

EAST ARNHEM SERVICE PREFERENCE STUDY

ABOUT THE SURVEY

The Northern Territory Government (NT Government) Department of the Chief Minister and Cabinet (CM&C) engaged Bowman Advisory to talk with people that live in Yirrkala, Gunyaṅara and three East Arnhem homelands to understand the services they think are important to stay in Nhulunbuy after Rio Tinto stops mining on the Gove Peninsula. During these consultations, residents also shared their ideas for Nhulunbuy, their homelands and communities.

The information shared in these consultations was then used as part of a report to support the NT Government and stakeholders to plan for the future of Nhulunbuy post-mining. In this report, the information from consultations was used to compare the level of servicing that East Arnhem residents expect with other Australian towns with populations of around 1621, 2367, 2823 and 3734 people. These populations are the four estimates of what size Nhulunbuy might be in the future, based on the Rio Tinto Social and Economic Impact Assessment. This comparison was completed to answer the question: **are the services expected by East Arnhem residents reasonable?** This document is a summary of that report.

ARE THE SERVICES THAT EAST ARNHEM RESIDENTS EXPECT REASONABLE?

To determine whether the expectations of Yirrkala, Gunyaṅara and homelands residents are reasonable, this study compared the services available in a number of towns at each of the estimated future population levels of Nhulunbuy (1621, 2367, 2823 and 3734). These towns were chosen as they were similar to Nhulunbuy and the East Arnhem region across a number of metrics including proximity to other centres, role in the region, remoteness and key industries, as well as demographic metrics.

The study found that, when compared to the services available in other regional Australian towns at every estimated future population level, **the services that East Arnhem homelands and community residents expect there to be in Nhulunbuy after Rio Tinto stops mining are reasonable.**

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WHAT DID PEOPLE SAY?

Yirkkala, Gunyaṅara, Wandawuy, Gäṅgan and Dhalinybuy residents took part in consultations.

Most people agreed the most important services are:

- retail services for food, fuel, and essential household goods
- access to face-to-face government and financial services
- primary health services including hospital, clinic, specialists and morgue services
- affordable and reliable transportation via road and air
- access to a public pool and sports oval
- construction and building maintenance services
- auto-mechanical services.

Regardless of whether they lived on the Gove Peninsula or in homelands, most people visited Nhulunbuy at least every fortnight to access services, and were hopeful about the future of Nhulunbuy after Rio Tinto finishes mining.



"Woolies is the most important place in Nhulunbuy"

"Big worry if the GIS, Warehouse and other shops weren't there, because so much is only available in Nhulunbuy"



"If BP closes, we need another way to get fuel"

"Everyone doing trade maintenance in Wandawuy comes from Nhulunbuy, so it's important to keep those trades there"



"Online is too hard, we need a physical bank"

"We need to keep Nhulunbuy alive, but we can still develop in homelands too"

