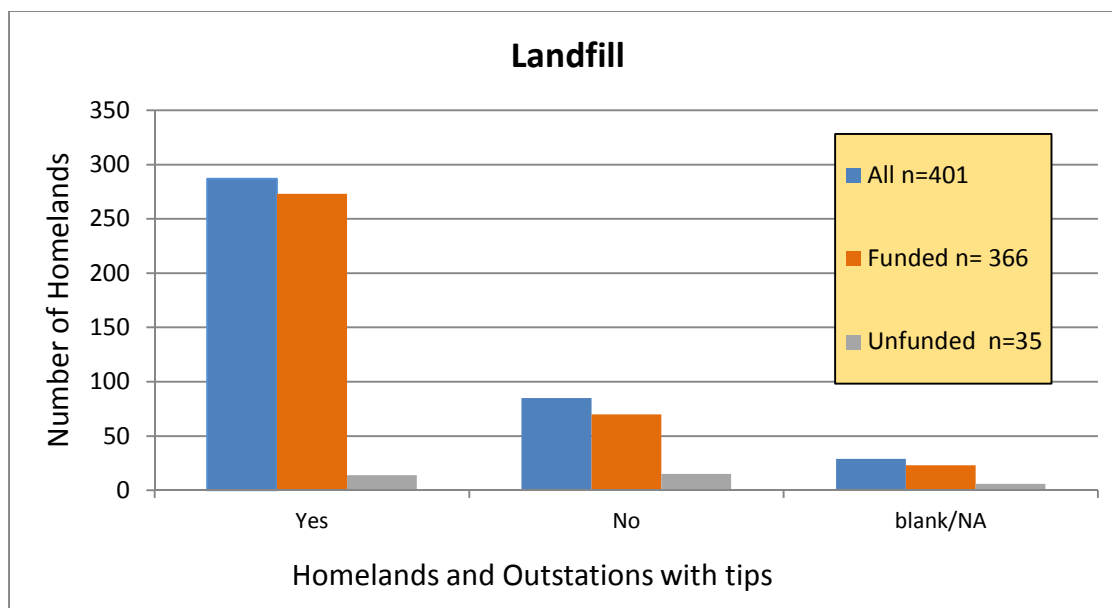


Figure 15: Number of Homelands/Outstations with a tip on site or nearby (n =number of funded and unfunded Homelands/Outstations in each region)

Community tips for waste disposal are located near 287 (72%) Homelands/Outstations. Resource agencies reported that they were responsible for maintaining the rubbish tips for 324 (81%) Homelands/Outstations. Some resource agencies operate a regional tip rather than having one at each Homeland/Outstation. We observed that 201 (70%) tips had spare capacity while 67 (23%) had no spare capacity.

Residents in 249 (62%) Homelands/Outstations reported that they collect waste and household rubbish and transport it to the tip; 20 of these Homelands/Outstations are unfunded. In a further 95 (23%) Homelands/Outstations, residents reported that the resource agency is responsible for waste collection and in 57 (14%) Homelands/Outstations the response was unknown or not applicable.

Resource agencies reported that they collect and transport domestic waste to the tip in 162 (40%) [158 funded, four unfunded] Homelands/Outstations.

There is a small discrepancy in the number of Homelands/Outstations that receive domestic waste collection and transportation to the tip but there appears to be some flexibility in services provided by the resource agencies in collecting waste on an 'as-needed' basis, and to Homelands/Outstations that may or may not be funded. In the majority of cases, residents collect and transport their domestic waste to the tip.

Of the 287 (72%) Homelands/Outstations with their own tip/landfill, resource agencies reported maintaining 245 (61%) of these. Funding for tip maintenance is provided for 237 Homelands/Outstations, suggesting that eight Homelands/Outstations that are not allocated funding receive maintenance services from the resource agency.

In some cases, there were reports that the tip was not deep enough causing rubbish to disperse during high winds or wet season floods. Residents also commented on their need for access to appropriate equipment to be able to transport large items, such as white goods, to the tip.

Overall, residents of 222 (55%) Homelands/Outstations rated their waste management service as 'reliable', 31 (8%) experienced 'minor disruptions', and 18 (4%) said the service was 'unreliable'. For 130 (32%), no response was recorded.

Environmental management

Environmental management makes a place more attractive (controlling temperature and managing dust), makes it safer (controlling animals, vermin, snakes and insects) and lowers the impact of flooding, storm surges, strong winds and bush fires. The system may include landscaping, dust management, erosion management, fencing, clearing, storm and surge water management, and fire management.

We assessed environmental management of Homelands/Outstations according to the following criteria:

- effective community landscaping
- the community's ability to manage the environment (e.g. ranger programs, active domestic animal control)
- evidence of longstanding maintenance issues.

We assessed community environmental management as either effective or ineffective based on our observation of environmental hazards. Ineffective management included the presence of exposed putrescible waste (waste that could putrefy), the absence of fire breaks, the presence of erosion around the houses or presence of feral animals within the Homeland/Outstation.

Based on our assessment, 165 (41%) Homelands/Outstations had effective management, 167 (42%) had ineffective management, and for 69 (17%) the effectiveness of environmental management was unknown.

Telecommunications

A telecommunications service gives the community access to voice and data services to maintain contact outside of the community. The system may include public payphones, community phones, private satellite phones, high-capacity microwave radio, 3G/4G mobile phone network and fixed (cable/fibre) line. Additional services may include a local area internet network or mobile high frequency radio. Typically, phone services are provided by an external service provider. Some assets may be installed in the community but these are generally stand-alone assets that do not rely on community intervention or the function of other community assets. Depending on the type of service, telecommunications costs are generally paid directly by the user of the service.

Public phone access

Of the 401 Homelands/Outstations surveyed, 305 (76%) have access to a public phone (payphone or community phone) and 274 (90%) of these phones were working at the time of the survey. Of these, 197 (72%) Homelands/Outstations report them as being reliable, with 49 (18%) reporting minor disruptions to service.

Public phones in the Homelands/Outstations generally have an inward calling capability, although this is not particularly reliable as a means of contact, given the number of people usually relying on that one phone. The phone is often a long way from some of the houses, making it difficult for people to hear the ring signal and reach it in time.

Mobile phone access

Seventy-eight (20%) Homelands/Outstations have reliable mobile coverage. Figures 16 and 17 show the central Australia and Top End regions where mobile coverage is available.

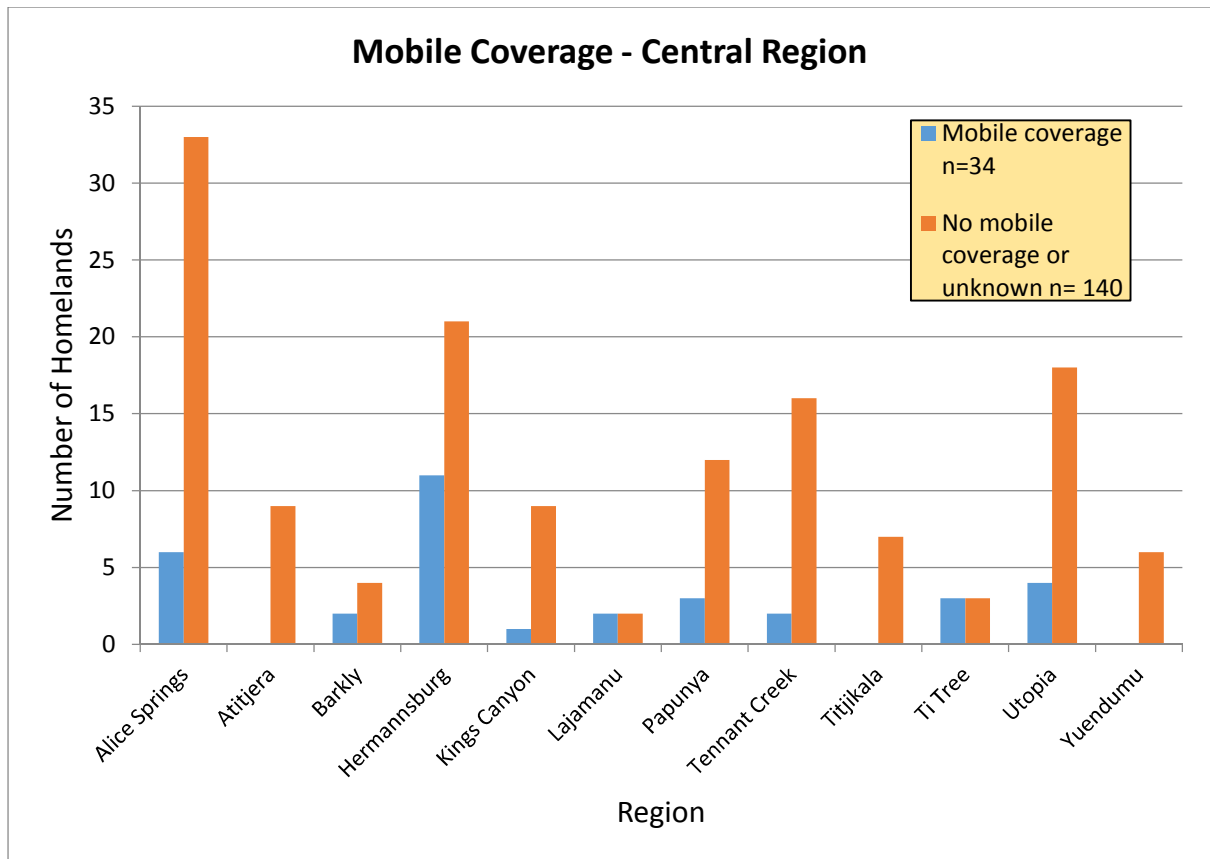


Figure 16: Number of Homelands/Outstations with mobile phone coverage in central Australia on a regional basis (n = number of Homelands/Outstations with or without mobile coverage)

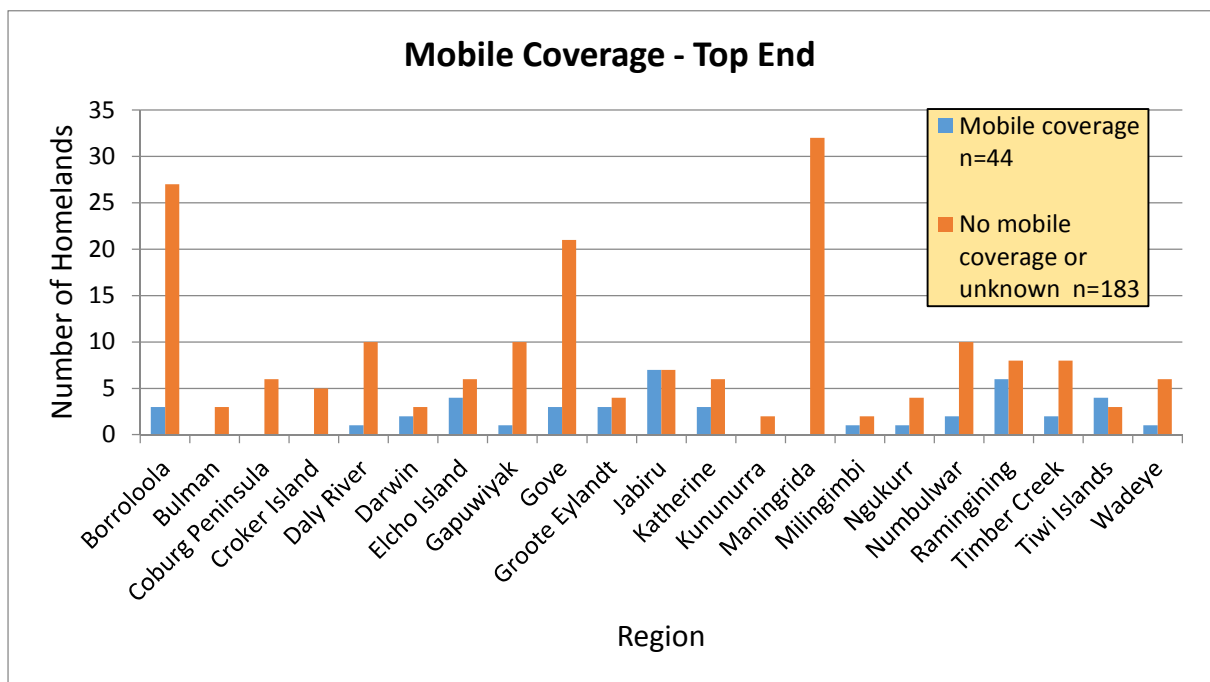


Figure 17: Number of Homelands/Outstations with mobile phone coverage in the Top End on a regional basis (n = number of Homelands/Outstations with or without coverage)

The low mobile phone coverage reflects the general pattern of limited coverage in remote and very remote areas of the NT. Due to the very high cost of extending coverage to areas where the population density and, therefore, the return to the service provider, is low, the economic reality is that no more than incremental improvements in this area are likely over the medium term. An important consequence is that public and private service providers, including resource agencies, should be required to give attention to the difficulties associated with contacting and being contacted by residents of unserved Homelands/Outstations, and to give them equal priority of service by accepting that it takes more time, effort, travel and cost to stay in contact with residents in these cases.

Only 140 (37%) Homelands/Outstations had internet with coverage. In 112 (80%) of these, the internet was only accessible at one house. One community in the Utopia Homelands, for example, is described as having internet access; however, the community has a population of more than 40 people and it is only the three people living in the one house with internet access that can use the internet. Service providers, including governments, need to be mindful that, based on these statistics, the trend to delivering services online will be of limited benefit to the majority of NT Homeland/Outstation residents.

Broadcast services (TV and radio) are available in 203 (55%) Homelands/Outstations. Governments and service providers should not assume that residents have access to messages they deliver via this medium.

Transport

A transport service gives residents access to and from the community. The system may include access roads (tracks, minor roads and major roads), internal roads, aerodromes and barge landings, as well as access to transport vehicles (private cars, bus services, charter flight services, and boat and barge services). A transport service and associated transport vehicles may serve a single community or a wider group of Homelands/Outstations.

In 376 (94%) Homelands/Outstations, residents are responsible for the costs incurred in travel to and from the community. Road is the primary access for 384 (96%) Homelands/Outstations, with the remainder being located on islands or in areas inaccessible by road. Residents in 361 (94%) Homelands/Outstations use their own vehicles, with the remainder travelling by Bush Bus, taxi or school bus.

Year-round access by road was available for 194 (48%) Homelands/Outstations. Factoring in all available means of transport (road, air, barge), 353 (88%) of Homelands/Outstations were accessible for the majority of the year.

Clearly, most of the Homelands/Outstations without year-round access are located in northern regions subject to wet season flooding. For more than 30 (8%) Homelands/Outstations, access by boat was reported as the only option during wet season period. Access difficulties were reported in 154 (38%) Homelands/Outstations, in addition to road closures in the wet season. These difficulties included unavailability of a vehicle when travel was required, unreliability of the vehicle, and the poor condition of roads (4WD access only).

Eighty-one (20%) of the Homelands/Outstations surveyed have a community airstrip. We assessed the condition of the airstrips and found 52 in good condition, 18 in fair condition and 11 in poor condition.

Figure 18 shows the approximate distance from Homelands/Outstations to the nearest major centre, such as a hub or larger community. The major centres are: Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Darwin, Jabiru, Nhulunbuy, Borroloola and Katherine. There are 159 (40%) Homelands/Outstations located within 100 km of a major centre. Being within 100 km of a major service centre may trigger a range of additional conditions and obligations relating to Centrelink benefits and job search activities. There are 206 (51%) Homelands/Outstations located 100–500 km from a major service centre.

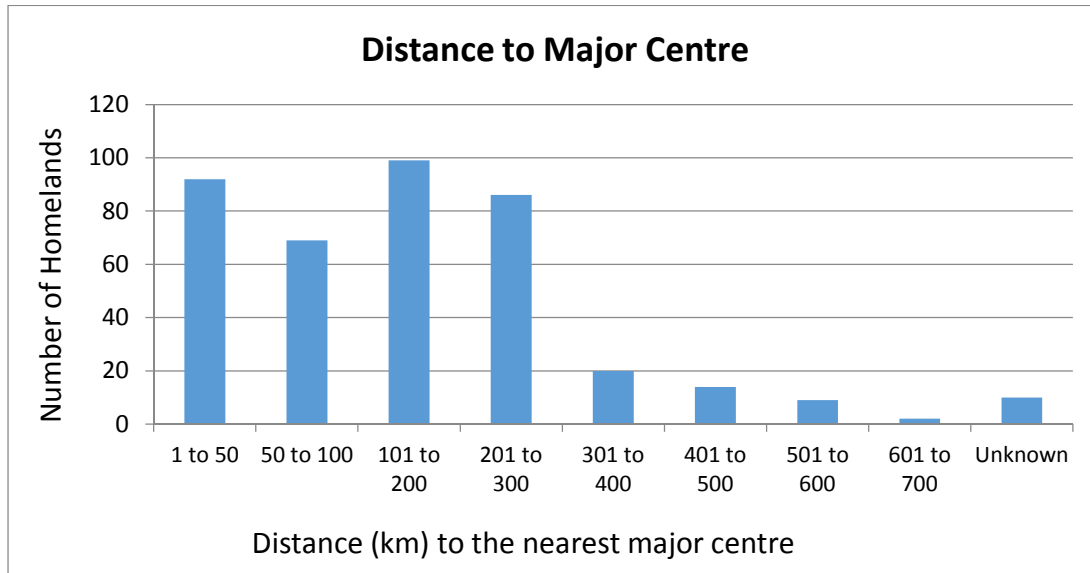


Figure 18: Distance in kilometres of Homelands/Outstations from nearest major centre

Survey results: Population and occupancy

Homelands/Outstations reflect people's lifecycle transitions and, therefore, occupancy is dynamic. School-age and working-age people often move away to study and find work. People travel to visit relatives, go shopping, go to hospital or access other services at a major centre.

To understand the population data that we collected, the notion of 'principal place of residence' needs to be acknowledged. We asked people whether their Homeland/Outstation was unoccupied for extended periods of time when, for example, a resident may have been staying with relatives and not using their Homeland/Outstation as their principal place of residence. In these cases, the Homeland/Outstation is not their principal place of residence and was recorded as such.

In some circumstances, there was no-one at the Homeland/Outstation when we visited, but people were clearly living there and we subsequently interviewed the main resident at another location, such as a nearby community or major centre. The residents may have been away from home for a variety of reasons such as attending work, going shopping, staying in hospital or travelling to a major centre to access services. In these cases, the Homeland/Outstation is still their principal place of residence and was recorded as occupied.

Most data relating to the estimated number of residents were collected on a house-by-house basis.

For each house, residents reported:

- the number of children (up to five years old), youth (6–17 years old) and adults (18+ years old) who would be sleeping at the house on the evening of the survey (Figure 19)
- the usual or minimum number of people to live in the house (Figure 20)
- the maximum number of people to live in the house (Figure 21). This is the residents' estimate of the highest number of people who may stay at any one time at the Homeland/Outstation. It is an indication of the potential peak load on the infrastructure. Permanent population was not sought.

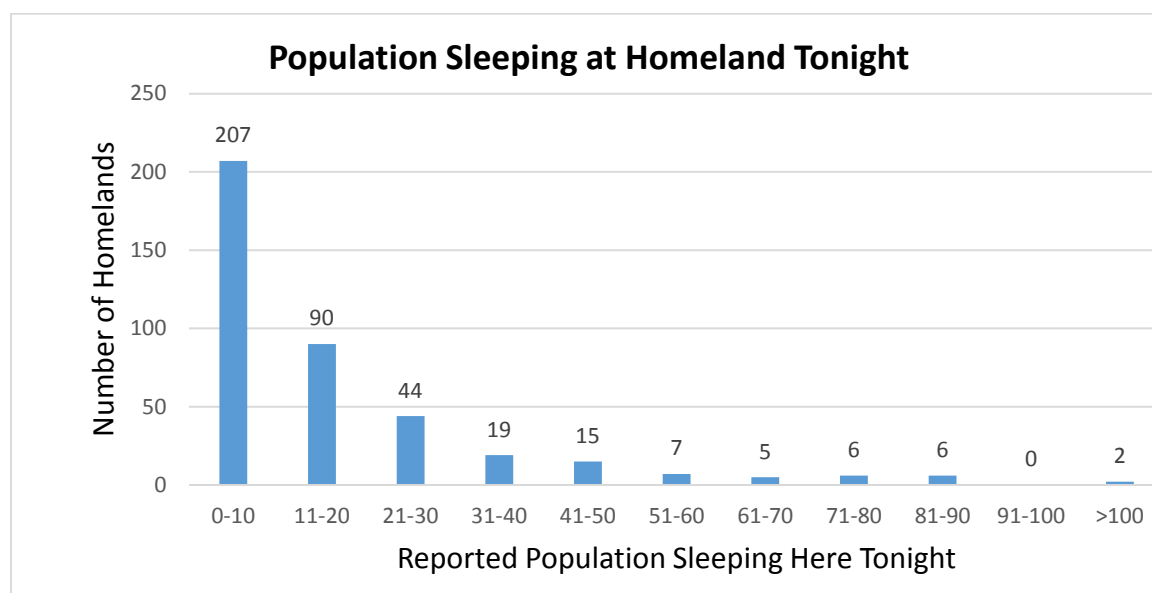


Figure 19: Number of people reported by residents to be sleeping at the Homeland/Outstation on the night of the survey

In 207 (52%) Homelands/Outstations, the population sleeping at the Homeland/Outstation on the night of the survey was less than 10. In a further 153 (38%) Homelands/Outstations, the population was recorded as less than 40 (Figure 19).

The reported minimum population of Homelands/Outstations (Figure 20) is consistent with the number of residents sleeping there on the night of the survey. This points to the reliability of the population data gathered in the survey.

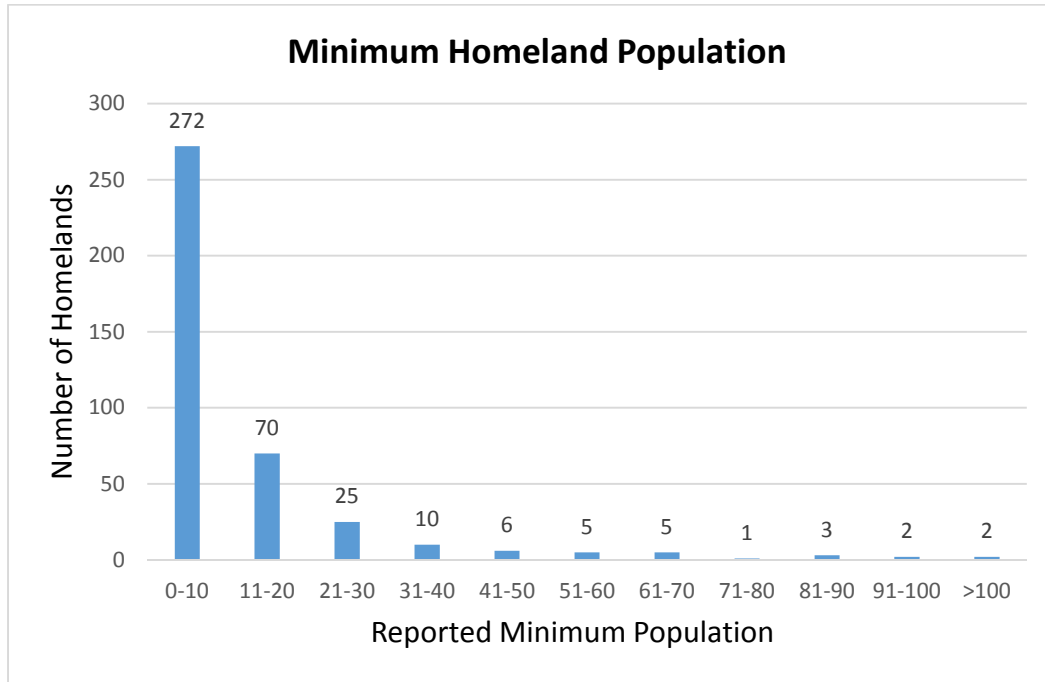


Figure 20: Minimum number of people reported to be resident at each Homeland/Outstation

There is a greater spread in the reported maximum population for Homelands/Outstations (Figure 20), with only 66 (16%) reporting a maximum population of 10 or less. A maximum population of 50 or less was reported in 322 (80%) Homelands/Outstations, reflecting the standard population demographics of Homelands/Outstations.

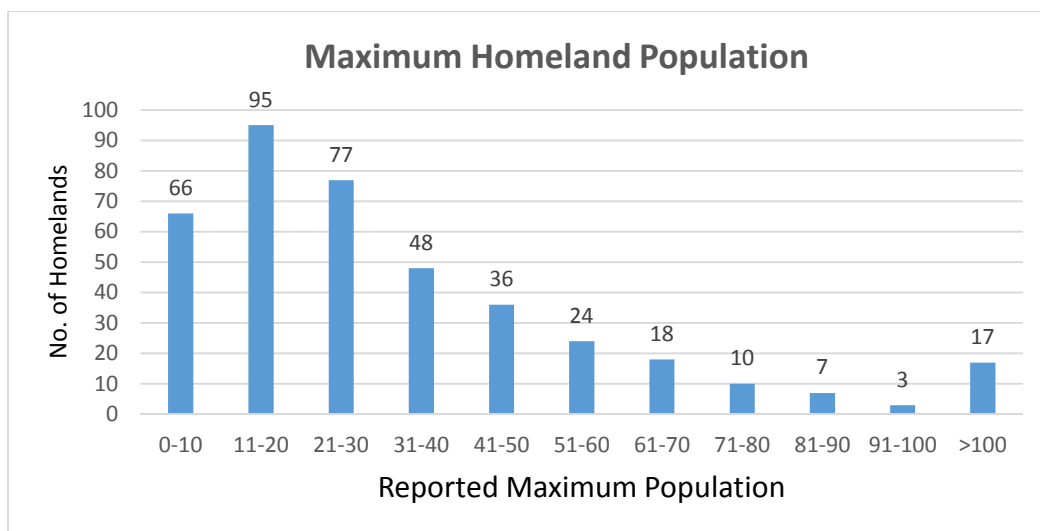


Figure 21: Maximum number of people reported to stay for periods of time at each Homeland/Outstation

The range in the minimum and maximum reported populations in relation to the number of houses (Figure 22) suggests that there is more mobility within and between the smaller Homelands/Outstations than there is in those Homelands/Outstations with more houses.

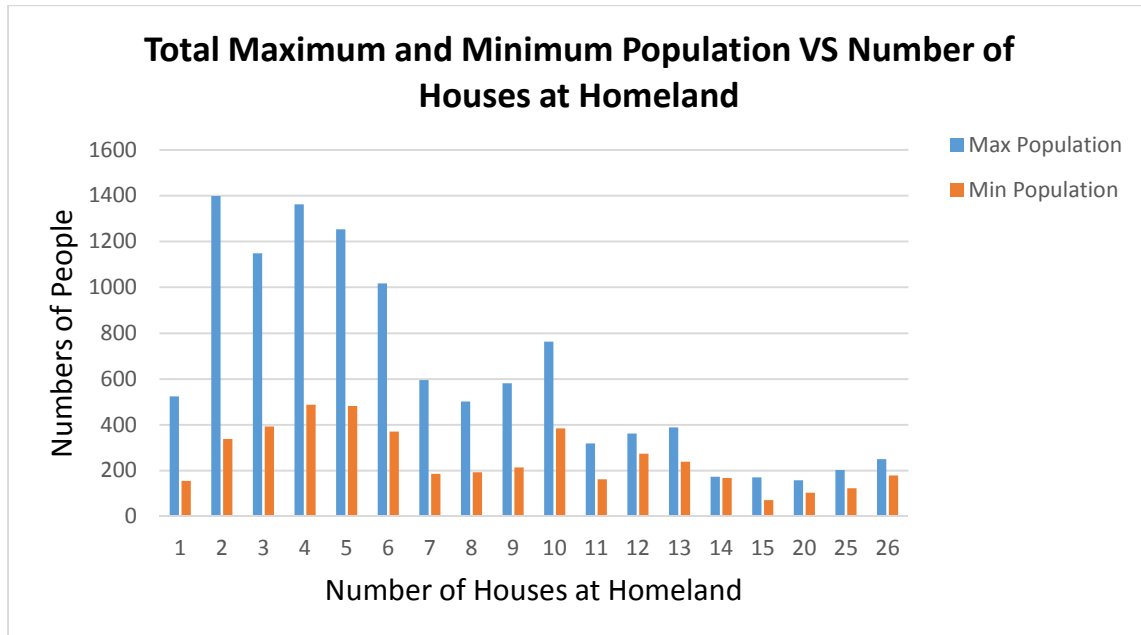


Figure 22: Range in minimum-maximum population in relation to the number of houses in each Homeland/Outstation

The overall maximum population of people reported by residents as staying in Homelands/Outstations in the Northern Territory is 11,174 (Figure 23).

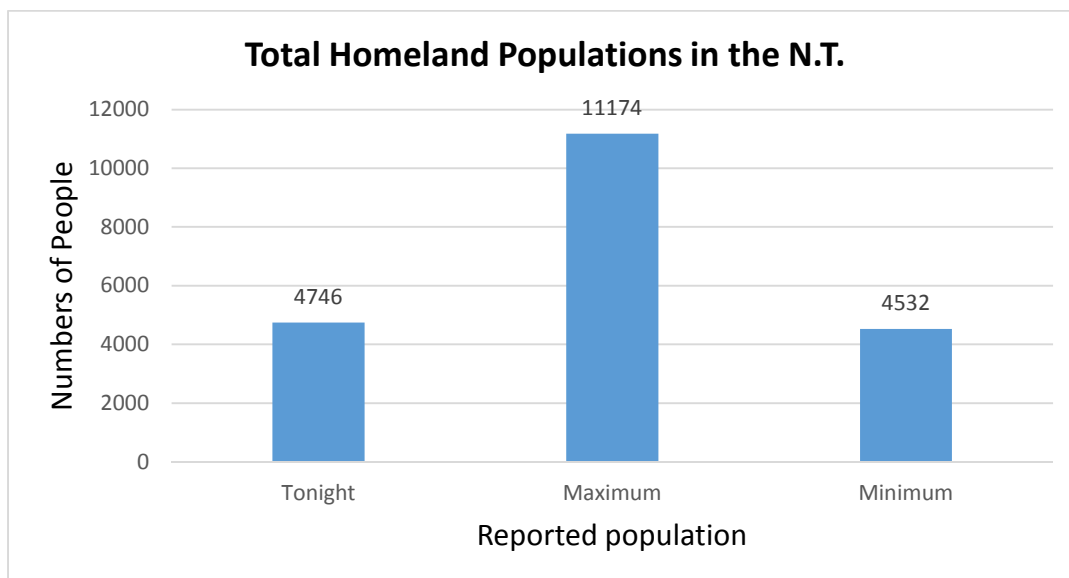


Figure 23: Total reported maximum, minimum and 'sleeping here tonight' populations for all Homelands/Outstations

This maximum population number was an estimate from Aboriginal people of the highest number of people who stay at their Homeland/Outstation for periods of time—it is not a population census. The purpose of gathering this information was to estimate the level of demand on infrastructure rather than to estimate the number of permanent residents. The overall variance in population may reflect demographic change due to population growth, over-reporting by residents, or an increasing use of Homelands/Outstations over time.

The difference between the reported minimum and maximum can in part be explained by students attending school outside their principal place of residence and residents traveling to access services. This is depicted in greater detail in Figure 24.

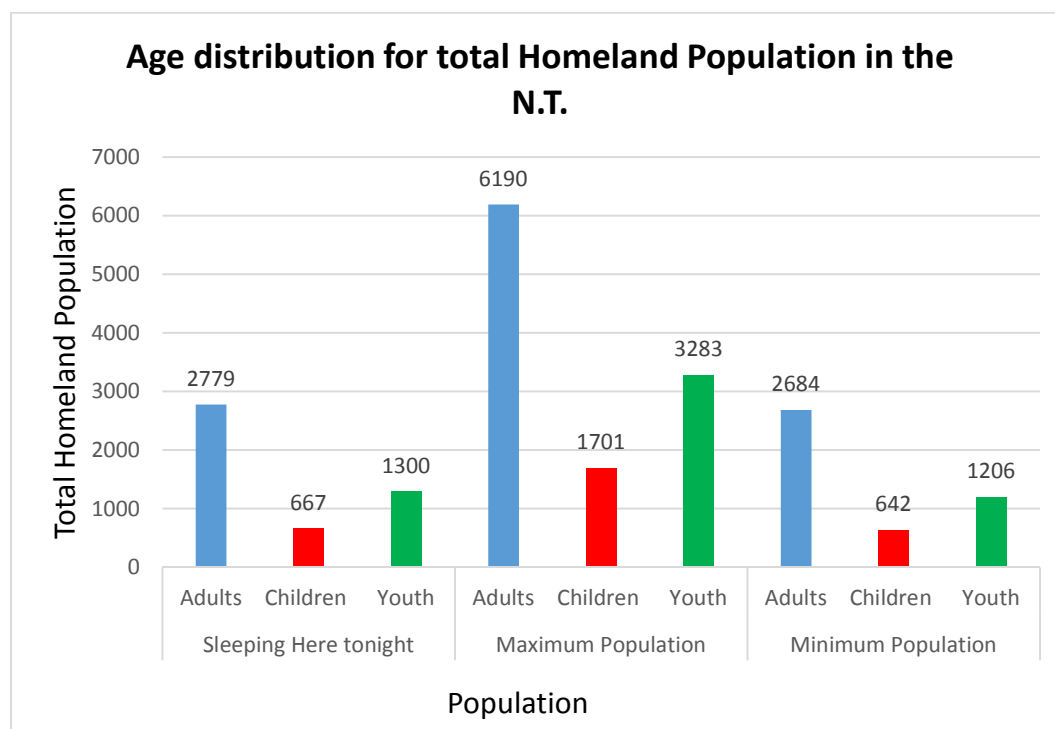


Figure 24: Age distribution for total reported maximum, minimum and 'sleeping here tonight' populations for all Homelands/Outstations

Occupancy of Homelands/Outstations

The surveys found that 282 (70%) Homelands/Outstations are considered by residents to be occupied more than 70% of the time. This '70% of the time' suggests that the Homeland/Outstation is occupied during the school term or, at least, more than weekends.

The occupancy rate was unknown for 15 (4%) Homelands/Outstations, mainly because residents were unavailable to answer the survey questions.

The remaining 104 (26%) Homelands/Outstations are considered unoccupied for more than 70% of the time. Of these, 37 are in the central Australia region and 67 are in the Top End region.

Contributing factors to their lack of occupancy include:

- residents finding work elsewhere
- residents moving away for a period of time for cultural reasons
- no available water supply (34 Homelands/Outstations)
- the sewerage system was considered unsafe (32 Homelands/Outstations)
- no suitable housing (74 Homelands/Outstations).

Despite the low occupancy, in 10 of the Homelands/Outstations that are occupied less than 70% of the time, residents are actively engaged in enterprise activities.

Survey results: Access to social services

Health services

A health service gives community residents access to preventative and emergency health services. Health services may include visiting clinics, hospitals, pharmacy service and flying doctor service. Services may be provided locally at the community or at a regional hub.

Residents from 370 (92%) Homelands/Outstations reported that they have access to health services (i.e. a staffed clinic) at their Homeland/Outstation or in a nearby centre.

All Homelands/Outstations have access to 24-hour health services; however, some people reported difficulty with getting access to the health services due to, for example, transport issues (wet season road access, no airstrip) or no phone access. Some people reported poor access based on a comparison to a previous level of service; for example, where outreach services with a mobile clinic (with a doctor and a nurse) were no longer operating, or the staffing and opening times in clinics had been reduced.

In 279 (70%) Homelands/Outstations, residents travel to the health service by car, and by ambulance in emergencies. In 76 (19%) Homelands/Outstations, the health service offers home visits or the clinic is based in the community. The frequency of the service varies and can be twice weekly, fortnightly or on call.

In 239 (60%) Homelands/Outstations, residents reported no difficulties in accessing health services. Access issues were reported by residents in 103 (26%) Homelands/Outstations, with the primary issue raised being transport problems such as vehicle availability, vehicle reliability and road conditions. Figure 25 shows the number and type of access issues that people experienced. In the central region, the reliability and availability of vehicles, including the cost to run and maintain vehicles, was the most common issue reported by people in 17 of the 31 Homelands/Outstations. In the Top End region, wet season flooding and poor road conditions were cited by 47 of the 72 Homelands/Outstations.

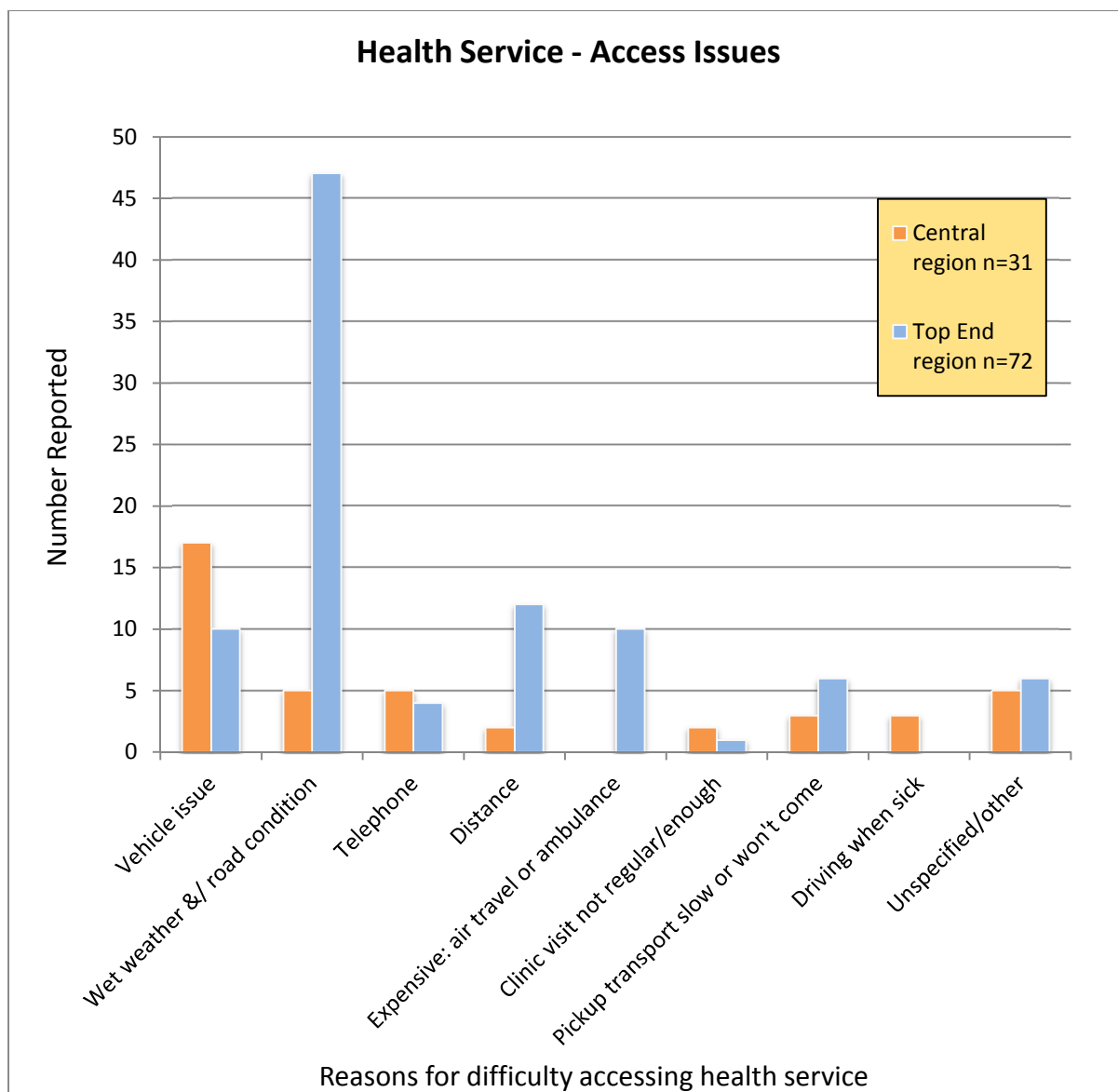


Figure 25: Reasons why residents had difficulty accessing health services (n = number of Homelands/Outstations in each region)

Some Homelands/Outstations stated more than one factor affecting access and this information has been incorporated in Figure 25. Five (1%) central Australia and four (1%) Top End Homelands/Outstations cited access to a reliable and working phone and/or phone credit as being a potential problem or concern when attempting to access a health service. In 143 (36%) Homelands/Outstations, residents reported that the health service provider assists in transporting residents to health facilities.

Education services

An education service gives school-age residents access to primary and secondary education at a home school, local school, regional school or state school. The number of Homelands/Outstations with children attending local or regional schools are summarised in Figure 26.

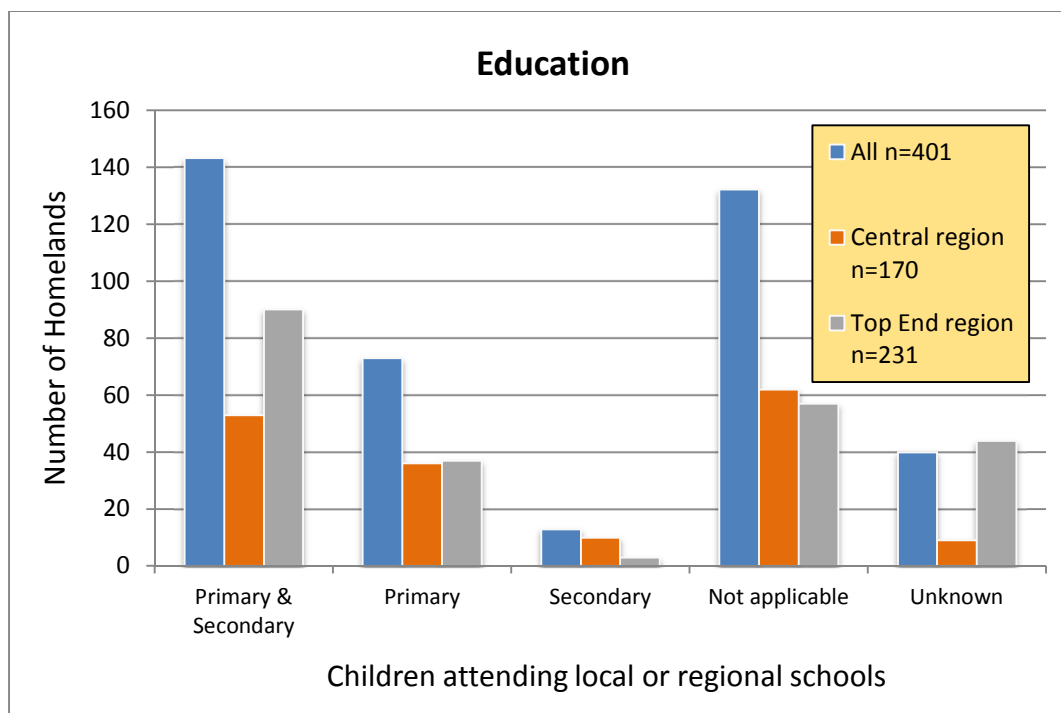


Figure 26: Number of Homelands/Outstations with children attending local or regional schools (n = number of Homelands/Outstations in each region)

The number of Homelands/Outstations that reported having children attending either primary or secondary school or both is 229 (57%). In 132 (33%) Homelands/Outstations, school attendance was not applicable as there were no school-age children living there. In the 40 (10%) Homelands/Outstations where school attendance was ‘unknown’, we did not interview the resident.

In 203 (51%) Homelands/Outstations, resident primary-school-age children attend a local primary school. In some Homelands/Outstations, children were living in surrounding communities so that they could attend primary school there, and in five Homelands/Outstations children were attending the School of the Air.

A total of 207 (52%) Homelands/Outstations have resident secondary-school-age children who attend school. Of these, 144 (36%) Homelands/Outstations have secondary-school-age children who attend school in the local area. In the remaining 63 (16%) Homelands/Outstations, the resident secondary-school-age children attend boarding school or secondary school in a regional centre during the week, where they stay with family or friends. The boarding schools or regional schools were reported to be in Darwin, Yirrkala, Maningrida, Alice Springs, Adelaide and Melbourne.

Forty-eight (12%) Homelands/Outstations reported transport issues with school attendance. The issues included unavailable or unreliable private vehicles; wet season accessibility; no access to a school bus (residents, in some instances, have to drive to the bus pick-up point); and, for secondary students who attend school in larger centres during the week, difficulty transporting them to and from the community.

In 69 (17%) Homelands/Outstations, local residents are employed at the school.

Employment and enterprise

Employment and employment services give working-age and able community residents access to paid employment in their community or in the wider region.

An enterprise gives people livelihoods that provide financial and/or social benefit to their community or to the wider regional community. Enterprises may be commercial (tourism, art, agriculture, land management, trades and resources), domestic (food production and parenting), or social (respite, education, health, research and cultural).

For this review, we define an enterprise as an activity that provides an income for one or more people at a base rate of 25 hours per week. The activity was included if it was currently in operation. Information about activities that were partially developed, or where people had plans to develop an enterprise, were not included. The activities we observed included selling art; tourism; horticulture; and raising cattle.

The information we gathered on employment relates to access to employment services—both access to the Community Development Programme service providers and to other forms of employment. Questions about employment activities (beyond an enterprise) or income were not part of the survey.

An existing enterprise was observed at 72 (18%) Homelands/Outstations. Figure 27 shows the number of Homelands/Outstations with one or two enterprises. Seven (2%) Homelands/Outstations had two enterprises operating.

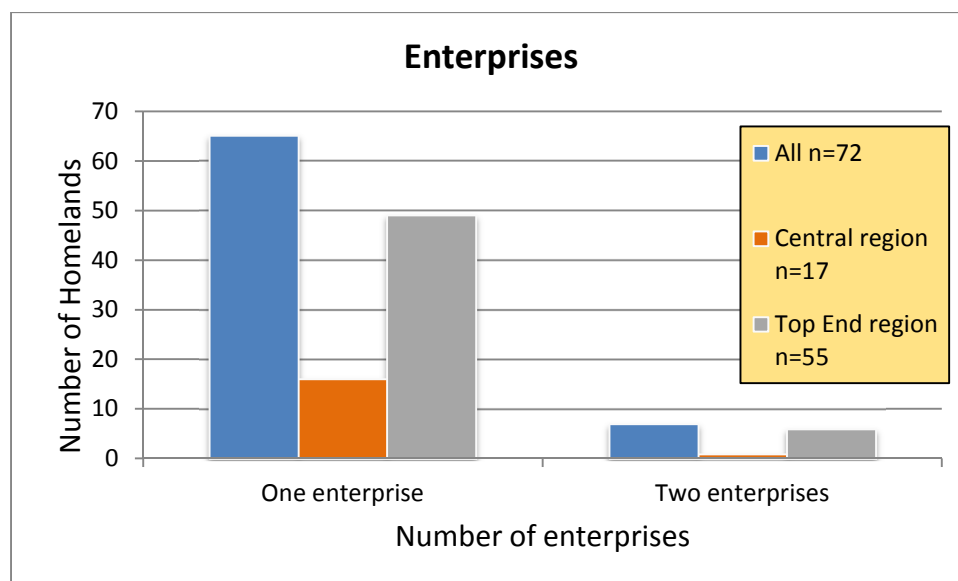


Figure 27: Number of Homelands/Outstations with operating enterprises (n = number of Homelands/Outstations in each region)

In 44 Homelands/Outstations, residents reported they are receiving assistance from outside organisations to help operate the enterprises. Fifty of these enterprises are providing at least one full-time job when operating.

In 214 (53%) Homelands/Outstations, residents are able to participate in enterprises and access employment opportunities. Work-for-the-dole activities or employment opportunities through the

Community Development Programme are available in only 121 (30%) of Homelands/Outstations, indicating that nearly half of the enterprise and employment opportunities are initiatives of residents and/or other organisations.

Table 3 summarises existing enterprises into broad categories. The number of residents employed in the individual enterprises ranged between one and 10, with most employing fewer than five residents. Developing a commercial enterprise can require the use of community resources; for example, 24 of the enterprises identified are using the community water supply, some of them for irrigation.

Table 3: Enterprise types

Type of enterprise	Number of Homelands/Outstations
Arts and Crafts	25
Horticultural produce and livestock rearing	21
Tours, camping, fishing and safari charters	15
Cultural tours	6
Civil contracting	2
Community store ownership	3
Rope manufacture (rawhide)	1
House rentals	1
Carbon abatement	1
Firearm storage and licensing	1

The concentration of enterprise activity in Homelands/Outstations in the Top End seems to align with the concentration of community buildings in the Top End. It may well be that the existence of buildings, and perhaps other basic infrastructure (water and power), provides a space for residents to come together and engage in productive activities such as art and craft, and provides some security for the storage of tools and equipment. Similarly, additional buildings such as ablution blocks allow residents to provide basic amenities and deliver paid services for tourists. The incubation of enterprise activities in remote areas is a strong focus of current government policy, and a greater understanding of the range and type of enabling infrastructure required to support enterprise development would be pertinent. As noted in the section on community buildings, the responsibility for providing maintenance services for community buildings needs attention, as does the degree of maintenance services provided. It may be timely to invest in developing agreements around service level fees and the scope of maintenance services for community buildings, to consolidate and grow existing enterprise activity.

Support networks

Support networks give Homeland/Outstation residents access to external assistance. They may include networks with local communities, regional hub communities, government agencies, resource agencies, land councils, professional services (financial and legal) and commercial services (for staple goods/services and discretionary goods/services).

We found that support networks for Homeland/Outstation residents were usually land councils and religious associations. Ranger programs also provide a lot of support. In 233 (58%) Homelands/Outstations, assistance is reported as being available from other organisations including land councils and ranger groups. In some regions, rangers undertook most of the land management duties—maintaining fire breaks, managing waste and controlling feral animals. It was clear that ranger groups and programs have helped residents live in their Homelands/Outstations.

Residents from 198 (49%) Homelands/Outstations report that they have relationships with external organisations from whom they can leverage assistance or support.

Cyclone-affected Homelands/Outstations

A total of 35 Homelands/Outstations (9%) were impacted by Cyclones Lam and Nathan which crossed East Arnhem Land in February and March 2015.

Access to 32 of the 35 Homelands/Outstations was severely affected by the cyclones, largely due to fallen trees blocking most access roads. In addition, many bores or water sources could not be accessed due to fallen trees and boggy conditions. Access to rubbish tips was also blocked and many tips had filled with water. A number of Homelands had pit toilets which are designed to be dragged to a new location when the pit fills and, therefore, are not anchored down. Many of these were blown over, exposing the pit.

Four Homelands/Outstations were reported as having major damage and 21 were reported as having minor damage. Major damage included extensive damage to, or complete destruction of, houses, as well as damage to the essential services connected to houses, including power and water. Breaks and leaks to community water lines due to fallen trees were observed as well as overhead power lines that were tangled or slung low. Houses that experienced minor damage, especially roof damage, may have developed leaks that will not be apparent until the next wet season.

There are 165 houses in the 35 cyclone-affected Homelands/Outstations and 63 of these were reported as having damage or structural issues.

In 25 Homelands/Outstations, the water supply was drawn from a bore. In eight Homelands/Outstations, the water supply was drawn from a river or surface water source. One community had no dependable water supply and one had a water supply piped from outside the community by the Power and Water Corporation.

Six Homelands/Outstations had an energy service delivered by diesel/petrol fixed generator, six had a hybrid (solar-diesel) system, four relied on solar PV, three had a power supply provided by Power and Water Corporation, and three had no energy service. In 16 Homelands/Outstations, the power distribution was underground.

Residents in the affected Homelands/Outstations were evacuated before the cyclones made landfall. Current population figures for these Homelands/Outstations were difficult to establish as not all residents had returned and in many cases were unable to return.

Comparative analysis and case studies

Homelands/Outstations are diverse in the condition of their infrastructure and their access to services. A comparative analysis provides an overall picture of the state of infrastructure and services across the 401 Homelands/Outstations surveyed.

Ranking and weighting the asset types

To find out the relative priorities for Aboriginal people living in Homelands/Outstations, we interviewed 20 senior Aboriginal people from a diverse array of Homelands/Outstations, both individually and in focus groups, from the Top End and central regions.

Water was considered by Aboriginal people as the most important requisite for living in a Homeland/Outstation, with road access second. Having people living in the Homeland/Outstation was the most important social asset and having things to do (e.g. enterprise) was the second social priority expressed.

Our survey to understand Aboriginal peoples' priorities for services and assets was not exhaustive but the results are an indication of the key considerations for living on Homelands/Outstations. Preferences for housing and telecommunications varied from person to person, so it is important when working with a Homeland/Outstation to consider their specific priorities.

For this comparative analysis, we ranked the importance of each type of physical asset and social asset based on the results of our interviews with Aboriginal Homeland/Outstation residents, and informed by CAT's 35 years of experience in understanding the drivers and needs of technology choice and infrastructure maintenance in small communities. According to these rankings, we then generated a weighting value. See Table 4 for details.

Table 4: Ranking and weighting applied for physical assets and social assets

Physical assets	Ranking	Weighting applied
Water	1	35.35
Access & Transport	2	17.67
Housing	3	11.78
Energy	4	8.84
Sewerage	5	7.07
Telecommunications	6	5.89
Waste Management	7	5.05
Community Buildings	8	4.42
Environmental Management	9	3.93
Sum		100

Social assets	Ranking	Weighting applied
Community Population	1	43.80
Enterprise & Employment	2	21.90
Health	3	14.60
Education	4	10.95
Support Networks	5	8.76
Sum		100

Applying the ranking to each Homeland/Outstation

We applied the weightings (Table 4) to each physical and social asset for each of the 401 Homeland/Outstation surveyed, and calculated a total value for physical assets and a total value for social assets for each Homeland/Outstation.

We then plotted these values on the four quadrants of a scatter plot (Figure 28).

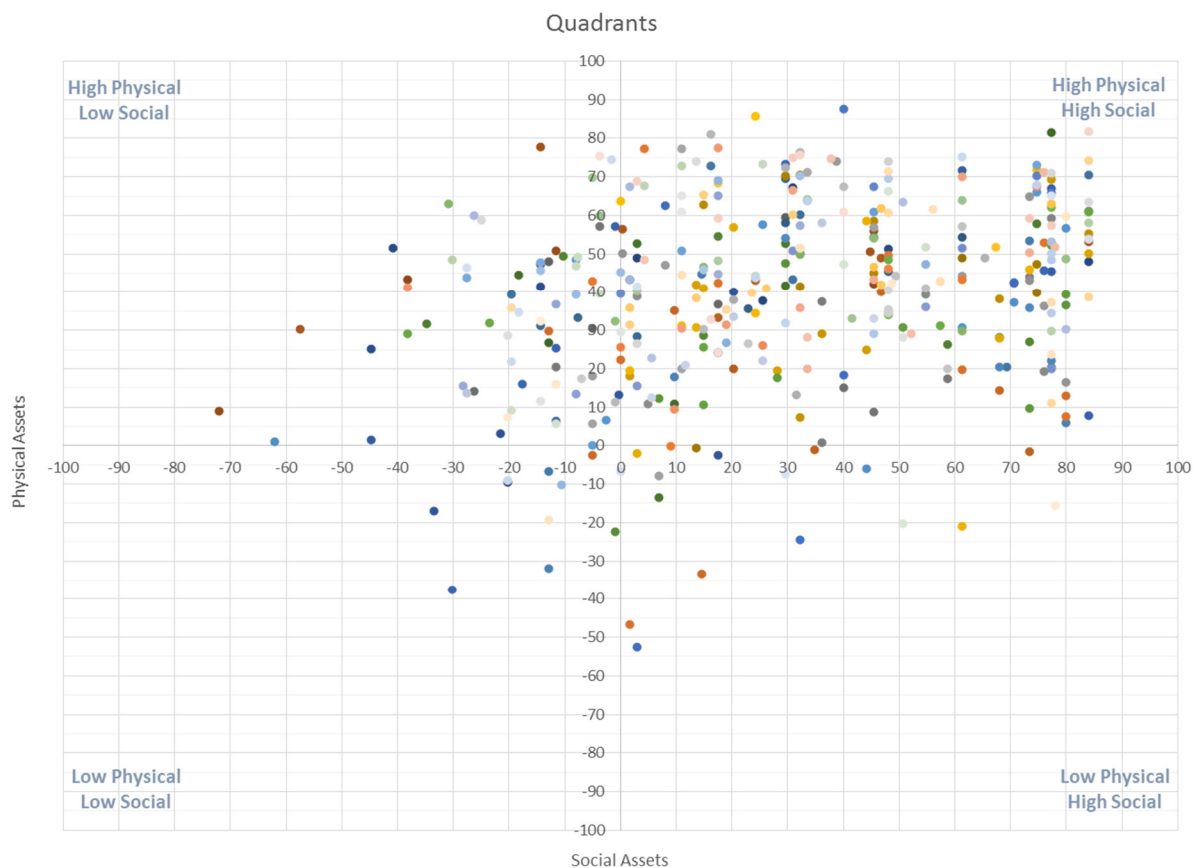


Figure 28: Scatterplot showing all Homelands/Outstations ranked according to the condition of their physical and social assets

Comparing the results

Quadrant 1 – High functional physical assets/High functional social assets

There are 295 (74%) Homelands/Outstations in this top right quadrant.

This represents Homelands/Outstations that have achieved high scores for both physical assets and social assets. Homelands/Outstations in this quadrant have assets that are in relatively good condition, and are maintained and accessible.

Quadrant 2 – High functional physical assets/Low functional social assets

There are 72 (18%) Homelands/Outstations in this top left quadrant.

Homelands/Outstations in this quadrant are well served by physical (infrastructure) assets but not as well connected and serviced for social services. They may have received a high level of investment and services and the infrastructure remains in good condition; however, people may have poor access to social services or are not living at the Homeland/Outstation for various reasons. Future investment for this situation could focus on low technology options whereby the residents may be able to manage the maintenance of services themselves, rather than investing in infrastructure that requires more specialised services or external support. These may also be sites where infrastructure is required for activities such as ceremonies and meetings which are held on an intermittent basis.

Quadrant 3 – Low functional physical assets/Low functional social assets

There are 10 (2.5%) Homelands/Outstations located in this bottom left quadrant.

Homelands/Outstations in this quadrant are poorly served by physical (infrastructure) assets and are poorly connected and serviced for social services. The condition of the physical infrastructure may be limiting the potential for residents to fully utilise the site. For example, the water supply may not be working, the roads may not be maintained and the people are not living there very much, possibly because the water supply is inadequate or because they need to travel to access health services.

Quadrant 4 – Low functional physical assets/High functional social assets

There are 17 (4%) Homelands/Outstations located in this bottom right quadrant.

Homelands/Outstations in this quadrant may be poorly served by physical (infrastructure) assets but are well serviced by social services. People may be living on the Homeland/Outstation and engaged in activities but the water supply may be inadequate for their needs and roads not maintained. Investment in these Homelands/Outstations could further develop the communities by capitalising on the existing skills and capabilities of residents.

All quadrants - Neutral

Seven (1.5%) Homelands/Outstations are rated as neutral for physical assets and social assets and sit on the central axis of all quadrants.

Further analysis

The relationship between physical and social assets, as shown in Figure 28, provides a clear picture of the broad status of Aboriginal Homelands/Outstations in the Northern Territory. It is noteworthy that most communities sit within the high physical and high social asset quadrant. Also, it is easy to see those Homelands/Outstations that have low assets status and, thus, require further analysis (using our review database) of the underlying reasons.

This analysis provides a point in time assessment. However, this model and approach could be used to assess the impact of future investment in infrastructure or services in Homelands/Outstations. Further refinement of this assessment tool (developed specifically for this review) may be warranted.

Case Studies

The case studies below describe a Homeland/Outstation in the 'top' quadrant (High Physical and Social Assets) and a Homeland/Outstation in the 'bottom' quadrant (Low Physical and Social Assets), as depicted in Figure 28.

Case Study 1: A community with 'high' physical and social assets

This case study describes the physical and social assets in a Homeland/Outstation that has been rated as having the highest condition of assets and the best access to social assets. The observations we can make include the following:

- Residents are employed by the local resource agency to help manage the water supply and energy service.
- The local resource agency provides employment and facilitates the effective management of assets.
- The cost of transport to the nearest community or town is borne by the residents but affordability issues (fuel, vehicle maintenance) are likely to be mitigated by the residents having employment.
- Education services are available both locally and regionally.
- Health services are available locally.
- A range of activities are available to residents including paid employment, hunting, gathering and caring for country, artwork and further enterprises are under development.

This case study highlights the importance of local institutional infrastructure for mediating asset maintenance and management activities; shaping the roles of residents in contributing to these activities; and providing the legal requirements necessary to receive external funds and plan for future development.

Community A – High physical and social assets

Community A is a funded Homeland/Outstation located in the northern region of the NT. The community is permanently occupied with a minimum population of 25 adults, 10 youth and five children. Residents are engaged in a variety of employment, including running their own resource agency which is based in the community. The agency is responsible for managing the community's assets and providing municipal services.

Physical assets

Water supply – The bore is powered by the community electrical supply. The bore supplies enough water for community needs and the water quality is safe. Community members are employed through the local resource agency to help manage the supply, and residents know how to operate the system.

Sewerage – All houses are connected to reticulated sewerage.

Energy supply – A fixed generator provides power 24 hours a day. The community has two ‘gensets’ which are alternated every two weeks to allow for servicing. Residents pay for their power use with power cards. Residents are employed by the local resource agency to help manage the energy supply.

Waste management – Waste is managed by the local resource agency. Each house has a wheelie bin and the community has a tip. Waste collection and disposal systems are safe.

Telecommunications – A community phone with reliable service is available. Phone cards can be purchased from the local resource agency office. Internet service is satellite broadband and there is TV broadcast service. There is no mobile phone coverage.

Access and transport – Residents use their own vehicles to travel to and from the community. The nearest major centre is 300 km / 230 mins away and the nearest satellite community is about 170km away. Road access is impeded for 3–4 months of the year during the wet season by a number of river crossings. During these times, residents use aircraft to travel to and from the Homeland. The airstrip is maintained in good condition and can be used year-round.

Housing – Each of the 12 houses is connected to power, water and sewerage. The houses are intact and maintained.

Community buildings – There are six community buildings: a clinic, a school, visitor/worker accommodation, an office/CEO house, a workshop, a Community Development Programme workshop and a women’s centre. Community buildings are maintained and connected to appropriate services.

Environmental management – The community environment is well maintained and waste collection and disposal is safely managed.

Social assets

Population and occupancy – Community A is permanently occupied with a minimum population of 25 adults, 10 youth and five children.

Education – The community has a primary school which local children attend. Older children attend a secondary school in the satellite community. All children have access to school. Primary students walk to school. Secondary students get a lift in to town (for the week’s schooling). Some residents work at the primary school.

Health – The community clinic is staffed once a fortnight. If required, the health service will pick people up and take them to a larger community clinic. Residents have access to health services, including emergency assistance.

Employment and enterprise – Residents run their own resource agency which employs nine residents for, on average, 15 hours per week year round. The resource agency has been operating for 20 years. Fifteen other residents also contribute to the business. A manager is employed—funded through the NT Government and the Aboriginals Benefit Account—and they live in the community. The resource agency’s business activities include maintaining houses, managing municipal services (power, water, sewerage), undertaking civil construction works, delivering contracts for regional council, providing Centrelink services, providing internet access for the community and delivering other government-funded infrastructure projects.

Other employment and livelihood activities include work with the Community Development Programme, teaching children through the School of the Air, looking after country, hunting and fishing, art work, a community beautification project, and various building projects.

Two partially developed enterprises include a land council ranger program and a tour guide operation.

Support networks – Residents can seek assistance and advice from rangers, the land council, the regional council, the Community Development Programme and the School of Air.

Case Study 2: A community with 'low' physical and social assets

This case study describes the physical and social assets in a Homeland/Outstation rated as having physical assets in the poorest condition and having the least access to social assets. The most obvious distinction is that Community B is 'unfunded' (for municipal and essential services) whereas Community A is funded. The observations we can make include the following:

- There is discrepancy between the nature and levels of permanent occupation resident's and the resource agency report;
- The water supply failed due to damage and lack of repairs and there is no energy service.
- The condition of the roads and the cost of transport prevent people from accessing services and residents have no employment opportunities locally.
- The distance to the nearest major centre and satellite community is less than it is for Community A.
- The range of support networks that residents can access is similar to that reported for Community A.
- Hunting, fishing and caring for country are the main activities.

Community B – Low physical and social assets

Community B is an unfunded family Homeland/Outstation situated in central Arnhem Land. According to residents, Community B is occupied 80% of the time with a minimum population of six adults (although the regional resource agency states it is mostly unoccupied). At the time of the survey, 12 adults and seven youths were present. Physical assets are generally in poor condition, or inoperable. Residents experience difficulty accessing services and travelling to and from the community due to the isolated location, the lack of reliable vehicles, and the limited access and poor road conditions during the wet season.

Physical assets

Water supply – The solar bore was damaged in a bush fire and has not been repaired. The one elevated water tank is rusty and holed. Residents get water from a crocodile-infested river and cart it up a steep embankment. The water quality is poor, especially during the wet season.

Sewerage – The system consists of pit toilets with no reported or observed safety issues.

Energy supply – There is no community energy service. Residents use a small portable generator and supply the fuel. They also use firewood for fuel.

Waste management – There is no community tip so residents collect waste and pile it for collection by the people undertaking Community Development Programme activities.

Telecommunications – There is a fixed community satellite phone but the service is unreliable. Calls can be made but not received. It takes about four weeks to repair the phone. There is no mobile coverage, internet access, or TV broadcast reception. The nearest place to buy phone cards is 75 km away.

Access and transport – The nearest major centre is 262 km / 220 mins away and the nearest satellite community is 75 km / 90 mins away. Access to and from Community B is not possible during the wet season as roads are boggy and rivers become impassable. Residents use their own vehicles to travel to and from the Homeland/Outstation.

Housing – There are two houses, both with visible damage and/or structural issues. There is a clear lack of maintenance, and there are safety issues (e.g. damage to electrical wiring and fittings). The houses are not connected to power or water services.

Community buildings – There is one community building, a clinic, which has extensive white-ant damage and other damage.

Social assets

Population and occupancy – According to residents, the Homeland/Outstation is occupied 80% of the time with a minimum population of six adults. At the time of the survey, 12 adults and seven youths were present.

Education – Children from the community attend primary and high school at the satellite community. Residents sometimes experience difficulty getting children to school due to vehicle reliability and road conditions in the wet season. Children generally stay in the satellite community for school during the week and may come back on the weekends.

Health – The nearest health service is in the satellite community. Depending on the time of year and the availability of reliable vehicles, residents can have difficulty accessing the health service, including emergency assistance.

Employment and enterprise – Residents hunt, fish, and look after their country. There are currently no established enterprises or Community Development Programme opportunities at Community B.

Support networks – Residents list the land council, rangers, and local resource agency as organisations from which they can seek assistance and advice if required.

Key findings

1. Governments and agencies now have reliable data to support investment decisions

This report provides an overview of key findings and observations aggregated at individual Homeland/Outstation level based on the detailed review database. The data we gathered as part of this review is the most comprehensive set of information about infrastructure, social services and Aboriginal peoples' perspectives that has ever been collected for Homelands/Outstations in the Northern Territory.

The power of this review lies in the highly detailed information on physical assets (e.g. bores, houses, power systems), each identified with details of physical location and comprehensive details of condition. Through interrogation and analysis of the database, governments and agencies will be able to identify the individual assets requiring attention. Most of the physical infrastructure is in good condition and services are adequate

Most of the assets (housing, water supply infrastructure, energy, sewerage, waste management) in Homelands/Outstations were in relatively good condition and the services provided were adequate and fit for purpose.

We have identified those assets that require attention to their physical condition, repair and suitability as well as those Homelands/Outstations where assets and attendant services are absent.

2. Significant investment in physical infrastructure is evident

The significant investment in physical infrastructure by governments and others over the previous 30 years is evidenced by the fact that most Homelands/Outstations have been assessed as having relatively high access to functional physical assets.

3. Health is the most available and accessible of all services

The rate of availability of health services across all Homelands/Outstations is high. In locations where accessing health services was difficult for residents, it was largely due to seasonal weather conditions or difficulty managing personal vehicles and associated costs. Australian models of health service delivery to Aboriginal people have been recognised for their innovation and effectiveness including the incorporation of Aboriginal health workers and healers in service delivery. Residents of Homelands/Outstations across the NT also benefit from these services.

4. Most Homelands/Outstations have no mobile phone coverage and no internet access

Digital connectivity is clearly one area where most Homelands/Outstations do not have access to infrastructure and/or service. Given the significant cost of infrastructure required to deliver standard mobile services to remote communities, there may be value in investigating alternative technologies that could provide some level of access to the existing mobile communications networks.

5. Nearly 40% of Homelands/Outstations have no energy supply or rely on small diesel/petrol generators

Fourteen percent of Homelands/Outstations had no energy supply and an additional quarter were reliant on small diesel or petrol generators for their energy service, which subjects them to ongoing

cost pressures resulting from fuel price increases. This raises the potential to re-visit the provision of hybrid (diesel, battery, PV) systems for isolated communities.

The suitability of hybrid systems as an energy supply in remote areas is well documented. While the capital costs of hybrid systems are higher, lifecycle costs (assuming systems are maintained correctly) are lower, potentially reducing the cost burden to residents and governments, as well as reducing CO₂ emissions. Technologies are advancing rapidly in this field, with a new generation of batteries and PV cells entering the market, and costs are decreasing.

Further and ongoing investment in reliable and affordable energy supplies to improve food and medicine storage and support study and work activities is needed. Access to 24-hour power can also stimulate enterprise activities such as tourism.

The key question to be answered is: what is the appropriate mix of technology, maintenance regimes and resident involvement in the operation and management of systems required to address the environmental and service delivery challenges that remote communities face?

6. Many residents are making a significant contribution to operations and maintenance of housing, water supply and rubbish collection

A notable finding of the review was the significant number of Homelands/Outstations contributing to the costs of infrastructure upkeep and maintenance. More than 60% of Homeland/Outstation residents assist with house maintenance. More than 50% of residents operate their water system and a similar percentage actively help with routine maintenance. Twenty-five Homelands/Outstations reported making financial contributions to the costs of water supply. In addition, in almost 60% of Homelands/Outstations, it is the residents who collect and transport the domestic rubbish. In many cases, residents are undertaking these tasks in addition to the service provided by the resource agencies. It is apparent that residents are proactive in their responsibilities and clear about the physical improvements that would help them maintain clean and healthy living environments.

These findings indicate a significant degree of self-reliance among residents, and the additional input and services they provide potentially relieves the pressure on resource agencies and reduces government costs. An assessment of the value of residents' contribution (cost of externally providing the services undertaken by residents) would quantify this.

7. 25% of Homelands/Outstations have a community water management plan and are actively implementing it

A quarter of the Homelands/Outstations surveyed have water management plans equivalent to a Community Water Plan that meets the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (2011). Having residents actively involved in managing a water supply is ideal because it can reduce the costs to service providers and improve the reliability of the supply. In line with best practice principles of water supply management, step-wise improvements to the supply can be made if service providers actively engage with and involve residents in water supply management. Building the capacity of residents to undertake such tasks also resonates with policies designed to improve employment related skills.

8. Most residents pay their own electricity costs

Nearly two thirds of Homelands/Outstations residents pay their own electricity costs. Given almost half of the energy systems are diesel/petrol fixed generators or hybrid systems, it is likely that a

significant proportion of these costs are for fuel purchases. Given the high cost of fuel, it is likely that residents have to make trade-offs between using fuel for electricity and using fuel for transport.

9. Almost all residents pay for their own transport costs

Residents in nearly all Homelands/Outstations were responsible for covering their own transport costs including those incurred in getting children to/from school and people to/from work.

10. Ageing infrastructure, poor technology choice and poor maintenance affect service levels and the condition of assets

Funded Homelands/Outstations generally had better infrastructure maintenance and better access to services than those that were unfunded. However, nearly a third of the funded Homelands/Outstations received inadequate housing maintenance, had longstanding water supply maintenance issues, and experienced safety and maintenance issues with their sewerage systems. This highlights some inconsistencies in the level of municipal and essential services delivered by different resource agencies. It also reveals some of the pressure points in service delivery, which include the age of some of the infrastructure and a history of poor technology choices or poor maintenance over time.

11. People want to return to some Homelands/Outstations that are no longer funded

Unfunded Homelands/Outstations are characterised as those where residency has been considered non-permanent for long enough that funding has been withdrawn. The unfunded Homelands/Outstations that we included in the survey are either unused—and in some cases the access road was so overgrown or in need of maintenance that the Homeland/Outstation was inaccessible—or are used intermittently. Residents and family groups from a number of unused Homelands/Outstations indicated that there was a desire to move back.

In these cases, the provision of infrastructure and services needs to be well considered. For example, which assets should be prioritised? What infrastructure is currently available and what is the threshold for healthy living? What are the strategic investments for optimal use of the Homeland/Outstation? What technologies and service models could enable access, ensure asset sustainability and reduce cost pressures?

12. Some Homelands/Outstations have been funded by community development programs through non-government organisations such as land councils

Stranded infrastructure is an issue that was raised during our community consultations. While a Homeland/Outstation may be considered abandoned, it is likely that the cyclic nature of occupation, and the lifecycle dynamics affecting residency, are at play. In many cases, it was demonstrated that a Homeland/Outstation was de-funded and considered abandoned, only to be re-populated once the personal circumstances of the residents changed. Support for the re-emergence of these Homelands/Outstations was mainly funded through land council community development programs or through ranger programs where the Homeland/Outstation became a base for ranger groups.

13. More localised service delivery arrangements are needed to complement and enhance the current regional arrangements

Service arrangements that support more localised activities as well as providing a centralised service would improve asset management and maintenance.

In most locations, the resource agency responsible for maintaining assets and delivering some services is located some distance from the Homeland/Outstation. Where assets mainly require structured or periodical servicing (as opposed to emergency repairs), the distance may not affect the service delivery as long as the road is accessible. For services such as waste collection that require weekly or more frequent attention, distance matters. While resource agencies are funded to collect waste, in many Homelands/Outstations residents are doing it themselves. Similarly, if residents were supported to manage their water supplies on a daily or weekly basis, the safety and reliability of the supply would improve. An opportunity exists to examine who is best placed to be responsible for delivering services, based on the frequency needed and the local skills available. This would allow some funds to be reallocated to support local employment and to deploy equipment within a regional model.

14. Communication between residents and agencies could be improved through strategies broader than web-based reporting

The survey was designed to gather Aboriginal peoples' knowledge and experience of the services delivered to their Homeland/Outstation. In the areas of water management planning and housing maintenance, Aboriginal people's understanding and expectations are in conflict with the services being provided by the resource agencies. To address this, communication between resource agencies, the relevant government departments and Homelands/Outstations residents could be improved. Nuanced and deliberate community engagement strategies are required. Current Homelands policy in the Northern Territory is premised on shared responsibility, transparency and accountability, although the latter two are enacted largely through web-based reporting that residents are generally unable to access. Residents are proactively contributing to the management and maintenance of assets and most of them participated willingly and in good faith in our surveys. Most residents would like to better understand what funding is allocated for municipal and essential services, how their service fees contribute, and how this money is spent.

15. Enterprise activities exist and could be further stimulated with targeted support and enabling infrastructure

Economic activity in the form of micro and family-based enterprise is apparent, particularly across Homelands/Outstations in the Top End. There also appears to be an association between the existence of community buildings (most of which are in the Top End) on Homelands/Outstations and enterprise activities, which suggests that residents need space and facilities from which to conduct business, whether tourism or art and craft. Enterprise activities either pre-date or are distinct from activities associated with the Community Development Programme, and attention to the enabling conditions and investments required to stimulate additional enterprise activities would be fruitful. In many cases, the type of enterprise activity resonates with residents' cultural knowledge and responsibilities, and is driven by a desire to share the culture and knowledge nurtured and sustained on Homelands/Outstations.

16. People need to travel for many reasons, but most Homelands/Outstations are occupied most of the time

Living in remote and very remote areas demands a degree of self-reliance and is predicated on accepting some trade-offs in the range of services and support available and accessible. However, one of the main reasons that residents travel away from home is because they need to access services. It would appear from the data that residents of Homelands/Outstations with fewer houses travel away more often than residents of Homelands/Outstations with larger numbers of houses.

However, most Homelands/Outstations are occupied for most of the year. This aligns with common understandings that some Homelands/Outstations are inaccessible during the wet season and all residents need to travel to access services, take children to school, visit family, go to work, and attend funerals and ceremonies. Residents from more than half of all Homelands/Outstations reported being able to access support networks locally, reducing their need to travel.

17. In Homelands/Outstations where occupancy fluctuates, an investment model that emphasises infrastructure sustainability would be appropriate

The review was structured to inform the sustainability of infrastructure as a guiding principle for future investments in Homelands/Outstations. Sustainability refers to the reliability, affordability and functionality of particular asset types over time. The factors that affect sustainability include the choice of technology, people's capacity to manage and maintain the infrastructure, the locale and environmental conditions, the structure of the service system and attendant costs, and the use of the Homeland/Outstation.

Survey results show that the use and occupancy of Homelands/Outstations reflects lifecycle transitions and can change over time. However, where for example Homelands/Outstations are unoccupied and residents wish to return (whether intermittently or permanently), initial investments in low cost or appropriate technologies to secure water, shelter, power and access would be appropriate.

Similarly, if a Homeland/Outstation is used only intermittently but provides a base for economic activity (e.g. a tourism enterprise or ranger base), investments designed to support and sustain that activity may be more immediately appropriate than investments designed to support permanent occupation.

Conclusion

The data we gathered as part of this review is the most comprehensive set of information about infrastructure, social services and Aboriginal peoples' perspectives that has ever been collected for Homelands/Outstations in the Northern Territory. The distinctive feature of the survey and resultant data is that it combines information about physical and social assets with information gleaned through engaging and consulting with residents. The review was ambitious in both its geographic breadth and its short timeline. As well as involving Aboriginal people, we also tried to engage service agencies in collecting the data, within the demanding time limit.

Some of the information we gathered is rarely sought from people in remote locations. For example, seeking residents' feedback about water quality is generally a privilege accorded only to urban residents, whose opinion, as consumers, is part of the regulatory framework for mainstream water services.

It is clear from the survey data that many Aboriginal people are actively maintaining and managing their Homelands/Outstations. However, in many places support and organisational structures are insufficient for residents to improve the sustainability of Homelands/Outstations. There are also valid limits to such participation because not all residents in remote Homelands/Outstations are physically able, have the time, or are skilled enough to contribute in significant ways to the upkeep and sustainability of their Homeland/Outstation.

A range of agencies and service providers in the sector are providing financial and educational support for Aboriginal people to live sustainably on their country: land councils, religious institutions, volunteers and philanthropists. We suspect that much of this support was under-reported by residents in the survey.

The causally-linked factors that characterise Homeland/Outstation access to services and occupancy require further investigation. Evidence suggests that the greater the distance from a major service centre, the harder and more expensive it is to provide services. However, the data from this review provides examples where Homelands/Outstations have great capacity to be self-sustaining even in very remote regions. Understanding the factors that contribute to such self-sufficiency would lend clarity to the existing patterns and drivers of Homeland/Outstation occupancy and inform the improvement of service delivery models and access.

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HOMELANDS & OUTSTATIONS ASSETS AND ACCESS REVIEW

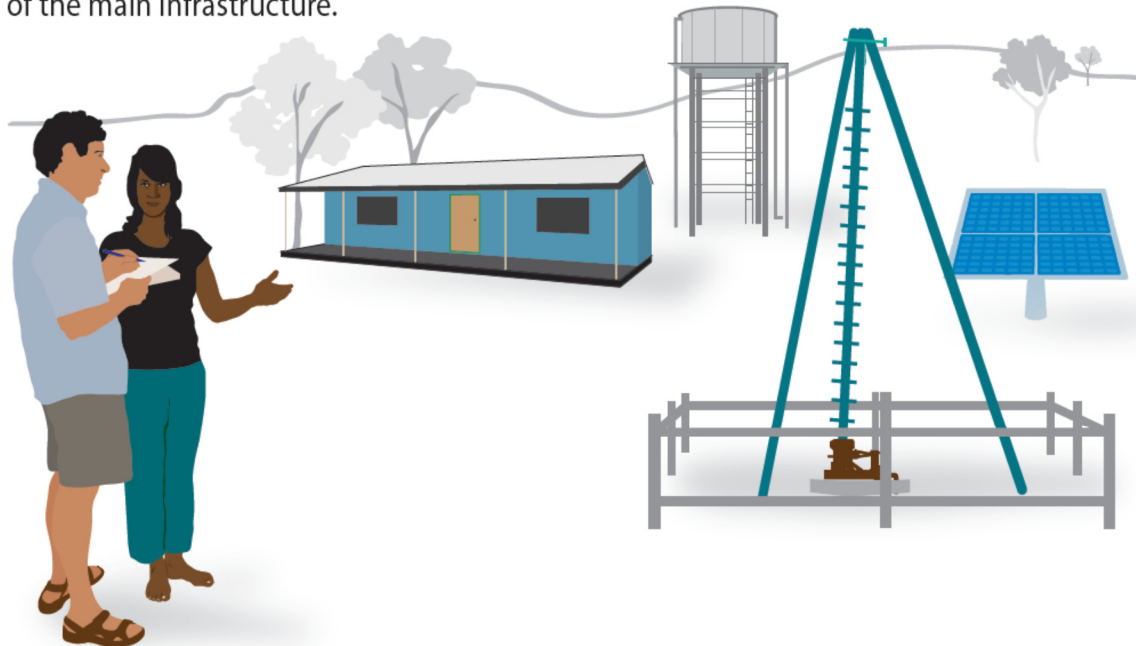
STEP 1

CAT will explain the project to the homeland/outstation contact person and ask for permission to proceed. Once the OK is given, CAT will ask questions about the infrastructure and services on the homeland/outstation.



STEP 2

CAT will record information about the infrastructure and take some photos of the main infrastructure.



STEP 3

CAT will inform the NT Government of any urgent problems that could harm people. CAT will write a report which will be given to the NT & Australian Governments. The report will be available for everyone to see.



Appendix 2: List of Homelands/Outstations surveyed

NT

Government

ID	Community name	Funding status	Date visit completed
1	Adelaide Bore	Funded	18/08/2015
2	Alyuen	Funded	8/08/2015
5	Red Sandhill	Funded	13/02/2015
12	Angula	Funded	19/08/2015
13	Angas Downs	Funded	16/03/2015
15	Indaringinya	Funded	2/06/2015
21	Arrkapa	Funded	17/02/2015
22	Artekerr	Funded	29/05/2015
23	Atnwengerrpe	Funded	19/05/2015
24	Utily	Funded	9/04/2015
25	Blackwater	Funded	15/04/2015
26	Orrtipa-Thurra	Funded	9/07/2015
27	Atneltyey	Funded	2/06/2015
30	Town Bore	Funded	15/04/2015
34	Eight Mile	Funded	12/02/2015
44	Green Valley	Funded	10/04/2015
46	Dons Bore	Funded	7/05/2015
49	Ilpili	Unfunded	8/04/2015
56	Intjartnama	Funded	12/02/2015
57	Five Mile	Funded	17/02/2015
60	Ipolera	Unfunded	7/07/2015
63	Irrultja	Funded	7/07/2015
67	Kaporilya	Funded	12/02/2015
76	Kulpitharra	Funded	19/02/2015
79	Armstrongs	Funded	11/02/2015
82	Inkwelaye	Funded	1/06/2015
83	Kwala	Funded	17/02/2015
85	Labrapuntja	Funded	17/02/2015
88	Lilla	Funded	18/03/2015
92	Ltira	Funded	12/02/2015
94	Lyilyalanama	Funded	17/02/2015
100	Old Station	Funded	13/02/2015
101	Mbalkanaka	Funded	22/05/2015
102	Mbunghara	Funded	14/04/2015
104	Amengernterneah	Funded	17/08/2015
106	Motna's	Funded	21/08/2015
110	Kurippi	Funded	7/05/2015
116	Karrinyarra	Funded	6/05/2015
117	Putulu	Funded	23/06/2015
118	Mulga Bore	Funded	19/08/2015

121	New Bore	Funded	8/04/2015
126	Ngkwarlerlanem	Unfunded	2/06/2015
133	Phillipson Bore	Funded	2/03/2015
139	Pulardi	Funded	5/05/2015
146	Atnarara	Funded	1/06/2015
147	Arawerr	Funded	6/07/2015
149	Tjamangkurra	Unfunded	18/02/2015
154	Tnawurta	Funded	13/02/2015
155	Tnyimipurta	Funded	11/02/2015
156	Urlampe	Funded	27/05/2015
159	Ukaka	Funded	19/03/2015
162	Ulpanyali	Funded	19/03/2015
166	Undurana 1C	Funded	19/02/2015
168	Arlparra	Funded	3/06/2015
170	Ankerrapw	Unfunded	29/05/2015
178	Wanmarra	Funded	20/03/2015
179	Warren Creek	Funded	8/04/2015
180	Warumpi	Funded	14/04/2015
182	Welere	Unfunded	3/06/2015
204	Gulunguru	Funded	25/03/2015
212	Bauhinia Downs	Funded	28/03/2015
214	Wada Warra	Funded	27/03/2015
218	Yangulinyina	Funded	23/03/2015
220	Corella Creek	Funded	25/03/2015
234	Jarra Jarra	Unfunded	16/03/2015
236	Kalumpuripa	Funded	20/03/2015
237	Kangaroo Island	Funded	18/03/2015
244	Mungkarta	Funded	5/08/2015
248	Mungalawurru	Funded	26/03/2015
249	Munyalini	Funded	17/03/2015
252	Marlinja	Funded	4/08/2015
256	Wandangula	Funded	2/08/2015
257	Bujan	Funded	26/03/2015
259	Wogyala	Funded	24/03/2015
262	South West Island	Funded	18/03/2015
267	Tjyoungouri	Funded	27/03/2015
274	West Island	Funded	18/03/2015
275	Wollogorang	Funded	23/03/2015
279	Acacia Larrakia	Funded	20/04/2015
280	Alamirra	Funded	11/06/2015
281	Paradise Farm	Funded	11/03/2015
285	Ankabadbirri	Funded	25/05/2015
288	Araru Point	Funded	3/06/2015
298	Bolkdjam	Funded	1/06/2015
300	Bulgul	Funded	21/04/2015
302	Buluhkaduru	Funded	5/06/2015

303	Yilan	Funded	20/05/2015
304	Cannon Hill	Funded	24/06/2015
308	Gumeragi	Funded	3/06/2015
311	Ji-Bena	Funded	26/05/2015
315	Gamardi	Funded	21/05/2015
316	Gamargawan	Funded	2/07/2015
319	Gochan Jiny Jirra	Funded	26/06/2015
325	Marlwon	Funded	21/06/2015
326	Kakodbabuldi	Funded	30/05/2015
328	Gumarrirnbang	Funded	22/06/2015
334	Humpty Doo	Funded	20/04/2015
338	Ji-Balbal	Funded	21/05/2015
340	Ji-Marda	Funded	20/05/2015
345	Kolorbidahdah	Funded	2/07/2015
355	Mamadawerre	Funded	19/06/2015
360	Mankorlod	Funded	2/07/2015
363	Manmoyi	Funded	2/07/2015
368	Marrkolidjban	Funded	12/07/2015
373	Mikginj Valley	Funded	26/06/2015
376	Malgawa	Funded	3/07/2015
380	Mudginberri	Funded	25/06/2015
382	Mumeka	Funded	28/05/2015
389	Namugardabu	Funded	21/06/2015
391	Kungarrewarl	Funded	26/06/2015
392	Nangak	Funded	23/05/2015
407	Paru	Funded	16/04/2015
409	Patonga (Airstrip)	Funded	15/03/2015
419	Spring Peak	Funded	16/03/2015
424	Taracumbi	Unfunded	15/04/2015
430	Ngardinitchi	Unfunded	15/05/2015
432	Wilgi	Funded	2/06/2015
434	Woodycupaldiya	Funded	2/08/2015
435	Wudapuli	Funded	16/05/2015
437	Wurdeja	Funded	21/05/2015
441	Alharrgan	Funded	1/06/2015
445	Amanburnunga	Funded	6/05/2015
449	Andanangki	Funded	2/06/2015
456	Balma	Funded	3/06/2015
457	Banthula	Funded	8/07/2015
458	Baniyala	Funded	28/07/2015
462	Bawaka	Funded	16/07/2015
463	Baygurrnji	Funded	3/06/2015
464	Birany Birany	Funded	23/04/2015
465	Bodia	Funded	16/04/2015
466	Bukudal	Funded	23/04/2015
469	Rorruwuy	Funded	20/07/2015

470	Burrum	Funded	18/05/2015
473	Dhalinybuy	Funded	15/07/2015
476	Dharrni	Unfunded	1/06/2015
477	Dhipirrinjura	Funded	14/05/2015
479	Dhupuwamirri	Unfunded	22/07/2015
480	Rurrangala	Funded	22/04/2015
482	Djarrakpi	Funded	16/07/2015
484	Djurranalpi	Funded	9/07/2015
485	Donydji	Funded	8/04/2015
489	Galawdjapin	Funded	9/04/2015
490	Gilirri	Funded	13/04/2015
498	Gan Gan	Funded	29/07/2015
499	Ganpura	Funded	8/07/2015
501	Mooronga	Funded	16/04/2015
505	Garrthalala	Funded	22/04/2015
507	Gatji	Unfunded	9/04/2015
508	Gawa	Funded	8/07/2015
509	Gikal	Funded	14/05/2015
512	Gulmarri	Funded	9/07/2015
515	Gupulul	Funded	14/05/2015
516	Gurkawuy	Funded	16/07/2015
517	Gurrumuru	Funded	15/07/2015
519	Langarra	Funded	16/04/2015
522	Malkala	Funded	5/05/2015
523	Malnjangarnak	Funded	19/05/2015
524	Mapuru	Funded	20/07/2015
529	Matamata	Funded	14/05/2015
535	Mirrnatja	Funded	22/07/2015
536	Miwul	Unfunded	31/05/2015
541	Naliyindi	Funded	22/07/2015
542	Ngangalala	Funded	9/07/2015
544	Ngayawilli	Funded	9/07/2015
545	Ngadumiyerrka	Funded	5/05/2015
552	Raymangirr	Funded	18/05/2015
554	Dhuruputjpi	Funded	7/04/2015
556	Waldnarr	Funded	2/06/2015
557	Wandawuy	Funded	7/04/2015
563	Wumajbarr	Funded	1/06/2015
567	Wuyagiba	Funded	30/05/2015
569	Yanungbi	Unfunded	14/05/2015
571	Yathalamarra	Funded	10/07/2015
572	Yedikba	Unfunded	6/05/2015
573	Yanbakwa	Funded	6/05/2015
574	Yimidarra	Funded	31/05/2015
577	Badawarrka	Funded	28/05/2015
579	Barrapunta	Funded	21/03/2015

585	Bubble Bubble	Funded	7/05/2015
586	Bulla	Funded	26/08/2015
590	Costello	Funded	30/05/2015
597	Gilwi	Funded	20/04/2015
598	Jodetluk	Funded	23/04/2015
608	Kybrook Farm	Funded	31/07/2015
613	Lingara	Funded	17/04/2015
614	Lul-tju	Funded	10/06/2015
626	Mistake Creek	Funded	6/05/2015
627	Mole Hill	Funded	28/05/2015
629	Mount Catt	Funded	21/03/2015
630	Mumpumampu	Unfunded	30/05/2015
631	Duck Ponds	Unfunded	10/06/2015
632	Nulawan	Funded	29/05/2015
642	Rockhole	Funded	1/08/2015
648	Muruning	Funded	18/04/2015
652	Wanmarri	Unfunded	30/05/2015
655	Werenbun	Funded	23/04/2015
659	Yinguwunarri	Funded	16/04/2015
664	Dhudupu	Funded	7/07/2015
670	Djarrung	Funded	22/04/2015
672	Yudu Yudu	Unfunded	14/05/2015
678	Myatt	Funded	18/04/2015
693	Alatyeye	Funded	28/05/2015
697	Woolaning	Funded	22/04/2015
698	Bob's Yard	Unfunded	17/04/2015
699	Barrak Barrak	Funded	20/04/2015
708	Werre-Therre	Unfunded	15/06/2015
709	Ilperle	Funded	12/05/2015
711	Undoolya Bore	Funded	11/05/2015
712	Artekerre South	Funded	1/07/2015
712	Artekerre West	Funded	19/06/2015
713	Burt Creek	Funded	24/04/2015
714	Alkuptija Golders	Funded	24/04/2015
714	Alkuptija South	Funded	24/04/2015
715	Wooliana	Funded	14/05/2015
716	Nemarluk	Unfunded	16/05/2015
717	Merrepen	Funded	16/05/2015
718	Kuy	Funded	15/05/2015
720	Walkabout Bore	Funded	2/03/2015
721	Likkaparta	Funded	7/08/2015
722	Kiana	Funded	28/03/2015
723	Goolminyini	Funded	20/03/2015
724	Mimina	Unfunded	26/03/2015
726	Inkawenyerre	Funded	2/06/2015
727	Iylentye	Funded	2/06/2015

728	Camel Camp	Funded	1/06/2015
729	Atheley	Funded	3/06/2015
730	Pungalindum	Funded	1/06/2015
736	Kalinjarri	Funded	21/03/2015
740	Gudjekbin	Funded	19/06/2015
753	Kurrurldul	Funded	3/07/2015
759	5 Mile Bore	Funded	7/04/2015
760	Ulambara	Funded	15/04/2015
762	Tjintirtjintirpa	Funded	10/04/2015
765	Ngankiritja	Funded	9/04/2015
768	Camel's Hump	Funded	19/02/2015
769	Alkngarriintja	Funded	13/02/2015
770	Ntakarra	Funded	11/02/2015
771	Ipalala	Funded	12/02/2015
772	Ulpunda	Funded	12/02/2015
773	Palm Paddock	Funded	18/02/2015
775	Deleye	Funded	18/05/2015
776	Kuwuma	Funded	19/05/2015
778	Wudaduk	Funded	20/05/2015
783	16 Mile Camp (A)	Funded	8/07/2015
783	16 Mile Camp (B)	Funded	18/06/2015
783	16 Mile Camp (C)	Funded	8/07/2015
783	16 Mile Camp (D)	Funded	18/06/2015
783	16 Mile Camp (E)	Funded	18/06/2015
784	Blacktank Bore	Funded	7/05/2015
785	Turners Camp	Funded	7/05/2015
786	Williams Well	Unfunded	24/03/2015
787	Akarnenehe Well	Funded	28/05/2015
789	Oak Valley	Funded	2/03/2015
790	Mount Peachy	Funded	2/03/2015
792	Barridjowkeng	Funded	28/05/2015
793	Ji-Malawa	Funded	21/05/2015
797	Yikarrakkal	Funded	30/05/2015
799	Red Lily	Funded	16/03/2015
800	Hunters Camp	Funded	26/06/2015
801	Mumukala	Funded	10/03/2015
803	Buymarr	Funded	30/04/2015
804	Gutjangan	Funded	1/05/2015
806	Dhayirri	Funded	8/07/2015
807	Galawarra	Funded	6/07/2015
813	Ijarra	Unfunded	27/03/2015
815	Wada Wadalla	Unfunded	21/03/2015
816	Wonmurri	Funded	22/03/2015
817	Wurlbu	Funded	17/03/2015
819	Dillinya	Funded	22/04/2015
822	Kurraya	Funded	18/03/2015

823	Ankweleyelengkwe	Funded	13/05/2015
824	Jemelke	Funded	13/05/2015
829	Blue Bush	Funded	20/03/2015
830	Milmilngkan	Funded	3/07/2015
837	Sabina	Funded	21/05/2015
838	Wulkabimirri	Funded	9/04/2015
839	Nguyarramini	Funded	17/03/2015
854	Pantyinteme	Funded	31/03/2015
855	Mt Eaglebeak	Funded	11/05/2015
859	Pertarratenge	Funded	31/03/2015
860	Petyale	Funded	12/05/2015
861	Rutjingka	Funded	19/02/2015
863	Yulara Pulka	Unfunded	20/03/2015
864	Yalukun	Funded	18/05/2015
865	Bardalumba	Funded	5/05/2015
868	Wurankuwu	Funded	7/08/2015
870	Katjutari	Funded	19/02/2015
871	Luntharra	Funded	19/02/2015
872	Merral Ntarrakala	Funded	18/02/2015
875	Mount Twellar	Funded	15/06/2015
879	Eagle Valley	Unfunded	12/03/2015
882	Emu Point	Funded	9/06/2015
883	Kelerrk	Funded	19/05/2015
884	Mulingi	Funded	20/05/2015
886	Nadilmuk	Funded	24/05/2015
887	Nabbarla Kunindabba	Funded	23/05/2015
888	Barrkira	Funded	14/05/2015
890	Wanakutja	Unfunded	12/06/2015
891	Timor Springs	Funded	12/06/2015
892	Sandy Bay	Funded	12/06/2015
895	Adjamarragu	Unfunded	12/06/2015
896	Dhambala	Funded	7/07/2015
897	Mandedjkadjang	Funded	22/06/2015
898	Yilila	Funded	2/06/2015
899	Marrkalawa	Funded	2/05/2015
900	Patonga (Homestead)	Funded	15/03/2015
903	Hatches Creek	Funded	17/03/2015
905	Kurntapurra	Funded	24/03/2015
907	Ngurrara	Funded	24/03/2015
908	Wakurlpu	Funded	16/03/2015
909	Foxalls Well	Funded	11/05/2015
910	Arrunge	Funded	5/05/2015
911	Fossil Head	Funded	15/05/2015
914	Old Mission	Funded	14/05/2015
917	Angkerle Arrenge (A)	Funded	4/06/2015
918	Angkerle Arrenge (B)	Funded	4/06/2015

919	Arrillhjere	Funded	11/03/2015
920	Elitjia	Funded	4/05/2015
921	Irriltyere (A)	Funded	25/03/2015
922	Irriltyere (B)	Funded	26/03/2015
923	Iteyepintye	Funded	2/06/2015
924	Itperlyenge	Funded	9/06/2015
925	Kwale Kwale	Funded	9/03/2015
926	Payeperrentye (B)	Funded	13/03/2015
927	Perte Therre	Funded	5/06/2015
928	Tnerte	Funded	28/01/2015
929	Twetye (A)	Funded	2/04/2015
930	Twetye (B)	Funded	8/04/2015
931	Tywenpe (A)	Funded	28/01/2015
932	Inbina Atwatye	Funded	11/03/2015
933	Tywenpe (C)	Funded	25/03/2015
934	Tywenpe (D)	Funded	25/03/2015
935	Itchy Koo Park	Funded	3/06/2015
938	Barraratjpi	Funded	16/07/2015
939	Yartalu Yartalu	Funded	11/06/2015
940	Pwerte Marnte Marnte North	Funded	4/03/2015
940	Pwerte Marnte Marnte South	Funded	4/03/2015
947	Kalpitapta	Funded	17/03/2015
948	Snake Well	Funded	7/05/2015
949	Bunhanura	Funded	17/05/2015
950	Fitzroy Station	Funded	21/04/2015
951	Menngen	Funded	21/04/2015
952	Wiitin	Funded	18/03/2015
953	Spotted Tiger	Funded	29/05/2015
955	Dhaniya	Funded	21/04/2015
959	Akwalirrumanja	Funded	6/05/2015
962	Uminyuluk	Funded	17/05/2015
963	Garanydjirr	Funded	9/04/2015
964	Mu-Gurta	Funded	25/05/2015
965	Djinkarr	Funded	24/05/2015
967	Kumurrulu	Funded	12/07/2015
970	Tommyhawk Swamp	Funded	29/05/2015
972	Cow Lagoon	Funded	27/03/2015
973	Hingstons Place	Funded	19/03/2015
975	Pakulki	Funded	19/03/2015
976	Buni-Inwunbuluk	Funded	2/06/2015
977	Murgenella Plains	Funded	2/06/2015
978	Irgul Point	Funded	4/06/2015
980	Kapalga	Funded	10/03/2015
983	Walangurrminy	Funded	22/04/2015
984	Yakala	Funded	12/02/2015
985	Undurana 2A	Funded	19/02/2015

986	Budjanga	Funded	23/03/2015
987	Milibunthurra	Unfunded	21/03/2015
988	Sandridge	Funded	21/03/2015
990	Mooloowa	Funded	19/03/2015
993	Garrinjinny	Funded	28/03/2015
994	Mariniri	Funded	26/03/2015
995	Wulaburri	Funded	26/03/2015
996	Wundigalla	Funded	26/03/2015
997	Pantharrpilenhe	Funded	6/05/2015
999	Yinyikay	Funded	14/05/2015
1000	Kumunu	Unfunded	20/03/2015
1004	10 Mile Outstation	Funded	5/05/2015
1005	Ileparratye	Funded	12/05/2015
1006	4 Mile Camp	Funded	14/04/2015
1007	Kabulwarnamyo	Funded	3/07/2015
1008	Leichardt	Unfunded	19/05/2015
1009	Corkwood Bore	Funded	14/05/2015
1011	Babungi	Funded	19/03/2015
1012	Conder Point	Funded	15/04/2015
1013	Takapimiliyi	Funded	15/04/2015
1014	Penyeme	Funded	12/05/2015
1015	Atji Creek	Funded	9/04/2015
1017	Kewulyi	Funded	28/05/2015
1018	Ilpurla	Funded	20/03/2015
1019	Burudu	Funded	25/03/2015
1020	Putjamirra	Funded	16/04/2015
1021	Annerre	Funded	13/05/2015
1022	10 Mile	Funded	18/03/2015
1023	Arkanta	Funded	20/03/2015
1027	Buffalo Farm	Funded	24/06/2015
1028	Hawk Dreaming	Funded	24/06/2015
NoID1	Bushcamp	Unfunded	26/03/2015
NoID12	Gulardi	Funded	18/04/2015
NoID13	Lilly Rock Hole	Funded	16/04/2015
NoID14	Sandy Bore	Funded	16/03/2015
NoID3	Black Rock Landing	Funded	20/03/2015
NoID4	Ngunpa	Funded	8/04/2015
NoID5	Crabhole	Funded	22/03/2015
NoID6	Manangoora	Funded	22/03/2015
NoID7	Snake Lagoon	Funded	22/03/2015
NoIDX	Dakayala	Unfunded	4/07/2015